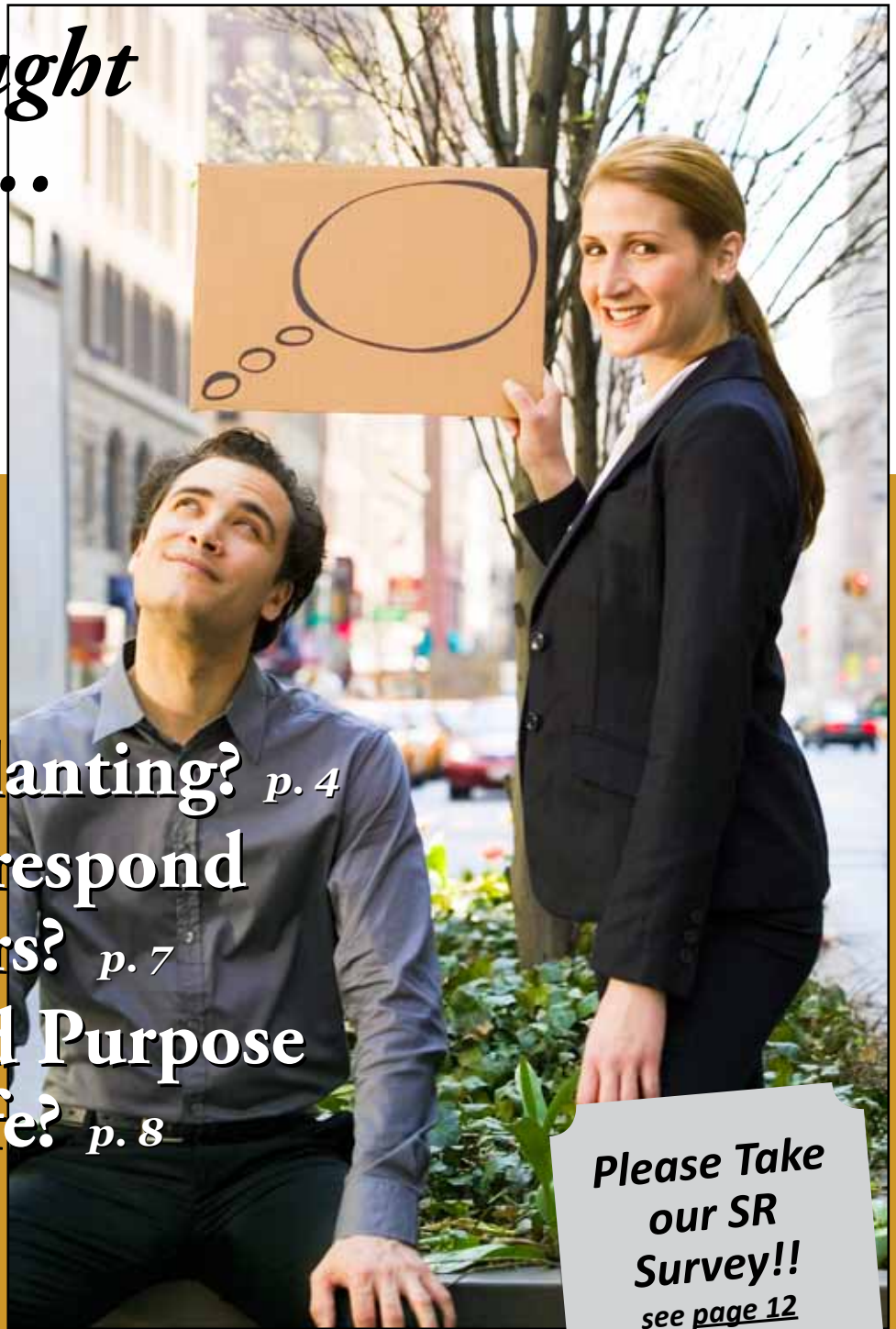


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ever thought
about...*



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**... the Grand Purpose
of life? p. 8**

**Please Take
our SR
Survey!!
see page 12**



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

Want more copies of our
**November English/Spanish
Special Historical issue?**

Single copies are \$1 each, + postage
[postage for five is about \$3]

12 or more = 75 cents each, + postage
[postage for 12 is about \$5]

For higher quantities, please contact us.

Call us at 608-752-5055 or email
media@seventhdaybaptist.org

Please assist our Retired Pastors

Your generous gifts can help support those who gave so much, and continue to give, 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.



Applications for SCSC team members and church projects have been posted! Go to scscstainedglass.com, click on the main "SCSC" sub-head, and please watch "How Do I Apply for SCSC?" Read all the information and send completed application forms to: SCSC Committee, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678. **PLEASE NOTE** this new address.

Student applications must be post-marked by **January 10, 2014**. All church applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2014**— NO Exceptions.

Please note: Students are limited to only two weeks of camp. Training dates are June 18-26. This will be a 3-week on-site project, with General Conference as the fourth week of project with the PDs supervising if possible. See the website for further information.

You may contact the SCSC Committee at the address above or at SCSC@seventhdaybaptist.org.



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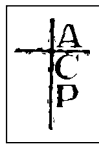


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Kevin Butler
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Ⓔ = Editor's Circle members

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Church Planting,

SOUTHWEST STYLE

by Bob Peet
Kingman, Ariz.

Here is the good news: Jesus is our Savior. Jesus commissioned us to make disciples of all nations, and that includes Kingman, Arizona.

That's exactly what we have been doing. In just seven months, the Kingdom of God church has grown to 70-80 regular parishioners here in Kingman. We are in the process of knocking down some walls to double the size of our sanctuary. The Lord has truly blessed this body of believers.

I didn't come from a Seventh Day Baptist background. I had no presumption on "the right way" to

do things. I have not read any books on church planting. I've never done this before. Yet we are growing by leaps and bounds.

I've been asked by many SDB members, "How did you do it?" Well, *I* didn't—*Jesus* did.

Here is the story of part of our journey and what's coming next. You can help us with more church planting in Arizona.

Step #1.

I didn't go out looking for Sabbathkeepers. I looked for sinners.

I teach them Jesus, repentance and obedience, which includes the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath.

Step #2.

Our main service is on Sabbath at 6:00 p.m. This is a normal service time out West for many larger churches; it is also an easier time for most people to attend.

