



The Sabbath RECORDER

September 2013

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

Rocky Mountain High



Conference in Colorado



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



Our Sabbath morning gathering at the University of Colo.—Colorado Springs.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHA SHETTEL,
THE SDB WOMEN'S SOCIETY ANNOUNCES
THE **DOROTHA SHETTEL FUND.**

THIS FUND WILL BE USED TO HELP SCSC AND
STAINED GLASS STUDENTS WITH EXPENSES TO ATTEND
PRECON, CONFERENCE, AND RETURN HOME.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT THIS FUND,
PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO: SDB WOMEN'S BOARD
IN CARE OF THE SDB CENTER, PO BOX 1678
JANESVILLE WI 53547





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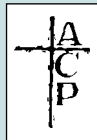


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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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THANK YOU to this year's photo assistants
Kennedy Ochs and Ralph Hays!

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and *more!* The guest speakers and entertainers were awesome and our home-grown talent was stellar. We gleaned much from the seminars, ate much at the cozy cafeteria, cried much at the Stained Glass reunion, and were blessed much just being together.

This was a Conference for the ages—As memorable as the stunning scenery. May it truly be a turning point for us as a people as we Follow in His Footsteps. **SR**

The last time SDBs met for Conference in Colorado was back in 1980. If this year's gathering was any indication of how well Conference can be run in that thin air, I've got a feeling we'll be voting to return soon. (Although we might want to give the hard-working and excellent Host Committee a few years to recover. Hats off to Pastor Steve Osborn and crew!)

As President Ralph Mackintosh wrote before the event, "My prayer for the week is that we are inspired by the music we hear, the messages that are delivered and the experiences we share. Corporate worship should motivate us to action. I also pray that everyone will seek out new knowledge, skills, or insights that can be applied to their daily lives and ministries. And finally the week should be one of fun and enjoyment with brothers and sisters in Christ."

Ralph, may I say that the week was ALL that



As he predicted, some tears flowed from President Ralph Mackintosh as he introduced his loving and supportive family.

Forward in HIS Footsteps
Univ. of Colorado, Colorado Springs
July 28–August 3, 2013
President Ralph Mackintosh

Statistics

- 520 registered guests
- 223 delegates representing 53 churches
- 44 ministers/pastors present
- 11 official visitors
- 6 students preparing for ministry
- 2 T.I.M.E. students
- 63 at Associated Conferences and with 10 in the nursery
- 19 at Youth Pre-Con, directed by Paul Andries with 7 staff
- 25 at Young Adult, directed by Johnmark Camenga with 4 staff

Elections

- President 2013-14: Steven James, Verona, NY
- President-elect: Bill Probasco, Shiloh, NJ
- General Council: Dale Thorngate
- Council on Ministry: Gabe Graffius, Patti Wethington
- Faith and Order: Virginia Burdick, Steven Crouch
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert
- Tract and Communication Council: Gretchen Zwiebel, Johnmark Camenga
- Memorial Fund Trustees: Don Graffius, Ruth Reynolds, Stephen Rogers
- Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief: Daniel Lovelace
- Business Recording Secretary: Katy Bofinger



Kurt Berg (l.) received the Crystal Apple Award from BCE's Andrew Camenga.



Karen Payne (l.) presented the Robe of Achievement to Faith Green on behalf of Faith's mother Linda Camenga who was unable to be at Conference.



The Maranatha Community Church of Colton, Calif., was welcomed into the Conference as a member church.



Linnette Reynolds accepted the Scripture Memory Bowl for the Toronto SDB Church.

Awards/Recognitions

- Women's Board
- Robe of Achievement:
Linda Van Horn Camenga,
Kissimmee, FL
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year:
Kurt Berg, Riverside, CA
- Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization
Bowl: Toronto, ON, Canada

Nominations Committee for 2014

- Former President:
Ralph Mackintosh (CA)
- Former General Council:
Andy Samuels (FL)
- Former Nominations Comm.:
Shay Rankhorn (TN)

Eight additional members:

- Stephanie Sholtz (MN)
- Eric Inabnit (WA)
- Nadine Lawton (RI)
- Jacqueline Alonzo (VA)
- Dawn Richards (AR)
- Jim Goodrich (NE)
- Jessica Chroniger (NJ)
- Paula Reynolds (ONT)

Alternates:

- Aaron Andries (DC)
- David Fox (GA)

SDB Women's Board

- President: Althea Rood
- Vice President: Deirdre Camenga
- Recording Secretary: Madelyn Neher
- Treasurer: Margot Harris

More Conference memories...



Dr. Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family.



The worship team from Next Step Church in Thornton, Colo.



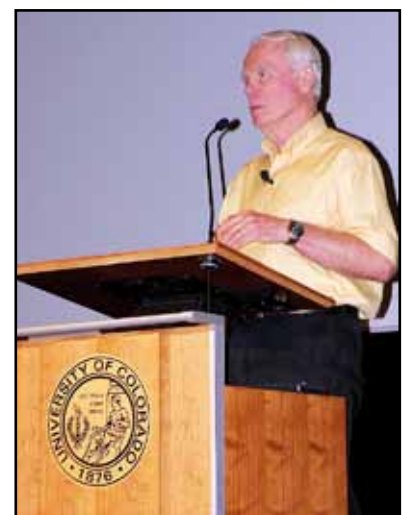
Dr. Gordon MacDonald shared from his heart with the pastors at their Tuesday luncheon.



“Okay, who wants to trade these chips for an apple?” (at the Pastors’ Lunch)



Executive Director Rob Appel reviewed many past events during his talk on Tuesday morning.



Dr. Gordon MacDonald also spoke on Tuesday evening.

The best Wednesday at Conference, ever?

–It began with the 5K fundraiser



–An afternoon with Kim Beck



–A great picnic supper



–Ending with an evening of...

...illusion



David Laflin

...juggling



David Cain

...and ventriloquism!

