



The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

Choose...
to Lose!
My seasonal
wife, life

October 2013

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists

HAVE TIME FOR AN 8-MINUTE SERMON?

Plus:
SDBs in
Puerto Rico

Pure joy at
Conference





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

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Establ. 1844

October 2013
Volume 235, No. 10
Whole No. 6,998

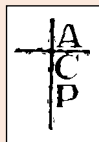


A Seventh Day Baptist publication
SabbathRecorder.org

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the SDB General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 169th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



Kevin Butler
Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

Contributing Editors

Rob Appel, Clinton Brown, Andrew J. Camenga, Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green, Steven James, Nicholas Kersten, Gordon Lawton, Seth Osborn, Lauren Telfer.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

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“Walking in Integrity”

An 8-minute sermon
for General Conference

by Pastor Shay Rankhorn
Shepherd’s Fold Ministry
Johnson City, Tenn.

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 6.

To all of you who misread the schedule and thought you were getting an eight-minute *massage*, I do apologize. Maybe next year we can get that on the Conference schedule!

Several of us have been asked to speak this week with the challenge to keep our messages to eight minutes. Wow. Asking a pastor—in fact, a slow-talking Southern pastor—to speak for only eight minutes? Brother Ralph believes in miracles, doesn’t he?

Well, to try to make that happen I’m going to play a trick on myself. What comes to mind when a pastor makes the statement, “In closing”? Usually that means another 10 minutes of sermon, right?

So, “In closing...”

In keeping with our Conference theme, “**Forward In His Footsteps**,” let’s look at Proverbs 10:9—“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely.” Now the word “securely” here refers to not stumbling, but what exactly is integrity and what does it mean to walk in integrity?

Integrity is a combination of our ethics and morals and their reflection in our life. It is more than just *what we say* we believe about how we should act and live, but the *reflection* of those beliefs in our life—both as seen by others and even during those times when only God is looking.

We can easily look in Scripture and see men who acted with integrity. When told to worship someone or something other than God, Daniel acted with integrity despite the cost to his own life. The reason he did this was because it was already his daily habit to act with integrity. In Daniel 6:10 it says, “Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on

his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, *just as he had done before.*”

Daniel was able to act with integrity in this extreme circumstance because he was already walking in integrity every day. Just as the writer in Proverbs has stated, Daniel was secure in deciding to honor God because he was walking in integrity. He was able to make the right decision because it was what his beliefs demanded. He rose to that challenge, secure in the knowledge that regardless of the outcome he was doing the right thing.

Integrity is what the “What Would Jesus Do” movement was all about. The purpose was to remind ourselves to act with integrity by allowing our belief in Christ and the commandments of God to direct



Pastor Shay Rankhorn



our actions every moment of every day. Jesus was our model for this while on earth.

In Matthew 4 we find that when faced with temptation in the wilderness, Jesus acted with integrity. Jesus' belief in His Father was evident in His response to the temptations Satan brought to bear. He was able to respond with confidence, secure in the knowledge of the Scriptures' direction and guidance.

When faced with the greatest test anyone has ever faced (in the garden of Gethsemane), integrity enabled Jesus to say, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done." We know that as God, He could have called down a host of angels to deliver Him at any moment during His torture and crucifixion, yet His integrity enabled Him to endure the cross (Hebrews 12), knowing it was the right thing to do despite the shame.

You see, integrity is not just what you *say* you believe, but the evidence of those beliefs in your actions. Yet

integrity is such a foreign word in today's culture that I thought I would leave you with some examples given by Jon Walker of how we should act with integrity.

- **People with integrity** live by fairness, even when fairness puts them at a disadvantage or causes them significant difficulty. They fight fair even when those around them do not.
- **People of integrity** consider their word their bond, allowing their "yes" to mean "yes" and their "no" to mean "no."
- **People of integrity** are authentic and transparent; they act the same, no matter who is present. Their lives are "what you see is what you get."
- **People of integrity** are straightforward in their conduct. They don't hide what they're doing, and they don't say one thing and do another. They are people "in whose spirit is no deceit" (Psalm 32:2 NIV).

- **People with integrity** explain the facts in an even-handed manner, not in a way that makes them look better than the other person. They are respectful, helpful and gracious to everyone and anyone.

- **People of integrity** go the extra mile with a smile. They do more than is required of them.

- **People of integrity** are not afraid to ask for help. They're not afraid to let God be their strength. They're able to handle tough situations, knowing God is at work in them.

- **People of integrity** focus on "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable," anything at all that is excellent or praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8 NIV).

In closing... Whoops! Almost gave myself some more time.

Our verse says, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely." How many of us would love to never stumble in our walk with God? This Scripture makes it clear that we can keep ourselves from stumbling when we commit ourselves to walk in integrity.

Now that we know what integrity is, I leave you with this challenge today: Walk in integrity. Press "Forward in His Footsteps." Walk on the path of integrity, secure in the knowledge that you are doing what Jesus would do. **SR**

“Walking in Humility”

**An 8-minute sermon
for General Conference**

by Pastor Haywood Floyd
Grand Rapids, Mich.

This short message, part of a “Walking in...” series assigned to several of our pastors, was shared on Monday morning at our 2013 Conference in Colorado Springs. It got many people thinking and talking.

Our Conference theme this year is “Following in His Footsteps.” The verse that was selected for me was Micah 6:8—
“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Considering the theme, I think the best way to follow in the footsteps of Jesus is to look at what He did, and then do it.

One day, the teachers of the Law brought to Jesus a woman who was caught in adultery (in John chapter 8). They asked Jesus what should be done with her since she should be stoned according to the Law.

He wrote in the sand for a bit, and then said that if anyone was there who had no sin, they should cast the first stone. Then he went back to writing in the sand.

Everyone left except Jesus and the woman.

“Did no one condemn you?” he asked. She said, “No one, Lord.”



Pastor
Haywood
Floyd

He said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.”

Many of us pick this event apart, and ask, *Where was the man? It takes two to commit the act of adultery, and by law, they both should be condemned!* I would like to bring this into our world, and focus on us.

Thinking about God’s requirements in Micah 6:8, Jesus showed mercy to someone who was found guilty by the Law, and set her free from condemnation. Has this happened to you?

Jesus was also humble before her and his enemies. He did not allow their rage and taunts to affect his emotions, yet spoke directly to their hearts. He was not proud or arrogant, and gave each accuser the ability to choose their actions before God.

Has Jesus been humble with you? You may ask—according to Micah 6:8—where “Justice” is being shown, since she is not condemned. Her sin was brought to light in front of everyone. She will have to bear the shame of her actions in front of everyone, and hear their disappointment with her sentence.

Have you been set free from the condemnation of the Law? Did you escape the punishment that you deserve? Have others become witnesses of this? Is it just that they know about your sin, considering the sentence that you should have received? Does their witness give God glory, since others can be sure of forgiveness

and mercy because of your living testimony?

I would like to look at this another way:

Do we have enemies? How are we supposed to treat them? Are we supposed to do our best to bring them before the Lord Jesus and see them condemned?

Here’s an example. The homosexual agenda in this country is very strong. Soon we will see our liberties of free speech and freedom of religion arrested because of this political movement. However, I would like us to con-

sider this: What does the Lord require of you? “To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

There are many other sexual sins in our churches today that we do not address, just like the Jewish teachers did not bring forward the man caught in adultery. Divorce, adultery and fornication are among us. Which one of us has not sinned?

What does 1 John 1:10 say? Should we be condemning our political enemies or showing them the love of Jesus Christ?

Jesus did not condone adultery, nor do I condone homosexual acts. I am asking us to think about the parable of the Good Samaritan, and exchange the cliché with something more poignant. I would like to substitute “Samaritan” with “homosexual.” The Good Homosexual.