I've seen many SDBs cringe at this. "But we have always had our services at 10:30" I'm told. I then ask, "By having a 6:00 p.m. service, would you have more souls in the pews?"

Six in the evening is more convenient for most people. Remember you can't teach them if they are not there. I say keep the 10:30 a.m. service and *add* a 6:00 p.m. service. Make it fun and friendly, and teach about Jesus!

Step #3.

ABC: "Always Be Closing." I keep our church business card with me whenever I go out. Like it or not, getting new members into your church is a "numbers" game. If you invite zero people to church, zero will show up. If you invite a lot, some will show up.

I talk to people and I'm always ready to make a defense for my faith (1 Peter 3:15). I invite everyone I run into.

That's the big secret: find sinners, make it fun and easy for them to attend. Then *teach* the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We need your help. What's next? Phoenix, Arizona!

In conjunction with the pastors of the Pacific Coast Association, we are very excited to announce we will be planting a church in Phoenix. If you have family and friends in that metro area, please send us their contact information. We will be contacting people in the Phoenix area starting in January, and then search for a central location to meet. Hopefully we can start holding services by March.

The pastors on the West Coast will take turns in the pulpit. We will need someone to step up and take over as the full pastor. (Could that person be you or someone you know?)

What then? Los Angeles, San Diego—wherever the Lord leads us.

Our goal is to make a template that can be followed by SDBs everywhere. Let's grow this denomination. Action speaks louder than words. All we need is your help and God's will.

May the Lord Bless you! **SR**

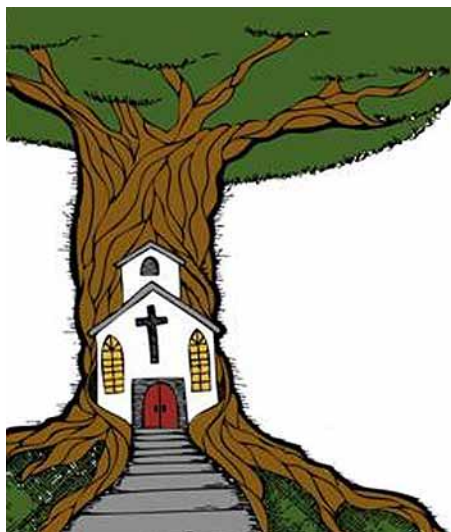


Pastor Bob Peet performing a baptism in front of the Kingdom of God church in Kingman, Ariz.

"Be Witnesses"

Association to host
Church Planting Conference

*by Pastor Kenneth Chroniger
Alfred Station, N.Y.*



Tim Keller, founder and pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, wrote the following thoughts:

"The vigorous, continual planting of new churches is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the Body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of existing churches in any city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting or renewal process—will have

the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial." ¹

The Invitation

Seventh Day Baptists vocalize a commitment to church planting. We seem to have a mental assent to Tim Keller's thoughts. Yet some questions echo in our ears. As a people, is church planting a heart's desire? As a people, do we experience church planting as what God

cont. next page

is doing and ask the question, “How do we join Him?”

The Allegheny Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches believes that it is time to move Church Planting to the front burner of our congregational life. You are invited to be a participant in the “Be Witnesses” Church Planting Conference in Alfred Station, N.Y. from Monday, April 28 – Sabbath May 3, 2014.

The Presenter

The presenter, Jared Siebert, currently serves as the National Director for Church Development for the Free Methodist Church in Canada. His main responsibility is to prepare the denomination to respond to the massive cultural change that churches are facing.



Jared Siebert

He hopes to accomplish this through the planting of new kinds of churches. He also wants to develop sustained health and contextual conversations at the local church level that are designed to bring churches face to face with their mission in their neighborhood or region.

Jared began ministry in 1998 with his wife, Katherine, in Kingston,

Ontario, in a church plant called the “Next Church.” He currently lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan with his wife Katherine and his two boys, Soren and Nathan.

The Schedule

April 28

-Evening reception: Participants and greater church audience

April 29

-Theology of Culture and Change
-Discerning Your Team’s Provisional Ideas
-Team Consultations with Trainer, Jared Siebert

April 30

-Church Planting Tools and Case Studies
-Community Walking Analysis; Afternoon Trip to Local Community
-Debriefing and Further Team Consultations

May 1

-Telling Your Discipleship Story
-Managing, Measuring and Multiplying
-Tying Together Loose Ends

May 2

-Setting Up Covenants of Accountability
-Social Media Communication
-Follow-Up Web Conference Schedule

May 3 Sabbath

Celebrating with Allegheny Association
-Jared Siebert, Sabbath Speaker
-Honoring and Consecrating Our Work

The Philosophy

The Missionary Evangelism Committee of the Allegheny Association of Seventh Day Baptists

has accepted a five-stage model of change and applied it to church planting. There are those who have never thought about it, those who are thinking about it, those who are preparing for it, those who

The Allegheny Association believes that it is time to move Church Planting to the front burner of our congregational life.

are planting, and those who are evaluating where they are in their Church Plant. The Committee believes that whatever stage of change you are in, this conference is for you.

Registration and cost

Yes, it will cost something. It will cost transportation, time, putting assumptions about church planting on the shelf, and a financial cost of \$75. You will find the registration form in the *Sabbath Recorder* next month.

Would you join in being a part of a church planting movement? “You have a Church Planting Movement when it’s growing so fast you can’t count it. It’s growing so fast that your systems can’t cope.”² **SR**

¹ Tim Keller, <http://metropuritan.blogspot.com/2009/12/church-planting-quote.html> November 13, 2012.

² Bob Roberts, <http://seelifiedifferently.blogspot.com/2006/05/church-planting-quotes.html>, November 2013.



How you respond to others

(Knee "Jerk" Reactions)

by Linda Lyke
Milton, Wis.

We've all heard of "road rage," right?

Well, instead of reacting in anger to something on the road, I have had a history of reacting emotionally to electronic transmissions—a text, an email, a Facebook message—without praying and thinking it through. I type a message, press "enter" or "send" and *then* think, "What did I do?" One instance, a couple of years ago, really stands out.

My sister-in-law had texted me. Instead of thinking it through, I texted something nasty back. It was uncalled for and mean. I jumped to conclusions and I was totally wrong. You might say that I had a "knee-jerk reaction" and I was the jerk, for sure.

When we react emotionally to something, we have to look at the deeper problem there. Something from the past is causing us to react to an emotional hurt. Well, obviously I didn't think about that in the moment.

