



The Sabbath RECORDER

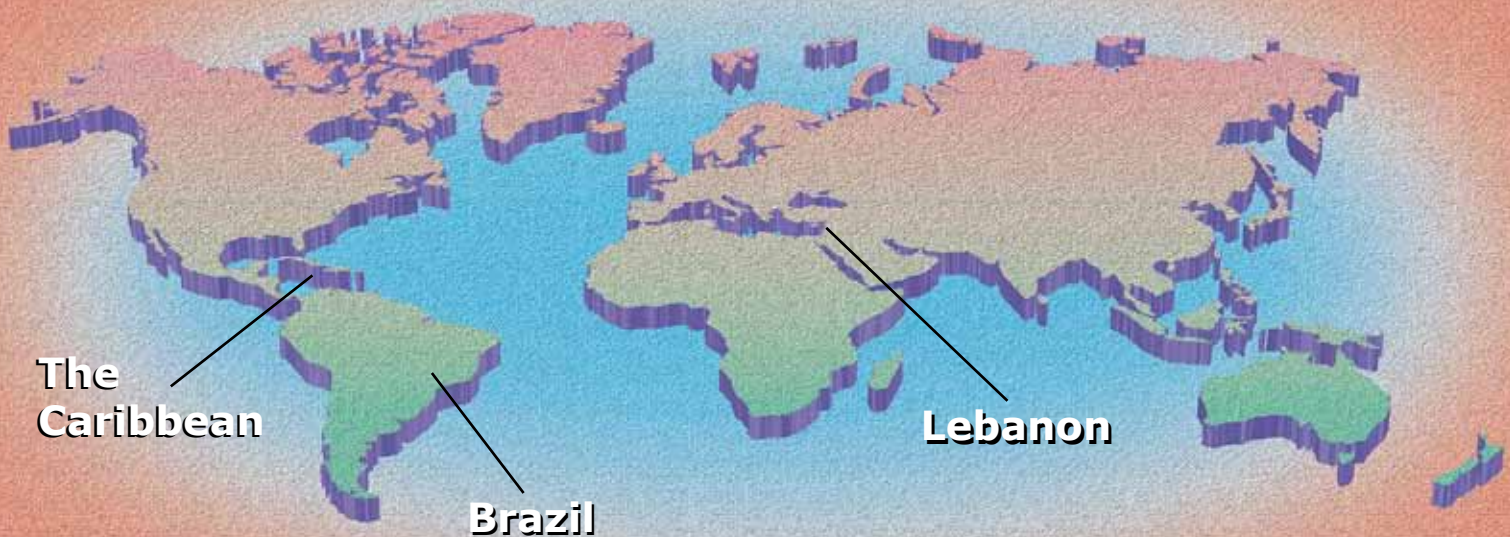
Inside:

We asked,
you answered
What to DO
in CO?

June 2013

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

NEW MINISTRIES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES



**2013
Missions
Issue**



Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs a people with a difference.

For more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Flying to Conference?



Our 2013 General Conference will be held on the campus of the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. The Host Committee will provide transportation to the campus from Colorado Springs Airport.

If you choose Denver International Airport instead, you may arrange a ride with the Colorado Springs Shuttle (\$50 one way/\$90 RT) to the Academy Hotel where we can pick you up. For shuttle service info please go to www.coloradoshuttle.com or call 877-587-3456.

See pages 21 & 23 for more Conference info.

For those branching out beyond Facebook, here are some other ways to connect with SDBs:

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists

Twitter: www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists

Google+: gplus.to/7thDayBaptists

Tumblr: 7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com

Vimeo: vimeo.com/7thdaybaptists

Oh yeah, and we're still on **Facebook** at

www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists

More on Conference Transportation...

Do you have special transportation needs, or would you like to help drive the vans? Contact Bert and Valerie Heath at 720-318-9043, or bervtal73@gmail.com.

Registrar phone!

The phone number for the Conference Registrar listed in the May *Recorder* was incorrect. For registration info, please call Jan at 719-351-5007.

Want to get the weekly SDB E-newsletter?

Keep up with the latest SDB news by e-mail! Contact social@seventhdaybaptist.org

to be on the mailing list. Send news to the same address so everyone can be informed!



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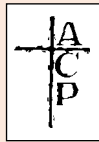


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BUYING OREGANO IN TYRE— (GOD’S APPOINTMENT)

by Pastor Gabe Bejjani
Riverside, Calif.

I have read the Bible’s book of Acts over and over, and even preached from it many times. But after an experience with a mission in my native country of Lebanon, Acts 8:26 became more personal and meaningful to me.

Years ago, the Lord brought me out of Lebanon in the midst of their Civil War. My family and I arrived safely in the United States where I have served as a pastor and missionary for the past 37 years.

I had no desire or plan to go back to my native country to begin a missionary work there. However, God used my dear brother Kirk Looper to keep challenging me to start a work in Lebanon.

Kirk’s remarks went by without any effect on me for several years. I thought, “Why would I leave my ministry here and go back to Lebanon—after these many years—to face uncertain possibilities or dangers in order to begin a new work?”

I did not obey the angel of the Lord’s command as Philip did in Acts 8:26. It was highly illogical for Philip to follow such instructions. He had moved out of Jerusalem because of persecution, and was led to a successful ministry in Samaria. Why go down to a desolate road leading to Gaza?

Well, the more Brother Looper asked, I continued to pray about God’s will for me. I finally agreed and we set the date for the first trip.

I had a total of five months to make all the arrangements for the first missionary trip to Lebanon. The Lord blessed the first efforts tremendously. Two fellowships were started, one in Beirut and another in northern Lebanon close to the city of Tripoli.

We had 18 believers in Beirut and 23 in northern Lebanon. That was an exciting and wonderful confirmation from the Lord that He wanted to begin a ministry in the Middle East. After returning to the States, I continued to mentor and train the leaders through electronic media. Skype became an effective



tool in communicating with our people on a weekly basis.

Two years later, again with the assistance of the Missionary Society, a second trip was organized to follow up on the fellowships and strengthen them in person. This trip was decisive in leading and clarifying our purpose for the work in Lebanon. My wife (Hayat) accompanied me on this trip and God used her in an unexpected way.

Hayat wanted to buy some oregano. As I was waiting for her in front of the store, a man said he thought that he knew me from school. We started a conversation that proved to be a crucial heavenly appointment.

Husain had become a Christian and wanted to talk to me more. As a convert, he shared with me his desire to talk to me in his home. I promised him that I would be back after I picked up Kirk from the airport. My friends, relatives, and members of our fellowships advised me not to go back because the man could be setting me up to kill me.

After a lot of prayer I had no doubt in my mind that I needed to be there with Husain. I am now in the process of translating a book that he wrote about Islam and Christianity. God opened my eyes to know that He wants us to be involved in Muslim evangelism.

In our own church in Riverside, the Lord led me to many Muslims who came to Christ through our min-

istry. A man and his family have been regulars in our church for the past four years. I went and visited his brother—a Shiite Imam—in the Sidon area of Lebanon who welcomed me and pledged to help me start a school whenever we are ready. I have witnessed to many students that came to study English in Riverside and shared Christ’s love with them. These and other experiences have helped me to realize that the Lord wants me to rekindle the passion of reaching out to Muslims. That is how my ministry began when I was still a student in Lebanon.

The vision became very clear as we continued to pray. In my humanness, I asked, *But how can we accomplish this Lord? We are a small denomination and this is such a monumental, slow and costly endeavor.*

All the excuses that kept creeping in my mind were dismissed as the Lord led. Money, time, dangers, and fears can all be handled by the Lord; all we have to do is obey His commission. The vision from the Lord is for me to invest all of my material resources in souls, and others will contribute when touched by His Spirit.

After a couple of years of continued prayers and fasting, “I HOPE” was formed. The purpose of this missionary entity is to evangelize Muslims through education. The Arabic world is going through rapid changes but the need and desire of the young people is to get education, and to learn English in particular. Our original goal was to begin a school to teach English as a second language that would become self-supporting in three years. The funds did not come in to accomplish this goal yet. In the latest missionary trip that I took with my brother Renod Bejjani last October, the Lord opened other ways for us.

We opened two “connecting centers” in Beirut and Tyre. These were more convenient to start. They are equivalent to Internet Cafés. We took eight computers so far and are paying for the rent and internet services. Christian members of our fellowships and some Muslim converts are volunteering to run these centers. Young people come to use the internet and connect with volunteers from the U.S. who talk to them via Skype. It has been a huge success and is growing rapidly. We hope to open one more connecting center this year.

