



The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

What's that
Funny Feeling??
We need all gifts
from all ages

July-Aug. 2013

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

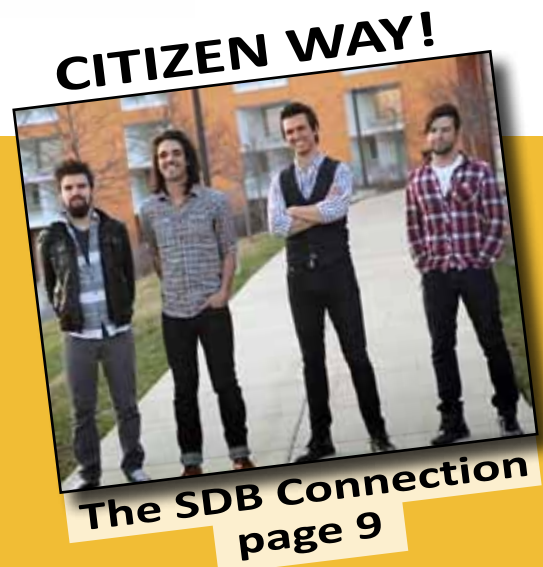


**God made
you
worth it!**

Plus:

**God is
stronger
than
zombies**

**SDB Youth
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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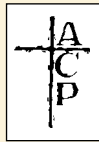


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Features— Annual Youth Issue

- We need all gifts, from all ages!**.....4
by Casey Greene
Each church is a unit of connected parts.
- What's that Funny Feeling??**5
by Elianna Chroniger
Not again! This was getting serious.
- Go ahead—you're worth it!**.....6
by Rebecca Olson
Just remember where that worth comes from.
- God is stronger than zombies**.....7
by Seth Osborn
With so many things working against this school play, would "the show go on"?
- An interview with CITIZEN WAY**9
This "new" group comes from old foundations.
- A Glimpse of Eternity**11
by Eric Rudert
A dying pastor promises, "It's going to be great!"

Departments

- | | |
|---|--|
| Health & Fitness 12
<i>Seeking a good death</i> | Reflections 19
<i>A shining example</i> |
| Women's Society 13
<i>Look after the orphans...</i> | President's Page 20
<i>What's your experience with God?</i> |
| The Nick of Time 14
<i>Who speaks for the dead?</i> | Conf. Attractions 21 |
| Retirement Fund 15
<i>Jean McAllister profile</i> | Alliance In Ministry 22
<i>This experience must come</i> |
| Christian Education 16
<i>A Helping Hand for your Bible study</i> | Conf. Host Committee 23 |
| Focus on Missions 17
<i>Ministry in harmony</i> | Local church news
<i>Salem, WV</i> 24
<i>Pastors' Conference</i> 26 |
| The Beacon 18
<i>I tried to keep my disease a secret</i> | Family flux 25 |
| | Kevin's Korner 27
<i>Who gets the last shot?</i> |



We need **All** gifts, from **All** ages!

by Casey Greene
Berlin, N.Y.

A couple of weeks ago our church had a retreat. We do these from time to time to fellowship with one another and reevaluate what we're doing and where we're going as a church.

This time was no different. We all got into our groups and started talking about ideas or thoughts.

As I looked around my group I noticed something. We were all youth. The oldest among us was only 19. We had pretty much segregated ourselves. It wasn't intentional, it was just natural.

A couple of others in the group also pointed this out. We realized that this could become a problem.

As the youth of our church, we took the initiative and announced that we were going to "step it up." We decided we would become more involved and that we would make an effort to connect with the older people in the church.

We decided we didn't just want to be the church's "someday" — we wanted to be the church's "today." We were on a roll.

I'm not going to lie. Once we decided this I was kind of patting myself on the back. "Oh, look how good I am..." We all struggle with sins and one of mine is pride.

It wasn't until later that I realized I didn't do anything that great. I had just obeyed what God had been instructing all along. 1 Corinthians 12:12 states, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."

What I really like is the part that

says "and though all its parts are many, they form one body." This is a great example of my church. We are all very different. Some are young, some are old. We are all important.

Also, we all need each other. We cannot accomplish what God wants us to do if we only use the people we are comfortable with. We cannot move forward and do His will if we put limitations on who He can use.

"Oh! Yes God, of course I'll do that! One little request: I need You to use so-and-so to do it because she and I are really close and I know it'll work out and it would just be so great..." We can't do this, but I was trying anyway. I had to realize that everyone in my church was a part of the body, not just my small circle of friends.

Another verse that fits into this perfectly is 1 Corinthians 12:21-22 which says, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And

the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable..."

This talks about how much we need each other. My church needs *all* of its people. We all have different jobs in the church. I lead in worship while Melinda makes everyone instantly feel welcomed. The church needs my gift, just as much as it needs Melinda's. Does it matter that we are 40 years apart? Of course not! God uses us both, in our own special ways.

Unity is a challenge. To find the revival we all seek, we must be unified in our churches, as a denomination, and as Christians as a whole. This is extremely important.

To do this we all must realize each other's value, and be willing to connect with one another. Only God can do this, but thankfully all things are possible with Him. **SR**



What's that Funny Feeling??

by Elianna Chroniger
Alfred Station, N.Y.

Our Bible study group at school has been trying out some new tactics as the school year comes to an end. We have done lessons from devotional books. We've opened to random passages from the Bible and just read to see where the Spirit would lead us. More recently we decided to bless doorways with anointing oil.



I felt the feeling in the pit of my stomach and thought to myself, "Oh no! Not again."

The first Thursday was a smashing success. We arrived at school at 7:15 in the morning and met in our chemistry teacher's room. We then took a moment to pray with each other before heading out.

As we left the room and walked down the stairs I felt something bubble inside me. I passed it off as nothing important and we continued our walk to the door that every child passes through when getting off the bus. We took the oil and blessed the doorway. A friend of mine prayed for all who would walk through the doors. That funny feeling came once again and I paid little attention to it.

We walked to the cafeteria next. We blessed the doors and this time I was asked to pray. I honestly can't tell you what I said, but I can tell you the whole time I was overwhelmed by that feeling in my stomach.

I thought maybe I hadn't eaten enough for breakfast or I was just feeling sick.

We proceeded finally to the main doors of the school. The three of us blessed the doors and we all prayed. While we prayed we heard teachers going by and even heard

some stop in confusion, but we kept on praying. I once again felt the little bubble feeling and continued to pass it off. Once we had finished with the main door we all went our separate ways and I didn't think much about the feeling I had had. Not that day at least.

The next day I was greeted by some friends who said they had felt different the day before. They said they felt happier and more at peace. I felt the feeling in the pit of my stomach and thought to myself, "Oh no! Not again."

I moved on with my day and continued to hear people say things like, "Yesterday was weird." Or, "I

was in such a good mood yesterday." My mind was boggled! I couldn't believe that our praying and blessing could have had such a great impact on so many people who had no clue what was going on.

The most amazing part of that "day after" happened at about 2:10 in the afternoon. I was on my way to my Global Studies class when a teacher

pulled me aside. This English teacher had seen us blessing doorways the day before.

She said to me, "Elianna, next time you bless doorways would you do me the honor of blessing mine as well?" I answered so enthusiastically that she was a little stunned. The fact that one teacher recognized the blessings God could bestow on her made me feel that feeling one more time.

By this time I realized the feeling was not lack of food, a stomach-ache or any other worldly thing. This feeling was *the Holy Spirit* telling me that I was doing something right. I finally understood what it meant to be touched by the Spirit and I can say it is a wonderful thing.

I want to challenge you, wherever you are, to strive to feel the Spirit. It is the biggest blessing I've ever received.

I challenge you, young or old, to reach out and bless someone else. Use the talents God has given you to help someone else feel the Spirit. Share the joy you feel when you are in the presence of the Spirit with everyone you meet. **SR**



Go ahead—you're worth it!

by Rebecca Olson
Berlin, N.Y.