My sister-in-law, to whom I was pretty close, was very hurt. God convicted me of my sin, and I was compelled to confide in godly

friends. James 5:16 says, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

So I prayed to God that He would present me with the opportunity to confess to friends at church. On Sabbath morning prior to church, I saw two godly friends, two "safe" people, and I felt comfortable confessing my sin. I laid my sins bare; I felt horrible.

I remember one friend trying to make me feel better, saying "We all do things like this." I said, "No, it was wrong. I totally twisted her message! She was texting me about something else. I misinterpreted it, and gave an unwarranted nasty response." I needed my sin acknowledged and my friends prayed with me.

Before I had gone to church that morning, I read Isaiah 1:18—"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." After confessing my sin to my friends of faith, I had confidence that He had made my sin as white as snow.

I called my sister-in-law that afternoon and cried with her. She forgave me, but I knew we still had healing to do. A year later, she wrote

me a note and said how at the time, she didn't think our relationship would ever be the same, but in the end, she thought it was actually better. I had not realized how deeply I had hurt her until I read this but I was also thankful that God worked through this for good.

Bringing the sin out into the light with my friends did a lot of good for me. It was also a way to prevent from falling into that same sin. I want to say that I have not done this again, but that would be a lie. For some reason, I am always shocked when I fall into the "knee-jerk" reactions.

Obviously God is still working on me in this area, helping me to learn *not* to be reactionary overall—not just in electronic transmissions. I have a long way to go, but because of God's strength, I have also made progress. When we have not learned a lesson, God is good at giving us plenty of opportunity to re-learn that lesson, over and over again, until we "get" it. I am thankful that God wipes my sins away, offering forgiveness, if only I ask. **SR**



Linda Lyke

The GRAND PURPOSE of Life

by James Sanderson
Estill Springs, Tenn.

Have you ever seriously considered why you are here?

I don't mean why you're sitting where you are now, but why are you here in this life? In other words, what is the reason for man's existence on this planet?

It's so unfortunate that the vast majority of people come into this world, then live and die with no real fulfillment. It's as though they had never lived. Their lives are structured around the physical aspects of life.

There is more to life than the physical. Jesus posed the question, "Is not life more than meat [food], and the body than raiment [clothes]?" (Matthew 6:25)

There is a divine purpose for life, and that purpose is found in the Bible, God's Word.

HERE'S THE PURPOSE

The Bible reveals that God Himself created humanity and placed

every individual on this planet with a definite purpose in mind. God didn't place us here to accumulate wealth or build bigger barns to store our earthly possessions.

Nor did God intend for man to merely eke out a living to meet his physical needs. Admittedly, those needs must be met. How sad that most of mankind waste their few short years focused on goals and ambitions that have no eternal value.

These are serious matters. The Bible points to a most wonderful purpose for life—a purpose that will enrich one's life now and will also bear fruit in eternity. That purpose is to know God.

PAUL CHANGED PRIORITIES

Let's look at Philippians 3:3-10. The Apostle Paul had everything going for him in this life. He was a

man born into the right family, a "Hebrew of the Hebrews." He had an outstanding reputation among all the religious folks of his day.

He was well educated, belonged to the highest political and social groups, and had a well-paying job. Nevertheless, by the mercy of God, Paul came to the realization that he was missing the most important aspect of life: to know God.

There was a tremendous transformation that occurred in Paul's life after he came to this crossroads. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8).

Knowing God became the paramount desire of Paul's life, his highest priority. This purpose consumed every aspect of his life. Verse



10 emphasizes “that I may know Him.” We are here in this life to know God.

WE CAN KNOW GOD

The Bible also reveals that an individual can actually know God personally. In John 17:1-3 we see a prayer of Jesus to the Father. Notice that Jesus prayed that men would

“

The Bible points to a most wonderful purpose for life—a purpose that will enrich one’s life now, and will also bear fruit in eternity.

”

know God. “And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God...” Here again is the grand purpose of life: knowing God.

What does it mean to know God? John 1:10 says, “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him; and the world knew Him not.” They saw Him. He lived among them. They knew His name. He visited their homes. He miraculously fed them and healed their sick. They even went to the synagogues with Him. But they never really knew Him.

SOME MAY THINK THEY KNOW

The Bible reveals that there are only two classes of people in the world: those who know God and those who do not. When Jesus returns, He will take “vengeance on them that know not God” (2 Thess. 1:8). Only those who know God in this life will be with Him in heaven. The Bible also declares that some

people will think that they know God, but in reality do not. They “profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him” (Titus 1:16).

Maybe some believed they knew God because they went to church or performed certain religious duties. Maybe they had quit smoking and drinking. The fruits of their lives proved that they didn’t know God.

One can know for a certainty that he knows God: “He that saith, ‘I know him,’ and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him” (1 John 2:3-4). Paul was confident that he knew the Lord (2 Tim. 1:12). Again, what does it mean to know God?

IT GETS PERSONAL

Most people are acquainted with the explorer Christopher Columbus. From school, we know quite a few facts about his life, but has anyone ever met Christopher Columbus? Does anybody know him? I don’t. It is possible to study about God and know many facts about Him, but never really know Him.

The Greek word for know means “a knowledge grounded in personal experience” (Thayer). This Greek word carries the idea of relationship. In other words, one needs to have a personal relationship with God in order to know Him.

Christ no longer lives in the flesh on this earth (2 Cor. 5:16).

God is a spirit. Therefore, one must experience Him and His presence spiritually. In other words, knowing God is a supernatural experience available to any man who truly wants to know Him.

TIME TO MEET GOD

In order to know another person, you have to meet that person. God is a real Person, not a figment of one’s imagination. Because Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary, you can now meet and know God. The Bible declares that He stands at the heart’s door and knocks (Rev. 3:20). In order to know Him, you must invite Him in.

Jesus also stated, “If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). God will never force Himself on anyone. He draws men in love. “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37).

OPEN YOUR HEART

To know God is to have Jesus Christ dwelling in your heart (Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27; 2 Cor. 13:5).

To know God is to have an intimate, personal relationship on a daily basis with the Lord. It is so wonderful that God would reach down to sinful, finite man and give him the opportunity of truly knowing Him.