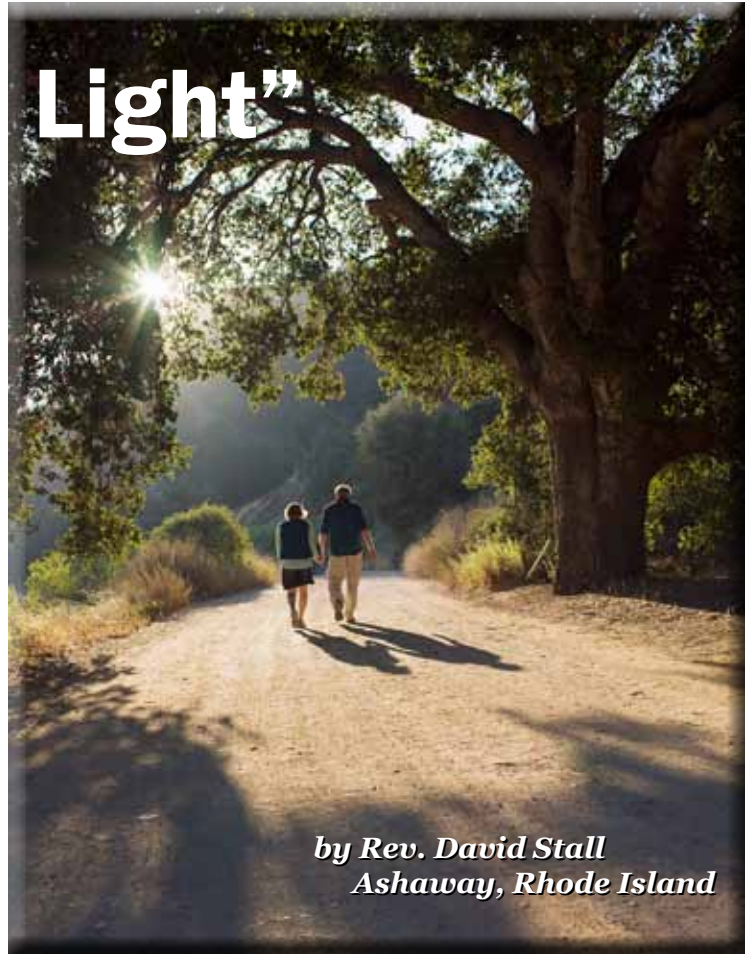


Rev. Rob Watkins with 'volunteer' Rob Appel

“Walking in Light”

*An 8-minute sermon
for General Conference*

With the prevalence of guest speakers and special performances already scheduled, President Ralph Mackintosh wanted to squeeze more SDB pastors into his Conference program. He challenged a handful of our guys to preach an 8-minute message. Here is one of them. Another is found on page 24.



*by Rev. David Stall
Ashaway, Rhode Island*

To set up for his eight minutes of fame, Pastor Dave brought a small table lamp to the platform, turned it on, and placed it on a stool. He said, “Since I am from a 300-plus-year-old church in Rhode Island, this is my idea of a high-tech visual aid.”

President Mackintosh gave me a verse (Psalm 119:105) as the

scriptural basis for this message. That verse says: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Most of us here would probably agree that walking in light is better than walking in darkness. If you’re not sure about that, let me ask you a question: Have you ever walked in darkness and stubbed your toe on something? I mean, *really* stubbed your toe hard, with the kind of pain that makes you hop around and hold your tongue from saying bad words?

I have a point to make here, so let me take that question a bit further. Have you ever walked in darkness and stubbed your toe on something that YOU put in your own way? Even worse... Have you ever walked in darkness and stubbed your toe on something that YOU put in your own way—*after* your wife suggested you move it? I have!

Last spring, just before Pastor’s Conference, my wife and I were having a “friendly discussion” about this box of “old stuff” of mine that she had deemed *trash* but I viewed as *treasure*. After some discussion,

I decided to put this big plastic box on the floor near my side of the bed in our bedroom. She advised me that this was not a good idea or location, and that I should move it. Despite her warnings, I left the box there.

In the middle of the night, when I got up and walked through the darkness, I stubbed my toe on that stupid box! My little toe was black and blue, and I limped to New Jersey for Pastor's Conference, with no one to blame but myself. I put an obstacle in my own way, ignored a helpful warning, walked in darkness... and I paid the price.

So, getting back to Psalm 119:105. God's Word is a lamp. His Word, His Law, lights the way for us. It keeps us on the right path and saves us some broken toes (figuratively speaking) and some personal injuries.

In pastoral counseling, I spend a lot of time with people who are broken, bruised, or crippled because they hurt themselves while walking in darkness. They are often dealing with emotional, spiritual, or mental problems. These include serious stress, hurts, and baggage from the past; and, of course, serious relational problems as well.

Some of these things, I understand, are caused by outside factors or other people, or evils beyond their control. But often times, the problems are a result of their own disobedience to God's Word. It's their own sin, their own choice to walk in darkness instead of light. They decide to turn away from God's Word, place obstacles in their own way, ignore the warnings, and walk in darkness. And they get hurt.

People will say things like, "When I sin, I hurt myself and others, and it's not good." Sometimes I just want

to shake them and say, "Then *STOP* sinning!" If they were to say, "When I walk in darkness, I get bruised or hurt," I would say, "Then turn on the light!" Why would anyone want to walk in darkness?

So, we've covered this idea that walking in darkness is bad. God's Word is a lamp and we should use it. But, what is so *good* about walking in the light? I think we find a great answer in 1 John 1:5-7 which says, "This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."

When we walk in darkness, we do not have fellowship with God. When we choose to live a life of sin, we are breaking fellowship with God and separating ourselves from Him. Again I ask, why would

anyone want to walk in darkness?

When we walk in light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with God! We can be sure that the blood of Jesus Christ is making us pure. How great is that? Why would anyone want to walk in darkness? God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Walk in the light. **SR**

Note: To close this sermon with his "high-tech visual aid," Dave moved over to that lamp on a stool and turned it off. "Dark = Bad." Then he turned it back on. "Light = Good." This process was repeated (Dark = Bad; Light = Good) several times until the point was made and the 8-minute time allowance quietly expired.

Pastor
David
Stall



Striking out for Jesus

A new perspective on Church League Softball

by Jim Lyke
Milton, Wis.

“This field, this game... It reminds us of all that once was good and that could be again.”

– Terence Mann talking about baseball in “Field of Dreams”

There are those who claim that football has overtaken baseball as America’s pastime. Those people have not participated in church league softball.

And until this year, neither had I. Church league softball is an interesting concept, especially if your last experience playing organized softball was nearly two decades ago in a hyper-competitive league sponsored by a tavern.

At that time, it was difficult for us to find ten athletic guys in their 20s and 30s to field a competitive team. But when our manager (the ever-cheerful and encouraging Neil Lubke) spread the word around church that a men’s softball team was forming, he had little trouble filling 20 roster spots.

Despite thinking I was well

past my prime—if indeed, I ever had one—I signed up. I thought it would be fun to publicly display my decreased stamina, combined with ineptness in a sport I haven’t played since the previous century.

The good news was that I was not alone in this. Our church softball team was an interesting stew of teens, young adults, and “mature” men ranging from 18 to 57. One last participated in an organized league in junior high school... in 1971. To

put that in perspective, he last played softball *the year after the Beatles broke up*. Having multigenerational teammates may have worked for the Ken Griffey’s (Sr. and Jr.), but I didn’t see either of them on our ball diamond.