Have you ever had one of those days where you just can't do anything right? Every time you turn around it seems like someone else is telling you what you're doing wrong. You feel like the "entire world" is plotting against you to make sure nothing you do will turn out as planned.

On days like this it's hard to convince yourself to keep trying. You just want to give up and crawl back in bed, telling yourself that tomorrow maybe you'll do *something* right.

I personally have days like this a lot. I get stressed out really easily, especially when it comes to being a leader. A negative comment from one person can make me feel like I'm completely incompetent to do the work.

Once I get the feeling that I'm not capable, I tend to give up a lot quicker than I should. I automatically assume that it would be better to quit while I'm ahead than to try and end up failing. I constantly assume that I'm not good enough.

I think it's natural for us to tell ourselves that we're worthless. We are so unbelievably good at comparing ourselves to everyone around us that we forget about our own importance. We look at how much better *everybody else* seems to be in comparison, and we don't even stop to consider our own value—the value that comes from God.

He gives us our worth. Psalm 139:13 tells us that He formed our inward parts; that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by Him. God took the time to shape each one of us.

Not only that, but Genesis 1:27 reminds us that we're made in His image. We've been made to look like and act like our Father, Who does everything right and perfect, Who is worth more than anything else in the universe.

So if God took the time to make us, and make us like Him—the one Who is capable of everything—we have to be worth something, right?

That being said, we have to be careful not to go too far on the other end, and not to be overly confident in the gifts that God has given us. After a job is done, it's easy to take the reward ourselves, isn't it? When somebody tells us that we aren't good enough, it's easy to look to God to remind us of our true value. On the other hand, when we've got someone singing our praises, it's even easier to smile and say thanks, taking credit for something that God did.

While we have to remember that we have worth, we also have to remember where that worth comes from. Ephesians 2:4-10 reminds us that everything we do is able to be done thanks to God. All the glory should go to Him, because He's the



If God took the time to make us, and make us like Him—the one Who is capable of everything—we have to be worth something, right?

one Who has done the miraculous deeds. If we're asking Him for help with our struggles, shouldn't we be giving Him the honor once we've overcome them?

So, there are two things to remember here. First, you are worth something to God. And second, your worth comes directly from Him. Next time you're feeling low and you're not ready to face whatever task is ahead, turn to God for guidance. (Hint: 2 Corinthians 12:9 is a great verse when you need a reminder that God is big enough even when you're not.) Just remember—once the job is done, give credit where it's due. **SR**

God is STRONGER than zombies

by Seth Osborn
Boulder, Colo.

I absolutely love performing on stage. Whether I'm dancing around for a musical or just standing and singing for a choir concert, it's one of my favorite things to do.

So of course I was going to try out for our spring play, regardless of what it turned out to be. When our drama teacher (and director) revealed that it would be "Night of the Living Dead," that only sweetened the deal. Yeah, zombies are getting to be a little played out in recent years, but traveling back in time to the movie that made them popular in the first place sounded like it would be a lot of fun.

Being involved with this production was great for a lot of reasons, but most importantly it showed me how God is able to perform miracles, even when things look really bleak.

We've got standards

My high school is known for having high standards for our productions. Our choral department is one of the best in the region. (Our Women's Jazz Choir was the only all-female jazz choir to perform at nationals in Dallas this year.) Our musicals run for seven shows, including two matinees and five evening shows, and still get close to filling the house for every performance. Our bands and orchestras, like our choir department, are amazing by any standards, let alone for a high school.

But somehow, our plain old non-musical plays haven't been all that popular recently. In my

sophomore year, the first year of high school that I tried out for the spring play, we did "Almost, Maine." That show has recently surpassed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as the most-performed play in high schools.

Where *is* everybody?

On opening night of "Almost, Maine," my friend looked out into the audience and commented, "There are tens of people out there!" No, not *tens*. Tens.

It wasn't an exaggeration, either. The attendance did increase in our following shows, but even with only three performances, we didn't manage to fill more than the middle section on any one of those nights.

I'm not really sure why this is. It could be that we seem to have trouble holding onto a drama teacher for any considerable amount of time. As of now, my junior year, we've had three different drama teachers. But for whatever reason, we haven't been able to draw as much of an audience for the plays as we have for the shows that allow students to showcase their vocal talents.

Serious obstacles

Even apart from the preexisting issues, we had an insane number of things working against

us from the very beginning of our "Living Dead" rehearsal schedule. Before our initial parent/cast meeting, our director's wife gave birth to a stillborn child.

This was devastating—not only to our director and his family, but to every student who knew him. How could something as terrible as that happen to somebody as nice as him? It wasn't fair.

But rather than just give their family sympathy and wonder why bad things happen, we actually helped them out. Somebody came up with the idea to make and deliver a dinner to their family for a few weeks. They made a document

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online for people to sign up, and it was almost full in just a couple of days. This act of goodwill alone could have convinced me of God's power to help those who need it, but there was more.

Weather or not

For those of you unfamiliar with Colorado's approach to weather, I'd like to inform you that it's a bit odd. In April, we were finally getting enough snow to warrant snow days. At least, it was enough in everybody's eyes except for the superintendent of our school district!

There was one day that prompted closures for every school district in our county except for the one I attend. Well, at least for the duration of classes. After-school activities were cancelled, including play practice, so we could have a safe ride home.

There were at least two other "snow day-worthy" days that turned out similarly. While three rehearsals might not seem like a huge deal, when you only have two months of practice, every day counts.

Our very impressive set (especially for a high school) couldn't be completed as early as we would have liked because of a middle school concert planned to take place in our auditorium. This concert, of course, would end up being one of those after-school activities that was cancelled, leading to a feeling of having wasted time not working on the set. We knew we would get it finished in time for tech week and performances, but it still would have been nice to have had a completely constructed set for more of our rehearsals.

The human factor

Our obstacles weren't all beyond

our control, though. Some of our actors barely had their lines down. The narrator would forget a line every now and then, or say something in a different way than was on the script. Some of our major roles would paraphrase (which didn't help when the lights and sound crew had to use specific lines as cues) or even accidentally skip over entire lines.

It might seem like I'm just complaining about others, but I didn't always get everything right, either. I was the first zombie to appear in the show, and I had a choreographed fight scene with one of the other characters. At times I would mess up something seemingly small that would end up being pretty distracting; at one point my shoe flew off because I brought in shoes without laces for some reason.

The technicians had their problems, too. Going back to my fight scene, they would often bring the lights down before the scene was actually finished. One night we had to run it three or four times in a row so we could get everything right. The show was also somewhat unique in that we projected prerecorded video at some points. Sometimes the video wouldn't come up in time, sometimes the projector

was off-center... Tech week for this production was one of the most disastrous I've ever experienced.

And some returned to "the Dead"

But guess what? God helped us pull everything together and have a great show! There were one or two minor tech issues, but nothing all that bad and nothing that didn't get fixed right away.

I don't know if the thought of zombies attracted people or if we just spread the word about this show better than we did for "Almost, Maine," but our opening night had more people in the audience than all of the combined nights of last year's show.

After all of our setbacks, God still put together a show so good that not only did the crowds increase dramatically, but many people even came to see it more than once. Maybe that's not as miraculous as walking on water, but it's one of the biggest miracles I've ever personally experienced. **SR**

Seth Osborn has been serving this past year as editor of The Beacon, our page for youth interests. We thank him for gathering the features for this annual youth issue!

*Seth in his zombie makeup...
...and he does clean up okay.*





*With Ben Calhoun
of the band "Citizen Way"*

Ben and Josh Calhoun. If you've been a Seventh Day Baptist for a while, you know their names, faces and musical gifts. The Calhouns, along with another set of brothers—Ben and David Blascoe—form the group Citizen Way. Yeah, that group. The one that sings "Should've Been Me" and "Nothing Ever (Could Separate Us)" on the radio.

Ben Calhoun (second from left above) shares his story and deep appreciation of growing up "SDB."

Sabbath Recorder: How many years were you guys in the SDB musical group *Stained Glass*?