Let us come to God with hearts of praise and gratitude! Let us open our hearts to Him that we might know Him in all His fullness! **SR**

James Sanderson is a member of the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church. His daughter, Brenda, is married to Pastor Shay Rankhorn of the Shepherd’s Fold SDB Church in Johnson City, Tenn.



Fight the flu!

by Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, Wis.

Influenza (or flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. People often blame intestinal upsets on the flu, but this is a misnomer.

Signs and symptoms of influenza may have some or all of these: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue. Children may also experience vomiting and diarrhea.

The flu is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death. People over 65, children under 5, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions—such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease—and those who live in facilities like nursing homes are at a greater risk for serious complications should they get the flu. Complications include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration and worsening of a chronic medical condition.

Influenza viruses spread mainly by droplets when those with the flu cough, sneeze or talk and these droplets come in contact with another's mouth, nose or eyes. Less often a person may get the flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

A person might pass the flu to someone else before they know they are ill. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. Young children and people with weakened immune systems might be able to infect others for even longer.

The Center for Disease Control recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. Each year's flu vaccine protects against the three viruses that research suggests will be most common for that year. This year there is a vaccine that protects against four viruses, and one that is more potent for older people.

There is also a nasal spray vaccine and one for those who are allergic to eggs. Ask your doctor which is best for you. The vaccine is not approved for children younger than 6 months of age, or those who have

had a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine.


The viruses in the flu shot are killed so you cannot get the flu from a flu shot. Minor side effects that could occur are: soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given, low-grade fever and aches. It takes about two weeks for antibodies to the flu to develop after vaccination.

Since the flu season may run from October to May, peaking in January, it is important for people to get their flu shots before the virus starts circulating in their community. Even though the vaccine may not be 100% effective in preventing the flu, it does reduce the seriousness of the disease should you get it.

Prevention measures in addition to the vaccine include:

- avoid close contact with those who are sick
- stay home when you are sick
- cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- wash your hands often
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- practice other good health habits.

Good health habits include cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at home, school and work; getting plenty of sleep; being physically active; managing stress; drinking plenty of fluids; and eating nutritious food. Black-eyed peas, carrots, tea, yogurt, tomatoes, mushrooms and almonds are among the foods that help fight the flu.

Don't let influenza get you or a loved one down this winter. Get your flu shot now. 





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

A convulsive explosion of air

A portion of Psalm 139:13-14 says, "For you [God] formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (*ESV*).

I especially like *The Living Bible* paraphrase:

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it."

All of us have experienced "sternutation"—defined as "a sneeze, or the act of sneezing." It seems like such a simple action, but it's actually highly complex.

In medical jargon, a sneeze is "a semi-autonomous, convulsive expulsion of air from the lungs through the nose and mouth, usually caused by foreign particles irritating the nasal mucosa." It's also "an explosive, spasmodic involuntary action."

The mechanics of a sneeze are fairly complicated.

During a sneeze, the soft palate and uvula depress while the back of the tongue elevates, partially closing the passage to the mouth. This allows the air ejected from the lungs to be expelled through the nose. Because our mouths are only partially closed, a considerable amount of this air is usually also expelled from the mouth.

A sneeze involves our face, throat, diaphragm, belly muscles, and chest muscles. A sneeze also involves our eyelids. Contrary to popular belief, some people *can* keep their eyes open when they sneeze. Also, the rhythm of our hearts may change during a sneeze, but our hearts don't stop beating.

A number of factors can prompt sneezing: Sudden exposure to bright light or cold air, nasal congestion, allergies, falling temperatures, a viral infection, a full stomach, mint candy, exercise, and eyebrow plucking.

We're unable to sneeze while sleeping, but we can if we're partially awake. Sneezing is usually harmless, but it can spread disease through "infectious aerosol droplets." One sneeze can spread 40,000 droplets. Also,



traveling at 100 mph, a single sneeze can send 100,000 germs into the air.

Growing up, I was taught to cover my mouth when I sneezed, using either a tissue or handkerchief. Nowadays, we're told to hold the forearm or the inside of the elbow in front of your mouth when sneezing.

Techniques to avoid sneezing include deeply exhaling the air in the lungs that would otherwise be used in the act of sneezing. You can also try holding your breath while counting to ten. Sometimes, pinching the bridge of your nose for several seconds also stifles the explosion.

Donna Griffiths of Worcestershire, England, holds the world record for sneezing. On January 13, 1981, she began sneezing once every minute. (She was 12 at the time.) The repetition eventually lengthened to once every five minutes. When she stopped on September 16, 1983, she had sneezed for 978 consecutive days.

The Greek word for sneeze is *pneuma*, which means "soul" or "spirit." There are many theories why people give a post-sneeze blessing, many based on ancient superstitions. Here are just a few:

During the Middle Ages, some believed a sneeze could cause the soul to escape through a person's nose, allowing the devil to claim it. Others believed the heart missed a beat during a sneeze, allowing evil spirits to *enter* the body. In either case, saying "God bless you" would save people from the devil.

Another superstition held that a sneeze could expel a large amount of air from the body, resulting in instant death. By saying, "God bless you," the "victim" would at least go to heaven with God's blessing.

Next month, I'll mention more "blessing theories" regarding sneezing. Until then...

Ahhh, ahh... *choo!* "God bless you." **SR**

The **SABBATH** RECORDER



SURVEY



To help direct our time and publishing resources more efficiently, the Tract Council would love your feedback on our magazine. Send your response by **JANUARY 31, 2014**. Thank you!!

Please fill out the Survey and mail to: **Sabbath Recorder**, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547
Or FAX the completed form to: 608-752-7711
Or take the survey ON-LINE at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SRSurvey2014

1. How often do you read your *Sabbath Recorder*?

Every issue Occasionally Seldom

In what format do you read it? Print On-line Both

If you're not reading the *SR* regularly, why?

2. Do you find the articles engaging? Yes No

Any particular issue or theme stand out for you? _____

Which "Department" pages do you read?