If softball is baseball’s simpler, less genteel cousin, then church league softball is the kinder, gentler version of that. There were obvious differences between playing in the church league and a “regular” city league. These included:

- **SWEARING**

At the beginning of the year, a rules





sheet was distributed to all of the teams scolding us that swearing had gotten out of control last season and ejections would be enforced for foul language. I thought to myself, *What kind of church league am I joining?* I did not realize that the rules sheet was distributed to ALL city league teams, not just the church league. So unlike previous leagues I had experienced, I only heard one foul word all season long, and it came out of... ahem... *my own* mouth. Forgive me, Lord.

• **CELEBRATIONS**

From the Brewers untucking their shirts after big wins to guys mobbing each other at home plate on a game-winning run, teams get darned excited when they win. Except in church league. When our team pulled out a rare walk-off victory, I mobbed the kid who got the game-winning hit, chest-bumping him, slapping his back and generally hooting and hollering that he had done it—until I noticed everyone else on the team telling me to tone it down. So I did and went politely through the handshake line, expecting that as soon as we left the field, we would be jumping up and down and whooping it up. Not really. Sure, we were all

grinning from ear to ear, but the celebration was basically, “Who wants to go get custard?” Which brings me to...

• **POSTGAME REFRESHMENTS**

A win (or more often, a “valiant effort”) is celebrated at a local dairy treat establishment. It was different at the league sponsored by a bar.

• **PRE- OR POST-GAME PRAYER**

We *are* in a church league, after all.

As you may have gathered, we were not exactly the New York

Yankees of our league. If anything, we were more like the Jekyll and Hyde. Late in the season, the only two teams below us in the standings each had one victory – both against us. Meanwhile, the first-place team had only one loss – also against us.

While winning was a mostly unmet goal, equally important was the fun, fellowship and setting a good Christian example. Or as *Recorder* editor Kevin Butler put it, we succeeded as bearers of Good News, even though on the field we more often resembled the “Bears of Bad News.” **SR**



The Connecting Church softball team for 2013. Jim Lyke is standing third from the right, with the sunglasses.

2013 Robe goes to humble servant

*Presented at Conference
by Karen Payne
Robe of Achievement Comm.*

We are pleased to announce that **Linda Van Horn Camenga** is our choice as recipient of the Women's Board Robe of Achievement for 2013.

Linda was born in West Virginia to Pastor Delmer and Rowena Van Horn. She counts herself blessed knowing that she was saved at a very early age due to Christian parents who taught her to love and serve God with her whole heart. Delmer and Rowena were wonderful role models and helped her develop a true servant's heart. She was brought up to find the need and make sure it was taken care of. Linda graduated from high school while her father served the Adams Center, N.Y. church.

During her time at Salem College she followed her heart and married Pastor John Camenga 47 years ago, knowing she would continue to be in God's service with this life choice. While she did not complete her degree in Music Education she later completed her training and was certified in Early Childhood Education. Linda and Pastor John were blessed with four children; Andrew, Faith, Grace and Johnmark. They, along with their spouses Kristin, Mark, Rick and Cathy have blessed them with 13 grandchildren. These are not the only things that make Linda so deserving of this award.

Following her husband to the churches he was called to serve, she helped fill the holes she found. These churches include Salemville, Pa.; Dodge Center, Minn.; Little Rock, Ark.; Blountville, Tenn.; Shiloh, N.J.; Daytona Beach, Fla.; and Brisbane, Australia. She is currently

a member of the Kissimmee, Fla., church. Whether changing diapers, teaching Sabbath School, leading and planning VBS, directing choir, playing the piano or organ, or serving as a deaconess she tackled each task with a desire to make sure her Lord and Savior was glorified.

“

Linda's humble servant's heart has impacted her family, the churches she has been a part of, and the communities she has lived in.

”

One of the first ways Linda served the denomination was by regularly contributing to the *Sabbath Recorder* writing and illustrating the Children's page with Racco Raccoon and friends.


The Women's Board moved to Daytona Beach while she and Pastor John were serving that church. Linda was very involved with the Board move from Shiloh and worked hard to make the transition go smoothly. She was glad to be involved with SCSC, serving as the chairman of that committee. She also served as vice president of the Women's Board.

Linda had a vision of changing the SCSC program to a more educational focus and has a real heart for the young adults of our denomination. It was during her time working with SCSC that she came in contact with some young adults in Australia. She

encouraged their involvement and even set up an exchange program for U.S. young adults to go to Australia and serve in an SCSC project “down under.”

Linda has worked in a hospital, as a foster mom, played piano/organ for community churches, taught in children's centers, ran a child care center in her home, and has worked in a Dollar General. She has always worked very hard to help provide for her family and did this along with meeting all the expectations that come with being a pastor's wife.

As of now, she continues to face chronic health issues. These issues do not allow her to be as active as she would like to be and prevented her from coming to Conference to receive this award in person. However, she continues to serve in the Kissimmee SDB church where the youth and young adults have sought her out to mentor and encourage them. She and Pastor John also provide breakfast for the church on a weekly basis—even though they travel over an hour to get to the church. They have also opened their home to the whole church on Sabbaths when they cannot use their current facilities and they hosted a church retreat this spring.

Linda's faith and humble servant's heart has impacted her family, the churches she has been a part of, and the communities she has lived in. Linda, however, has never sought attention or credit for her work. Her hope is that her service would further God's Kingdom and draw people to a saving knowledge of Christ. 



Women's Society page by Kristin Camenga
 www.sdbwomen.org

Love Gift goes to help others

You still have until Sept. 30 to contribute to the Love Gift!!

(Adapted from last September's SR, with updated Love Gift and Shettel Fund information.)

The SDB Women's Society was formed to come alongside the different ministries of the General Conference and support them.

One of the key ways that we help others is to give financial support. We want you to be aware of two ways that the Women's Society is currently focused on giving to others.

Every year, the SDB Women's Society collects a Love Gift that is distributed according to the interests of the Women's Interest Committee of the SDB Conference. This year, the Love Gift will be distributed as follows:

Dan and Dawn Richards	\$300
Mel and Yvonne Stephan	\$300
Patti Wethington	\$300
Mynor and Marian Soper	\$300
Tabatha Pethtel	\$300
TOTAL	\$1,500



Each beautiful place setting at the Women's Banquet included a Stained Glass Reunion CD.

The remaining monies will be equally divided among:

Uganda— mosquito netting; orphans

Jamaica— school supplies

Haiti— school supplies

(The Miami, Fla., SDB Church has volunteered to purchase, ship and disburse the materials for schools in Haiti.)