I served on the "Souled Out," "Porchlight" and "Crossroads" tours. Josh and our sister Sarah served on the "Porchlight" and "Crossroads" tours as well. We have incredible memories from those years.

I also produced the "Renewed and Ready" and "Carried by Faith" records for *Stained Glass* at Darkroom Studios, the recording studio I built at Judson University.

They are two of the most rewarding projects I've ever been part of and I am extremely proud of them. Our SG history is priceless to us.

How important was that experience in musical and ministry training?

Stained Glass is one of the highlights of our lives and was foundational for us, largely due to Ralph and Dede Mackintosh. We've often thanked them for how it prepared us for our career in *Citizen Way*.

We learned to write Scripture-based songs, refine our instrumental/vocal/performing skills, record an album, be gracious to each other while on tour, and to serve each other, the church and ultimately the Lord. It was perfect preparation for *Citizen Way*.

What was the motivation and transition for the band *the least of these*? How did that group start and how many years have you been together?

I remember reading Matthew 25 and literally seeing "the least of these" pop off the page! I thought it would be a great name for a band. In 2004, I recruited Ben Blascoe and Josh Calhoun to play on a record of songs I wrote.

I called camps, youth groups, churches and local concert promoters offering to perform concerts and lead worship. We built a family of contacts around the Midwest that we would annually serve. It taught us how to be a band and serve people during those first eight years.

After signing with www.fairtrade services.com (MercyMe, Audio Adrenaline, Hawk Nelson) in January 2012, we changed our name to distinguish ourselves from other ministries associated with the name "the least of these."

"**Citizen**" references Phil. 3:20 in that we have our "citizenship in the kingdom of heaven." "**Way**" refers to John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." The best thing about our name is that it includes everyone we serve with. It's the family of God—Citizen Way.

***Citizen Way* has had a couple of hits now. What's been your reaction and how has that changed your ministry?**

The first time we all heard "Should've Been Me" it was like

the movie “That Thing You Do” when the group hears their song on the radio and all run screaming to each other to celebrate! We still get excited when we hear our songs on the radio.

Our friends Big Daddy Weave (KLOVE Fan Awards *Song of the Year* winners with “Redeemed”) heard “Should’ve Been Me” on Christian radio and invited us on their Spring ’13 tour with MIKESCHAIR and Chris August.

We were invited to play at the KLOVE Fan Awards at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn. It was so awesome to perform for our Christian musical heroes—now peers and friends—and to see them smiling and singing along to our songs as part of the crowd. We were recently invited to go with Sanctus Real on their Fall ’13 tour.

The details of our career sure change but our goal remains: to encourage people to walk with Jesus.

Anything you’d like to say to Seventh Day Baptists?

Yes—we say “Thank you!!” Growing up as an SDB is one of

our life/career cornerstones. We often recall significant memories from Sabbath morning, camp, year-end retreats, Pre-Con and Conference. It’s fun to see lifelong SDB friends and mentors at our concerts around the country.

As we were encouraged by our SDB family when we were young, we encourage the SDB youth to:

–**Walk with Jesus** (Micah 6:8). He will tell you who

you are and what you’re best suited for in life.

–**Be more interested in people** than your product (John 13:34-35).

–**Be excellent at what you do** and exercise your gifts regularly.

–**Bloom where you’re planted** and step in faith through the doors God opens for you.



Back in the day with Stained Glass! *

We encourage the SDB Conference to continue raising up music ministers. *Stained Glass* is one of the most beneficial ministry opportunities for young musicians that I’ve ever seen.

We are fortunate to have grown up in such a Christ-centered church family. We learned music here.

We learned to be worshippers here. We learned “family” here. We learned who Jesus is here.

We learned how to step out in faith and see God move in significant ways here and we sincerely thank our SDB family for giving us much of the foundation we’re standing on. We pray that the Lord continues to

raise up Christ-followers among you and we look forward to being a part of that in the years to come! **SR**



How can YOU be a part of Citizen Way?

- Pray that they are sensitive to the Holy Spirit resulting in unity in Him.
- Promote or come to one of their events and sing LOUDLY! ;)
- Send them your hard-earned money by purchasing their van t-shirt (left) on their website. They bought a brand new van to replace the old one that died in the hills of Montana. They have a plan to pay it off ahead of time and your gifts are appreciated.
- Send them a note of encouragement or story of how they’ve encouraged you to walk with Jesus at their social media links at **citizenwaymusic.com**
- If you’re a high school student interested in music ministry, check out Judson University. Ben teaches there and runs the recording studio where they teach students to be music ministers on record, on stage, and in life. Many SDBs have graduated from Judson. Citizen Way started at Judson and continues to invest there. It could be a great fit for you. www.judsonu.edu/citizenway



A Glimpse of Eternity

by Eric Rudert

We at the White Cloud, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church lost our beloved pastor, Bernie Wethington, to cancer on March 19, 2013. (See the May 2013 SR obituary.) Please keep his family and our church family in your prayers during this time of transition.

Bernie was a great leader, challenging us to various needs and ministries in our community, and also to world missions. In and out of the pulpit, he was a big teddy bear when he needed to be, and conversely a bulldog when necessary. (Church members: remember the “We need an elevator” speech in the business meeting? Whew!) He was intelligent and a student of many things, including the Bible. His messages were well prepared, inspiring and thought-provoking.

With this terrible disease rapidly consuming Pastor Bernie, our church was able to have him attend a service on March 2. In many ways, it was a “living funeral,” but also a wonderful time of memories and praise. A reception line (with a basket for cards and notes) followed, but Bernie had to leave due to being so weak. During the service a photo was taken with Bernie looking up with his arms in the air, his fists clenched. It has been labeled, “God wins!”

When I first heard of Bernie’s terminal illness, my original thoughts were “Why?” and “Not fair, God.” On these “Why” issues, our minds “walk around the “block” only to return to the same place. It’s then we realize that God is God, and only He knows and is supposed to know the answers to these questions.

It’s probably human nature to make peace with someone once

there’s a terminal illness. Pastor Bernie (“PB”) and I did that. There wasn’t too much baggage or tension between us for the past several years. But, with my duties as moderator and as a trustee, there were a few times we disagreed. I thanked him for the times he rebuked (I love that word) me for the good of our church. After all, Bernie had our church and God’s kingdom as his agenda, vs. mine. In turn, we talked about a few mistakes he had made.

I’ve never been witness to someone so accepting of death, when in

“
I’ve never been witness to someone so accepting of death, when in a worldly sense it seems untimely.
”

a worldly sense it seems untimely. There was much happiness in our talks. There wasn’t a “poor me,” but rather a “bless you”—your family and your business—and well-wishing trend throughout our discussions. Just like in the movie “Forrest Gump” when his mom smiled and said, “It’s my time,” Bernie did the same.

I kind of felt like Mitch Albom during the time he wrote the book *Tuesdays with Morrie* and wished



Pastor Bernie Wethington

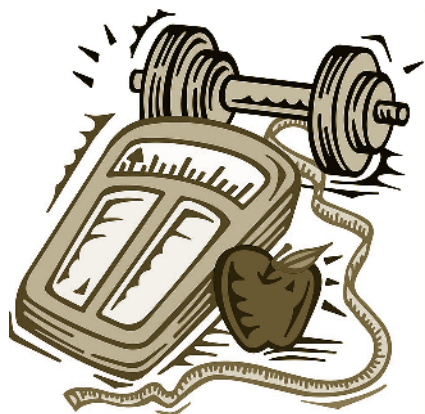
I could get more time with PB. For some of my questions he simply replied, “I don’t know.” Again, God is God.

We talked about our community, the world we live in, and about our country. Bernie’s big-picture thought process placed all of our lives as just a short time in eternity. We left our closing thoughts on this topic to a concern for our children’s children and our church family.

The most important topic we covered was eternity. His face grimaced as he moved his body to find some comfort from the pain. His voice was weak, his skin was yellowish and gray, but as he looked off into a far away distance, his blue eyes beamed with excitement. “It’s going to be great!”