Family news Kevin's Korner History Health Women's
Christian Ed Missions Alliance in Ministry Reflections
President's Council on Ministry Beacon Young Adult

3. Have you used the *SR* as a tool for outreach?

Whole issue Single articles On-line features On-line links

If not, why? _____

4. What kind of articles would you like to see in future issues? _____

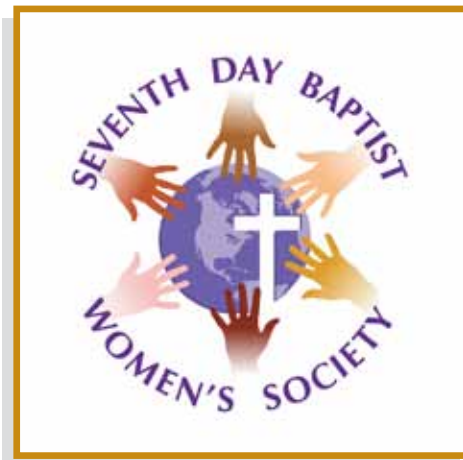
5. Please **RANK from 1 to 6** (1 being most important)

what you see as the *Recorder's* primary purpose:

To build community _____ Read church news _____ Connect to Conference _____
Sabbath education _____ Encouragement _____ Evangelistic outreach _____

6. Would you be willing to pay a modest minimum donation to continue to receive the *SR*?

Yes No



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

Distracted!

Are you addicted to technology?

So many of us are constantly bombarded with phone calls, texts, feed updates, tweets, and whatever other sorts of social media to which we subscribe. As Christians we should be even more conscious of what we say and do on and offline since it might be at the top of someone's newsfeed the next day.

While an off-hand post made by you—or by someone about you—can damage your witness to those who do not yet know the love of Christ, I think there is something even more dangerous that Christians are beginning to fall prey to: becoming consumed by technology.

It's so easy to abuse technology and become addicted, so addicted that you miss what's going on right in front of you. We can view technology as our best friend, and then use it as a substitute for human interaction.

For example, some friends decide to go for dinner. They sit down in their booth, order their food, and eat their meal, but are relatively quiet, despite not having seen each other in some time. They're sitting maybe three feet apart—cell phones out, tweeting, checking updates, responding to texts and emails, looking up the score to a game, checking the news, etc. They might even be texting one another!

This is a pretty extreme example but it happens, much more frequently than you might imagine. How often have you been with friends or family, at work or at church, and dropped everything to answer a non-essential phone call or text?

How many times have you gotten sucked into a computer game, lost track of time, and before you knew it spent several hours online playing when you had other things to do? Of course this is after you told yourself you'd just take "a few minutes" and have a "short break."

“

We can view technology as our best friend, and then use it as a substitute for human interaction.

”

Christians are called to be proof of God's love and grace to this world. Our lives are supposed to be evidence of God reaching across the divide of sin and pulling us to Him.

We, likewise, should be reaching toward others so that they too can experience the love of God. But it's far more likely that we're reaching for our cell phones. We use technology to communicate, but we also use it as a substitute for communicating and interacting with others. In doing so we miss out on opportunities to fulfill Jesus' command to spread His love.

Many people wouldn't notice you answering texts; some might not even consider it rude or out of the ordinary. Being addicted to technology is a part of today's self-centric norm.

But consider what might happen if you turned off your cell phone or computer when you were with other people and really focused on only them—making eye contact and responding to them on a personal level, caring enough about others to put aside distractions and reach out to them. I think people would be pleasantly surprised to see someone hopping off their "cloud" to interact with them. It would certainly be

different and maybe, hopefully, intriguing.

I would like to issue a challenge to you for the coming year. Identify ways that technology might be getting in the way of you personally showing God's love to others and minimize the distractions. If you've already got your technology addiction under control or never had one to begin with, find a new way to share God's love using technology constructively for His purposes. Technology isn't all bad, and it affords many exciting opportunities Christians could be utilizing to spread the truth.

Learn to view technology as the *tool* that it is, rather than as a substitute for interacting with creation. **SR**



Desperation and urgency “under the sun”

The global scene was bristling with danger as world powers waged war. America’s forces were stretched perilously thin, engaged in minor conflicts in many locations. The ideological landscape was rapidly changing as the standard ways of thinking about life, morality, and faith were being regularly challenged.

Technology was changing how the world operated in basic and pervasive ways. Christianity had become stale as some believers had substituted civil religion for genuine faith, and moral decay was widespread. Yet despite this seeming chaos, a new movement of God seemed poised to invigorate the nation once again.

Despite the similarities, I’m not talking about America today—I’m talking about America around 1800.

America was in transition. The smoke was still clearing from the Revolutionary War. The Constitution, passed in 1787, had been ratified in 1789, with the Bill of Rights added in 1791.

After years of unity surrounding the Revolution, the elections of 1796 and 1800—pitting John Adams against Thomas Jefferson—were rancorous and divisive, and partisan sentiment reigned. Meanwhile, the Napoleonic wars in Europe were causing problems for America, as attempts to trade with the combatants yielded reprisals.

Our young nation was growing as settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains. This growth was augmented by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, which led to even further moves westward. The “Great Awakening” of the 1740s brought a renewal of faith and more robust spiritual discussion for a generation, but it had fizzled out, and discontent had set in.

The long-standing philosophical tradition of rationalism was being challenged by David Hume, a British philosopher whose works began the empirical movement. In his *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, published in 1777, Hume challenged the Christian faith by denying the possibility of miracles and other essential elements of the faith that could not be tested or observed with the senses. They were tumultuous and perilous times, and SDBs did not escape the difficulties of them.

In 1801, Henry Clarke returned to his old church in Rhode Island from his new congregation in Brookfield, N.Y., to propose creating a General Conference to help send missionaries to the newly opened West. Within a year, several other congregations had agreed to cooperate in the missionary efforts. It is likely that the realities of the changing times helped to contribute to this proposal, along with Clarke’s own experience on the frontier.

Over the next four decades (40 years—hardly a blip!), SDBs attempted to meet the challenges of the changing world with sincere and empowered faith. These efforts demonstrated a deep sense of urgency. The churches in the East had sent their friends and family into the unknown as the world morphed around them, and they seem to have been desperate to assure that the Gospel went with their loved ones.

Interestingly, the organizational impulses which crystallized in our Boards and Agencies came well *after* the initial attempts to meet the needs of the times in other, more direct and less structured, ways. When something needed to be done, there were far fewer questions about what structure could be employed to achieve it and far more individual responsibility undertaken, both by local churches and the individuals who comprised them.

Without the existence (and excuse) of a devoted organization to achieve necessary ministry, individuals had to step up and fill the gaps, or risk seeing necessary ministry go undone. Two hundred years ago, SDBs choose to fill those gaps.