I HOPE is now operating on two levels: in the United States and in Lebanon. My brother is devoting all his time to this ministry. He is doing seminars to prepare on-line missionaries and certify them to communicate with the people in Lebanon. This very involved ministry will equip Christians to effectively reach out to Muslims in Lebanon and here as well.

Our fellowships in Lebanon are also ministering to Muslims. Lebanon is the key to reaching out to all open countries in the Middle East. The situation in Syria and Iraq has opened another avenue of ministry to refugees from these countries who escaped to Lebanon. We have been involved to a small extent in providing aid to some of these refugees. We sponsor a center in Beirut that now houses over 29 refugees from Syria and Iraq.

The vision of the school has not stopped and we are building toward it. Our prayer is that we can open it by 2015. The ministry is going so well that we are overwhelmed with God’s blessings. However, we need your involvement. We need you to keep praying for I HOPE outreach.

This part of our work as SDBs is too big for a small denomination, but is at the cutting edge of missions to the largest hostile religion to Christians and Western civilization. (Muslims are estimated to be about 1.5 billion.)

If you are led to know more and be involved, we will be happy to present a workshop in your church or area. These original workshops are not only informational in nature but they emphasize the practical aspects of ministry to Muslims. We need more volunteers to make a real impact in this frontier of evangelism.

May the Lord guide many to be partners to give HOPE to the Muslims who are without hope. **SR**



A typical spice and food store in Lebanon.

God Works in Wonderful Ways!

A “T.I.M.E.–line” of SDBs advancing in Brazil

by Pastor Jonas Sommer

God has been working in a marvelous way in Brazil. We have seen Him acting in a way we’ve never experienced here in our church. To tell that story, I would like to go back to the year 1997 and to the Sessions of the SDB World Federation that took place in Jamaica. Maybe you’re wondering, “What does this have to do with Brazil?”

It was during those sessions that Pastor José Dirceu Cruz—the delegate of the Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference—decided to invite the next World Federation gathering to be hosted in Brazil. Surprisingly, the delegates present accepted the invitation!

Since I wasn’t there, sometimes I ask myself, “Why did they decide to accept such an invitation?” For an event like that, where most of the delegates speak English, hosting in a Portuguese-speaking country would be a tremendous challenge. In its 30-plus year history up to that time, the World Federation Sessions had never been held in a non-English speaking country. Well, they had no idea how much that decision influenced a radical change in the SDB Church in Brazil.

Because of that decision, Rev. Dale Thorngate and his wife Janet, came to us in 2001 to help us to organize the Sessions. That visit, and subsequent ones, made them become great friends of the Brazilian people.

In 2003 we had the pleasure of welcoming the delegates and observers for the World Federation



The T.I.M.E. class from the northeast part of Brazil. Jonas Sommer is standing, fifth from the left (white shirt, dark collar).

Sessions. They took place in the city of Bocaíúva do Sul, in the state of Paraná, near its capital Curitiba. During the Sessions, our delegates glimpsed the possibility and the great need for us to have well-prepared leaders. Then, they appealed to brethren around the world for help to provide training to our future pastors and leaders.

Back then, I was finishing my bachelors degree in theology at the Baptist Bible College in Paraná. The Seventh Day Baptist Church in Brazil was celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2003, and I was the first Seventh Day Baptist (who grew up in our church) to graduate with a theological degree. Some of our leaders had theological degrees, but they all had come from other denominations and the majority of them had an Adventist background.

My involvement in the planning

and organization of the Sessions, as well as being part of the team of translators in 2003, enabled me to learn a lot from our overseas brethren. At that time I met Kirk Looper, Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society. He invited me to attend the SDB General Conference in the United States in 2005. After that, we would travel to Malawi and Mozambique, where we were helping to establish Seventh Day Baptist churches. I was asked to be part of that mission because Mozambique is also a Portuguese-speaking country.

During the Conference in the U.S., we met Rev. Rodney Henry, creator of the T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) Program for the United States and Canada Conference. We didn’t waste time and invited him to come to Brazil to help us establish the T.I.M.E.

Program in our country. He accepted the invitation. With the support of the Missionary Society, he, along with the Thorngates, came to our Conference in 2007. They gave us instructions and ignited a fire in our hearts to implement the course. Our determination to go on with the training was enormous. We tried, but we lacked the resources to make the project a reality.

“

I'm impressed to see how our God was working—in His own time—to put each piece of this great puzzle in its right place.

”



In 2008, we received with great joy a team of young people from the United States on a one-month mission in Brazil. From that mission, a church was born in Araucária. A strong friendship was also born with Helmer Umaña Jr., Saul Alonzo, Bethany Chroniger, and Edwin and Maria Lopez. In the same year, we traveled to the United States for the World Federation Sessions. Along with the other Brazilian delegates (my wife Clarice and Pastor João Telles), we would seek out means of getting support for the T.I.M.E. Program in Brazil. On that trip, Saul Alonzo introduced us to Pastor David Taylor. We talked with him and invited him to come to Brazil.

God's providence was so amazing. Pastor David had never traveled abroad, but accepted our invitation and was in Brazil at our Conference

in January, 2009. In November of that same year, he was instrumental in initiating a partnership to solicit support for our T.I.M.E. Program. He became a kind of ambassador for Brazil.

At the same time, our marvelous God started to work in the heart of Robert Appel, Executive Director of the USA and Canada SDB Conference. Rob proposed to his Confer-

ence that they send 10% of their undesignated income to T.I.M.E. in Brazil. Likewise, God worked in the hearts of the delegates to accept the idea.

Due to the development of our T.I.M.E. Program, we had the privilege of receiving a visit from Pastors George Calhoun and Andy Samuels, and Rob Appel. One year later, Pastors George and Andy returned, along with Pastor Liz Green and Renee Sanford (*see page 24*). On that second trip, we also welcomed for the first time Bro. Clinton Brown, Executive Director of the Missionary Society.

Today, the T.I.M.E. Program is a reality in Brazil, thanks to the:
 –Sessions of the World Federation in 2003
 –Visit of the Thorngates (2001, 2003, 2007)

Visit of Rev. Rodney Henry (2007)

Visit of Taylors (2009, 2011)

–Support of the Missionary Society
 –Support of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference in the USA and Canada.

In 2003, the T.I.M.E. Program was just a dream. In 2009, it became a reality. In 2013—as we celebrate 100 years of Seventh Day Baptist existence in Brazil—we achieved the mark of 100 students in the Program, and secured a partnership with the University Center of Maringá. This makes it possible for T.I.M.E. students to have their certificate recognized not only by the denomination, but also by the Brazilian government.

We started T.I.M.E. when half of the Brazilian churches were without a pastor. The first class of students will conclude the course during this year (2013). From the 19 students in this class, 11 are already serving in full-time ministry, and the other 8 are actively engaged in their churches. The lack of pastors is still a big problem, because in the last few years 11 new churches have been established. We are also collaborating with the SDB church in Chile, and other countries in South America.

Looking back, I'm impressed to see how our God was working—in His own time—to put each piece of this great puzzle in its right place. To everyone who has collaborated, all we have left to say, from the depths of our hearts, is: THANK YOU VERY MUCH!! May our marvelous God keep working in you and through you to the accomplishment of His wonderful plan! **SR**

MISSIONS UPDATE

from the Caribbean

by Sis. Claudia Ferguson
Vice President of the SDB World Federation
Representing the Caribbean region

***We thank God for spared lives
and for the opportunity
afforded us to labor in
His vineyard and
to extend His Kingdom.***

CARIBBEAN CHAPTER of the World Federation?

This is on the way to becoming a reality with the establishment of an interim committee to spearhead the launch of the Caribbean Chapter. The interim committee—headed by SDB World Federation Vice President Claudia Ferguson—was named at a tripartite meeting held between the Jamaican Conference’s Missions Committee and leaders of Jamaican and Guyanese Conferences. The meeting took place during the 2012 Jamaican Conference Sessions.

Leaders for this gathering included President Sherlock Caesar of Guyana; Rev. Ewart Caesar, former Vice President World Federation; President Selvin Campbell, Jamaica. These leaders joined other committee members: Bro. Hurley Taylor, Rev. Basil Clarke and Dea. Errol Wilson from Jamaica; and Pastor Abel Caesar and Sis. Carlene Henry from Guyana.

One of the premier objectives of the interim committee is to facilitate increased partnership between the Jamaican and Guyanese Conferences towards achieving the long-term project of planting SDB Churches in the Caribbean.

Another important objective is to achieve a closer working relationship between both Conferences, which happily is well on the way.

GUYANA/JAMAICA Cooperation (Reciprocal Conference Visits)

Representatives from Jamaica attended the July 2012 Guyanese Conference. A return visit was made

by representatives from Guyana one week later to participate in the Jamaican Conference.