PB shook his head quickly as if in a trance, then he looked at me with a different smile. He had a glimpse of heaven. It was a unique moment in my life, sort of surreal. It was similar to a special-effects scene in a movie.

To the believer and to the new believer, be assured and comforted. “It’s going to be great!” SR



Seeking a good death

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

Over 125 billion Medicare dollars are spent in America on care near the end of life. In addition, out-of-pocket expenses average \$39,000 for individuals, \$51,000 for couples and up to \$66,000 for people with long-term illnesses like Alzheimer's.

If spending money ensures that people get the best care at the end of their life, the price may be worth it. That doesn't necessarily happen. The medical system's focus on performing interventions at any cost and the reluctance of families to talk about death, may mean that many dying people do not get the care they want. Worse, they often suffer through unnecessary, even harmful treatments. When patients have a terminal illness, at some point more disease treatment does not equal better care.

It is extremely important that your family know the end of life care you want. By not doing so you give up a decision-making power to others—the hospital, doctors, or a relative who may not know or share your preferences. Most Americans say they would prefer to die at home, yet only 24% do so. The rest spend their last days in hospitals or nursing homes. Even when the people who are dying have made their wishes known, they may be ignored or the medical team may not be aware of them.

The best time for families to share their thoughts about end of life care is *before* there's a crisis. Questions to discuss include:

- **What kind of life-sustaining treatment (CPR, feeding tube, ventilator) do you want, if any?**
- **Where do you want to be cared for?**
- **What is most important to you as you think about the last phase of your life?**
- **Do you want to take advantage of palliative care, hospice care or both?**


Make the decisions binding by completing advance directives such as a living will (lays out preferences for life-sustaining treatment), and a health care proxy (appoints a person to make medical decisions for you if you cannot). Everyone should do this now. State-specific advance directive forms can be downloaded from CaringInfo.org and can be completed without a lawyer or prepared by one as part of estate planning. Ultimately, it is still up to patients and their families to determine when to pursue aggressive treatment or withdraw life support.

People often think DNR (do not resuscitate) means "give up." It's

more about accepting and embracing the next phase of life, even if it's death. DNR does not mean do not treat or do not care. It only means do not resuscitate by giving CPR, electric shocks or medications to restart the heart.

In addition to physical health decisions, it is important for families to talk about what they consider to be a "good death" spiritually and mentally. What specific things would you want to have happen in your last days: visits from family, reminiscing with loved ones, music that you love?

Spiritual concerns are as important as medications and comfort care. As Christians, we know that death is just the next phase in our eternal life. Yet, many people do not have this assurance and even those who do may fear the "how" of death. It is helpful for the patient to be able to discuss the fears and concerns and have these validated. It is essential that end of life care include visits from church friends and pastors, home communion, or if possible attending church.

We all want the best for a loved one and for ourselves in the final days of life. The best way to ensure this happening is to talk with each other, put your requests down on paper and be sure your physician knows about your decisions and is willing to follow your wishes. Your final days should be filled with peace and comfort rather than full of treatments that someone else thinks you need. 



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

Look after the orphans...

*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”
 (James 1:27)*

Rather famously, an expert in the law asks Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus replies with the story of the Good Samaritan, essentially telling the man that being a neighbor extends past those people he knows and cares about, to strangers whom he would consider an enemy (Luke 10:25-37). The man didn’t get the answer he expected.

Even though the passage tells us that the man is not sincere in his question, it is an important question: Who is my neighbor? Who is my enemy? Who is my boss? Who is that person across the parking lot waving emphatically at me? The answers to these questions may dictate our future thoughts and actions so it’s important to know them.

My question is: Who is an orphan? The answer I expect: an orphan is someone whose parents have either died or abandoned them. Seems like a no-brainer. This definition fits the context of what James is saying, and taking care of the parentless is certainly a huge and worthy objective in this world.

Coordinated efforts are being



made by charities such as Compassion International to help orphans and marginalized children survive in this world. But what if that isn’t the only answer? James exhorts us to look after orphans, but by that definition I don’t personally know many orphans.

On the other hand, I do know a lot of people under the age of 18. And substantiating recent societal trends, many of them are from non-traditional families. Single-parent homes, mixed families, an abusive parent, families living in poverty; I know at least one kid living in each of these scenarios in the sparsely populated area where I live.

Many have been morally abandoned to figure out or make up life on their own. Who is looking out for them? Is there any adult in their life who simply takes the time of day to communicate with them, to show them how they should live?

Many kids don’t have an adult they can trust to protect, encourage, or just interact with them—and they

need it. They are “orphans.” How do we follow up on James’ exhortation to look after them? Most of the time we don’t.

It’s simple to pass over kids that we don’t need to communicate with. Most of them wouldn’t see you as an authority figure anyway.

With all the distractions in life it’s easy just to give a slight nod of acknowledgement to the fact that the kid is a human being and be on your way. But that acknowledgement isn’t enough for most, though they probably aren’t even aware of their own need.

Think back to your childhood and remember those people who took an interest in you. It validates a person so much when someone who should only be giving you the “nod” takes the time to talk to you. Kids today need that validation—perhaps more than ever—and especially if they aren’t getting it at home.

It is easy to look through rose-colored glasses and blame the next generation for their own failings. Instead of giving in to that temptation, why don’t we make an effort to look after them?

Find those kids who need a trusted adult in their life. You don’t need to preach at them—just let them know you’re there.

Be a friend. Show them that they aren’t just a “nod,” but a valuable person. Look after the orphans. **SR**



Who speaks for the dead? Getting our history books out there

“We have gathered here to recognize the closure of the DeRuyter Seventh Day Baptist Church. We remember with thanksgiving the blessing that this church has been, by the grace of God and the enabling of Christ, to this community for nearly 200 years, and to us individually and personally during our lifetimes. We thank God for this church’s witness through the years, and we pledge ourselves to continue the spirit of this church’s founders and its spiritual life wherever we live and serve in the universal Church through the coming years of our lives.” –**The last words of the DeRuyter, N.Y., SDB church in the service commemorating its closing in 2000**

It has been nearly 13 years since the DeRuyter church people worshiped together for the final time. Prior to that, Seventh Day Baptists had a constant witness in that place, either by settlers or in a gathering church, since 1806. The church’s meeting house, built in 1835, is still one of the most beautiful worship spaces SDBs have ever constructed.

They took the initiative to create the first SDB school—the DeRuyter Institute—in 1836 at the urging of their pastor, Alexander Campbell. In 1875, the congregation boasted of more than 650 members. Twice, in 1834 and 1875, the congregation hosted the sessions of the General Conference. Early Conference publication efforts were undertaken in DeRuyter. Many of our first missionaries had connections to and through their congregation.

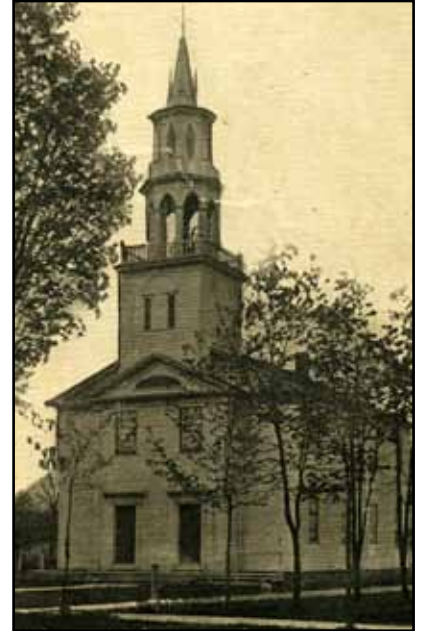
In every sense of the word, the DeRuyter church was a vital and important member of our General Conference and a strong witness for Jesus Christ, not only in their community, but in the larger world as well. But in the midst of changing times, the church lost its vitality and ultimately was forced to close.

Often when this happens, no one remains in the community who can testify to the life and ministry of the church. Who will witness in our time to the contributions of the DeRuyter SDB church in that community? Who will speak for them in that part of New York State? When people in that place have questions about Seventh Day Baptists, who will answer?