With this example in mind, as we approach our changing and tumultuous times, we can agree with the book of Ecclesiastes that there is “nothing new under the sun.” Do we have the same sense of desperation and urgency?

Will we take personal responsibility for our ministry, or will we passively point the finger at the organization that is meant to unite, enable, and equip us to do it?

Much depends on **your** answer. **SR**



Seminarian Profile

Seminarian Profile



Name: Philip Lawton

Birthdate and place:

December 1, 1986 Boulder, CO

Family:

Wife: Amanda Lawton

Parents: Gordon and Linda Lawton

Sister: Miriam Berg

Brother: Nathanael Lawton

Education:

Milton (WI) High School

Judson University, Elgin, IL, BS History Education

North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
(2011-2013)

Denver (CO) Seminary Sept. 2013 – present.

I expect to graduate in May 2015

Ministry experience:

SCSC in Boulder, CO (2005), White Cloud, MI (2006)

Pastoral Intern in White Cloud, MI (2010)

Currently working in the Boulder (CO) SDB Church

Other experience:

Student teaching in Fall 2009

Favorite Bible passage:

Currently Philippians 2:6-11

Favorite author:

N.T. Wright

If given a \$10,000 check we would:

Pay off student loans

A great answer to prayer was:

Our ability to get out to Denver. Amanda and I did not know where we were going to stay, how we were

going to get all our stuff out there, and how we were going to pay for it all until two weeks before we moved.

A project I'm excited about:

Currently I am teaching the youth Sabbath School class at Boulder. Working with Tiffany Crowder (who is teaching the college class), we are planning a once-a-month get-together so the two groups can interact and mentoring can happen.

My vision for SDBs:

I would love to see at least TWO Seventh Day Baptist churches in every major metropolitan area. We have been really good at "area" churches where people drive an hour to get to church. Yet we have few churches in cities. I think this may be due in part to the way we have seen ourselves.

We need to be part of the community that we are in. Regional churches work because all the people have the Sabbath in common. However, in places like Chicago, areas 5 miles from each other can be entirely different neighborhoods. We need to create churches that seek to meet the needs of the local people. This means that a church must be made up of those local people. **SR**



Talk about God's news

Host an Evangelism Workshop

Can you talk about the Gospel? I'm not asking if you are prepared to spring the Gospel, like a trap, on an unsuspecting soul. I'm not even asking if you're prepared to look for an excuse to direct any conversation you have toward Jesus. I'm simply asking, "Can you talk about the Gospel?"

In the midst of a Sabbath School class, can you see God's Gospel at work and then tell other Christians what you see? As you sit at a meal with believers, can you talk about how God's Gospel touches your life? If an unbeliever walks up to you and says, "I know you believe in Jesus. What must I do to be saved?" are you ready to help?

The Board of Christian Education has developed a workshop which should let you say "Yes" to all of those questions. It is an evangelism workshop designed to help you "live into" talking about God's Gospel.

The basic idea is that evangelism is talking about God's Good News—whether the listener is inside or outside the Kingdom of God—and that most Christians will be better equipped to talk with non-Christians about the Gospel after they have learned to talk about it with Christians.

The goal of the workshop is to have believers accept a challenge to be transformed by the renewing

of the mind. That is, the workshop challenges believers to know the Gospel, to talk about the Gospel, and to make it part of life.

Because many of our churches have limited time to gather as a whole, this workshop is developed to fit into a typical Sabbath experience. The workshop leader provides a Sabbath School class, a sermon, and a 60-90 minute session following a shared meal. The workshop can be tailored to specific timing needs and can even be delivered in a more traditional 3-hour format.

If your church would like to host this workshop, just contact the Board of Christian Education office. We'll work with you to find a date. **SR**

We also provide other workshops:

Diaconate: This workshop is designed to help a Seventh Day Baptist diaconate understand its role in the local church. The short form (3 hours) provides a summary of findings from the Bible and from history, examines Biblical qualifications for deacons, and explores the breadth of current diaconal roles in our churches. The longer form (6 hours) includes more interactive learning, encourages individuals to find areas where they can grow, and begins a conversation about how the diaconate does and should work in its local congregation. The workshop is suitable for use in a church or diaconate retreat.

Sabbath School: Sabbath School can be a tool which helps support the overall ministry of the church. This workshop is designed to help the church begin asking and answering questions that can lead to using the Sabbath School as an intentional part of the way the church makes disciples.

Muriel Osborn Seminar for Teachers: The goal of this seminar is to encourage teachers, to remind them of what we are doing in Christian Education, and to help them find ways to be more effective. It works. If you haven't hosted the seminar recently, you should really consider hosting it.

Stewardship: One reality of the Christian life is that we are stewards of the king. This workshop explores what that really means and challenges us to identify and tear down the personal kingdoms that are being built alongside God's Kingdom. [While time-management and money-management are important aspects of stewardship, this workshop does not focus on skills particular to those areas of life.]



FOCUS on Missions

Living above High Tide

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org

I was somewhat taken aback when I realized that I was not really sleeping on an island that night. To qualify as an “island,” I believe the ground has to remain generally above the water line even during high tide.

On my visit with Michael Spearl to Putik “Island” in the Philippines, I became aware that this tiny fishing village was merely a collection of houses and a church on stilts in the Pacific Ocean. They are built over a high spot among a few of the actual Philippine Islands.

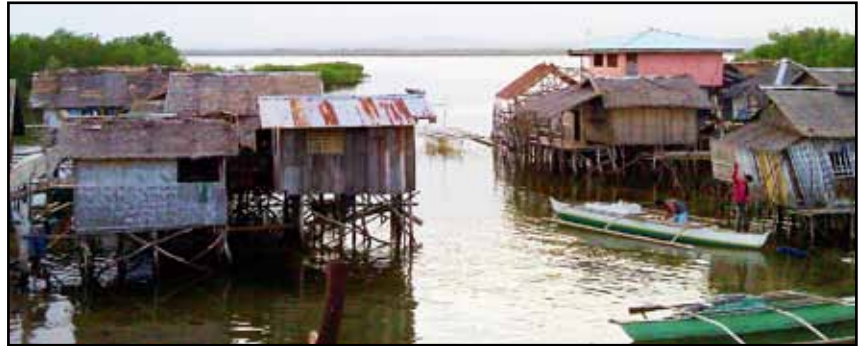
That afternoon, we had slogged into the muddy ground village, greeted by a chorus of children singing Christian praise songs and waving homespun flags to welcome us. By nightfall, however, the ocean reclaimed the dirt yards and pathways, raising fishing boats several feet and submerging the trunks of the surrounding Mangrove trees.