As of the banquet at Conference, \$1,649 was given toward the Love Gift. Donations to this year's Love Gift may be sent until **September 30, 2013** to:

Margot Harris, Women's Board Treasurer
 c/o SDB Center, P.O. Box 1678
 Janesville, WI 53547 **SR**

Last year at General Conference in West Virginia, the Women's Board established the "**Dorotha Shettel Fund**" to assist SCSC/Stained Glass students with Pre-Con, Conference and post-Conference travel expenses.

Many SCSC students have faced difficulty in meeting the costs of Pre-Con and Conference, even though they offer significant leadership training opportunities. The 2013 Women's Interest Committee recommended that they continue the 'Stepping out in Faith' walk project fundraiser for the next five years to support this fund. Look for more details soon!

Scripture Memory Conference Theme:

Youth/Adult

The 2013–14 program is based on the theme chosen by Conference President Steven James of the Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church: **“Choose”**

Families can work together to memorize these verses. Each age group memorizes part or all of the same verses.

As an alternative to the monthly verses, a longer passage of Scripture is provided. Memorizing this passage also qualifies as complete participation in the program.

Each participating church should submit a list of those who have completed the program to the Board of Christian Education Office. For 2014, the deadline for arrival at our office by post, email, or fax is **July 7**. Certificates for those who memorize all verses will be distributed at the 2014 General Conference.

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October

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

November

Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied. (Joshua 24:22)

December

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. (Psalm 84:10)

January

I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws. (Psalm 119:30)

February

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (Proverbs 22:1)

March

For this is what the LORD says: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off. (Isaiah 56:4-5)

April

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41-42)

May

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. (John 15:16)

June

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. (Hebrews 11:24-25)

— or —

John 15:1-17

Verses: 2013-2014

“Choose”

Junior

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:22)

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. (Psalm 84:10)

I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws. (Psalm 119:30)

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (Proverbs 22:1)

For this is what the LORD says: “... I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off. (Isaiah 56:4-5)

Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:42)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. (John 15:16)

Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. (Hebrews 11:25)

Primary

We will serve the LORD.
(Joshua 24:15)

You have chosen to serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:22)

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.
(Psalm 84:10)

I have chosen the way of truth.
(Psalm 119:30)

A good name is more desirable than great riches. (Proverbs 22:1)

I will give them an everlasting name. (Isaiah 56:5)

Mary has chosen what is better.
(Luke 10:42)

I chose you and appointed you.
(John 15:16)

Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God.
(Hebrews 11: 25)

— or —

John 15:1-17



The value of stopping to think

Only by acceptance of the past, can you alter it.
—T.S. Eliot

The Historical Society's vision involves the key acts of **remembering**, **informing**, and **envisioning**. The purpose of these acts is to lend a sense of perspective to the events that have shaped us into who we are.

To oversimplify this somewhat, the reason why the Society does what it does is so that Seventh Day Baptists are equipped to think well in the present and to apply that informed thought to future plans. But all that work of remembering, informing, and envisioning has little power if we don't stop occasionally and carefully consider what we are already doing.

Throughout the history of the General Conference, there have been a series of initiatives which were meant to facilitate careful thought about our current situation and activity. Some of these initiatives, like the Chicago Council (called in 1890), were meant to deliberate on the future of the entire General Conference and the shared ministries of the churches. Other initiatives, like M.O.R.E. 2000 (Mission Of Revival and Evangelism), have been geared toward individual churches.

The goals of these initiatives, though, are astonishingly similar. In the midst of changing cultural circumstances, they offer opportunities to punctuate the important and persistent demands of ministry with needed reflection and deep thought about those ministries.

Response to these initiatives over our history has been predictably mixed among church members. Those who would rather "do" than think have derided the efforts for not being more focused on "what needs to be done." The thinkers among us have sometimes criticized the efforts for asking the wrong questions.

At other points, the nature of how the invitations were distributed has caused offense. Still others do not like the vernacular of evaluation when it pertains to spiritual things, eschewing the usage of words like "efficiency," "responsibility," and "accountability." That such responses exist should surprise no one familiar with our history.



Yet for those who have managed to see beyond these obstacles of relationship and language, there is profound value in stopping to take stock. My original concept for this column was to explore the M.O.R.E. 2000 program, offered as a service by the Conference to the churches in the early 1990s. When I began my research my hypothesis was that the program was an overwhelming success, and that the churches which undertook the full program experienced benefits which last down to the present, more than 20 years after the program's genesis.

The results were not so clear as I assumed they would be, but nevertheless, of the approximately 20 churches that started the program, nearly all seem to have been better off at the end of the process than they were at the beginning. I am not anxious to ascribe the health of the churches to the program, as I am aware that there is an important difference between causation and correlation, and that all growth should be ascribed ultimately to our God.

Still, even if the program itself was not the cause of the increased vitality in the participating churches, the correlation between a healthier church and participation by that congregation in a concerted effort to remember the past, carefully consider the present, and make a plan for the future is surely no accident. It seems likely to me that churches who take the time to remember the past and reflect on their present situation are more likely—by virtue of those very acts—to be healthier in the future than their less reflective counterparts.

When was the last time you and your church took the time to stop and think? Programs still exist to help you reflect about your past, present and future. Taking the time to consider and contemplate can be a useful investment of your time! **SR**

50 years for the Center on Ministry

by Gordon Lawton

On August 17, 1962 the SDB Center on Ministry was formed when delegates to the General Conference adopted the recommendations from Commission and the Committee on Ministerial Training.

Recommendation #1 had the Conference “Notify Alfred University of its intention to discontinue support of the Alfred University School of Theology effective June 30, 1963...” Recommendation #3 established a Council on Ministerial Training, and recommendation #6 authorized that “council, in consultation with the Commission, to employ the Director effective Jan 1, 1963, or as soon thereafter as possible.”

Rev. Victor Skaggs was employed beginning June 1, 1963 (part-time until the end of June 1964 when he began full-time) as the Dean for the Center for Ministerial Education.

In the 1963 report of the Council on Ministerial Education (COME), it was noted that Edward Sutton was enrolled at Crozer Theological Seminary for the fall 1963 and that Herbert E. Saunders, who had been attending at Alfred, was seeking admission to Colgate-Rochester for the fall of 1963. The 1964 yearbook listed Glen Warner as a student enrolled at Andover-Newton and that he and Ed Sutton had been first-year students. Two of these first three students are still serving SDB churches: Herb Saunders at Madison, Wis., and Ed Sutton at Salemville, Pa.

The first Summer Institute was in SDB Polity and representatives to CoWoCo—the predecessor of the World Federation—were able to participate in the class. Those who took the institute (*l. to r. in photo*) were Paul Beebe (USA), Otrain



The first Summer Institute class in 1964. (Names in article.)