When people have historical questions, they often consult the local library or historical society. In the case of DeRuyter, there are a total of four of these places: two libraries and two historical societies. That’s where you come in. It is our goal to place copies of the new edition of *A Choosing People* to all of these locations so that a book is there to speak for these historic congregations, and honor their lives and ministries.

We are looking for individuals and churches to partner with us in this important ministry—not just in DeRuyter, but around the rest of the country as well, in both our living and historic congregations. There are hundreds of places in communities around the United States where a copy of *A Choosing People* could serve to witness for God’s Kingdom and for Seventh Day Baptists. Each placed book costs \$35. Checks can be sent to the Historical Society, and those who place books can select where they would like their book sent if they wish.

We are developing a list of places in need of these books, which will be posted on our website (www.sdbhistory.org), as well as promoted at the upcoming General Conference sessions. Also, if you know of a location where such a book should be located, please let us know, and we will add it. Let’s work together to make sure that all our congregations, both living and historic, testify to God’s work among Seventh Day Baptists. Please contact the Society if you have any questions. **SR**



The DeRuyter SDB Church
on a 1920 postcard.



SDB PASTOR'S RETIREMENT FUND

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH

by Jeanne Yurke

The "old" Retirement Fund provides retirement and survivor benefits for retired pastors, missionaries, and denominational employees. The following provides some background on retired employee Jean Davis McAllister and her husband William who receives survivor benefits.



Jean and Bill McAllister

Jean Davis McAllister was born in Plainfield, N.J., on May 28, 1929, the daughter of Courtland and Frankie (Lowther) Davis. She had two brothers, Courtland Davis Jr., and S. Kenneth Davis who was a Seventh Day Baptist pastor.

Jean graduated with a BS degree in mathematics from what was then Salem College in West Virginia. Except for her college years, she lived her entire life in New Jersey.

On July 24, 1951 Jean married William E. McAllister. Together they raised three children: Stephen, Marjorie, and Norma.

When denominational offices were still located in Plainfield, Jean was secretary to the Seventh Day Baptist Executive Secretary. She also worked in the SDB Publishing House where she mastered the offset duplicator, training others to use the machine and to make metal plates for photographs and illustrations that appeared in such publications as *The Missionary Reporter*.

Having spent her life actively

participating in Seventh Day Baptist congregations (New Market, Plainfield, and later Raritan Valley), Jean was able to relate easily to the many guests who would stop by The Seventh Day Baptist Building in Plainfield. Serving as a church clerk helped her to make the connections between people and their home churches. This was certainly useful while working in her secretarial role.

After completing her denominational service, Jean worked as a Systems Analyst for AT&T in Piscataway, N.J. She retired from

that job in December of 1989 and became an active volunteer with the local AARP chapter, and the advisory board of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Middlesex County in New Jersey.

Jean enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, and was known for her quick wit, sharp intellect, honesty, and caring personality. Preferring to work behind the scenes, she contributed selflessly to many groups and was a great encourager to younger generations.

On August 26, 2007 at the age of 78, Jean McAllister died. Family members continue her legacy of service in their communities and churches.

Surviving spouse William "Bill" McAllister receives some support from the retirement fund in which Jean had participated. He has devoted much of his retirement to helping others through an organized handyman's program. Making repairs for those who need a helping hand has been Bill's way of making a positive difference in his community. **SR**

Your generous gifts can help support those who gave so much. Please make your check out to COSAR, with "Pastor's Retirement Fund" in the memo line, and send it to the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. A monthly automatic gift can also be arranged. Contact the SDB Center at 608-752-5055 for details.



A Helping Hand for your Bible study

Every Sabbath, Seventh Day Baptists around the world gather in Bible Study groups (frequently called Sabbath School) and explore what the Bible teaches. Many of the classes for adults choose to use the passage chosen by the *Helping Hand in Bible Study*—available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese thanks to the dedicated labor of many people—because it provides a valuable set of resources to help Bible students prepare for their time together in unhindered studied and open discussion of Scripture.

In addition to answering the question, “What should we study this week?” the *Helping Hand* provides:

Daily Bible Meditations: Each week’s lesson starts with the Daily Bible Meditations. These passages are chosen to be short enough to read relatively quickly and will cover the primary and background Scriptures for the week’s lesson. Each passage is paired with a paragraph or two of text that encourages you to ponder on the meaning of the text for life.

Heart of the Lesson: God intends for Scripture to change us and to challenge the incorrect ways we look at the world. The Heart of the Lesson attempts to tie an observation about life, a question about that observation, and Scripture together in a faithful manner. While your class may choose to take another lesson from the text, the Heart of the Lesson provides a challenge from the Bible.

Key Verse: The key verse is chosen to represent the lesson focus.

Questions for Studying Text: We write these questions to help you think about the text during the week. They try to cover the range of learning represented by the cognitive domain of Bloom’s Taxonomy. Some questions will have straightforward one- and two-word answers. Other questions will require bringing significant knowledge of the whole Bible to the answer. Still other questions will look to applying the text to our daily walk. Some of the questions may not even have an answer.

Understanding and Living: Explaining the context, historical background, and focus of the text is one purpose of this section. Another purpose is to encourage you to apply

the Scripture to your life right now.

Hints for Teaching the Class: We provide lesson aims that touch on facts you should know, ideas you should understand, and behaviors or feelings that may result from the lesson. From time to time, we also provide teachers with interesting, quirky, and helpful methods for approaching the lesson material. This section does not describe how to teach the class; however, we hope that it will provide thought starters for teachers.

Looking Forward/Looking Back: Each lesson is connected with others during a quarter. This one- or two-sentence summary helps you connect with what is coming in the next lesson or remember all the lessons in a unit. **SR**

Other formats...

Large Print Helping Hand

The Helping Hand in Bible Study is available in a large-print format for churches in the United States and Canada that subscribe to the regular edition of the *Helping Hand*. The large-print edition of the magazine is available as a PDF and maintains both the layout and page numbering of the print edition. For more information, contact the Board of Christian Education office.

E-Book (Kindle Version)

The Helping Hand in Bible Study is available for purchase from Amazon.com. This e-book includes the full text of the print version and provides the text of Scripture for the Daily Bible Meditations. You can find out more through this link: <http://7db.info/hh-kindle>



FOCUS on Missions

Ministry in harmony

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org

Like the Apostle Paul's illustration of the Church as a body—with each member serving their role according to their gifting and calling—so also are the Seventh Day Baptist boards and agencies to work cooperatively in their ministries.

Each board and agency in our alliance is called to particular ministries. The **Missionary Society is called to train, equip, and promote mission ministry**, to be the arm that facilitates our congregation members to respond to Christ's command to "go."

Recent Vision and Prayer meetings of our Board of Managers have helped to clarify this as our main focus. While we assist the other ministries in their responsibilities where we can, it is imperative that we fulfill our primary calling.

Recently, we released a position statement. It reaffirmed our Society's purpose to focus on reaching the unreached for Jesus as a sending agency. Diverting more of our attention to our primary calling will come with a cost. Though **we recognize and fully support the vital need for administration of church development** in the USA & Canada Conference, we cannot lead that ministry without depriving our mission ministry of the management it needs to function as it should.

Truly, the Missionary Society has no intention of completely forsaking church development ministry. As the Conference Executive Director, Rob Appel, has said regarding church development, "We are all on the same team. If we were described as a dog sled team, the Missionary Society will still be helping pull the sled, they just will no longer be the lead dog."



"We are all on the same team. If we were described as a dog sled team, the Missionary Society will still be helping pull the sled, they just will no longer be the lead dog."

Like many other undertakings of the General Conference, **church development works best when all the ministries work in harmony** according to their skill sets. President of the Missionary Society Board of Managers, David Stall, gave the example of the start-up church in Kingman, Arizona.