It seemed to me that the precarious existence of living in homes only a few feet above the risen tide would require a mindset of faith. Once the tide comes in, there is no natural surface that you can call “solid ground” anywhere nearby. If a person is not secure in the hut in which they live, the rising tide would be a daily source of anxiety.

Yet while traveling to that village, I met the first of two inspiring people who lived lives of faith despite knowing that their stage of life was nearing a “high tide” that might overwhelm their fragile structures. You see, both were at an age where they knew they were close to probable life expectancy.

Both however, instead of focusing on their own health challenges and trying to find the most comfortable situation for themselves, were dedicated to ministering to the lost and needy in the Philippines. They were committed to wringing out remaining any time and resources that God had provided in their own lives, and blessing their communities to His glory. They were intentionally using the time that remained and the funds they were living on to answer what they felt God was calling them to do.

I don’t know if it is God’s will that each American Seventh Day Baptist on Social Security leave their communities and go to the Philippines to build churches and train disciples. I do know that I need to be attuned



Scenes
from
Putik
Island,
The Phil-
ippines.



to how God has blessed me—in whatever stage of my life—and use those blessings as He leads to bless others to His glory.

The tide is coming in. I can either focus on the rising water, or have faith that the Master Builder built this structure for a purpose and commit it to His purposes... as long as it stands.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.” (Matthew 7:24) SR



the BEACON

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

January 2014

Never alone

by Seth Osborn
Boulder, Colo.

*“The LORD your God is with you,
the mighty warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in His love He will no longer
rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with
singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17)*

Loneliness is an essential emotion to life. While it might not be a pleasant one when compared to its opposite, it is necessary. How can we understand fellowship if we don't know how it feels to be alone? Similar to light and dark or sound and silence, one simply cannot exist without the other.

We would do well, though, to remember that we are never truly alone. Even if we feel that all of our human companions have abandoned us, God is present. He is always here and He always loves and cares for you.

Tuesday, October 22nd. The dark of the morning was still upon us as I drove my sister, her friend, and myself to an early choir rehearsal for a concert that night. We left at 6:40, the latest time I wanted to leave. That would give us five minutes to find a place to park and walk up to the school. I drove fast—not absurdly so, but about five miles per hour over the limit.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw my sister reach over the passenger seat to grab her friend's choir outfit. The red dress started to slip into the space between the two front seats. “Careful,” I said, “you're gonna spill my tea.” The concern was threefold: I didn't want the dress to get covered in tea, I didn't want tea all over my car, and I wanted to drink the tea to soothe my throat. I've had the “good fortune” of getting a sore throat on the day of a choir concert before.



After a split second of making sure the dress would avoid my drink, I looked back up and noticed that I was drifting off the side of the road. I made a sharp left turn to get back on the pavement. Spinning out. We're spinning out.

Cries of “I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!” come from the back seats as my car fishtailed to the right. I spun the steering wheel to the right in an attempt to correct, but that just

caused us to fishtail in the other direction.

I drove into the grass off the side of the road. The car is facing more than 90 degrees away from the direction we were initially going. Silence. Then crying from behind me. Nobody had been injured. Just distressed.

If it hadn't been 6:45 in the morning there would have been more cars. I could have caused a crash. There probably would have been injuries—maybe even fatal ones. Just the day before, many at our school (myself included) had been mourning the death of one of our friends. She had passed away over the weekend. What if I, or worse, my sister and her friend had been piled onto that grief? I trembled the rest of the way to school.

But what struck me most was when I got out of the car. I looked up to the street just in time to see the car that had been behind us drive right past, their speed not even faltering. The school bus that had been in front of us, despite being empty, didn't stop to see if we were okay either. Even if they did worry about the car that spun out and drove off the road, they were in too much of a hurry to check on us. Wherever they were going was more important than making sure I was okay. I felt alone.

But I wasn't. **SR**

Faith goes to school, unarmed

by Nathanael Lawton

Editor's note: With her college graduation preparations, Lauren Telford got behind with her column. This allegory (taken from James 2:14-26) first appeared in the January 2000 SR as part of the short-lived series, "Young Adult Connection."

One day, young Faith went to school without bringing his works in his pack. He looked quite different.

World, Faith's ever-present challenger, approached him on the playground.

"Hey Faith," World prodded, "if that's who you really are. Where are your works? You say you're Faith, but I don't believe you!"

Faith stammered, "I—I—I believe that—that, uh—that—umm..."

"Words!" shot back World. "Is that all you have for me? Prove yourself."

But since Faith had no works with him, he could only walk away, having done nothing for World, for whom Faith had so much hope and love.

When the bell rang, Faith went into the classroom and started to hang up his coat. The teacher said, "That's Faith's coat hanger, little one. You need to use the extra one for visitors."

Then the teacher continued, almost to herself, "I don't think I heard anything about a new student, did I?"

"I *am* Faith," the child said in



Since Faith had no works with him, he could only walk away, having done nothing for World, for whom Faith had so much hope and love.

astonished defense. "See, right around my neck I have this fish. And I know John 3:16. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life—'"

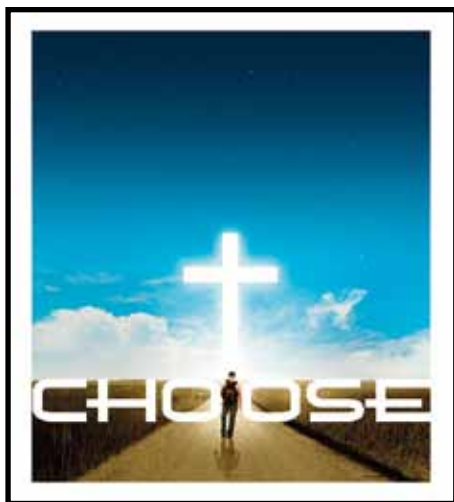
Then Demon spoke up. "Even I know that," and continued the recitation, "For God did not send his son into the world to condemn

the world,' etcetera, etcetera..."

"If you're going to prove yourself," said the teacher, "you'll have to show me some works."