If the gay community shows more love for those in need than the church of Jesus Christ, isn’t that a shame to us? I told you that this was only an example.

If your enemies are found in another area, you know what to do. Let us walk humbly with our God, and extend the same love and salvation to our enemies that we have been shown. **SR**

***Let us walk humbly
with our God, and extend
the same love and salvation
to our enemies that
we have been shown.***



Experiencing pure joy at Conference

Adella Latus, from Palm Coast, Fla., finally fulfilled a life-long dream and attended her first SDB Conference this year. Let's sneak a peek at her diary entry...

Dear Diary,

Well, my goodness!! Wait until you hear what I just experienced! I am *SO GLAD* that I decided to attend the SDB Conference in Colorado Springs. I only had to wait 66 years for this to happen!

You're aware that my mother (of the Randolph-Carpenter families) stopped going to Conference in 1940 after her father—Curtis F. Randolph—passed away. I wasn't born until 1947, and since then I have only "heard" about Conference. I always had a secret desire to go, but life *always* got in the way!

Well, this time, I had the freedom to go—and I WENT!! I was able to see my Alfred University freshman roommate, Kathy Hughes, and Althea Rood (whose *fabulous* notes got me through my Religion course), and Jeanne Yurke, whom I adore and came to know through Chaplain Pat Bancroft.

There were some wonderful speakers and I got to meet lots of people I had only heard or read about—as well as seeing some of the most beautiful scenery in the country.

Besides that, I was able to realize a dream of mine. My Dad had his training in the Army Air Corps in Boulder, Colorado, before being sent to Guam in WWII. My mother went to join him in Colorado and lived in Greeley. I would *finally* get to see where they lived at this critical time in their lives in 1943.

So, back to the Conference... WOW! That Host Committee did an *outstanding* job!! Their great organization was a constant throughout the week, in every aspect! I know there were some anxious moments behind the scenes, but to the outside observer they were simply not evident. It's so important for me to say THANK YOU to everyone who made the week appear to be such seamless perfection!

I was blessed beyond words to be brought up knowing so many precious souls in Alfred, N.Y., and how they shaped my young years with countless, happy memories. I wanted to pay tribute to them, as well as my grandfather, Curtis F. Randolph, who was recording secretary of Conference for a number of years. (Remember me telling you how I was baptized at the Alfred SDB Church in 1959, at age 12? I still belong there, and wish that church would undergo a rebirth!)

Now I finally know what these people—and thousands more—experienced in every part of this great country of ours. I believe that I was granted one of the best times *ever* in Colorado, thanks to the devotion of those who poured their

time, money and talents into an extraordinary, unforgettable experience—to the glory of our God, and of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I thank the outstanding speakers, the choir, the technical crew, and the ever-present Registrar, Jan. Oh, and I can't forget the gal who can sell anything: Gretchen Zwiebel. By the way, Diary, I had heard the name "Zwiebel" all my life, and I finally got to meet one! She gave me permission to christen her with the nickname, "GeeZee"! I realize it's just her initials, but when said together, they make you smile! And that gal made me smile every time I saw her. So let's call Gretchen "GeeZee" from now on, because she really likes it! Thanks!

Then there were these two tall guys who were also "ever-present." One, I learned, was the President of the Conference, and the other apparently is the Executive Director of the SDBs in USA and Canada! One, or both were, like "hovering" and holding their breath—to pull all the strings together! Talk about focused!

And then there was this guy with a camera. Oh my goodness!! You couldn't open your eyes without seeing him snapping multiple photos—everywhere! I kept wondering where he was going to house all those pictures. And his patient wife! What a dear! She probably had no idea where he was since he had to be *everywhere* at once! His name was "Kevin"—something or other...

I was completely worn out watching these guys! And then there was this man who was responsible for keeping all 500 of us in line! Someone should hire him as a terrific disciplinarian! He knew how to reprimand us with kid gloves! I hope he is a father and teacher, because he knows how to handle kids—of all ages. Come to think of it, he was tall, too!

Well, Diary, I know I left out a lot. I wish I could give you every detail. But you must feel stuffed. Please forgive my ineptitude—I am, after all, over 65! I'm not expected to be perfect anymore—THANK YOU, GOD! And thank You, God, for this very special time in such a beautiful setting.

Even though I already know that I can't attend Conference next year, I shall pray that the Committee will be granted the strength and resolve to equal the boundless effort and determination that made this 2013 gathering such an overwhelming success!

I shall retain the memories of this awesome week as long as God allows. Thanks for listening, dear Diary.

"Pickles"

(Please ask Kathy Hughes to mass-produce her pickles! As my name implies, I am at a loss to live without them!) **SR**



Adella Latus (in white) enjoyed her very first Women's Banquet at Conference in Colorado.

SDBs in Puerto Rico!

Mission to San Sebastian

by Pastor Robert Van Horn
Pataskala, Ohio

Pastor Robert and Lana Van Horn of the SDB Church in Pataskala, Ohio traveled to Puerto Rico in 2012 to support their friends, Pastors Judith and Joel Houts at Agape Ministry SDB Church, and to assist with some special Sabbath services. They were both blessed and a blessing in their travels.

Lana and I arrived on Tuesday, October 9, and were met at the airport by Pastors Judith and Joel Houts. After dinner we climbed back in the car for our two-hour trip to the west side of the island and place of our mission work, sector Millo Mato, San Sebastian. You would have thought we were traveling in West Virginia, yet the foliage was strange—instead of oaks, pines, and poplars, the mountainsides were filled with palms, banana, avocado, mango, grapefruit, pineapple, and many unfamiliar fruits.

Upon arrival at the home and church site we were given the grand tour. Joel and Judith’s home is two stories. The ground level holds the Houts living quarters, and the

next level down is the missionary quarters where we were located. Outside and down to another level there are patios to the church kitchen, bathroom, and storage area. Off the patio is the covered outside chapel, and then down into the “farm” of various fruit and nut-producing trees. That evening we began by reviewing our agenda and praying for God’s appointments that He would make, believing that God would send the people whom He had prepared for participation in His Kingdom.

Starting Wednesday morning, our devotion time was spent in God’s Word, reading from *Experiencing God*, or discussion on Lana’s prophetic dream. She dreamed that



Robert and Lana Van Horn enjoying some of the fruits of their labors (in the local market).

there were four bright stars swirling in the sky, then Jesus came to the four and said, "Carry on." Joel, Lana, and I were perplexed as to what the four stars and the swirling might be.

Judith went into the house for a moment and when she came back she immediately knew that the four swirling stars were the four of us, and that God had called us to this work. This was also a confirmation of a gift that Judith had received prophetically, that she would interpret dreams.

We spent time both morning and evenings praying for God to bind Satan's principalities and powers, so that God's Kingdom would be made stronger and surer for the people of Millo Mato. They have many of the same kinds of problems that we war with: drug and alcohol addiction, physical and mental abuse, witchcraft, lust of the flesh, and large unemployment.

Pastors Judith and Joel have already been ministering to many others, sharing the message of freedom and the coming of our Heavenly Father's Kingdom in their lives. To advertise the conference we used flyers, posters, and a loudspeaker driving around the sectors with our announcement. This was done on three different occasions during the week before Sabbath.



The locals in Puerto Rico provided a makeshift projection screen for the Sabbath celebration.

“

We had a chance to pray for healing for four individuals and God had healed them all!

”

Friday dawned and it was preparation day for the Sabbath Welcoming service and to make sure we had everything we needed for Sabbath Day: Sabbath School; two conference sessions (11 am and 5 pm); SDB materials; electronics for sight and sound; tables, chairs, and plants for decoration.