Manani (Africa), Glen Warner (USA), Naval Harley (Jamaica), Ed Sutton (USA), James McGeachy (England), Dean Skaggs, Jacob Tyrrell (Guyana), and Joe Samuels (Jamaica).

The name was changed from COME to Council on Ministry (COM) in 1971 by adopting recommendation #3 of Commission. Since 1962 the **Council** on Ministry (formerly COME) has been responsible for the ministry of the **Center** on Ministry (formerly COME). The two are so closely connected that the distinction is seldom important.

There have been 87 students in the Seminary Education program from 1963-2013. Forty-five are still in ministry with SDBs as a Pastor, Executive, working with the World Federation, or as an endorsed Chaplain. Six have died, seven are retired and not serving as a Pastor. If you consider that a Master of Divinity degree takes three years minimum then there have been, on average, over 5 students each year in the Seminary Education Program each of the last 50 years.

That first Council on Ministerial

Education was composed of two pastors and four educators: Rev. Earl Cruzan (Chairman), Rev. Delmer E. Van Horn, K. Duane Hurley, Richard R. Bond, J. Leland Skaggs and Melvin G. Nida. The current Council on Ministry includes: Gabriel Graffius (Chairman), Patti Wethington, Barb Green, Rev. Matt Olson, Rev. Robert Van Horn, Rev. Ken Chroniger.

A total of 44 SDBs have served on the Council since it was created in 1962. The longest serving tenure belongs to Rev. Edgar Wheeler who served for 18 years (six 3-year terms) and served as the chair also for the longest time of 13 years (1985-1998). Earl Cruzan served as chair for 12 years (1962-1974), and Kenneth Burdick served as chair for 11 years (2001-2012). 

Announcing Summer Institute 2014: Sabbath Theology

Registration begins in October with a registration deadline of 1/17/14. On-line class begins February 9, 2014 with the week at the SDB Center: June 8-13, 2014.



the BEACON

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

September 2013

Everyday martyrdom

by Michaella Osborn
Boulder, Colo.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13 NIV)

You’ve heard this verse, right? Of course you have. It may have been a pastor talking about how Jesus gave us the ultimate expression of love by dying for us, or a Christian education teacher talking about martyrs.

I do wonder though, if not all of us have been called to martyrdom, or to die for our friends, how can we express love in the greatest way? Well, if we are defining “lay down one’s life” as *dying*, we can’t.

But what if laying down your life is something we could do every day? I recently heard a message about how *sacrifice* is a way that we can express love.

This makes a lot of sense. Many of us claim that we would die for someone, but what does that really mean? When was the last time you heard of a murderer about to shoot someone until a friend or relative of that person ran out and said, “Shoot me instead”? Or someone running into a burning building to get a family member to safety but not making it out himself? Or even of someone being killed because they refused to denounce Christ? Unless you actively seek out this kind of story, the answer probably is “not recently.”

When was the last time that YOU had an opportunity to sacrifice something for someone you love? Maybe it’s hard to think of a specific time, so let me put it this way. When was the last time you had the chance to do an extra chore so your parents didn’t have to, or see a movie with

“

**‘Sacrifice’
is a way
that we can
express love.**

”

your friend that they wanted to see and you didn’t? Even give up some screen time for a sibling? I imagine something like this has happened to you more recently.

My friend Rachael is a great example of this. We have our fights, and don’t always see eye to eye on everything, but it would be boring if we did. We have a very deep, meaningful friendship. We met at camp one summer when I was going into the 6th grade, and have been close friends ever since.

One thing that keeps us close is that we both like to do things for one another. We know that this can be a

relationship that carries on for many years if we continue to “lay down our lives” for one another. For instance, she is incredibly busy during the school year, but she still makes an effort to see me as often as possible because she knows it’s important to our friendship. I put up with her blaring country music, and both of us have given up much-needed sleep on multiple occasions for the sake of the other.

Christ did this too. He often sacrificed many other things for the sake of his friends and followers. He washed the feet of twelve of his closest friends. He gave up rest and many other comforts that most of us couldn’t imagine living without so He could better minister to His followers.

He even asked His friends to sacrifice for Him. When He was praying the night before His crucifixion, he asked the disciples to stay awake with Him. Sadly they fell short (and asleep), but this story still shows that Jesus wanted His friends to sacrifice for Him.

So what if we changed our definition of laying down our lives from dying for someone or something, to sacrificing for it, and choosing to suffer on behalf of it? It is harder to act on something than to say something, but I think it would be worth our while. **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

Which came first: the dummy or the egg?

The words "foolish" and "stupid" are closely related.

Definitions of foolish include, "Lacking or exhibiting a lack of good sense or judgment; silly; unwise; resulting from folly or stupidity."

Definitions of stupid include, "Slow to learn or understand; obtuse; tending to make poor decisions or careless mistakes; foolish or careless."

Foolish people are mentioned in the Bible, but never in a good light.

"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools" (*Romans 1:22, NIV*).

"The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence" (*Proverbs 14:16, NLT*).

"Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips" (*Proverbs 14:7, NIV*).

I'm a sinner, saved by God's grace—but that doesn't keep me from being foolish or stupid at times. Some people might consider me a hopeless, habitually stupid person, but I like to think of myself as semi-hopeless and only *partially* habitually stupid.

Actually, I'm a highly unobservant individual who periodically does stupid things. With one foot in the real world and the other in "la-la land," I alternate between those two worlds with relative ease.

One day this past June, I vowed to replace my normal 20,000-calorie lunch with a healthy salad, one



composed of "goodies" that rabbits normally eat: lettuce, carrots, peppers, and broccoli florets. (I often see neighborhood bunnies spit out the broccoli.) To make the salad more palatable, I decided to add croutons, cherry tomatoes, bacon bits, and hard-boiled eggs.

After turning one of my stove's electric burners to high, I filled a saucepan with water and gently placed four jumbo-sized eggs into it. Then I proceeded to slice-and-dice the veggies. Once the salad fixings were ready, I headed to my upstairs in-home office.

I first checked my e-mail. Before I knew it, some Facebook entries and YouTube videos sidetracked me from writing, completely engrossing me in an electronic trance. Just as I was about to exit the internet, a loud bang jolted me back to reality.

Did someone just slam a door in the room below me?

A few minutes later, I heard another loud noise.

What in the world?

Suddenly, the light bulb above

my head lit up, and I rushed into the kitchen.

Yup... just as I had expected. Egg guts were splattered all over the countertop and floor. The remaining two eggs in the waterless saucepan were scorched. (My brilliant mind deduced that because of the brown and black blotches on the formerly white eggshells.)

I had mixed emotions.