The 2013 Guyana Conference will be held July 11-14, 2013 and persons from Jamaica are planning to attend. The 2013 theme is “Seeing Beyond the Walls.” World Federation Vice President Claudia Ferguson is also expected to attend, and will share the message on Conference Sabbath, Lord willing.

Jamaica celebrates its 90th Anniversary this year and anticipates a bigger contingent from our Guyanese brethren to their Conference to be held July 14-20 under the theme, “Preserved to Produce.”

It is to be noted that the Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society, Bro. Clinton Brown, will also be in attendance at this 90th Anniversary Conference and will make presentations on missions. We are looking forward to his visit. Dare we expect our World Federation President, Rev. Dale Thorngate, to be in attendance?

YOUTH Exchange

Six young persons from Guyana attended the Jamaica Youth Congress held in October 2012. This was a mutually rewarding experience. The visitors from Guyana not only attended Youth Congress, but visited the Albion Mountain and Mountain View SDB Churches, and spent a day at the world famous Dunn’s River Falls.

Contemplated and being pursued is the attendance of some young persons from Jamaica to the Guyanese Youth Camp scheduled for July 21-28, 2013 at Camp Glory. The Guyanese Conference continues to work tirelessly to ensure that the improvements at Camp Glory are completed so as to adequately house the Jamaican campers.

CAYMAN SDB Group

The work in Cayman (south of Cuba, northwest of Jamaica) continues to flourish despite venue challenges.

General feedback from our churches across the region indicates that the time was refreshing and revitalizing.



–Visit by General Secretary

The General Secretary of the SDB World Federation, Pastor Jan Lek and his wife Ruth, were in Jamaica during the last weekend of December and visited some churches in the United Circuit. The Jamaican Conference President and other officers of the Conference, as well as Pastor Andrew Samuels (VP of the USA and Canada) were part of the team that accompanied the General Secretary. The General Secretary and Sis. Ruth were hosted by Rev. Carlton Ferguson and wife.

TRAINING Programs/Projects ***T.I.M.E. Program Gone Regional!***

The Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Training Institute under the Principalship of Rev. Carlton Ferguson commenced a new two-year training program with a batch of 16 Jamaican students. For the first time the training program is being extended to Guyana and the Cayman Islands, participants being facilitated on-line.

Students are jointly sponsored by the Jamaican Conference and their member churches.

The training program started on March 1, 2013 and has witnessed two seminars—the orientation seminar in March and the seminar on church leadership during the month of April. Students have now embarked on the “Bible Interpretation” module. This program is critical to increasing the cadre and caliber of leaders across the region.

LEADERSHIP Workshop in Guyana

Pastor Paul Andries from the United States fulfilled his promise and implemented a wonderful and well-received leadership workshop in Guyana for church leaders. The attendance was excellent and participants refreshed. Pastor Andries is expected to return in September.

We express our thanks to the members of the Missions Committee and all those who have supported the Caribbean effort. We have just begun to actualize the vision of planting churches in the Caribbean and of fostering a closer working relationship with our sister Conference. God, Who has led us thus far, will lead us on. **SR**

Since July, two visits were made to the Cayman Islands in September and November as scheduled. The team included Claudia Ferguson and Hurley Taylor, member of the Missions Committee and chairman of the Jamaica SDB Evangelism Committee.

The September visit was centered around a training seminar on the foundational topics of “SDB Beliefs” and “SDB History and Polity.”

The November visit focused on evangelism with a presentation on Operation Andrew. There were two open-air meetings, one on Saturday night and the other on Sunday night. Persons who responded to the call are being followed up. The visit due for February 2013 was postponed to May to await the securing of a venue for worship. Some members of the group are planning to be at the Jamaica Conference in July of this year.

Thanks to the SDB Missionary Society for the donations of much-needed hymnals to the group in Cayman.

Please pray that this fellowship will secure a permanent church home. Please pray also that the Lord will continue to provide financial resources for visits to Cayman.

SDB WORLD FEDERATION Activities

–Annual Week of Prayer

The Conference participated in the annual Week of Prayer spearheaded by the SDB World Federation.

God's call to Haiti

by Joel and Laura Sutton

God has been preparing us for full-time mission work for a long time. Slowly but surely, He has been changing our hearts and minds to not only put Him first in our lives, but more specifically serve His children in Haiti.

The Lord first planted the idea in Laura's head at the age of 8 when the Bond family entertained Barbara Bivens, an SDB missionary nurse in Malawi. Right then she decided she wanted to be a missionary nurse. Later, when Laura was starting her studies, one of her professors took nursing students to Haiti during the summers. In anticipation, Laura took six hours of French to prepare for the trip the next summer. However, the professor got sick and those plans were never realized. Since that time, Laura has been both a nurse and a nursing professor, but the "missionary" part has come only in the past five or six years.

As part of His plan, God has been bringing "internationals" into our lives, which has broadened our global vision. As a result, we have made several short-term trips to countries like Kenya, Jamaica, Guyana, and others. God has used those to further develop that vision.

We also took the Perspectives course, an in-depth study of missions around the world. This course (as well as another ministry called International Friendship) has led us to attend the church where these were being sponsored. This same church has had an ongoing relationship with a sister Baptist church in Baradères, Haiti. Therefore, in early spring 2010 when




their regularly scheduled mission trip was turned into a "medical" trip due to the huge earthquake, we were asked to go along. During that mission, Laura and I both felt God's love for the Haitian people, and were very much drawn to the work there.

Upon returning home, we started to pray about and look for ways of serving God in Haiti. About a year and a half later, God spoke almost audibly to Joel, asking, "What will you do for Haiti?" This strongly confirmed our call. Since then, we have been accepted by an organization that develops and facilitates these sister church relationships. Reciprocal Ministries International (RMI) has been in Haiti for over 30 years, and since the earthquake has expanded its mission from just the Sister Church program to include school, feeding, and housing programs in that devastated country.

Just how Laura and I will fit into the various phases of this mission will develop over time. According to present plans, Joel will help facilitate Sister Church visits from U.S. churches to the Haiti churches, as well as be involved in AWANA, teacher training, and facilities maintenance. Laura is planning to coordinate and streamline medical team visits, develop community

health education and promotion, systems analysis, and women's ministries. Now we are asking God, "What do You want us to do in/for Haiti?"

We are currently raising support—prayer and financial—to go to Haiti as missionaries with RMI as soon as Laura retires from the University of Florida at the end of this year. In the interim, we will attend a month-long culture and language training course in Colorado Springs immediately following the SDB Conference. (This is more than coincidental. God has been faithfully orchestrating our lives over the years, why should we think He would stop now?)

Paul tells us in 2 Corin. 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having *all* that you need, you will abound in *every* good work." Please pray for us, because it looks like we are heading to Haiti, in God's time. If you would like to follow our progress as we prepare, our blog site is "lbjtsutton.blogspot.com." 



Laura and Joel Sutton are preparing for their mission to Haiti.

We asked, you answered

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in the recent General Council survey! (See the survey questions in the February and March *Sabbath Recorders*.) The Council received a lot of constructive feedback, and wanted to address some of the pertinent areas with you.

Q: How many people responded to the survey and how will you be using the information received?

A: We had responses from 80 people and a report of the results was sent to each of the members of General Council to review. We discussed the report during our March 15-16th meeting in Seattle.

Q: What did the survey response reveal about what people think the General Council should focus on?

*A: A significant number of responses mentioned they thought the General Council's primary responsibility is NOT to perform the activities listed in the survey, but to facilitate the existing boards and agencies to perform these activities. (We agree!) That being said, the responses showed **someone thought every area was important**. The averages showed the top areas were Long Term Strategy, Promote Outreach, Support to Pastors, and Facilitate Communication. The areas ranked least important were Fund Raising, Start New Projects, and Develop Written Materials.*

Q: Were there any key messages you saw repeatedly through the survey results?

A: Yes. We saw a desire for "new church planting" and concern for "revitalization of declining churches" by several people. (This confirms what we knew.) The passion in the feedback was that we stop talking and start doing something concrete! Both of these areas were discussed at the March General Council meeting. We are taking steps to respond



to this action item from last year's General Conference and will include a summary of completed actions and future plans in our report at General Conference in Colorado Springs.

Q: How can we start new churches when the costs are so high and most of the pastors are bi-vocational or have spouses who have to work a full-time job?

A: The General Council has begun discussing options for subsidizing the pastor's salary for new church plants. We are also concerned that not every pastor would be suitable for a new church plant situation. We need to engage people who are called, prepared, trained, committed and have a vision for church planting. We believe God will be faithful to provide the funding as well as the many other areas of support required for a new church plant.

cont. next page

Q: Other than church planting and revitalization, were there any other messages from the survey?