At 5:00 the first guest arrived for the catered meal and welcoming the Sabbath. Praise choruses followed, led by Pastor Robert. Yolanda and her husband graced us with a couple Spanish praise songs, and then Pastor

Robert taught several Sabbath songs written by various SDBs. (A tape recording was later made of the songs so they could be used in the future.) What a wonderful way to receive the JOY of the Sabbath. During the week and by the end of the Sabbath Eve Welcoming time, we had had a chance to pray for healing for four individuals and God had healed all of them. ***Praise Jehovah—***

Rapha, our healer!!

Sabbath dawned bright and early. The day was mixed with showers, then full sun. By 8:00 we were at the sector's coliseum (a covered basketball court

cont. next page



Pastor Judith Houts (rt.) prepares a candidate before his baptism.

with bleachers and lights). Beside the items we brought, 30 chairs and two additional tables, and the catered lunch—consisting of yucca with onions, beans, rice, and salad—were all delivered and set up.

Sabbath School started with Lana leading the children's class. Pastor Joel led the adult class, during which a 60-plus-year-old man accepted the Lord as Savior. The 11:00 session followed with praise songs. After Lana shared the children's story, Pastor Robert was introduced and he shared about the need to destroy some tri-fold cords and develop other tri-fold cords. Eleven people were in attendance for that session.

We had a wonderful lunch and sharing in the afternoon. During a short rest, Pastor Judith ministered to a man who was hungry for food, yet she gave him both physical and spiritual food. The second session began at 5:00 with more praise songs—both Spanish and English—then special music by Jeanette (who made the Sabbath Welcoming dinner and had also had a healing.) There were eight that started the service and in a little while we were up to 16.

Lana shared her testimony, "Yes I believe in Angels." Pastor Robert presented how to recognize and pull down strongholds. An invitation for prayer followed with six coming forward. All of them received prophetic words, and freedom from the strongholds they were warring against. One of the ladies we had met on Friday evening had such a strong sad countenance on her face. She was delivered that night, and when we saw her on Sunday evening she was a changed woman. JOY exuded from her face! **Praise Jehovah—Mekaddesh, our Sanctifier!!**

After sleeping in a bit on Sunday we rejoiced with each other for all that God had done since we landed on Puerto Rican soil. We did manage to climb up the hill to Judith's parents' home to pray and sing with them. Puerto Ricans have a wonderful custom—as you leave a person's home you are to leave them with a blessing! It was our privilege to try to join in with this great custom. We then visited the boys' home to bring some food and seek God's blessing for them. The director did not speak English so Judith translated as we prayed together.

On Monday we went to the outdoor chapel to seek what blessings God would have upon the ministry, and to seek direction for Joel and Judith. God moved and gave words of prophecy specifically for Joel.

Thank you great God who provides direction for His servants!! Monday was also a preparation day—getting souvenirs and clothes back into the suitcases.

We returned from our trip with a list of prayer names and concerns. Please join us in interceding for this new congregation. Pastors Judith and Joel have much work to continue. Christian foundations need to be taught, with much counseling. Pray for their Sabbath School and for more workers to accomplish God's will. **SR**

SR Note: Ruth Russell, an SDB from Wisconsin, just returned after serving seven months at the Agape Ministry SDB Church in Puerto Rico. We will feature highlights of her mission in an upcoming issue.

Going bananas in Puerto Rico



Joel Houts (l.) and Robert Van Horn

Right before we left, one more adventure awaited me in Puerto Rico. The bananas were ready to be harvested.

Did you know that each time a bunch of bananas is harvested, you cut down the whole tree? I had no idea. The banana tree has already started a new shoot beside the mature tree that will grow next year's crop.

I was privileged to do the cutting by machete—one whack and down came the top of the tree! Joel Houts grabbed the top as it came down, then we cut off the bunch of bananas and the top of the tree. What a great learning experience!

—RVH



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

Looking back at Team REDEEMED

The following are excerpts from testimonies of Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) and Stained Glass members after their 2013 projects. Enjoy reading tidbits of what God is doing through this program.

People were asking, "So what are you doing this summer? Are you interested in doing SCSC?" My answer was, "I have to think about it," but all I could think was, "No. No way. Not going to happen."

As I was praying about what to do, I heard God quietly whisper that I needed to do SCSC. As time went on, I grew more anxious, but God assured me that He would be with me during the summer.



SCSC project had just begun, and I was told that my time there would be great, but a lot of work at the same time. Besides that, I really wasn't sure what to expect.



I didn't know what to expect this summer, which is a little weird for me because I usually give this a lot of thought and prayer. This year so much was going on in my life that I didn't stop to think about why I was doing Stained Glass or what God would have in store for me. While I sat out on the porch during training, I was praying to God. I asked Him to give me the opportunity to connect with people. During the tour, it was awesome to hear people's stories and to share my story in return.



Throughout project, I saw God's gifts for me actually being used and growing. I realized that God had a plan for my craziness and it could actually be used by Him. That just baffled me because I came into this thinking that I was just an idiot who could not be used by God at all. I realized the Lord was using me, being myself, for His glory.



The greatest joy for me was to visit many different churches, with many different personalities in many

different settings, and seeing all that God is doing through each group of people in each situation.

He also taught me some things about the different roles in ministry. At the beginning of the summer God was using me in a completely different way than towards the end of the summer.



Through SCSC, God showed me things in my life that need to change, so I can successfully move with Him. I learned that even if it doesn't seem like what I am doing is making an impact, I need to keep doing it for Him. I was so blessed to be able to see Him move in people's lives, young and old, and I am glad I got to be a part of it.



I've been able to use my gifts and strengths to serve God in many different ways. God used this time to deepen my love and trust in Him. He also taught me the importance of His own love for me and sharing that with others. May I remember from these lessons and experiences, and use them to faithfully point others closer to His loving and good character.



God is amazing; He has taught me more this summer than what I have learned about life in my 19 years of existence. When next we see each other, I will not be the same person you see before you now. I look forward to seeing what happens, as today marks a new beginning for me. I look forward to attending SCSC next year.



Suffice it to say that God was CRAZY good to me this summer! He has changed the way I see myself and others. I look forward to applying what I learned this summer in college and the rest of my life.



Thank you all again so much for supporting me financially and prayerfully during this process. All glory goes to God who made all of this possible and worked mightily through all of us this summer. We are so blessed. **SR**



The Perils of “Crowdsourcing” History

crowdsourcing (n): *the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers.*

—(www.merriam-webster.com)

In the fall of 2012, I had an American Church History class with Dr. John Woodbridge, former editor for *Christianity Today* and prolific author. On the first day of class, he asked us to identify the most important question we could ask of a historian. When no one volunteered an answer, he suggested that we should ask, “What are your assumptions?”

There is wry wisdom in this advice: everyone comes to history with assumptions, and knowing them can help us understand how we should evaluate what we read from a given writer.

The task of historians is to sift through the data surrounding an event, and determine what actually happened as best they can. All historians are servants to the information they steward and interpret; no historian can treat as fact something they do not know.

Nevertheless, all historians are subject to the same errors of human fallenness that afflict us all—both on their own part and on the parts of those who were present at an event. People do not always see the same events in the same way. As stories are passed from person to person, they tend to morph subtly over time. In such an environment mistakes are easy to make.

One of the more difficult tasks in the field of history is correcting a mistake once it has been made and reproduced. When a historian makes a mistake, it is often copied by other historians and students of history before it can be corrected. The result of this passing along of mistakes is that people often passionately believe something about an event which is not true.

In some cases, entire events have been proposed and ultimately accepted on the basis of faulty assumptions or incomplete data.

Unfortunately, Seventh Day Baptist history is not immune from these sorts of issues. Even more unfortunately, some of these errors are still being propagated—and in some cases by Seventh Day Baptists.