The Center on Ministry is aiding in training and counseling the lead pastor there in Kingman. The SDB Board of Christian Education has made available materials for discipling new believers. The church is using some tracts produced by the Tract Council. And the Missionary Society is helping facilitate the national missionary Patty Petersen to "go" to Kingman and serve with her gifts in training and evangelism.

Performing in the ministry capacity where we have the greatest proficiency, we each play our part in the symphony that our Lord conducts.

Going forward, we encourage and support a transition where the General Conference establishes an agency or position that is dedicated to strategic church development, which would include revitalizing existing churches and planting new ones. This adjustment has come after many months of evaluation, prayer, and deliberate communication with the General Conference leadership.

The leaders have expressed an appreciation for clarity in our position and **we anticipate a continued cooperative and increasingly fruitful relationship** as we Seventh Day Baptists move together—as Conference President Ralph Mackintosh would say—"Forward in His Footsteps." **SR**



the BEACON

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

July-Aug. 2013

I tried to keep my disease a secret— (even from God)

by Madge Chroniger
Alfred Station, N.Y.

When I was 7 or 8, I was diagnosed with childhood absence epilepsy. This kind of epilepsy causes you to lose consciousness for 4 to 20 seconds.

At first I had no idea what to do. I remember thinking that everything was going to be harder—having to take pills every day and making sure my friends and teachers knew what was happening. (Most people think that the condition is not that bad. I know worse things could have happened but I know for me it was a very scary experience.)

Sometimes I wish I could go back to the time I was diagnosed so I could have asked God for help. Even then, I realized God was always with me and helped me through everything. Looking back, if I had put my trust in Him I would have not been so worried. But I didn't do that, and that was probably the worst mistake I could have made.

I thought I had to "be brave" and just carry on without God. Part of me thought He could have never really helped me. The more I thought about it I knew God had to be a part of everything, He could help in so many ways.

Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "Be

strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." I know now God will never leave me or forsake me. I could have

“

If I brought up the topic of my disease, I felt like I wouldn't be loved and would lose everyone.

”

just taken a breath and God would take care of all of my worries.

When I look back to that moment, I wonder why I didn't trust Him. I had all my life, so why not then? When there is fear in our life we think the best thing to do is to shelter ourselves. Sometimes that means sheltering ourselves from God, acting like He isn't going to help.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." I knew that if I trusted God with all my heart He would help me through

this, so why didn't I? Was it the fear that He wouldn't help me? Was it the fact I was too concentrated on trying to forget everything? Or was I just trying to stay strong and prove I could go through this without any support?

Actually it was none of the above. I thought if I brought up the topic of my disease, I felt like I wouldn't be loved and would lose everyone. I should have thought again and known that God would have been there and cared for me and loved me like always. In Jeremiah 31:3 it says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

When I think back to this battle I fought, I understand why God is always there for everyone. I know that God will always be by my side. I know if I ever go through something like this again I will have Him there.

I will always have someone to love me, care about me, and have everlasting love for me. Now that I understand God is always there, I have more confidence than ever.

I also know God will put me to the test again. He will always be there for me and anyone who is having a tough time. God keeps me strong every day and I hope He will help keep you strong, too. **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

Lucille Sunby: A shining example

Although many are left unnamed, the Bible mentions 188 women. These include female leaders, prominent queens, and prophetesses.

Monique Provance, in a research paper discussing biblical women, wrote about six females who displayed positive character traits—Judith, Esther, Ruth, Deborah, Rebekah, and Rahab. For example, Rebekah exemplified how to cheerfully serve others without complaining, and Abigail was *"a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance"* (1 Samuel 25:3).

On her website *avirtuouswoman.org*, Melissa Ringstaff writes, "I want to encourage women to serve God in every aspect of their lives. Being a Proverbs 31 woman is not about being 'perfect.' It's about living life with purpose, diligence, forgiveness, and repentance."

For many women, Lucille Sunby—a longtime resident of Milton, Wis.—is a shining example of what a Christian woman should be.

Lucille, who turned 97 in February, was born in Dodge Center, Minn., and moved to Milton at age 10 in 1926. She joined the Milton SDB Church by letter in November of 1935, almost 78 years ago.

Many people admire Lucille's gentle spirit, warm smile, Christian faith, and gift of hospitality. I've coveted her gorgeous, angel-white hair for as long as I can remember.

Lucille equally enamors my daughter, Jennifer. In fact, Jen's four daughters have "adopted" Lucille as their honorary great-grandmother. What woman but Lucille Sunby would place her "good" china in front of little ones when they could barely handle sippy cups?

Since Lucille is the queen of impromptu tea parties, I'm convinced tiny, elf-like chefs live in her kitchen cupboards, producing tasty goodies at a moment's notice.

Jennifer posted the following on Facebook, and the comments confirm Lucille has a large fan base.

Jennifer: "As I'm bumming around at home, day two, in my ratty yoga pants, I can't help but wonder if the ever-so-graceful, 97-year-old Lucille Sunby ever dressed down like this a day in her life?"

Terry: "I don't think I have ever seen her without lipstick."

Jayne: "Lucille is definitely the gold standard—for everyone who knows her. Me included, of course."

Ralph: "I can remember some years ago, when she may have been a mere 90, in full dress pants and dress jacket, with full jewelry and heels, out front of her house doing gardening."

Jayne: "No matter who I get in a conversation with, older or younger, that person will mention Lucille as the kind of person she aspires to be. Soon after one such conversation, I let Lucille know how much she inspires us women. She thought it was amusing and, of course, was her



Lucille Sunby

humble and gracious self."

Marcy: "I saw her working at Turkey Supper a few years ago in dress slacks and a white blouse. When she left, she didn't have a spot on her! (She also didn't wear an apron!)"

Teresa: "Not a chance. I have never seen her look not put together. What a great lady she is."

Sue: "I have seen her mowing the lawn in a wool skirt and fancy wool jacket. Not a hair out of place. Granted, it was a riding lawnmower, but still!"

Jayne: "Sue, a riding lawnmower... in a skirt?!!! That's Lucille for ya! She's gorgeous, inside and out."

Leanne: "I don't think Lucille would even know what 'dressed down' means."

Sara: "I have often said I want a rubber bracelet that says 'WWLD'—What Would Lucille Do?"

Thanks for being such a powerful Proverbs 31 woman, Lucille—an awesome Christian role model for present and future generations. **SR**



Colorado Springs, CO

July 28–Aug. 3, 2013



The President's Page

by Ralph Mackintosh

What's your experience with God?

When I laid out the challenge for Seventh Day Baptists this year, there were four phases: read *Experiencing God* by Henry and Richard Blackaby, spend time in prayer seeking where God was already working, join Him in His work, and share with your fellow SDBs your experience.

Some of you will have finished your reading and study while others may have already discovered where God wants you to be serving and may have taken steps in that direction. As I've travelled the country over the last 10 months I've heard stories of people's lives being changed, new insights being discovered and a refreshing spirit of enthusiasm for listening to God's voice and answering His call.

Wherever you are in the process I'd like to hear about your experience. If you have been impacted by your study, prayer and experiencing God this year, I want to share those stories at Conference. If you're going to be in Colorado Springs for Conference 2013 (and you all should be) there will be opportunity to share with the whole gathering. If you can't come, please send me an e-mail or write your experience down and send it with someone who is attending.

I've been doing some more reading and would like to recommend

another Blackaby book called ***Hearing God's Voice***. The Blackabys wrote this to answer some questions that people had raised, with specific emphasis on how and when God speaks to His people today.

I believe God still speaks to His people—not through some single formulaic ritual process but in the same immensely varied ways He spoke in biblical times: burning bushes, writing on the wall, fleeces, wind, fire, still small voice, trumpets, a donkey (okay, maybe only once), circumstances, preachers, angels, dreams, visions, wise counsel, prophets, miracles, the Holy Spirit, Scripture, etc. The fact that He speaks in so many different ways means that we have to put our faith in *Him* and not in a method.