A: Here are some of the other areas mentioned we will look for ways to address:

- Mentoring for pastors and pastors-to-be, including those not called to attend seminary
- Opportunities for 1-4 week mission trips
- A mechanism for sharing resources between churches
- Church assistance for websites, streaming, and other new media uses
- Keep communicating and praying to encourage and keep SDB churches connected

Q: Why are some churches visited and not others? How can a church request a visit?

A: The goal is to visit each of the 10 Associations at least every 2-3 years. The Executive Director strives to connect with the churches as his travel allows, and other executives and General Council members attend churches when invited or passing through the area. The Conference President has been attending the Association meetings and churches when invited. An invitation from a church starts the process for a visit. If your church has a special occasion or would just like someone to visit, they can contact Rob Appel at the SDB Center in Janesville (608-752-5055 or at robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org).

Q: Did the survey response support additional communication via internet options?

A: Yes. 89% of the people responded that they would like to receive more communication via the internet. The primary reasons mentioned for not wanting more internet communication are slow network access or they already receive enough communication today. Several people also mentioned a preference for links from webpages and Facebook instead of receiving more e-mails.

Q: What was the response about General Conference attendance?

A: About 2/3 of those responding attend General Conference regularly, while the other third say they rarely or never have attended Conference. Reasons for not attending were the time and cost of travel, getting time off work, preferring a shorter duration, and the desire to separate business from worship and other programs. This feedback will be helpful in planning for future Conferences. Although costs were mentioned in 43% of the responses, most people understood how they are established.

Q: Someone asked whether there are guidelines for paying our pastors and whether there is any summary information on how many SDB pastors are within the compensation guidelines?

A: The Committee On Support and Retirement (COSAR) creates and posts Salary Guidelines for pastors on the COM webpage (www.sdbministry.org). This can be accessed by selecting the “Salary Guidelines” box on the front page. These guidelines encourage the churches—if they cannot meet the suggested minimum for a full-time pastor—to understand that their pastor is part-time. At this time salary information for pastors is not collected or monitored to determine whether churches are compensating within the guidelines.

Q: How can individuals and churches contact the General Council with ideas or concerns?

A: You may contact the chairman, any individual member, or the entire General Council. We would love to hear from you! Here are the e-mail addresses:

Chairman, John Pethtel
(john.j.pethtel@gmail.com)
Susie Fox (sjphox@gmail.com)
Dannette Montague (dannette709@prodigy.net)
Rod Noel (rnoel@stny.rr.com)
Dale Thorngate (djthorn17@aol.com)
Full General Council
(sdbgeneralcouncil@seventhdaybaptist.org) **SR**



Women's Society page by Katrina Goodrich
www.sdbwomen.org

A Dream Comes True— *Just different in a different land*

by Pastor Shirley Morgan

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:7-8)

My dream to travel to faraway lands as a missionary remained just a dream for most of my life. At some point in my spiritual journey, I came to realize that I did not have to go to another country to impact someone's life. I continued to do what I love, meeting the needs of people as the Lord afforded opportunities. Little did I know that God was preparing me to be His witness in my "Jerusalem" instead of "the ends of the earth."

My missionary journey did not come about because of some organized plan. Due to my unresolved immigration status, I had to return to my native Nicaragua. My church—the Miami SDB Church where I served as an Associate Pastor of Outreach—decided to commission me as a Missionary Pastor. The question was how to get started.

I saw that there was a religious spirit in my new community of Corn Island, Nicaragua. Many people know *about* God but few know Him personally. There were already two strikes against me: being a woman pastor and a Seventh Day Baptist (nearly everyone thought Seventh-



Shirley
 Morgan

day Adventist). I was faced with false accusations and opposition. Matthew 5:11-12, "*Blessed are you when people shall insult you*" became my anchor. I was allowed to minister to young people at the Baptist Church I grew up in, but then was told I could no longer do so because of my belief in keeping the Sabbath.

These things were unfolding while my husband was still living in the U.S., visiting me as often as possible. We decided it was time for him to retire and join me. God provided a home large enough that would soon become our mission's center.

While seeking the Lord's guidance for ministry endeavors, I had a strong conviction He wanted me to focus on children. In May 2011, I invited some children to our home for Sabbath School. The first week we had three students, the following week zero. A young woman whom God placed in my life as an encourager and strong supporter, suggested that we send out invitations. The following week over 30

children attended Sabbath School.

Most of these students continue to attend weekly. The children don't care what denomination I belong to. They want love and acceptance, which they receive in abundance from my husband and me. Four people are being trained in Evangelism Explosion and we are seeing how God is using this to share the Good News of Salvation with others.

We don't have to go to foreign fields to carry the Good News, we just need to look in our backyard and bloom where we are planted. Our Sabbath School offering is used to buy groceries that we share with the needy elderly people in the community. The children love to visit and sing for them. And a sister from my husband's church in Miami consistently sends us used clothing and food items that are distributed to the poor.

A song comes to mind, "I'm only human, just a woman...." We are not just women. We are women called by God to go and tell others that He is risen. Serving as a missionary in my own hometown is difficult. However, as I surrender to God's will He is raising me up and using me to bless many.

Where is your mission field? What has God called you to do? Remember that "who God calls, He equips." I give God thanks for my husband who is my greatest supporter (he is right at my side in every ministry effort) and to my three beautiful daughters for encouraging me along the way. **SR**



The Watershed: When principled conviction leads to action

“Depend on it, brethren and sisters... we shall be accountable for our fellow creatures who are destitute of gospel privileges and the sacred scriptures, which we are indulged with, if we do not use our exertions to communicate these blessings to them—even their blood will be required at our hands. These inestimable privileges were certainly put into our hands to communicate to others... our incumbent duty now is to communicate these blessings and favors...”

—Circular Letter of the SDB
General Conference, 1818.

The General Conference sessions of 1818 represented a watershed moment in Seventh Day Baptist history. Two critical actions were taken in that year’s Conference sessions, held in Berlin, New York. The second of these actions encouraged churches to refrain from using the word “Sabbatarian” to refer to themselves, and to direct that all further correspondence to the Conference be addressed to the “Seventh-day Baptist General Conference.” The immediately prior action was to move on the long-simmering desire of Seventh Day Baptists to send missionaries onto the frontiers of America.

The movement to send missionaries is what led to the creation of the Conference in 1802, but the churches had been unable to decide exactly how this should be accomplished. While churches were working to send missionaries on their own or in smaller sending groups, the impulse to send them as a Conference was now gaining momentum.

At the previous sessions of the General Conference, a suggested plan was slowly taking shape as the details were worked out. In 1818, the Conference voted *unanimously* that the time was ripe to move on the plan they had conceived.

Beginning in 1819, a series of missionaries were sent out to sow the Gospel in the prairies, fields and mountain valleys of America. These missionaries often went out alone traveling long distances, sometimes over

difficult terrain, in order to preach and teach the Good News of Christ’s kingdom. These trips were planned to include visits to known SDB families on the frontier, to build up those fledgling congregations and encourage them in their faith.

While it is difficult to know exactly how successful these traveling missionaries were, we can find from their printed reports tens of baptisms; perhaps a few hundred over the course of those early years. In addition, these

meetings led to increased vitality in SDB congregations, and directly contributed to the creation of our publishing and educational endeavors.

The *Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Magazine*, begun in 1821, was in part

an effort to publicize the missionary efforts of the Conference and the larger Christian world. During one of missionary Amos Wells’ journeys, he encountered a young Presbyterian named Alexander Campbell, who would end up becoming a Seventh Day Baptist pastor, revivalist, and tireless advocate for SDB education.

It is clear that the vitality of the General Conference in these years was driven in no small part by their missionary zeal and their passion to reach the lost. That was demonstrated by the quote from the 1818 Circular Letter above.

Does our current life as a group mirror this zeal and passion? Do we, as individuals, have this passion for sharing the Gospel, enough to sacrifice some of our own personal desires or pet issues? It is clear that our vitality as a Conference of local congregations depends on our answers to these questions.

The final words of that Circular Letter can instruct us: *“...whatever is done in the missionary cause through faith in God, with a desire to promote his praise and the good of mankind, will of course be consecrated by prayer, and will certainly be attended with the blessing of God. From motives and principles like these may God enable us all to act for the upbuilding and extension of the kingdom of his dear Son. We add no more.”* **SR**

“Does our current life as a group mirror this zeal and passion?”



Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile

Name: Omari Makesi Rhoden

Birthdate and place:

Nov. 5, 1979 Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Family: Wife Stephanie; daughter Jahzarah 3,
son Jared 1½

Education:

St. Augustine Secondary School, OSSD '99
Western University, Bachelor of Administrative and Commercial Studies
Nipissing University, Bachelor of Education
Tyndale University and Seminary
(I expect to graduate in 2014)

Experience:

SCSC – Maryland/Washington D.C.; White Cloud, MI; Miami, FL
Youth Advisor – Toronto SDB Church
Board of Christian Education
High school teacher – Turner Fenton Secondary School, Brampton ON

Favorite Bible passage: 2 Timothy 2:15

Favorite author: Right now it is Robert Munsch (children's author)

Favorite songs: "Channels Only" (Ada R. Gibbs) and "Chasing After You" (Vashawn Mitchell)

If given a \$10,000 check we would: set up our children's education fund, donation, and debt reduction.

A great answer to prayer: Seminary, family, church and work life have been busy to say the least. God has sustained Owen, Jamaal and I over the past few years. We've had the opportunity to



do so much (albeit not always well) and to be safe and healthy in the midst of it. Praise God who has shown Himself strong in my weakness!

A project I'm excited about: I hope to participate administratively in a community basketball initiative. Young men aged 14-19 need this opportunity that provides support through churches in the Greater Toronto Area. The league gives church families the forum to rally around young men and encourage positive choices. Participation in the league includes a community service element and relies on churches to be the anchor.

My vision for SDBs: To expand within the Greater Toronto Area and into Canada. I believe a vision is effective when it is concise. **Vision** – To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the joy of the Sabbath to the Greater Toronto Community. Seventh Day Baptists offer a unique freedom in worship that is centered on Christ's commission. We are a church that blends the belief in our hearts with coherence in the mind. Given our Statement of Belief, we can more effectively promote our Missional God who is at work in our communities and families. Church program and community initiatives that are consistent with a Christ-centered mission and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are fundamental to our viability as a place of worship. **SR**



Be timid no more!

And live up to your church covenant

I have been timid.

Not always. But, there have been times when I have been timid to a fault—maybe even timid unto sin.

What am I confessing? I am confessing that there have been times when I have allowed something inside me to stop me from taking correct action.

Has that ever been true for you?

We live in a culture that proclaims, “To each his own” and, “That’s none of your business.” To the extent we believe that proclamation, we don’t talk about certain things.

We hear among our cultural proverbs, “It’s better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.” Unless we are careful, this adage focuses our attention more on what others think than on what is true. Its counsels a preference for inaction.

For Seventh Day Baptists, our internal culture struggles with a temptation to twist the phrases “liberty of thought” and “unhindered discussion” to the breaking point, declaring them to mean that “I can believe whatever I want.” When left unchecked, this conclusion undermines our ability to proclaim: “This is the Word of the Lord.”

Those are just a few examples. Are there other things inside you which prevent your taking correct action?

Part of the good news of the Gospel is that we need not be stuck in timidity. “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and

love and discipline” (2 Tim. 1:7). God’s power is at work in us and it can overcome anything that stands in the way of doing what is right.

As God replaces timidity with power, love, and discipline, He calls us to action: “Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...” (Heb. 10:24, ESV).

The call is explicit. It is part of how He causes His church to grow. This call is not optional. It is not only for the trained. Thinking about how we cause others to act is part of the Christian walk.

God calls you. You are part of His plan for building His people. You are supposed to know that. You are supposed to think about that. You are supposed to watch your brothers and sisters in Christ. You are supposed to learn what makes them tick. You ought to use that knowledge to push, poke, prod, and encourage others to God’s love and to those actions that God has said are good.

So leave timidity behind. Be certain that God has called you to influence the people around you.

To get started, your local church covenant talks about things you can do that will provoke others (and, yes, yourself) to love and good deeds. Here is a covenant I copied a long time ago when visiting a church; the source is unknown:

My Church Covenant

–In the presence of Almighty God and one another, I gather here in

the fellowship of this church to acknowledge my belief in Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord. Having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I come now to rededicate myself to Christ’s service as I unite with one another in this covenant.

- I will endeavor to make prayer a part of my daily living, seeking forgiveness for my sins and renewal of my Spiritual life, so that I may be able to live together in brotherly love and help one another to think, speak, and act as concerned Christians.
- I will be regular in my church attendance, observe its ordinances, and seek opportunities for worship, training, and service in order that I may understand more fully the teachings of the Bible and their application to daily living.
- I pledge myself to show my gratitude for God’s many blessings by sharing cheerfully and regularly of my time, talents, and treasures to support the church and its ministry in all areas of life.
- Believing my body is a temple of the Living God, I will endeavor to avoid experiences and habits which defile the body and hinder my witness.
- Believing that my call to membership in the church is a call to witness in the world, I will seek to live to the glory of Christ Who has called me into His service. **SR**



FOCUS on Missions

Walking and running for bicycles

Be sure
to sign up for
and support
this event
to take place
at Conference!

5K SDB CONFERENCE 2013 
GOSPEL FEET
 BICYCLES FOR EVANGELISTS

**Fundraiser supported by the
 SDB Missionary Society**
 Help equip evangelists and pastors in the
 D.R. Congo with Bicycle transportation



Wednesday, July 31st, 2013
UCCS Colorado Springs, CO
 Event begins @ 7:00 a.m.
 1k fun walk/run is planned

**\$110 =
 1 BIKE**

Registration fee: \$20=5K, \$15=1K
 Raise more using your fundraising page

For more info, to register and
 to set up your fundraising page, visit:
ACTIVE.COM AND SEARCH FOR: THE GOSPEL FEET 5K



**Forward
 in HIS Footsteps** *How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of
 him who brings good news... Isaiah 52:7*



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship

June 2013

Be still, not busy

by Casey Greene
Berlin, N.Y.

I first planned to write this article about two weeks ago. Then I promptly forgot all about it. Monday is student government, drama practice, and youth group. Tuesday I work in the bagel shop, tutor after school, and have The Landing. Wednesday is another student government and drama rehearsal day. You get the idea.

I'm sure you've been there or are there now. We are always doing, always running around. Work—check. Dance practice—check. Dinner—check. Take the dog out—check. Then it's bedtime and we've missed our quiet time again. That isn't how it's supposed to be.

Being busy is not the problem. I love being busy! It makes me feel like I'm actually doing something. That's fine. There are certain things we have to do. Also understandable. We just need to make sure we aren't doing too much.

Psalms 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." In our day and age there isn't a whole lot of emphasis on being still. Go make money! Go make friends! Go get a job! We rarely hear, "Be still." Yet, there is obvious importance in this simple message.

First we need to know what "being still" does *not* look like. Being

still is not saying a quick prayer before biting into your french fries as you speed down the highway. Being still is not praying, "Please Lord give me patience" when your little brother is crying because he can't have chocolate cake for breakfast.

Just talking to God or spending time with Him does not mean you have been still. I prayed. I was "still." Close enough—check. Moving on...

I like to pray while I do things. I also like to be mostly on the talking end. The listening part is not really my strong point. I'll say a quick prayer as I paint my nails or something like that. Most of my brainpower is elsewhere, thinking of the color, the pattern, or something equally unimportant. The idea behind being still is to focus on God, to listen to God, and to really get to know God.

God is so amazing it's hard to understand Him even when we're totally focused. I'll sit there for a minute or so and say, "Nope, didn't speak to me." I am only recently learning that I need to be patient. Patience is an important part of stillness.

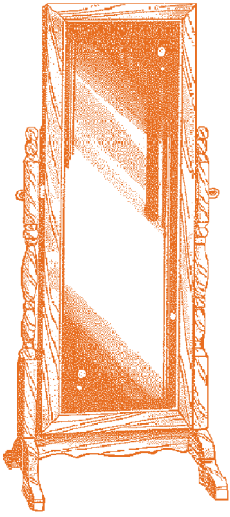
I love the fact that God is telling us to do this. God is inviting us, yet again, to seek and find Him. "Be still and know that I am God." The verse goes on to say, "I will be exalted



among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." This is amazing and powerful. The God of the nations wants us to know Him. Know that He is God, yes, but know Him even more intimately, too.

So how do we become still before God? I don't have a magic formula. It's different for every person. When are you most relaxed? When is it easiest for you to be still?

Next time it's quiet and you have a minute, go off alone for a while. You'll remember your lengthy to-do list, I can pretty much guarantee that, but it won't matter. You will be still and you will know God. **SR**



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.”—1 Cor. 13:12

From average to extraordinary

I consider myself an “average” Christian. Like every human being, I’m a sinner—an imperfect individual from the moment I took my first breath. I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home where I learned of God’s saving grace through the death of His Son.

I like to think I’ve grown in my Christian walk over the years, but I’m still average.

First off, I’m not a skilled evangelist. Not one drop of Billy Graham’s oratorical blood flows through my veins.