With the arrival of the internet, propagating errors has never been easier. So-called “crowdsourced” media like Wikipedia are particularly vulnerable to the propagation of error, because anyone can make a change to an entry without respect to the facts, and without

having to cite a reputable source. Careful SDBs have noticed many of these errors in their meanderings on the internet, and have forwarded links of the offending pages to us. We are grateful to have these links so we can try to correct known mistakes the best we can, though of course

*As stories are passed
from person to person,
they tend to morph
subtly over time.*

it is impossible to correct everything that is factually incorrect on the web!

The effects of ignorantly repeating “untrue” history are potentially devastating and detract from our larger witness around the world, making us appear either unwilling or unable to tell our own story. In an effort to combat some of the more popular or egregious errors, this space in the coming months will be highlighting and dispelling some popular mythology about SDB history.

I invite you to become part of the correcting process! If you see something online or in print which doesn’t appear correct to you, please let us know here at the Society, and we can investigate for you. If you are fuzzy on the facts, the Society does have copies of our history materials available for sale!

We encourage you to get informed, and then get involved with the work of disseminating our history by telling the story supported by the facts! **SR**



Retired Pastor Profile

Retired Pastor Profile



Name: Melvin G. Nida

Birthdate, place: June 4, 1920 St. Paul, MN
Melvin died September 21, 2009

Family:

Married: Jeanette Dickinson on Nov. 24, 1944
in DeRuyter, NY
(Jeanette died Jan. 24, 1987)

Children: Larry, Elizabeth and Sylvia
Married: M. Wanda Bowyer on Oct. 28, 1987
(She filed for divorce in 2000)

Married: Cynthia Jeanne Brissey on May 28, 2001

Education:

Downing (WI) High School, 1938 (Salutatorian)
Dunn County Normal School, Menomonie, WI,
1941—Elementary Teaching certificate
Salem (WV) College, 1947—BA in Social Science
Alfred (NY) University, 1950—BDiv
Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO, 1956—
ThD (Teaching degree)

Ministry Experience with SDBs:

Chicago SDB Church 1947-49—Associate Pastor
Richburg, NY 1949-52—Pastor. Ordained there
in 1950; Accredited 1951
Salem, WV 1982-85—Interim Pastor
Editor, *Helping Hand*, 1951-54
Commission of the General Conference, 1960-63
General Conference President, 1962
Council on Ministry, 1962-71, 1974-80

Other Work Experiences:

Teacher, rural WI, 1941-42
Civilian Public Service (Alternate military), 1942-46
Hospital Technician, Bethany Hospital, Chicago,
1948-49
Professor's Assistant, Iliff, Denver, 1953-54
Assistant Prof. of New Test. & Christian Ethics,
Alfred University School of Theology, 1954-61

Assoc. Prof. of New Testament, Alfred, 1961-63
Assoc. Prof. of Religion, Salem, 1963-66
Chaplain, Civil Air Patrol, 1965-1970 (rank of Major)
Academic Dean, Salem College, 1966-68
Prof. of Religion/Philosophy, Salem, 1968-80
Interim Teacher 6th Grade, Enterprise, WV, 1981-82
Private home care of elderly, 1987-95

Special Interests included:

Boy Scouts, sailplane pilot, gardening, pottery. He was also a court-appointed special advocate volunteer in a program for abused and neglected children.

Cynthia was Melvin's companion and caregiver for the last 8 years of his earthly life. She is employed at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV and is an active member of the Salem, WV, SDB Church serving as a deacon, singing in the choir, and participated on the 2012 Conference Host Committee.

She is the recipient of widow's benefits from COSAR (Committee on Support and Retirement). **SR**

Your generous gifts can help support those who gave so much and their survivors. 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.



2012-13 Scripture Memorization participants

Forward in His Footsteps was the theme for the 2012-13 Scripture Memorization Program. The participants are listed here as an example to encourage others to hide God's Word in their hearts. The Toronto, Ontario, Seventh Day Baptist Church had the largest number of participants complete the program this last year, so they will hold and display the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Bowl for the year.

The 2013-2014 memorization program was listed

in last month's *Sabbath Recorder*. Brochures were mailed to churches in August. In addition to or instead of those verses, you may participate in this year's program by memorizing John 15:1-17. Additional copies are available from the Board of Christian Education. (607) 587-8527; sdbbce@educatingchristians.org; <http://EducatingChristians.org>.

The following people are recognized for completing the 2012-2013 Scripture Memorization Program:

Agape SDB

St. Albans, NY

Sasha Bailey
Dorothy Beaumont
Amy Damon
Venita Damon
Clothilde DeSantos
Joyce Fenderson
Rosealine John-Baptiste
Candie Johnson
Jacinta Sterling
Delmore Williams

Alfred Station, NY

Elaine Brundage
John Brundage
Nancy Cherry
Elianna Chroniger
Madge Chroniger
Katy Elliott
Colleen Morrison
Abigail Noel
Eden Rao
Erin Sanborn
Morgan Trudell

All Nations

Gardena, CA

Gwendolyn Ewen
Vivian Lynch
Louise Oliver

Battle Creek, MI

Lorrie Bird
Nadia Bordun
Aliya Carmicheal
Caron George
Elijah Geske
Kory Geske
Matthew Noel
Judy Parrish

Bell SDB

Salemville, PA

Benjamin Baker
Esther Baker
Jeff Baker
Nichole Baker
Leland Bond
Lettie Bond
Beth Boyd
Lon Calhon
Eileen Claycomb
Robert Claycomb
Darlene Dimond
John Mark Foust
Dwight Kagarise
Jeannie Kagarise
Owen Kagarise
Troy Ott
Jerry Patterson
Floyd Roberts
Ruthanna Roberts
Jasmine Stern
Ed Sutton

Berlin, NY

Gabby Bink
Wade Greene
Maryann Palmer

Boulder, CO

Valerie Heath
Patricia Karlin
Gregory Looper
Jason Looper
Nicholas Looper
Darrian Muniz
Luka Muniz
Patrick Muniz
Rachael Osborn
Doris Rood
Cletus Severance
Keith Severance
Lynne Severance
Matthew Severance
Shari Severance
Stacy Severance
Pat Williams

Bradenton Branch

Bradenton, FL

Richard Bond
Susan D. Bond
Keith Finley
Laura Mirabal
Michael Spearl

Central SDB

Mitchellville, MD

Cliff Gordon
Pam Gordon

Daytona Beach, FL

Everald Kelly

Dodge Center, MN

Karen Payne
Robert Reichart
Dale Rood

First Hebron

Hebron, PA

Pearl Brock
Luke Greene
Samuel Greene

First Hopkinton

Ashaway, RI

Nadine Lawton
Lexia Stall
Loreli Stall

First Toronto

Toronto, Canada

Merlin Condison
June Dillon
Osbourne Dillon
Marva Edwards
Deborah Lee Gooden
Sinclair Gooden

Herman Grant

Karlene Hinds
Lorette Hunter
Winston London
Miguel MacFarlane
Debronique Matthews
Debronjae Matthews
Debroy Matthews
Annette Murray
Kimberly Peck
Florence Reynolds
Linnette Reynolds
Paula Reynolds
Natasha Reynolds-Ashley
Lorna Samuels
Isolyn Sinclair
Evelyn Taylor

Lost Creek, WV

Cate Camenga
Cathy Camenga
Eve Camenga
Jonah Camenga
Faith Facemire
Michaela Facemire

Maranatha

Community

Colton, CA
Gabriella Lawson
Sandy Lawson

cont. on p. 26



FOCUS on Missions

Finishing the Race

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org

As the final participants came across the finish line in Colorado Springs, we had the feeling of completion. The first General Conference Gospel Feet Walk/Run was done!

The runners had completed their courses, and most importantly **we had raised over \$7,500 to buy more than 68 bicycles** to assist Seventh Day Baptist ministers in spreading the Gospel throughout the world.