First off, I was really ticked I'd let the eggs boil dry and explode. On the other hand, I was grateful only two of the poultry grenades detonated and none of the entrails "decorated" the ceiling.

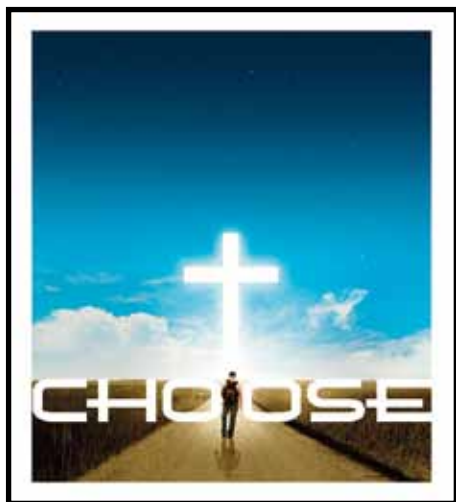
Normally when hard-boiling eggs, I first bring the water to a boil, *then* place the eggs in the pan. After dialing down the temperature, I allow the eggs to simmer to get done. However, I was in a hurry that day, proving the validity of that timeworn saying, "Haste makes waste."

I'll just set the burner on high, put the eggs in the pan, and return a few minutes later to reduce the temperature.

Yeah, right. The vital missing action was "return a few minutes later."

Stupid: "Tending to make poor decisions or careless mistakes."

As that great philosopher Forrest Gump noted so succinctly, "Stupid is as stupid does." That means intelligent people, created in the image of God, can still be considered stupid when they do stupid things. Like a certain person whose name I won't mention. **SR**



St. Paul, MN July 29–Aug. 2, 2014

The President's Page

by Steven James



Choose... to Choose!

Welcome to our monthly times together as we explore the choices we can make for the glory of God, the good of others and the growth of His Kingdom!

This year's Conference theme—based on Joshua 24:14-15 and Deuteronomy 30:15-20—is summed up in one word: **Choose!**

The passage from Deuteronomy is what we will be unpacking during Conference week next year at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota, while the verses from Joshua underlie the heart of this entire Conference year.

We are constantly faced with choices. Just this morning I had the choice of whether to get up at a certain time or to sleep in, whether to utilize the internet connection I had where we were staying or to drive to a local restaurant and use theirs, and whether or not to have coffee or orange juice (or both) while I was typing this.

Making choices has been a dynamic of the human condition since the Garden of Eden. As Seventh Day Baptists, we value the ability to choose. Don Sanford's book about our history emphasizes that dynamic with its title, *A Choosing People*.

Like it or not, we are all faced with choices, along with the inherent blessings or blunders that result.

And if we say, "I refuse to choose," then guess what you and I have just done? We've made a choice!

As we begin this journey together, what can we learn from Joshua 24 when it comes to making choices by God's grace for His glory? (Please read that chapter now and then return to see what God could be saying to us today!)

1) The best choice we can make is to choose the Lord! Joshua challenged the people to choose to serve and follow the One Who had saved them by His grace out of Egypt. Each person had to make a conscious choice to follow the One Who had brought them into the Promised Land.

2) As we pass through the "Red Seas" and "Jordan Rivers" of our lives, we will be faced with fresh opportunities to choose to follow the Lord or not. Sometimes present successes, not just past failures, can cause us to swerve from the One we serve.

3) Not everyone will choose to go with you. Some will think that to follow the Lord wholeheartedly isn't the best thing for them to do. In those moments, we'll have to allow others to make choices that may hurt them in the end, while we, as Joshua said, "will serve the Lord."

4) As much as we are able, let's take our families with us on the journey. Joshua spoke for himself and for his house—that they would serve the Lord. Too often we can get wrapped up in our own growth in Christ and forget to take our families by the hand and lead them into "the land" that God has promised. There can be times where your family won't go with you. At those times, if God directs, say something. Once you've done that, and really at all times, *pray* something: pray for God's grace, love, mercy and strength to rest on those you love and are given the opportunity to lead.

5) We're accountable for the choices we make, good or bad. Just as Joshua and the people of God raised up a pile of stones that witnessed their decision that day to serve the Lord, those stones symbolically would be a witness as to how they managed that decision each day.

God lays before us the opportunity to make choices by His grace for His glory, the good of others, and the growth of His kingdom on a daily basis. Not everyone will go along with us in our choices. May we do our best to encourage others to join us, starting especially with our families. We will give account for our choices to the One Who has saved us by His grace.

May you and I choose... to choose—not only during this Conference year, but from now until we go or Jesus comes! **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Do It Yourself Or, “The Great Escape”

While on a spiritual retreat 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 eight in a series from this great devotional.

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV)

Here are three simple truths of the Spirit-led Christian: 1) I am a child of God. 2) I am alive in Christ. 3) I am a new creation. So why do we still battle with some of the same thoughts and feelings that we had before we became a Christian?

Although we are Christ-followers, we still live in this world, but now we don’t “war” as the world does. That is the conundrum; the battle for our mind cannot be won using the same thinking we had before we accepted

Christ. Even knowing that, many of us still use the same tactics to win that battle in the same way we used to try to do it.

Before we became Christians we all learned to respond to life’s challenges in an assortment of ways. But they all had one thing in common: *We went through life without God.* We were simply unaware of His presence in our lives and so we did not know His ways. Even those of us raised in a Christian home grew up learning to think independently of God until we accepted God and He gave us His Holy Spirit to convict us and help us.

Unfortunately when we became a Christian there wasn’t a way to dump our old mind into the “recycle bin” and then permanently delete it. If it were only that easy! All the things that you learned through your life, and all the feelings that came along with it, were still there—programmed into your mind even after you accepted Christ as your Savior.

So the battle for your mind continues to this day. Your thoughts will sometime conform to the pattern of the world; your thinking can still be skewed. That’s why Paul tells us to not “conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2 NIV).

Our thinking has to be reprogrammed. We have been given the mind of Christ only now we need to learn to use it. You can take every thought into captivity and live in freedom as you:

Develop an awareness of God;
Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you
Depend upon God; *pray continually with thanksgiving*
Defend your heart; *don’t go back to your stinking thinking*

Chambers writes, “*The conflict is along the line of turning our natural life into a spiritual life, and this is never done easily, nor does God intend it to be done easily. It is done only by a series of moral choices. God does not make us holy in the sense of character; He makes us holy in the sense of innocence and we have to turn that innocence into holy character by a series of moral choices.*”

“*These choices are continually in antagonism to the entrenchments of our natural life, the things which erect themselves as ramparts against the knowledge of God. We can either go back or make ourselves of no account in the Kingdom of God, or we can determinedly demolish these things and let Jesus bring another son to glory.*” **SR**

December: “**It Hurts So Good**”



FOCUS on Missions

Adopting a Wartime Lifestyle

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org



Ralph D. Winter writes about the Queen Mary ocean liner in his article, *Reconsecration*. The ship is now a floating museum that contrasts the opulent trappings of its use as a luxury liner with its austere decor of a WWII trans-Atlantic troop transport ship.