Secondly, I’m not a Bible scholar with a vast supply of biblical knowledge sloshing about in my brain.

Thirdly, I’m not a Christian counselor with multiple degrees and a long list of initials after my name.

Fourthly, I’m embarrassed to admit that I’m not even a faithful prayer warrior. I’ve graduated from the rote prayers of my childhood, and I’ve reached the point where I can pray out loud in front of people without my knees knocking and my heart pounding. Still, my prayer life leaves much to be desired.

Finally, it goes without saying that I’m certainly not a preacher with a divinity diploma on my office wall.

As a youngster, I did preside over the wedding of my younger sister, Jean, when she “married” a neighbor boy at age 8. I also “played

pastor” using my mother’s large, red, horseshoe-shaped living room chair as a pulpit. (My congregation consisted of my sister and all of our dolls and stuffed animals.)

Although God certainly uses “average” or “ordinary” people for His glory, the Bible tells us He often



Most of us may be ‘average’ Christians, but God can use us in marvelous and wondrous ways.



uses the “lowly” and “weak,” infusing them with power and confidence.

Elizabeth Marks is a Christian author, teacher, and speaker who founded ThinkOnIt Bible Ministries. In a March 2012 devotion she wrote, “If Christ Himself was ordinary, being a lowly carpenter’s son, why would we expect God to use only special people for His purposes?” She also noted, “Think God can’t or won’t use you? Think again. His glory shines the greatest through the weakest of vessels.”

Dr. Ray Pritchard, in a 2008 sermon entitled, *Why God Chooses Splendid Sinners and Lovable Losers*, points out the Bible’s imperfect heroes:

Noah got drunk, Abraham lied about his wife, Jacob was a deceiver,

Moses murdered an Egyptian, Rahab was a harlot, Samson had serious problems with lust and anger, David was an adulterer, Paul persecuted the church, and Peter denied Christ.

“If God chose only well-rounded people with no character flaws, some of the credit would inevitably go to the people and not to the Lord,” Dr. Pritchard pointed out.

Because we’re weak in our imperfection, we’re sometimes oblivious to the Holy Spirit’s urging. Worse yet, there are times when we actively fight against that urging. We not only turn a blind eye on occasion; we sometimes plug our ears and barricade our hearts.

While I was confronting brain aneurysm surgery last year, a dear sister-in-law sent me a devotional book, which she received from another dear sister-in-law. I eventually mailed copies of that same book to a friend and my sister.

Recently, Jean’s husband phoned and asked where they could buy the book. My sister wanted to give a copy to a friend.

When I first received *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, it was like a small pebble tossed into a pond, creating ripples that spread in all directions. Along with my sister and sisters-in-law, I listened to “the sound of a gentle whisper” (1 Kings 19:12, NLT) and was obedient to it. Because I acted at the Holy Spirit’s prompting, that devotional digest continues to bless many individuals.

Most of us may be “average” Christians, but our Heavenly Father can use each one of us in marvelous and wondrous ways. **SR**



Colorado Springs, CO

July 28–Aug. 3, 2013



The President's Page

by Ralph Mackintosh

Really Looking at the Past, Present and Future

One challenge in moving Forward in HIS Footsteps is seeking to understand where God is leading and already working, and then joining Him in His perfect plans. A key word in the theme is “Forward.” When we seek to follow Jesus’ footsteps, there is a naturally human temptation to look only backward at where He already walked and try to duplicate that pattern exactly.

When Charles Sheldon preached at his church in Topeka, Kansas, he repeatedly posed the question, “What would Jesus do?” These were sermons about the life situations encountered by average people in normal life circumstances. He challenged his congregation to ponder the question of how Jesus would react and respond to these issues. With the publication of his book *In His Steps*, the concept spread until the book had become the second bestselling religious book in the world after the Bible.

In more recent times, of course, it became a kind of mantra for the Christian community with “WWJD” plastered everywhere from bumper stickers to bracelets and jewelry. Unfortunately, this once-new-and-novel approach that challenged Christians has slowly evolved into a simple slogan and easy answer.

Instead of pushing the boundaries and taking Christianity into new frontiers, we can be tempted to stay within the defined limits of what Jesus did in his three years of ministry.

We can also be diverted from expanding our mission by concentrating all our efforts on analyzing the exact details of Christ’s walk and manners. I am convinced that the reason we don’t know more of Christ’s life is that we would *obsess with the details* and miss much of the message. If we knew exactly how Jesus wore his hair, how he dressed, or what brand of shoes he had on his feet, many would want to be exactly like Jesus in all the minor details. If we had true pieces of the cross or the cup of the last supper we might be tempted to worship those relics (as can be seen in some of Christendom).

Just as the Jews of Jesus’ time—who spent all their time looking back to the Torah and their Abrahamic heritage—we can be caught up in only looking back at where Jesus walked in trying to Follow in His Footsteps. I would propose that following in the footsteps of Jesus requires us to look in three directions at once; an interesting but possible feat—just ask any mother with “eyes in the back of her head.”

1) We do need to look back at the biblical record of Jesus’ ministry to understand the principles and teachings of the Master.

2) However, we also need to look at where God is leading us in the present and watch that we are living our lives on the narrow path.

3) At the same time, we need to actively listen to His voice and look for where He wants to direct our paths in the future.

Pastor Leonard Sweet once wrote in a sermon, “Christians today need to live so thoroughly in Christ and have Christ within so completely, that our own footsteps become Christ’s new walk in this world.”

So, I would challenge Seventh Day Baptists to look back to study Jesus’ footprints, make new footprints today that reflect the Savior, and stride forward seeking to follow where He wants to lead. Let’s all move Forward in HIS Footsteps as individuals, as churches and as a denomination.

By now your plans should be set to join us for what I hope and pray will be a remarkable Conference. For the latest on speakers, seminars, and activities, look for us on Facebook at “SdbGeneralConference2013InColoradoSprings.” **SR**

What to DO in CO?

Colorado Springs is at the heart of some of the best things to do in Colorado. Centrally located, you can reach the area SDB churches fairly easily and quickly. For those coming in early, **All Three Churches** are anxious to meet you at our Sabbath morning services:

Boulder – 6710 Arapahoe Boulder, CO 80303 (303) 541-9097 www.bouldersdb.org

Thornton – 12156 Grant Circle Thornton, CO 80241 (303) 920-8782 www.nextstepchurch.org

Colorado Springs – 1218 Prairie Road Colorado Springs, CO 80909 (719) 548-1098 www.springslife.org

Area Attractions include things like driving to the 14,114-foot Pikes Peak (www.pikes-peak.com), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (www.cmzoo.org), Seven Falls (www.sevenfalls.com), Cave of the Winds (caveofthewinds.com) and Garden of the Gods (www.gardenofgods.com).

For those who enjoy seeing nature from the back of a horse, I really recommend the Academy Stables: academyridingstables.com. This is an excellent way to see the south end of the Garden of the Gods! Some of these attractions require reservations so make sure you call and schedule early.

Of course you might want to just wander and visit Manitou Springs and the craft shops there. The Broadmoor (www.broadmoor.com) is another excellent choice to visit, especially if golfing is on your mind.

The following **Campgrounds** are also recommended, but be aware that we need to fill our bed commitment to the University of CO-Colorado Springs, so seek that first.

“www.go-colorado.com/Colorado-Springs/Camping” has a comprehensive listing of all area campgrounds. You can choose your site, but remember the campus is on the northwest side of the city of Colorado Springs. For computer-aided



View of Pike's Peak from the Garden of the Gods.

directions, the address of the campus is: 1424 Austin Bluffs Pkwy.

Northwest campgrounds include Goldfield Campground, which is on the west side of Colorado Springs. It has weekly rates ranging from \$175 to \$220/week. The website is: www.goldfieldrvcampground.com. This campground is 8 miles from campus and would take between 15-30 minutes to drive back and forth from the campus, depending on traffic during the week.

www.coloradocampground.com: Garden of the Gods Campground. Weekly rates range from \$275 to \$375 per week. This site is a little over 8 miles from the campus. Keep in mind that these campgrounds will fill up quickly. According to their websites, space is already limited for the July-August season due to tourist travels.

We are thrilled that you will be attending Conference in Colorful Colorado this summer. What a perfect opportunity for your family to explore the state before or after Conference. We encourage you to take advantage of all that is here. Please let us know if we can assist your plans in any way.

In His Service, Darwin W. Steele

Please remember that the Registrar's phone number was incorrect in the May SR. The correct # is 719-351-5007.



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Can I Be a Disciple of Christ?