From pre-registration funds received, 20 bikes were in service in the Congo (DRC) before the starter's gun had fired. And the applications already coming in from countries like the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Kenya meant, by God's grace, we were reaching and exceeding our project goals. Praise the Lord!

However, the Gospel Feet Run represents only a small piece of the ultimate race God has set before us as individual followers of Jesus and as a people. To

those who faithfully run the race to completion, Paul tells us (in 1 Corinthians 9) that we run for an imperishable crown. As individuals, each of us runs our own race with the goal of keeping the faith and finishing the course before us. Ultimately, and just as importantly, *as the Church* we know the finish line is when we have taken the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the peoples of the world.

We know the Word promises blessings to the faithful. Sometimes this is in wealth the world recognizes, but invariably it is that which is most valuable—a closer walk with our Lord. It would stand to reason that we can expect the Lord's blessings to be removed if we are not faithful and obedient to Him. We could expect our Lord not to sustain us in disobedience and to permit our lamp stand to be extinguished. The question then is, "Are we being faithful as Seventh Day Baptists to finish the course?" Are we willing to participate in reaching the goal that we know He has set and He will see completed?

God will see that the world is reached for His glory. He has said it. We cannot fight it. But, will Seventh Day Baptists obediently press on to the finish line with Him? Will we receive the crown given to the runners that faithfully push on to the end?

Let us not sit on the curb and watch as other runners, other peoples, other nations finish the race. I believe we can **choose this day to respond**; we can choose to tighten our laces, set our gaze forward, and boldly take the next steps toward the goal... to finish the race.

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24. **SR**





the BEACON

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

October 2013

Conquering Calculus— through prayer

by Seth Osborn
Boulder, Colo.

There I was at the Youth Interest Committee meeting during this summer's Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. Last year, someone else had also wanted to be Beacon editor but let me take it—so long as she could have the position the next year. 2013 arrived and she had changed her mind.

"What a blessing!" I thought. I had been saddened by the fact that my time as Beacon editor was drawing to a close. Though I struggled with the writing sometimes—often needing to crunch to submit an article days after it was supposed to be due (Sorry, Kevin!)—I still thoroughly enjoyed being able to share my thoughts with people, some people being close to me already and others I may not ever meet. I was more

than happy to volunteer as Beacon editor again.

Then I got home and sat down to write my first article. Nothing. My mind was completely blank.

Okay, I thought. *I can look through last year's articles to get an idea of what I've already written about and what else I can write.* I skimmed each of the articles from last year, getting the general ideas and trying to think of topics that were far enough away that I wouldn't feel like I was just rewriting the same article again. Still nothing.

So I put the article off for a while. *Maybe if I just take a break from it, I'll get an idea.* The break turned into a couple of days, into a week, and longer and longer until finally I was past the deadline yet again.

I later realized the problem: I was trying to write something through my own strength. Instead of allowing God to work through me, I was trying to think of something on my own. This is one of our biggest flaws as humans. We're too proud to step aside and let God do the work. If something goes terribly wrong—something completely beyond our control—then we're more than happy to step aside. "You can take this one, God. My power isn't big enough to handle this." But what about the smaller things?

At the end of the first week of school, we took a math quiz in Cal-

culus class. It was review from last year, just to make sure we still remembered the really important stuff. I zipped through the multiple choice side of the test, then turned to the "free response" side.

I tackled the easier problems first, but still found myself struggling with two or three of them. I stared at them for a couple of minutes, thinking about what maneuvers to take in order to find the solution. Nothing. Then something clicked in my brain.

"Dear God, please help me on this test." It's just a test. I can do it on my own. Why should I need to ask God for help? But a few minutes later, I thought of a way to solve one of the problems I skipped. And then another. I finished the test with only one problem that I felt uncertain about.

We need to be willing to surrender everything to the Lord. You may have the power to do something on your own, but that doesn't mean He can't help you. According to Proverbs 16:1, "To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue." We can plan all we want, but we'll never get as far on our own as compared to when we finally surrender everything to God.

So I urge you to allow God to control you. He'll take you to a much better place than you could ever hope to achieve by your own hand. **SR**



Embrace the change

by Lauren Telford
Texarkana, AR

I've heard it said that "there are no friends like SDB Conference friends" or SDB friends in general. For four years, I've been privileged to serve in Summer Christian Service Corps, and during that time, my fellow SCSC and Stained Glass participants have become like family to me. Even though we are only together for about a month each summer, these friendships are still the closest to my heart.

Tim Lawton once described our Conference as "a small version of heaven." I couldn't agree with his description more. Every night while everyone is worshiping and fellowshiping together, I wish we could stop time and stay in that moment together for the duration of our lives. That would be close to perfection.

As we all know, life goes on and we return home and resume our daily lives. This year, the transition was harder than usual for me. A friend told me recently that saying "I hate such and such" can often be substituted for "I *fear* such and such." I think it's sufficient to say that I hate AND fear change.

In August, I returned to college for my last semester. Because I am graduating a semester late, the majority of my friends with whom I spent my last four years have graduated. The friends I still have at school are busy with their rigorous schedules, and I am student teaching, so none of us have much spare time.

Upon returning to school, even though I was around people whom I loved, I felt alone and despaired. I knew that in December, I would be graduating, and I had no idea where I would go after graduation or what I would do.

I say this not to complain, but I know all of us have been at the proverbial crossroads or felt that we were at the end of the road entirely. We find a happy chapter of



For those of you struggling with the idea of change, please know that God is always with you.

our lives coming to a close, we don't see the point of going on, and we don't see how things can be the same.

God has been showing me that things *won't* be the same. Our lives have different seasons, and as Ecclesiastes 3 says, there really is a time for everything. What I've been learning to ask myself when approaching change is "Who brought me here? Who led me down this beautifully familiar road that I so badly don't want to end?"

The answer is always "God." In this case, God led me through college and through

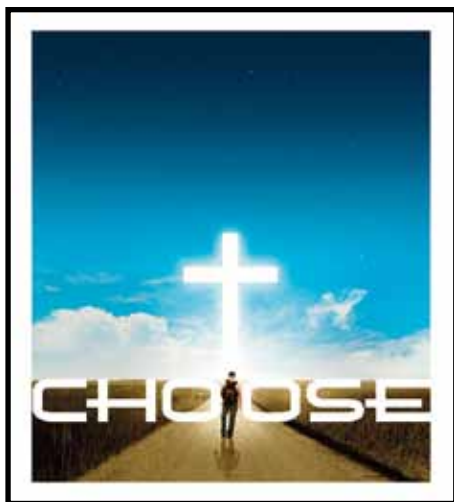
SCSC. God gave me all of these incredible friendships and experiences. God blessed me abundantly and provided for all my needs.

If God knew what I needed then, what makes me think He doesn't know now? God has already written each chapter of our lives, and even though it's not always enjoyable, we have to trust Him to turn the pages as we read along.

In stories, characters' lives go crazy for a while, but by the end, everything is resolved. As believers, our resolution was settled by Christ's death on the cross. Now we have to obediently follow along to see how our stories tie into God's ultimate story.

Even though a lot of things change, God never does and never will. God is with us now and will be with us during change. The verse I cling to during difficult times of change is Matthew 28:20b—"And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (I used to pretend "lo" was short for "Lauren," and it felt personal.) God is ALWAYS with us.

For those of you struggling with the idea of change, please know God is always with you, and He will see you through. I'm still not a big fan of change, but I am thanking God for what He has yet to do and for the ways He will provide. **SR**



St. Paul, MN July 27–Aug. 2, 2014

The President's Page

by Steven James



Choose... to Lose!

In today's culture, about the only time the phrase "Choose to Lose" can be inspiring is when it's talking about weight loss.

All around us we are told to win—that success is always moving upward and forward, never downward or backward.