The contrast expresses the different mindsets between times of war and peace. During World War II, people in America recognized that sacrifices needed to be made to save lives and halt the advance of forces that sought to destroy freedom. They were willing to repurpose factories, resources, and even lives because they believed the threat was real and the cause was righteous.

Today, one might wonder if followers of Jesus are aware that there are masses of people living in chains of sin bondage and their eternal lives are in peril. Overeating, luxury vehicles, mounds of DVDs, and an excessive number of gadgets and toys that entertain and distract would suggest that much of the Body of Christ appears to be allocating an inordinate amount of resources away from the battle and toward worldly pursuits.

Reflecting on how this compares to times of national conflict, Frontier Mission Fellowship founder Winter said, “God cannot expect less from us as our Christian duty to save other nations, than our own nation has required of us in times of war in order to save our own nation.”

As believers, we are to be consecrated or set apart for a holy use. That use is the work of building the Kingdom of our Father here on Earth. That setting apart applies to the whole of our lives including our vocation, entertainment, finance, and even food choices. There are lives at stake; a spiritual war is being waged with very real people of all ages living—and dying—in oppression.

Sometimes we fall under the delusion that an occasional prayer request for the nations is adequate response to the Great Commission. This is not to diminish the power of prayer, but we have to demonstrate with our walk that our heart desires all peoples to be reached.

We must make evident with our choices that we want all the world to hear the Gospel. To echo the new theme put forward by General Conference President Steven James, I pray you will join me and **“CHOOSE” with our choices** to follow the Lord.

“...and they hear your words, but don't do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after their gain.” (Ezekiel 33:31) **SR**

WARTIME LIFESTYLE IDEAS:

- HD TV antenna vs. cable or satellite
- Eat out less, eat less, waste less
- Library DVD loans vs. theater visits
- Gardening for food & health
- Modest weddings & funerals
- Rent extra home space for ministry income
- Budget increasing offerings for ministry
- Choices of necessity vs. luxury

*Ideas inspired by those of Craig Blomberg,
a New Testament theology professor
at Denver Seminary.*

Ministering through Hope

by Christine Davis
and Debbie Hargett

Singing, praying, laughing, learning, listening and crying. It all happened! Women from all over North America gathered to celebrate all that God is doing, spend time together, learn and encourage one another, and strengthen the threads that tie us together in fellowship.

Christine Davis and Debbie Hargett were privileged to represent SDB women at the North American Baptist Women's Union (NABWU) Assembly last October in Nashville, Tenn. NABWU is one of seven continental unions that make up the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, forming an amazing network of women circling the globe. As SDB women, we are a valuable part of this world tapestry. As we identified ourselves as Seventh Day Baptists, some were familiar with us; with others we had the opportunity to inform who we are and why.

Each large group session began with praise led by an awesome, animated woman. As a musician, Chris was amazed by the way she made the piano come alive with no written music! Then we were informed and challenged by women who were on the frontlines battling human trafficking and prostitution, helping refugees, girls at risk, incarcerated women, and mobilizing women of the church. These are issues that break the heart of God and should break ours!

During these meetings there were no fists raised demanding more power to women, but a call to brokenness and servant leadership as our eyes were opened and hearts stirred to the needs of women and girls for whom Christ died. "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;

maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:3-4 NIV).

Being drawn to cross-cultural experiences and friends, Chris enjoyed conversations with a Chilean couple who were missionaries to Kentucky, and with Karin refugees from Burma who faithfully shared the Word while in the refugee camp.

“*These issues break the heart of God and should break ours!*”


One workshop, "Hope at the End of the Refugee Highway," related the story of Matthew Houses—places that welcome refugees and give hospitality, housing, and resettlement assistance in several Canadian cities.

Several panelists on the subject of human trafficking and prostitution in North America reminded us that this tragedy is happening right here—perhaps in your city or town! An organization called "BE FREE" ministers to native Americans living on the Pine Ridge Reservation, the site of one of our SDB missions. International trafficking can often be found in major metropolitan centers in the U.S. "Atlanta is ideal for international trafficking, with immigrant communities, frequent business conventions, large sporting events, and the interstate from Maine to Miami."¹ In the U.S., 1.6 to 2.8

million children run away annually, half of which are girls. Within 48 hours of hitting the streets, one third are lured or recruited into prostitution or pornography.²

We learned about "Traffick Stop," a ministry started by Tomi Glover in Dallas, Texas. God called Tomi to leave her full-time job to "be a bold voice for voiceless children." Abused as a child by her father, she has great passion for the ministry that addresses the problem of human trafficking.

Debbie enjoyed hearing Faith Holwyn, a psychiatric nurse, teach a workshop about the "Groups of Hope" program that she developed in a remote area of northern Ontario for First Nations Communities. It is a simple 8-week program, not connected with the government so she has freedom to mention Jesus. It is a safe place for people to come, get off drugs, and find hope in Jesus. She demonstrated how she conducts a group session using a Bible story where she presents a simple drama and illustrations.

It is easy to become discouraged when we think about the evil present in our society, but the sessions and workshops at the NABWU conference gave us hope. Women can be used by the Lord to touch lives and bring the message of salvation and grace to those who are hurting in the world! May we commit to finding a place in our church or community to reach out to women or girls who need healing in their lives. 

¹ *Hidden in Plain View*, 2005.

² *KlaasKids, Klaas Action Review*, 2008

“Walking in Love”

*An 8-minute sermon
for General Conference*

*by Rev. David Taylor
Central Maryland SDB Church*

*“And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.”
(2 John 1:6, NASB)*



God says, quite simply, that love is keeping His commandment. That brings love out of the indefinite into something explicit.

But God has done even more than define love for you. He’s given you instruction so you can know *how* to love as He loves.

By giving you His Word, God has given you His “love manual” in black and white.

Love is an action

All you have to do

is follow it, and you’ll be walking in love—the love of God has been born within you. Yet, unless you take action, that love will remain hidden within you.

That’s why the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi saying, “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.” (Philippians 1:9-10)

How love is released

The love of God is released in your life by acting on the knowledge of God’s Word. Without revelation knowledge followed by action, love lies undeveloped and selfishness continues to reign supreme in you, even though you are a new creature.