*In September 2012 I took a spiritual retreat in the Rocky Mountains and was wondering how God was going to speak to me during this special time. On the morning of September 27th, in the lodge of Camp Paul Hummel, God spoke to me through an old familiar book. I picked up a copy of **My Utmost For His Highest** by Oswald Chambers, and opened it to one of the pages. It turns out it was one of the 12 dog-eared pages of that copy. This month is number six in a series from this great devotional.*

Salvation is free, but it comes with a cost! Christ said, “No one can become my disciple without giving up everything for me.”

So, if we are not willing to give up everything—and by “everything” Jesus meant *EVERYTHING*—you cannot be his disciple.

You have probably heard this many times, and maybe somehow missed the full concept of giving up everything you own. In concept you would give up everything, but maybe these verses really apply to *others...* and you don’t really need to do anything more. After all, you don’t want to be a disciple; you just want to be a plain, ordinary, everyday, average Christian. The problem is, Jesus *doesn’t want* plain, ordinary, everyday, average Christians!

Our Lord is looking for the committed. To prove that commitment you have to be willing to give up everything. You do that, and you can be a Christ follower—a disciple of Christ!

In Luke we find Jesus using words that we had not read before. In Jesus’ last days, he made his way to Jerusalem and crowds gathered around and pushed closely to hear what he had to say. But Jesus said this, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”

Say what? This had to confuse some, anger others, and simply stun the crowd. How could Jesus go from talking about loving our enemies to hating our own parents? We are supposed to love those we hardly know, and hate those who love us the most! How can this be?

Jesus isn’t saying that we need to consciously hate all that are near and dear to us. It is a statement not of affection but really one of loyalty! From Matthew 6:24— “*No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.*”

Oswald Chambers put it this way: “If the closest relationship of a disciple’s life conflict with the claims of Jesus Christ, then our Lord requires instant obedience to Himself. Discipleship means personal, passionate devotion to a Person—our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a vast difference between devotion to a person and devotion to principles or to a cause. Our Lord never proclaimed a cause—He proclaimed personal devotion to Himself.

“To be a disciple is to be a devoted bondservant motivated by love for the Lord Jesus. Many of us who call ourselves Christians are not truly devoted to Jesus Christ. No one on earth has this passionate love for the Lord Jesus unless the Holy Spirit has given it to him. We may admire, respect, and revere Him, but we cannot love Him on our own. The only One who truly loves the Lord Jesus is the Holy Spirit, and it is He who has ‘poured out in our hearts’ the very ‘love of God.’ (Romans 5:5)”

This question is for all: “So, are you a disciple of Christ?” Are you willing to give up all on His account? For young and old alike, I pray that you are! **SR**

Next Month:

This Experience Must Come

CONFERENCE is calling you to LORFUL LORADO

Your 2013 Conference Host Committee invites you to join us July 28 – August 3 at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. President Ralph Mackintosh has planned an outstanding program.

We as a committee are working together with Executive Director Rob Appel and the staff at UCCS to work out all the details of hosting you in Colorful Colorado. We are happy to serve you in this way.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: 2013hostcommittee@seventhdaybaptist.org or call the SDB Church of Boulder @ 303-541-9097.

You will also find a wealth of information on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SdbGeneralConference2013InColoradoSprings>.

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*Now's your chance to stock up on these attractive and convincing tracts. These "Pro & Con" four-panel tracts usually sell for 8 cents each (our cost). For a limited time, when you buy two we'll add one for free! So if you order **100** tracts for \$8.00, you'll get **150** for the same price. Each piece is 3-3/4 x 7 inches with a full-color cover. (See the May SR for the complete text.) Contact media@seventhdaybaptist.org and mention the "Buy 2 get 1 Free" special on "Pro & Con." We'll let you know the shipping costs before sending your order.*

Sweet Memories of Brazil

by Renee Sanford
Milton, Wis.

We've been home from Brazil for three weeks. I still don't know how to answer the question, "How was your trip to Brasil?" I don't even know if I should spell Brazil with an S or a Z.

–It was glorious and exhilarating.

It was physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausting.

–My heart overflowed with joy.

My heart was broken and filled with grief.

–I want to go back forever.

I never want to leave home again.

–God did miraculous things through our ministry. Often what I most needed to do was get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit work.

–I knew I was supposed to be there. I wondered why I was there.

–Not speaking Portuguese made communicating slow and difficult.

Not speaking Portuguese made communicating nonverbally easier.

"How was my trip to Brazil?"

Filled with tears. Over two days I shared about God's miraculous healing power in my life, sharing the deep wounds so I could share the glory of the deep healing. Oh how vulnerable we must sometimes be. I cried. Everyone cried. My pain resonated with their pain and people saw they were not alone.

"How was my trip to Brasil?"

Filled with joy. After sharing the pain, I could share the glory and joy of the healing. There is a balm in Gilead, the overflowing joy of freedom. What a privilege to set the stage for Pastor George to speak about our authority in Christ to drive darkness away, giving hope to trapped struggling believers. The trip was filled with encounters like that.

"How was my trip to Brazil?" Scary. One night I was asked to speak before Pastor George gave the sermon. Shaking, I got up and said through our interpreter, "I'm so nervous—at home I'm not usually in front; I'm out there." Everyone laughed and suddenly I felt totally at home and knew what to say.

I shared what Pastor Nate had told us the week before—about how our true home is in heaven, we are sojourners and aliens on earth. I said, "That's God's word, so it's true, right? So, I didn't leave home when I came here, because my real, eternal home is in heaven. The Holy Spirit was with me in the United States. And the Holy Spirit is with us here tonight in Brasil. Filling us, blessing us, reflecting Jesus' love between us. We know how to give good gifts to our children. And our Father knows how to give good gifts to His children. He pours out the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

I went on to pray, "Tonight, Lord, we ask—for you have told us to ask—we ask that you pour out

your Holy Spirit on all of us." As I shared and prayed, we could see and feel the Holy Spirit's tangible presence setting the perfect tone for the message and for the prayers later that evening that brought healing and deliverance. The trip was filled with Spirit-led moments like that.

Another night the family we were staying with let us share their evening routine. They sang a hymn after supper, then opened their Bibles, read scripture, discussed it briefly and then prayed. This! This— (cried my heart) —I want this! I want this in my home; this natural sharing of worship and the Word as a routine part of the day. Why did I need to travel so far to find it? What an upside-down world where these wonderful people see us as bringing them messages of God's truth, when they have so much to teach me about following Jesus. The trip was filled with revelations like that.

"How was your trip to Brasil?" I'm not sure I'm home yet. I'm not sure I'll ever be. **SR**



Renee Sanford (middle) with some new friends in Brazil. Renee joined Pastors George Calhoun, Andy Samuels and Liz Green in January to attend the 100th Brazilian SDB Conference and to share in teaching and healing.

Births

Tipton.—A daughter, Mercy Jean, was born to Chris and Anne (Soper) Tipton of Omaha, NE on September 25, 2012.

Knight.—A son, Luke Thomas, was born to Jim and Jenny (Ryschon) Knight of Lawrence, KS on October 2, 2012.

Amidon.—A son, Jeremiah Allen, was born to Jason and Jessica (Powell) Amidon of Coudersport, PA on March 24, 2013.

Pradetto.—A daughter, Elena Sofia, was born to Joe and Aubrey (Appel) Pradetto of Palm Desert, CA on April 26, 2013.

Burns.—A daughter, Kaylee Ruth, was born to David and Jackie (Cruzan) Burns of Redondo Beach, CA on May 6, 2013.

Palermo.—A daughter, Noelani Allison, was born to Nick and Amy (Goodrich) Palermo of Omaha, NE on May 7, 2013.

New members

Battle Creek, MI
Kory Geske, pastor
Joined after testimony
LaVaune Artis
Linda Shimmel
Janet Tavernier
Joined by letter
Harold D. King
Kathi King

Obituaries

Severance.—Bonnie (Babcock) Keown Severance, 81, of North Loup, Neb., passed away peacefully on June 4, 2012 surrounded by her family at the Valley County Hospital in Ord, Neb.

She was the youngest of 10 children born to Martha and Clarence Babcock. Her given name was Benita Beryl, but she was "Bonnie" to all who knew her. She was born in North Loup on May 2, 1931. She married Bernard W. Keown in 1948, and graduated from Scotia High School in 1949. They were married for 10 years and had four children: Bernard, Colleen, Terry and Thomas.

Following Bernard's death in 1959, Bonnie moved the family back to North Loup from Oklahoma and worked in the North Loup-Scotia Public School System for the next 42 years. In addition to her work at school, she wrote the local news for both the Scotia-Register and the Ord Quiz, owned B&C Ceramics, and managed the North Loup Drive-In Theater.

In 1968, she married Cecil F. Severance. Their son, Christopher,

was born the following year and became number 11 in their blended family. Cecil had also been widowed and had six children before marrying Bonnie. They were married for 35 years until Cecil's death in 2004.