The question most of us ask is, "Why don't I hear God speak more often directly to me?" I'm discovering that the problem is not that God isn't speaking, but that I'm such a bad listener. Consider the conversation we are supposed to be having at regular intervals with God called **PRAYER**. To hear God's voice we need to spend a lot more time in prayer.

When I read of history's great leaders of the Church, a common theme seems to be the hours they

spent on their knees. Do many of us do that today? Do we literally spend hour after hour seeking God's presence, or does God just hear from us for 10 minutes in the morning, 10 minutes at night and 30 seconds at mealtime?

Secondly it may be *how* we pray. What God has to say *to us* is infinitely more important than what we have to say *to Him*, yet we all so often dominate the conversation. God already knows everything we are telling Him yet we keep right on yacking instead of listening for Him to tell us things we don't know.

Prayer is a two-way communication. It is not reciting a wish list to the "cosmic Santa" or a means of tapping into a supernatural power source. It's not the recitation of a ritual formula that will mysteriously make us healthy and rich, and it's certainly not an equal exchange of ideas. Maybe our Quaker friends have it right when they sit in silence during their worship services contemplating and listening.

I yearn to be like the person depicted in Isaiah 50:4. "He wakens morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears."

I hope to see many of you in Colorado Springs. My e-mail is ralph.mackintosh@hoag.org **SR**

Pick a tour!

For your free time on Friday

Conference-goers sometimes have a hard time deciding what to do on Friday afternoon during free time, especially if they have flown in and don't have transportation. This year, we have three options for anyone who wants to join in. Please let us know if you're interested (**by July 15**) so that we have an approximate number to give to each place we'll be going.

If you're interested in any of them, leave a comment or message on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SdbGeneralConference2013InColoradoSprings or e-mail sdb.conf.tours@gmail.com.

TOUR #1

Passages, an interactive exhibit of Bibles, biblical artifacts, and ancient texts (sponsored by the Green family, founders of Hobby Lobby and Mardel). Estimated cost \$10. More information at www.explorepassages.com/



Display at the Passages tour



Focus on the Family welcome center

TOUR #2

Compassion International and **Focus on the Family** (no cost). More information at www.compassion.com/tours/imc-tours.htm; www.focusonthefamily.com/about_us/welcome-center.aspx

TOUR #3

Garden of the Gods and **Glen Eyrie** (Navigators). Estimated cost for a tour of the Glen Eyrie castle \$9 (optional). More information at www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?navid=1999; www.gleneyrie.org/Visit-the-Castle/Castle-Tours



The Glen Eyrie castle



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

This experience must come

*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 seven in a series from this great devotional.*

Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha... saw him no more. (2 Kings 2:11-12)

It is not wrong for you to depend on your “Elijah” for as long as God gives him to you. But remember that the time will come when he must leave and will no longer be your guide and your leader, because God does not intend for him to stay.

Does even the thought of that cause you to say, “I can’t continue without my ‘Elijah!’” God says you must continue.

Alone at Your “Jordan” (2 Kings 2:14)

The Jordan River represents the type of separation where you have no fellowship with anyone else, and where no one else can take your responsibility from you. You

now have to put to the test what you learned when you were with your “Elijah.”

You have been to the Jordan over and over again with Elijah, but now you are facing it alone. There is no use in saying that you can’t go—the experience is here, and you must go. If you truly want to know whether or not God is the God your faith believes Him to be, then go through your “Jordan” alone.

Alone at Your “Jericho” (2 Kings 2:15)

Jericho represents the place where you have seen your “Elijah” do great things. Yet when you come alone to your “Jericho,” you have a strong reluctance to take the initiative and trust in God, wanting, instead, for someone else to take it for you.

If you remain true to what you learned while with your “Elijah,”

you will receive a sign, as Elisha did, that God is with you.

Alone at Your “Bethel” (2 Kings 2:23)

At your “Bethel” you will find yourself at your wits’ end but at the beginning of God’s wisdom. When you come to your wits’ end and feel inclined to panic—don’t! Stand true to God and He will bring out His truth in a way that will make your life an expression of worship.

Put into practice what you learned while with your “Elijah.” Use his mantle and pray (see 2 Kings 2:13-14).

Make a determination to trust in God, and not just others. **SR**

Next Issue:

Do It Yourself!

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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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.

Brent Hannah ordained in Salem

by Janet Thorngate
Salem, W.Va.

On May 4, 2013, the Salem, West Virginia, SDB Church celebrated the ordination of their pastor, Rev. Brent Hannah. Friends from sister churches and the community joined in the day's festivities. Rev. Steven Crouch, pastor of the Bay Area, Calif., SDB Church (where Pastor Hannah had served as associate pastor before coming to Salem), brought the morning message on the theme "Pictures of Unity" from Psalm 133.

Welcome and invocation for the afternoon's ordination service were brought by Rev. D. Scott Smith, pastor of the Middle Island, W.Va., church, and Pastor Johnmark Camenga of the Lost Creek, W.Va., church. Salem's Clerk Terry Van Horn reported action of the ordination council that had met on March 9 with representatives from sister churches in the Appalachian Association. Following their rec-



Ordained clergy members pray for Brent and Carla Hannah as he is ordained to the ministry in Salem, W.Va. Pastor Steve Crouch (with microphone) led the consecrating prayer.

ommendation, the church had voted unanimously to ordain Pastor Hannah who has been serving them as pastor since July 2011.

Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate, retired former pastor of the church, brought the charge to the church, and Rev. Gordon Lawton, Director of Pastoral Services for the Conference, brought the charge to the candidate. The consecration prayer with laying-on-of-hands was led by Rev. Crouch.

Rev. Paul Green, retired former pastor of the church (who also served in Salem as interim pastor between Thorngate and Hannah), welcomed Pastor Brent to the ministry. Church Moderator Gary Martin Sr. presented a certificate of ordination.

Music enriched the day's experience—from the choir anthems under the direction of Duska Davis to the singing of hymns; praise songs led by Genesis Worship Team; and the organ music of Denise Green. A special touch was the lovely bouquet

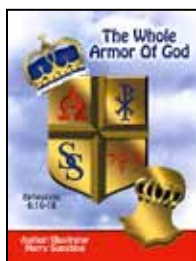
of flowers sent by Rev. Hannah's parents, Roy and Ann Hannah of Santa Rosa, Calif. They were unable to be there to share the day with Pastor Brent, his wife Carla, and their sons Conor and Brock.

Since coming to Salem, Pastor Hannah has been active in community as well as church programs including both Salem and Harrison County ministerial associations. He and Pastors Camenga and Smith have initiated an exciting "West Virginia Children's Fellowship" which rotates monthly among the three churches with good attendance. His and Carla's help with Camp Joy and other Christian education activities are especially valued.

This fall, with the church's encouragement and support, Pastor Brent will be attending the West Virginia branch of Palmer Seminary, the American Baptist seminary in Philadelphia. **SR**

The Whole Armor of God

By
Merry
Sonshine



A comparative study between ancient secular armor and today's Spiritual armor.

Books may be ordered at:
www.mycoatofarms.net

20% of all sales until the end of the year will go to the **SDB Historical Society**

Obituaries

Weber.—Ralph H. Weber, 84, of Lafayette, La., passed away in peace surrounded by loved ones on February 14, 2013.

Ralph was a native of Chicago, Ill., a longtime resident of both Colorado and North Carolina, and most recently a resident of Lafayette for the past four years.

Ralph and his wife Evelyn (Babcock, from Nortonville, Kansas) moved to Colorado in 1962 and became active in the Boulder SDB Church under Pastor Mynor Soper. After relocating to Asheville, N.C., the Webers yearned to see a Sabbath fellowship begin there. Pastor Soper visited when possible and held services with the family. John and Linda Camenga moved to Tennessee in 1979 to work with a new SDB church about two hours from Asheville. John agreed to hold services in the Weber home on a monthly basis. The Asheville Fellowship continued to meet with Ralph and Evelyn for many years until moving into a rented church building.