As you act on God’s Word, the love of God will be perfected

There is nothing- absolutely nothing- that is more important than learning to love.

in you. That's when love will begin to flow from you to others. There is nothing—absolutely nothing—that is more important than learning to love. In fact, how accurately you perfect the love walk will determine how much of the perfect will of God you accomplish. That's because every other spiritual force derives its action from love.

If there is no love...

In the beginning of the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, the Word says that tongues are just “noise” if there is no love. If a person has the gift of prophecy, understands all knowledge, and has enough faith to move mountains, without love he is nothing. If he gives all that he has to the poor and even sacrifices his life, without the love of God he gains nothing.

Decide now!

Without love, your giving will not work. Tongues and prophecy will not work. Faith fails and knowledge is unfruitful. All the truths that you have learned from God's Word work by love. They will profit you little unless you live the love of God.

God has recreated our spirit in the image of love. And He has sent His loving Spirit to live in us and teach us how to love as He loves. We can live the “Love Life”!

Without a definite decision, you will not continue in the love of God. So commit yourself to *agape*—God's love—now. And when temptation comes, you

will remember this decision and obey love.

Once you've made the decision, the most powerful thing that you can do in perfecting the love walk is to continually confess that you are the love of God. Base your confession on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

This God-kind of love will begin to influence all that you say and do. If someone says something unkind to you, love will say, “That's okay. I am not

“*How accurately you perfect the love-walk will determine how much of the perfect will of God you accomplish.*”

touchy, fretful or resentful. I take no account of that.” And you go free.

Walking in love is walking in the Spirit. It is walking as Jesus walked.



Pastor
Dave
Taylor

This cannot fail

Love never fails. Nothing works without it, and there can be no failure with it.

When you live by love, you cannot fail. It takes faith to believe that the “love way” will not fail. The natural mind cannot understand that because the natural man and his world are ruled by selfishness. He believes if you don't look out for number one (himself), nobody else will. And, in a sense, he is right; nobody else can look out for him. His selfishness shuts the door to the love of God, and he winds up on his own.

But when you practice love by faith and refuse to seek your own, you put the Father into action on your behalf. He will allow no man to do you wrong (1 Chronicles 16:22). As long as you stay in love, God the Father seeks your own. He sees to it that love never fails. Walking in love is to your great advantage!

Agape love is a new kind of power. It makes you the master of every situation. As long you walk in love, you cannot be hurt and you cannot fail. No weapon that is formed against you will prosper. No one even has the power to hurt your feelings because you are not ruled by feelings but by God's love. You love as He loves. **SR**

Obituary

Colflesh.—Georgia (Green) Colflesh, 80, of Sedalia, Mo., died on January 24, 2013 at Bothwell Regional Health Center.

She was born September 27, 1932 in Albany, N.Y., daughter of J. Paul and Elizabeth (Johnson) Green. The family moved to Milton, Wis., in 1944, where she graduated from Milton Union High School and attended Milton College. In 1954, Georgia was united in marriage to Wayne E. Colflesh at the Milton SDB Church.

Georgia and her husband served churches in several states, including filling the pulpit for the SDB fellowship in Kirkwood, Mo. Survivors include her husband, Wayne; four children, Terry Masters, June Moore, Mark Colflesh and Sharon Autenrieth; two brothers, Paul and Frank Green of Milton; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her sister, Helen Ruth Green.

A memorial service was held at Epworth United Methodist Church in Sedalia on January 27, 2013. *SR*

New members

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Madge Chroniger
 Joined after testimony
 Brad Morrison
 Colleen Morrison

Raritan Valley, NJ
Melvin Stephan, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Gabriel Graffius
 Joined after baptism
 Adrienne Graffius

Some of our seminar leaders



Ralph Mackintosh previewed his new book on contagious children's messages.



Jeremiah Owen covered new media practices.



Dr. Howard Foltz introduced us to AIMS mission strategies.



Rev. Rob Watkins showed some "Creative Gospel Presentations."



Dr. Bette Bond with "Taking Jesus to the Streets."

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Attitude in the Altitude

Thomas Edison once said, "Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning."

SDBs once again had the opportunity to gather for our annual Conference sessions. Thanks to much hard work and Spirit-led planning by President Ralph Mackintosh, we most certainly experienced a week of good fortune! God showed up in Colorado Springs!

Oh, sure, we heard some complaints:

- It's a long walk between the dorm and the meeting room!
- It's a bit cramped in the cafeteria!
- Isn't it raining more than usual?
- No Conference Crier newspaper?

Those were tiny nuisances compared to the supreme benefits and positives of the week. For the long walk:

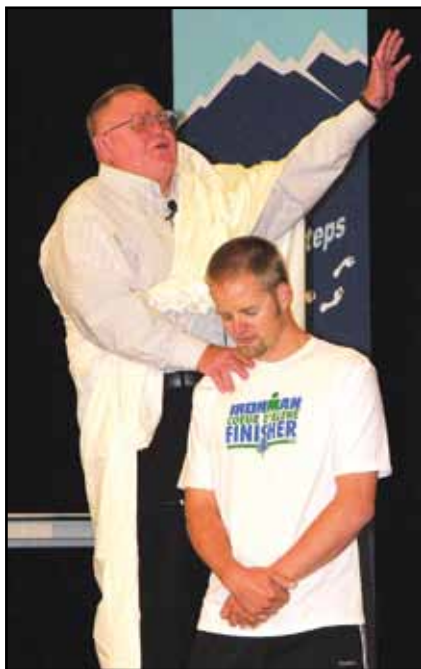
maybe you got more exercise than normal. For the smaller eating facility: maybe it moved you along so you didn't eat as much. For the rain: yeah, it stunk, but that one's out of our hands. And for the Conference Crier: there were live streaming computer broadcasts and videos of the events posted soon after.

How is your attitude? Do you focus on what's missing or rejoice in what's provided?

And this goes beyond our Conference meetings. Are we nitpicking the faults our local church and pastor so much that the benefits are being missed? Are we ignoring the great grace and love and gifts of our Lord Jesus?

William Arthur Ward wrote, "The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."

Let's adjust the sails of our attitudes and pray—as Rod Henry challenged us on Sabbath day at Conference—that the Lord show us His more preferable future for our churches, and then walk in it! **SR**



Rod Henry (as the Apostle Paul) prays for young "Timothy" (Dustin Mackintosh) before they both preached on Sabbath morning.



Our talented choir under the direction of Don Chroniger.

Recording secretary Ginny Burdick reads the latest business minutes under the watchful eye of President Mackintosh.



*Youth and young adults helped
lead the Kids' Kampfire
each evening at
Conference.*



*Looks like General Council members
want your feedback! You may
contact them at [sdbgc@
seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbgc@seventhdaybaptist.org).*

*After
rehearsing
during the week,
the children put on
a great musical on
Sabbath afternoon.*