Even in Scripture there is a litany of "winning" passages. "In all these things we are more than conquerors [winners] through Him Who loved us." "Now thanks be to God Who always leads us in triumph in Christ..." And from Jesus: "...but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Rom. 8:37; 2 Cor. 2:14; John 16:33)

So for me to encourage you to "choose to lose" may go against what society pushes us towards, and what we presume Scripture portrays as success.

Recently the Verona, N.Y., church hosted Dove Award-winning singer/songwriter Mitch McVicker (close associate to the late Rich Mullins) for the third time. I would highly recommend his heart and art to any of our churches!

One song he offered up conveys how we are living in a world that's upside down from what it means to follow Jesus. You can give it a listen online by going to <http://bit.ly/171R5Sx>.

If you will, allow me to share with you these words that are also from Jesus' own mouth, as we explore this choice as Christians, churches, and a Conference.

Jesus said, "Whoever desires to come after Me [follow Me], let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:34-37)

We've heard these words many times, but have we fully embraced and experienced them by doing them? (James 1:21-25)

The thought of "winning" by losing, or of "keeping" by letting go, can no doubt seem strange to us. It did to the disciples. Jesus had just related to them how He was going to die. He was at the pinnacle of "success" as the world sees it and He speaks of utter "failure." But anything else was considered by Jesus as of the flesh, worldly and even "satanic." (*See the whole context from Mark 8:27-38 and parallel passages in the other gospels.*)

We can't afford to just pass His words off as idealistic. Jesus expected them to be realistic for His disciples—both then and now.

How can you and I be "losers" for our Lord and thus be true winners?

- 1) Choose to follow Him fully with abandon by denying ourselves and putting to death everything pertaining to us, identifying the hills of self and worldliness that we need to be crucified and die on.
- 2) Choose to lose everything this world offers and thus receive the greatest return that heaven holds for us.
- 3) Choose to never be ashamed of Him or His Words in our culture.

While this wasn't about weight loss, I hope you'll join me in being "biggest losers" in this way for our Lord! In fact, let's sign an "L" on our foreheads as a testament of this choice whenever we see one another! **SR**





by Executive Director
Rob Appel

Special Report:

Rod Henry's challenge to SDBs at Conference

Colorado Springs, CO:

Sabbath, August 3, 2013. Those attending General Conference were in for a treat! Pastors Rod Henry and Dusty Mackintosh started the sermon by portraying the Apostle Paul and his protégé, Timothy.

Dusty spoke to us from the perspective of Timothy on his own journey. He asked us to put ourselves in the footsteps of Timothy, who was tired and discouraged, and yet he was encouraged in Paul's letter to, "Fight the good fight and finish the race!"

Then Pastor Rod stepped up and gave us the viewpoint of Paul—someone nearing the finish line in his personal race. Now, it didn't seem fair to be tag-teamed by the dynamic duo, but there we were sitting captivated, and there was Rod doing what he's comfortable with... preaching God's Word!

Pastor Rod likened Paul and Timothy's ministries to a boxing match, to someone in a race, and to a glass of wine. However, their point of view was so different! Paul had fought the good fight, ran the race and was close to the finish line. He had poured himself out in his ministry so his glass was nearly empty. Timothy was in the first round of his fight, had just started the race, and his glass was full!

Setting aside the comparisons between Paul and Timothy, Rod shared about the challenges he faced

after arriving at the Denver SDB Church (now called the Next Step Christian Church). Rod spoke of the test that was ahead of him and repeated several times "*Let there be no quit in me!*" Then he asked us to say it, but only if we believed it and were serious! We said it aloud, "*Let there be no quit in me.*" Rod boisterously echoed, "*Oh Boy! Oh Boy! You said it!*"

Then he wanted us to say aloud, "*Lord, let there be no quit in me.*" We did. "*Listen, if we don't have any quit in us, it will be contagious!*"

Rod then asked the pastors, leaders, and members to come down, kneel, and pray. His challenge to Seventh Day Baptists from all over North America was to take this back to their church and continue to pray, "***Lord, show us a more preferable future for our church and we will walk in it.***"

I would encourage you to listen to the whole sermon because I can't do it justice in writing. You can find it here:

<http://new.livestream.com/7thDayBaptists/events/2297389>

Let me piggyback on this sermon to talk about the responsibility of leaders in churches and ministries.

Two boys were each given a block of wood and a jackknife. Both boys whittled away on their block for an hour, until one boy held up in his hand a small wooden boat, while the other boy simply had a pile of

wood shavings. Why the different outcomes? One boy had a plan—a vision for what he wanted to accomplish—and the other simply saw a block of wood.

And so it is with us and God! God knows the plan, the vision; and many of us just see a church building or finances. However, God has a preferable future for Seventh Day Baptist churches! I believe this!

God will provide us the plan, the goal, and the vision toward which all our present activity is directed. But we do have to stop and ask what His plan is. The plan and goal provide us direction.

Think of it in this way: In traveling, one could set out just driving along any highway, but another preferable way is to have a destination. And this destination will shape most every direction and decision we make along the way. That's the more preferable future! It represents a destination that will allow us to reach back in our past, in order to provide current direction, and then a purpose towards the future.

And that's the church leader's job. Not to determine that future, not to demand a personal desired future, but rather to help the church community help determine its future together.

So shall we pray together,
“Lord, let there be no quit in us as we seek Your more preferable future in our church!” 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

Lincoln: A faith for the ages

While researching about Abraham Lincoln one day, I came across several websites that blared, "Was Abraham Lincoln a Christian?"

Of course, Lincoln was a Christian, I thought. He talked and wrote about God all the time.

As I read those sites, I was amazed by how many people believe that question deserves a fervent, "No."

According to Wikipedia, historians and others have debated Lincoln's religious beliefs for years.

Lincoln grew up in a highly religious family, but never joined any church. He was a skeptic as a young man, but frequently referred to God and quoted the Bible. He eventually attended Protestant church services with his wife and family and, after the deaths of two of his children, "became more intensely concerned with God's plan for mankind."

Biographers noted he was private about his own beliefs, but respected the beliefs of others. Many claim he never made a clear profession of "standard Christian beliefs," but he did believe in an all-powerful God that shaped earthly events. By 1865, he was expressing those beliefs in major speeches.

Some people claimed Lincoln was actually a "Universalist," believing in the eventual salvation of all people. Other labeled him a deist—someone who believes God created the universe and then abandoned it, assuming no control or influence



over life, and giving no supernatural revelation.

In 1846, Lincoln ran for Congress against Peter Cartwright, a noted evangelist. When Cartwright tried to make Abe's religion—or apparent lack of it—a major campaign issue, the future President replied, "That I am not a member of any Christian church is true; but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures; and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular..."

When Lincoln's 11-year-old son, Willie, died in February of 1862, Lincoln was inconsolable. For an entire week after the funeral, he isolated himself in his office, weeping all day. Several people later reported that Lincoln told them his feelings about religion changed at that time.

Apparently, young Willie often said he wanted to be a minister

someday. Following Willie's death, Lincoln remarked, "May God live in all. He [Willie] was too good for this earth. The good Lord has called him home. I know that he is much better off in Heaven."

Articles and books about Lincoln's spiritual life consistently present divergent views; it's like listening to endless "he said, she said" conversations.

I've chosen to believe the following account regarding Lincoln's spiritual life:

In November of 1894, a Freeport, Ill., pastor said a man from his state visited Lincoln in the White House. At the conclusion of their business, the man asked the President if he loved Jesus.

Reportedly, Lincoln buried his face in a handkerchief as tears came to his eyes. Then he answered, "When I left home to take this chair of state, I requested my countrymen to pray for me. I was not then a Christian. When my son died, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But, when I went to Gettysburg and looked upon the graves of our dead heroes who had fallen in defense of their country, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ. Yes, I do love Jesus."