Ralph served on various Conference committees. He was treasurer for the Asheville Fellowship until he and Evelyn moved to Lafayette, La., to be near family. After her

homegoing, he continued leading Bible studies at her nursing home, and became active in the Baptist church down the road, teaching Bible studies and supporting the pastor in whatever ways he could.

He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lafayette and a veteran of the military, having served in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. He enjoyed antiquing, canoeing, and leading Bible studies, but most of all encouraging and helping others.

Survivors include three sons, Tony Weber of Carencro, La., Dr. Steve Weber of Ft. Collins, Colo., and Dr. Bill Jones of New York, N.Y.; four daughters, Lenna Waters of Melbourne, Australia, Chrystal Queen of Carencro, LuAnn Arellano of Pueblo, Colo., and Lynn Tanner of McKinney, Texas; 20 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and his sister, Janet Page of Tampa, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Evelyn Babcock Weber; and one brother, Edward Weber. His burial was to be in Nortonville at a later date.

Funeral services were held February 17, 2013 in Evangeline Memorial Gardens in Carencro. Rev. James Craft of Calvary Baptist Church conducted the services assisted by Dr. Bill Jones, director of the New York Gospel Mission.

Sleeth.—Thelma Lee (Kennedy) Sleeth, 88, of Clarksburg, W.Va., was called home to her Lord and Savior after a lengthy struggle with heart complications on May 11, 2013 at United Hospital Center in Bridgeport, W.Va.

Thelma was born June 9, 1924 to Charles Emory and Nora Dell (Radcliffe) Kennedy of Lost Creek, W.Va. On September 7, 1943 she

married Paul E. Sleeth with whom she celebrated 56 years of marriage before his passing in May 2000. Mrs. Sleeth was an 80-year member of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She is survived by their only child, Cynthia Poling of Clarksburg; several in-laws; two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Thelma was preceded in death by four brothers, Lloyd W. Kennedy, Orson Glenn Kennedy, Erlo Richard Kennedy and Basil Ray Kennedy; a sister, Wilma A. Jeffries; several in-laws and a nephew and two nieces.

A memorial service was held at the Davis-Weaver Funeral Home in Clarksburg on May 18 with Rev. Larry Buckland II presiding. Inurnment will be in the West Virginia National Cemetery in Taylor County. *SR*

New members

Philadelphia, PA
Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor
Joined after baptism
Misty Lewis
Kerry-Ann Dorman

Death Notices

Marilyn Pearl, 59, wife of Pastor Michael Pearl of the Bradenton, FL, SDB Church died on April 28, 2013.

Olin C. Davis, 87, of Oneida, NY, died on May 29, 2013.

Please send us your church
and family news to:
[editor@seventhday
baptist.org](mailto:editor@seventhdaybaptist.org)
or to "Sabbath Recorder"
on Facebook
(or mailing address page 3)

Pastors' Conference was a blessing

by Gordon Lawton
com@sdbministry.org

The following people attended the 2013 SDB Pastors' Conference in Shiloh, New Jersey, on April 23-27. Most are in the accompanying picture:

Robert Babcock, Marlboro NJ; Edson Barrett, Philadelphia, PA; Levi Bond, Portland, OR; Clint Brown, SDB Missionary Society; Kevin Butler, *SR* Editor (he took the picture); Andrew Camenga, SDB Bd of Christian Education; Johnmark Camenga, Lost Creek, WV; Don & Charlotte Chroniger, Shiloh, NJ; Ken Chroniger, Alfred Station, NY; Kenroy Cruickshank, Philadelphia, PA; David Fox, Atlanta, GA; Brent Hannah, Salem, WV; Scott Hausrath, North Loup, NE; Nick Kersten, SDB Historical Society; Gordon Lawton, SDB Center on Ministry; Daniel Lovelace, Atlanta, GA; Keith McCall, Edgewater, FL; Garfield Miller, SDB Missionary Society; Matt Olson, Berlin, NY; Kevin Palmiter, Little Genesee, NY;



Raymond Peterson, Columbus, OH; John Pethel, Atlanta, GA (now in Colorado Springs, CO); Andrew Samuels, Miami, FL; Jim Schorr, Foothill SDB, Montrose, CA; David Stall, Ashaway, RI; Melvin & Yvonne Stephan, Raritan Valley, NJ; David & Margaret Taylor, Central SDB,

MD; Dale Thorngate, SDB World Fed President; David Thorngate, Middletown, CT; Robert & Lana Van Horn, Pataskala, OH; Jerry Vaught, Portland, OR; Larry Watt, Central SDB, MD; Jeanne Yurke, Raritan Valley, NJ (living in ID); Wray Winborne, Daytona Beach, FL.

Annual Corporation Meeting Notice Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held on the campus of University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO, following the evening worship service of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., on Monday, July 29, 2013.

The specific location for the meeting will be announced on campus.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to act upon the 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Directors and to act upon other such matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2013 General Conference sessions in Colorado Springs, CO, are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

The theme for our conference was "Seeing With God's Eyes," based on 2 Kings 6:8-23. Pastor Matt Olson spoke about seeing and mentoring individuals; Pastor John Pethel encouraged us to see the need and the harvest; Pastor Andrew Samuels taught about seeing with eyes of faith. Conference President Ralph Mackintosh gave us details about the coming Conference session, brought the morning message on Sabbath, and entertained the church and community with a Gospel-based illusions show.

Our many thanks go to the Shiloh and Marlboro church members for the wonderful way they hosted us! Thank you for encouraging your pastor to attend. *SR*

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Who gets the last shot?

Five “Most Valuable Player” awards. Six NBA Championships. Six Finals MVP awards. Fourteen-time All Star. Ten scoring titles.

With numbers and accomplishments like this, many would call Michael Jordan the greatest basketball player, ever. And certainly Michael Jordan thought so. Even when he wasn't playing basketball full-time.

After Jordan's “first retirement” in 1993 at the age of 30, he decided to try his hand at professional baseball. Mind you, he hadn't

played organized baseball since high school.

He signed to play with the Birmingham Barons, a minor league affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. The team was managed by Terry Francona. (A decade later, Francona would guide the Boston Red Sox to their first World Series title in 86 years.)

While both men were in Birmingham, they forged a solid friendship and a healthy respect for each other. “He was good to every player and every coach,” Francona remembers. “And we got to see him with his guard down.”

Jordan never hit for a high average and had his struggles in the field. He kept pushing to get better. But it wasn't like basketball—the game he still loved.

While being interviewed about his new book, *Francona: The Red Sox Years*, the baseball manager recalled a “pickup” basketball game with His Airness:

“We were out in the Fall League in Arizona, and

it started out as just a little bit of shooting around. One thing led to another, and we started playing games. The games got a little bit more competitive and I was getting a little tired, so I shot—made a long shot near the end of the game. It hit the rim real hard and bounced towards the middle of the court. Curtis Pride was a player on the other team, went down and scored, and the game was over. I was kind of glad because I was tired.

“As I was walking off the court, I heard the ball rattling off the window, and Michael had kicked it! He was mad. He walked up behind me and goes, ‘Hey, man, I always shoot last.’ And I didn't really quite grasp what he said, so he said it again. I was like, ‘Well, you know, this isn't on TV.’ He goes, ‘I don't care. I always shoot last.’”

“And I said, ‘Well, now you know how I feel when I watch you try to hit a curveball.’”

“He took about two steps and he just hit the floor. I mean, he liked—he genuinely liked—being treated like everybody else, and he really liked being one of the guys.”

When it came to basketball, Michael Jordan really wasn't “one of the guys.” He liked being in control, calling the play, drawing the attention, getting the ball, and making the shot.

Does that sound like you? Do you always like to be in the driver's seat? Do you always have to shoot last?

When it comes to our salvation, God “shoots last.” He is the One in control; it is His play, His call, His world, His heaven.

Let God rightfully sit on the throne, then allow—and welcome—Him to direct your life.



5K SDB CONFERENCE 2013

GOSPEL FEET

BICYCLES FOR EVANGELISTS

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UCCS Colorado Springs, CO
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1k fun walk/run is planned

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