Bonnie's family and faith in God were the two most important things in her life and she was an active member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church for 68 years. She served on numerous church committees including the Popcorn Days Stand, Christian Education, Camp, and Turkey Supper. She was a member of the Dr. Grace Missionary Society, taught Sabbath School for all ages (turning over her adult class a month before she passed). Bonnie was church historian and communicated with many who sought information about family or church history. She also served as North Loup's mayor and was a member of the Harmony Club.

Survivors include sons Dr. Bernie Keown of Ord, Terry Keown of Lincoln, Tom Keown of Omaha, and Christopher Severance of Frederick, Colo.; daughter Colleen Reichert of

Highlands Ranch, Colo.; stepsons Brice Severance of Norfolk, Cletus Severance of Brighton, Colo., Keith Severance of Frederick, Colo., and Galen Severance of Glendale, Ariz.; stepdaughters Katherine Dutcher of North Loup, Shirley Cargill of Scotia; 25 grandchildren and even more great-grandchildren; and one brother, Gilbert Babcock of Ord.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Bernard and Cecil; five brothers, Chester, Merwin, Carroll, Donald, and Iradell; and three sisters, Lillian, Ida and Marguerite.

Services were held at the North Loup SDB Church on June 8, 2012 with Pastor Scott Hausrath officiating. Burial was in the Hillside Cemetery at North Loup.

Simpson.—Doris Elinor Simpson, 93, entered into rest on February 10, 2013 at St. James Hospital in Hornell, N.Y., after a brief stay.

Doris was born on October 23, 1919 in Bath, N.Y., the daughter of Olin Huffman and Carrie Maude (Young) Simpson. She lived in various Western New York communities during grade school and then lived in Alfred, N.Y., all but for the last few years of her life

cont. next page

when she resided in Hornell at Updyke's Assisted Living Facility.

She graduated from Attica High School and later from Alfred University in 1941. She taught in the Warsaw Public School District for three years and then returned to Alfred to work until her retirement in the office of Counseling and Career Services at Alfred University. Along with her brother William Simpson, Doris also owned and managed several rental properties in the village of Alfred.

Doris, who never married, enjoyed her work and also enjoyed traveling and photography. Some of her fondest memories were related to her associations through the Seventh Day Baptist denomination and her adventures and time spent with local Alfred friends. She was a member of the Kanakadea/McArthur Order of the Eastern Star, the Alfred/Hornell Association of University Women, and the Alfred First Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She amazed her neighbors and friends by climbing the 23 steps to her home on High Street into her 88th year until it burned in 2007. Doris continued to have a sharp mind and wit, and excellent recall of her family, past friends and adventures.

Doris is survived by a sister-in-law, Janette; three nephews, Larry

of Oklahoma, and James and Michael of Colorado; and several great-nephews and nieces. She is also survived by good friends Thomas Ripple, formerly of Hornell, and Sandra McGraw of Alfred.

In addition to her parents, Doris was pre-deceased by a sister, Bernice, and a brother William.

A memorial service was held on March 23, 2013 at the Alfred First SDB Church with Rev. Patricia Bancroft officiating. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

Fletcher.—Lois K. Fletcher, 80, of New Enterprise, Pa., died on April 1, 2013 at the Rheems (Pa.) Nursing and Rehab Center.

Lois was born March 18, 1933 to John W. and Francis (Blough) Kagarise in New Enterprise. She married John R. Fletcher on December 11, 1952 in Cumberland, Md. He died on July 29, 1995.

She was a member of the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, and an active member of their Women's Society. Lois served on the Camp JOY (W.Va.) Board and was a cook for the camp for several years. She also directed and taught at the Salemville Vacation Bible School. She enjoyed making detailed cakes for all occasions and always supported any project going on in her home church. She will be sadly missed.

Lois is survived by a daughter, Karen Davis of Lancaster, Pa., and two sons, Raymond Fletcher of Roaring Spring, Pa., and Rory Fletcher of Charleston, S.C.; two sisters, Eileen Claycomb of New Enterprise and Ruthanna Roberts of Everett, Pa.; one brother, Dwight Kagarise; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Jocelyn Fletcher Ernst; a son, Jarred; and a brother, Orlo W. Kagarise.

A funeral service was held April

5, 2013 at the Bell SDB Church, with Pastor Ed Sutton officiating. Interment was in the Salemville Cemetery.

Thompson.—Kathryn S. Thompson, 88, of Coudersport, Pa., died April 9, 2013 at Sweden Valley Manor in Coudersport.

Born January 9, 1925 in Coudersport, she was the daughter of Albert A. and Dorothy (Davey) Schaub. On February 28, 1943, at the First United Presbyterian Church in Coudersport, she married William W. Thompson, who survives.

Mrs. Thompson was a 1942 graduate of Coudersport High School. She worked at the JC Penney store during World War II. She later worked in various offices in the Potter County Courthouse.

Kathryn was a former member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hebron, where she held various offices. She was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church at the time of her passing. She was a member of Eulalia Chapter No. 148 Order of Eastern Star and was a member of the former Hebron Grange. For most of her life she was a homemaker, and a loving wife and mother.

Surviving in addition to her husband of 70 years are two sons, George Thompson of Marietta, Ga., and William Thompson of Ontario, N.Y.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; one brother, Lewis Schaub of Coudersport; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Rebecca Thompson, and a sister, Dorothy Staiger.

Funeral services were held on April 13, 2013 at the First United Presbyterian Church in Coudersport with the Rev. Evon Lloyd officiating. Committal services and burial were at the Hebron Cemetery, with Pastor Carl Greene officiating. **SR**

Death Notices

Dorothy Lillian (Holcomb) Hallaxs, 86, of Battle Creek, MI, died on March 15, 2013.

Thelma Lee (Kennedy) Sleeth, 88, of Clarksburg, WV, died on May 11, 2013.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Getting kids to leave church (for missions)

How interested or involved are your children in missions?

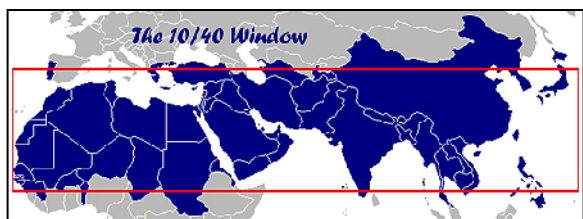
How interested or involved is your church?

Wouldn't it be great if we could get all of our members to be outward-focused and mission-minded at an early age?

The website "ministry-to-children.com" ran the following ideas for families to help kids love missions:

1. Pray for missionaries.
2. Read missionary biographies to your children.
3. Support missionaries financially as a family.
4. Find a missionary kid pen-pal for your child.
5. Welcome missionaries into your home.
6. Take risks as a family.
7. Encourage the traits that missionaries need.
8. Teach your children to be world Christians.
9. Read missionary prayer letters to your children.
10. Use missions fact books and resources.

Besides these thoughts, "ministry-to-children" asked for feedback, then shared even more practical ideas from readers. They are worth a look.



Have you or your children heard of the "10/40 Window"? It's been described as an invisible rectangle that extends from a latitude of 10 to 40

degrees north of the equator. Within the "window" are North Africa, the Middle East, India, Asia, and some parts of Russia.

When you look at those regions, you begin to realize that they're crowded with about two-thirds of the world's population. And, sadly, most of the poorest people in the world are found there.

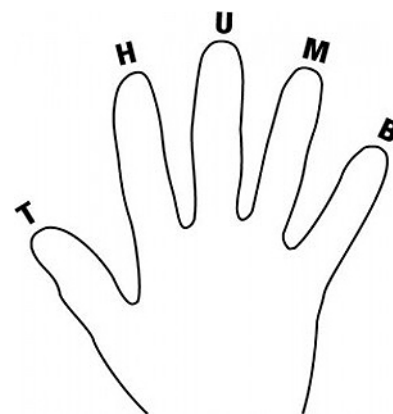
Many live on less than \$2 a day. They have little money for food or health care. Life expectancy is lower than in many other parts of the world.

Each of these countries in the "10/40 Window" have some Christian believers, but most people there follow other religions. They may practice Tribal religions, Hinduism, Islam, or Buddhism. Some are Atheists and believe in no God at all.

Thinking of those unreached people groups, the organization "stand4kids" has shared an easy way to remember to pray for these people.

Using the acronym "THUMB" each of the five fingers stands for one group.

- T = Tribal
- H = Hindu
- U = Unreligious (Atheist)
- M = Muslim
- B = Buddhist



Let's lift our hands together and pray for people in the 10/40 Window. May we all serve as missionaries to those who need to learn about the true God.





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