In 1928, a Mrs. Sidney Lauck signed an affidavit under oath in Essex County, N.J. In it, she stated Phineas Gurley, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., told her President Lincoln had made arrangements to join the church "by confession of his faith in Christ." The event was to take place on Easter Sunday, but Lincoln was shot on Good Friday and died at 7:22 Sabbath morning. **SR**



Using medications safely

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

Medication errors result in at least 1.5 million preventable injuries every year, costing billions of dollars in medical costs. Although older people are most likely to suffer a medication error, it can happen to any age. The most effective way to avoid medication errors is to take personal responsibility for preventing them.

- Know the name of every medication you take, the dose, what it looks like, why you take it, and how you should take it. Have a list of medications and supplements you are currently taking with you at all times.

- Keep your drugs where you can remember to take them. Filling a medication box on a weekly basis is a helpful way to know if you took your medication as scheduled.

- When a medicine is being prescribed for the first time, inform your doctor or pharmacist about *any* other medicines you are taking. This helps prevent potentially serious drug interactions. Let them know about allergies, medical conditions and any dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbals, etc.) you are taking. Be sure you understand all the instructions.

- Take medicines for the entire period they are prescribed. Never take more than prescribed. Don't take any medicine that has been prescribed for someone else. Never consume alcoholic beverages with medicines until checking with your doctor or pharmacist.

- Keep all medicines in their original containers. Store as instructed. Check for expiration dates to be sure the medication is still effective. Safely dispose of all outdated medicines where children and pets cannot reach them. (In our area, using a drug box provided at a police department or clinic is a safe way to do this.) If medicines don't work, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before discontinuing them.

- If you have children, read labels to determine the amount to give them—never guess. Follow the age-limit recommendations. Don't give two medicines at the same time unless your doctor has prescribed them that way.

- Your pharmacist is an important part of your healthcare team. He can answer many questions about your medicine including ones about over-the-counter medications. When you have a prescription filled, make sure that the medication is indeed for you, and that you can read and understand the name of the medicine, the directions on the container and the warning stickers on the bottle. Check that you can open the container. If you have trouble swallowing pills, there may be liquid medicine available. Do not chew, break or crush tablets without first finding out if the drug will still work.

- Try to use the same pharmacy



for all your drugs. Their computer programs can catch potentially dangerous drug interactions that can occur when you get your prescriptions from different physicians. Try to fill your prescriptions when the pharmacy is the least busy or use the automated refill system. Avoid the first week of the month as this tends to be a busy time.

- When you are hospitalized, show your list of drugs to the admitting doctor. They do not know you like your primary care provider does, so it is up to you or an advocate to speak up about your ongoing care. When you are discharged it is important that you understand if any medicines have been discontinued or added to your regimen and what instructions go with the safe use of these. Remember to change that medication list you keep with you at all times to reflect these changes.

Drug errors are costly but they do not have to happen. You or a caregiver are the first line of defense in seeing that you understand your drugs and take them safely. **SR**

Fort Lauderdale celebrates a decade

by Gordon Lawton

On Sabbath Day, August 31, 2013, members and friends of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., gathered in the late afternoon to commemorate their 10th anniversary as a congregation. Over 150 were present for the celebration.

It was a joyous time of remembering and thanking God. Music came from the Sanctuary Choir, the Youth, and the Voices of Praise (not the Toronto group). We also heard short histories of the Youth Ministry, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Sabbath School, Diaconate Board, Music Ministry, Usher Board Hospitality/Fundraising Committee, and a video presentation about the last 10 years. Tying this all together was a historical paper read by Deaconess Cynthia Miller.

The celebration message was brought by Pastor Wray Winborne of Daytona Beach. He spoke of "Hope and Dreams," with his text from Luke 4:14-21.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and for God's continued guidance was offered by Pastor Andrew Samuels, the leader of the group that spon-



The Fort Lauderdale sanctuary was filled for their celebration.

sored Fort Lauderdale—the Miami SDB Church. Pastor Andrew was the first pastor of this new church.

Representatives from sister churches were recognized from Miami, West Palm Beach, Daytona Beach, Kissimmee and Bradenton—all in Florida. Others came from the Christian Family Fellowship in Georgia; Agape SDB Church in Queens, New York; and even some from Jamaica in the West Indies.

Toward the end of the evening, Brother Noel Campbell, an evangelist who has filled the pulpit in

Fort Lauderdale from time to time, shared how SDBs know how to "do church." He witnessed how people were there, and resting, and enjoying the time together. Brother Campbell introduced the charter members and asked the pastors present to come and pray over them.

My prayer is that this is only the beginning; that this congregation will be celebrating 100 years as a healthy and evangelistic church with years in the future, unless they are prevented by the Lord's return. **SR**

2015 World Fed sessions cancelled

*This announcement comes from World Federation General Secretary Jan Lek as reported in the July issue of **Seventh Day Baptist WORLD**. (It was also announced at General Conference.)*

"We regret to announce that we will not be holding sessions of the World Federation in the Philippines in 2015. We received a letter from the United SDB Churches in the Philippines in which they explain that they are unable to host these sessions as planned (originally for 2013, later postponed to 2015).

"The WF Core Executive Committee will meet on October 28 to discuss options for holding the next sessions. I will be traveling to Westerly, Rhode Island, USA for that meeting."

Secretary Lek expressed his regret of the decision but was aware of the great expense of hosting during critical financial times, and looks forward to continued communication and work with the Philippine Conference. **SR**

Marriage

Evans – Burdick. Jeremy Scott Evans and Virginia Anne Burdick were married on August 18, 2013 in Carnation, WA. Pastors Gary Hemminger and Ken Burdick officiated.

Summer Institute 2014 “Sabbath Theology”

Register www.sdbministry.org,
Oct 1–Jan 15
Online participation,
Feb 2–May 23
On Campus, June 8-13

Births

Gordon.—A son, Isaiah, was born to Jason and Sabine Gordon of McDonough, GA, on September 20, 2012.

Gordon.—A daughter, McKayla Lorraine Gayle, was born to Ougart Gordon and Mercene Gayle-Gordon of Jackson, GA, on July 1, 2013.

Kusmiesz.—A son, David Timothy, was born to Robert and Sylvia (Bond) Kusmiesz of Egg Harbor City, NJ, on August 24, 2013.

New members

South East Atlanta, GA

Barry Dailey, pastor

Joined after testimony

Paulette Campbell-Haase

Jason Gordon

Sabina Gordon

Ailene Gordon

Hughart Gordon

Ruby Segre

Janet Henry-James

Joined after baptism

Jensine Maxis

Alexia Maxis

Briana Wilmot

Brianna Austin

SaVaughn Gordon

Texarkana, AR

Dan Richards, interim

Joined after testimony

Kory Langley

Obituaries

Davis.—Olin C. Davis, 87, of Oneida, N.Y., died on May 29, 2013, in the Oneida Healthcare Center, from injuries sustained when a tree fell on him at his home.

Born in Verona, N.Y., on March 28, 1926, he was the son of LaVerne and Ruth (Sholtz) Davis. A lifelong resident of the Town of Verona, he was the salutatorian of the Verona High School, Class of 1943. He married Marilyn Osborn on July 27, 1958 in the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church. Mrs. Davis died on Oct. 23, 1997.

Prior to his retirement in 2000, he was employed with Cummings and Bricker. He owned and operated his own farm and Davis Equipment Center. Mr. Davis was a graduate of Reisch American School of Auctioneering in 1947 and was an independent auctioneer.

Olin was a member of the Verona SDB Church, where he served as the church clerk for over 20 years, Sabbath School teacher for over 60 years, served as church treasurer

(and denominational treasurer), and served on the national SDB Board of Christian Education. He was a member of the Oneida Area Civic Chorale for over 40 years and served on its board for 29 years. Mr. Davis authored two books of true lifestories: *Flashbacks* and *Recollections*, and was a member of the Canastota Writers Group. He also enjoyed gardening.

Surviving are two daughters, Lois S. Davis of Rome, N.Y., and Joan C. Davis of Ashburn, Va.; one son, Dwight W. Davis of Durhamville; three grandchildren; special sister-in-law, Della Fern Davis of Verona; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by five brothers, Donald, Willis, Kenneth, Rev. Duane, and Roger Davis.

Funeral services were held on June 3, 2013 at the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger officiating. Interment was in New Union Cemetery in Verona. **SR**

A memorial service for **Carole E. Lewis** (born February 11, 1941 and passed away December 15, 2011) was held on June 9, 2013 in Stonefort, Ill., at the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Family members shared many fond childhood memories, and how Carole loved life. She was the “Keeper of the Family,” compiling and designing a Family Tree for the 50th anniversary of her parents, Leland and Helen (Martin) Lewis.

Her sister, Patricia Ann Rowberry led the memorial service, assisted by her brother, Leland Lester (Lee) Lewis Jr. Several nephews also spoke. Following some of her favorite recorded music, cousin Mary Lewis spoke and sang a song of prayer and Jesus our Shepherd.

The group then adjourned to go to Salem Cemetery in Carrier Mills to Carole’s final resting place beside her parents. Alice Brooks shared Scripture passages from the gospel of John and 1 Corinthians. **SR**

Memorization participants, *cont. from p. 16*

Metro Atlanta Hiram, GA

Debbie Hargett
Bettie Pearson

Middle Island New Milton, WV

John Robinson

Milton, WI

Barbara Green

New York City, NY

Ita Cox
Inez Gray
Lisa Moore
Joan Seawell

North Loup, NE

Ron Cargill
Shirley Cargill
Scott Hausrath
Teri Morgan

Plainfield, NJ

Linda Barron
Jean Ellenbacher
Celeste Green
Ida Rose

Portland, OR

Dolly Bruce
Marlene Rhodes
Deborah Stein
Jon P. Wheat

Raritan Valley Bridgewater, NJ

Jeanne W. Yurke

Shiloh, NJ

Phillip Bond
Sharon Campbell
Nancy Davis

White Cloud, MI

Millie Bleiler
Norma Rudert

BCE plans for transition

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education announces that Executive Director Andrew Camenga has decided to conclude his service as Executive Director at the completion of his current term which ends December 31, 2014.

At the conclusion of his term, Executive Camenga will have served in the role for 15 years. In the meantime, he will serve the Board and Conference and will provide leadership as the Board continues current ministry and plans for our future ministry.

“Working with and for the Board of Christian Education is a great ex-

perience. I continue to be encouraged by the ways BCE supports local church ministry across the Conference,” Camenga said. “After significant prayer and evaluation, I have concluded that this should be my final term as executive director of BCE. I believe that God has increased my desire to be actively involved in preaching, teaching, and shepherding in a local church and expect that this will lead to serving in a pastoral role in a Seventh Day Baptist church at some point after my contract with the Board concludes.”

The Board of Directors will

begin the process to choose a successor in the near future. We will be working with the General Conference through the General Council to make sure that our transition process and leadership choice benefits both the ministry of BCE and the overall ministry of the General Conference.

Founded in 1940 as a merger of three Conference organizations, the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education provides programs and materials to encourage and equip Seventh Day Baptist churches to teach evangelism, nurture, discipleship, and stewardship. **SR**

Walking in West Palm Beach

Group raises funds for bicycles

by Jasmine Lynch

The West Palm Beach, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church organized a Walk-a-Thon at a park near the church. Our purpose was to raise funds to purchase bicycles that will help evangelists and pastors in the D.R. Congo to spread the Gospel. The church raised \$350 to send to the SDB Missionary Society for disbursement.

Some members could not make it to the park so they donated to the cause. **Pictured** are Nadine Plummer, Sybil Rose, Andrea Morgan, Abbey and Donna Lynch, and Jasmine Lynch. (In helping the missionaries, we helped ourselves by burning a few calories and having fun! I wish I could say we lost a few pounds...)

Our goal was to each walk 10 miles. It took us more than one walk to complete the task. We finished the distance in our neighborhood due to the high heat and humidity. The check is in the mail! **SR**



KEVIN'S

ORNER

My seasonal wife, My seasonal life

After wilting through a rare, oppressive late-summer heat wave and drought here in the upper Midwest, others further west have been slogging through torrential and deadly rain. What season is this??

It's pretty obvious what season we're in at our house. Like clockwork, my wife heads to the basement and lugs a large box up the stairs. She then dutifully and artfully positions several displays of colorful and seasonal decorations.

At dinnertime I am able to look up at the wooden shelf on the wall and quickly discern whatever season it is. (The way constant deadlines come and go so rapidly, believe me, sometimes I forget...)

While talking with Janet, I can see either a patriotic collection of red-white-and-blue (must be summer), or pansies and miniature garden paraphernalia (spring). Our Wisconsin winters seem to drag on, so to sprinkle in some variety she begins with snowflakes, Christmas angels and manger scenes, then morphs into snowmen, and then the pine tree and pinecone figurines make their appearance.

But right now—and just in time for the temps to cool down—the shelves are awash with my favorites: orange pumpkins, red apples, yellow sunflowers and various leaves. Autumn!

I have a church friend who absolutely hates this season. When I point out the stunning color and healthy apples and pumpkin spice-flavored everything, she just cringes. “I still hate it,” she insists.

“Why?” I ask.

“Because I know what's coming!”

Since we both live in Wisconsin I understand exactly what she means. All too soon, the snowflakes will become snowmen, and well, you get the frigid picture.

In real life and real time, it's safe to say that my spouse and I are a bit past our prime when it comes to sports and endurance. “Summer” might be waning, and our hair—along with the tree outside—is changing color.

We know what's coming next.

We know that there may come a time when we'll need to drastically pare down those decorations to a bare minimum. We'll have only “so much room” in a sparse assisted living apartment.

The seasons and our surroundings and decorations may change, but we can take courage in one constant: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able

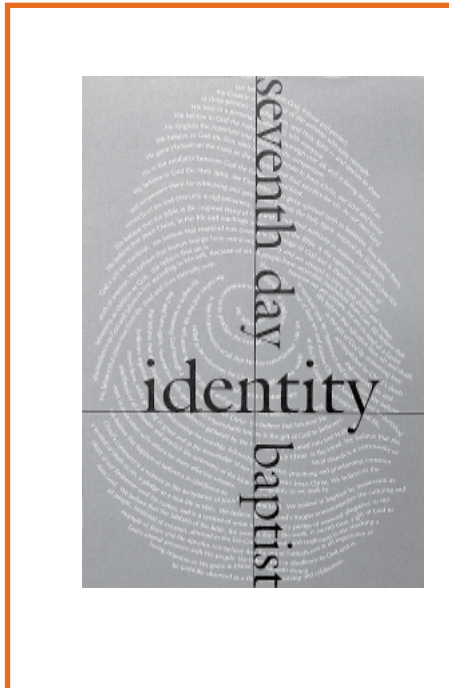
to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).

Along with that love comes the promise to His children that we have a place prepared for us in heaven.

Any sense of dread about this ever-changing life can be erased by the certainty of that new place—fashioned by an unchanging God—awaiting us when these highly variable seasons come to an end.

Is it too much to ask for just a splash of fall color in my heavenly mansion?





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A very popular item at Conference, this colorful 32-page booklet is the perfect introductory study of what SDBs believe. Filled with Scripture references, each section follows our denominational Statement of Belief (included in the back of the booklet). The cover's distinctive fingerprint is actually formed with words from our Statement—a clever design by artist Pat Cruzan.

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