Then Faith turned his head in search of help, and caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror. He was so pale. No wonder no one recognized him.

Without works, Faith was dying. **SR**



St. Paul, MN July 27–Aug. 2, 2014

The President's Page

by Steven James



Choose... to Refuse!

regard. Moses' example challenges us to look at the big picture—the “reward” of being reproached for Christ—more than we look to the “riches” of a selfish life. Are we willing to get “hurt” for the sake of heaven?

As a new year gets underway, perhaps we can learn some pointers from the life of Moses. Let's look at God's Word in Hebrews 11:23-28.

•**Refuse to Fear Man - Choose to Fear God**

Moses was born in a time when a ruthless man wanted all children like Moses to be killed right out of the womb. Moses' parents chose to fear the One Who truly is God over the one who thought he was a god. History was made and a nation changed.

The Bible encourages us to not fear man but to obey God above all else. The effects of our choices will ripple for decades. Are we willing to follow God fully?

•**Refuse Prestige - Choose Poverty**

When Moses connected the dots as to where he came from and God connected the dots for him as to where He would have him go, he chose to let go of what he could have for what he should have. He decided to embrace God's purpose, God's people and God's promise as the core of his life, rather than what Egypt had to offer.

Likewise, Jesus left His Father's throne and became poor that we might be made rich in His grace.

We may be called upon by God to leave our positions for His purposes, even if that results in “poverty” in some way. Are we willing to do this?

•**Refuse Pleasure - Choose Pain**

Following God isn't a walk in the park. To truly follow Jesus means to die to ourselves, take up our cross and walk in His steps.

This is especially true when it comes to sin, which is our desire to put ourselves and our wants above God and what He wants. To refuse ourselves and choose God can be painful at times, but the temporary pleasure or comfort of choosing ourselves first will end up hurting us and others at the last.

The phrase, “no pain - no gain” is very true in this

•**Refuse to Focus - Choose to Forsake**

Moses decided to not put his focus on Pharaoh (his treasures or his threats), choosing to forsake it all to focus on the One Whom he couldn't see.

Before Moses ever left Egypt physically, he left it in his soul and spirit, thus freeing him to fully follow God, no matter what. To follow God involves endurance, as if running a marathon, which necessitates keeping our eyes on the prize: Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

Is your focus on Jesus and whatever His plans for you are? Are you willing to forsake the “Egypt” of your heart and focus fully on God? What you choose to stare at, you will ultimately steer towards. Where are your “eyes” this year?

•**Refuse Our Own Power - Choose God's Passover**

When faced with certain death, Moses refused to trust in his own power for protection. He threw himself upon God's provision—that of the blood of a lamb—to save himself and his family.

The same is true for me and you. We must trust in the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, Whom the Bible calls our “Passover,” for the salvation of our very lives—both here and now and on into eternity. Have you chosen to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

•**The Choice is Yours**

As a result of Moses and his parents choosing to “refuse” on numerous occasions, God's purposes and promises were experienced by God's people. They were able to leave their Egypt behind, pass through huge barriers and ultimately enter into what God had waiting for them.

What is God calling you to choose to refuse in 2014, that you may enter into all that He has waiting for you? What will your choice be? **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

New Position for New Direction

This month's column comes from
General Council Chairman
John Pethel:

In accordance with our Alliance in Ministry, the General Council is pleased to announce the appointment of **Nick Kersten** to the part-time interim position of **New Contact Coordinator** for 2014. Nick's responsibility will still lie mostly in his role as Librarian-Historian (7/8 time), as his new role will be limited to an average of 20 hours a month.

As New Contact Coordinator, Nick will help us respond quickly and efficiently to new contacts. He will work very closely with the Executive Director in categorizing, classifying, and collecting data from all new contacts. This position will primarily be an office-based one and will be evaluated regularly by the Executive Director and the President of the SDB Historical Society.

This interim position is just a small step for us to move forward in how the Conference handles church development. Our hope is to try to be more active in the communication that we have with new groups and potential new groups.

In related news (and as announced at the General Conference sessions in 2013), the General Council

plans to have task forces related to church development starting work in 2014: one related specifically to church planting, and one related to church revitalization.

After hearing feedback from many of our members and spending much time in prayer, we see church development as a major focus of the ministry of SDBs going into the future. This involves the health and revitalization of our existing member churches, as well as the establishment of new Gospel-centered Sabbath-keeping churches throughout North America. This priority has already begun to challenge us to answer the questions of how and why our Conference exists to serve our members and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Many have asked how they can join in this work-in-progress. Let me offer some tangible ways you can participate in what God is doing and will do among SDBs. If you would commit to doing at least one of these things during 2014 it would be greatly appreciated:

1. Pray. Our General Conference earnestly desires the "more preferable future" that He has in store for us. Pray for God's continued work in and through us, and our faithfulness to follow Him where He leads.

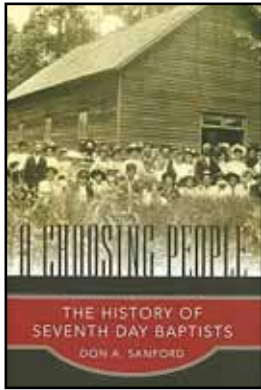
2. Participate. Might God be calling you to use your time and talents in your local church? Might He be calling you to move and use your talents in another church that desires to reach their God-given potential? Are you being challenged to service but don't feel prepared?

3. Pay. If God has blessed you financially, would you consider supporting one of our newer ministries that we believe God will use to help catalyze the spiritual and numerical growth of SDBs? (i.e., Emerging Media, Church Planting Conference, etc.) Your undesignated giving will also help these endeavors.

4. Plan. We need your feedback. Planning includes being sensitive to the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers. Please contact our Executive Director, a member of the General Council, or another executive with what you want us to hear.

The General Council has been encouraged to see what God has in store for SDBs. We earnestly want you to join us in the work that only He can do among and through us.

Never has the future of SDBs been so bright! Seventh Day Baptists are a people with a rich history who desire to impact the present so that a prosperous forever is possible for those who love Jesus. **SR**



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of ***A Choosing
People***, by Don
A. Sanford, for
both Kindle and
Nook. Search
at Amazon
or Barnes &
Noble to get
yours today!

Summer Institute 2014

“Sabbath Theology”

Register www.sdbministry.org,
Oct 1–Jan 15

Online participation:
Feb 2–May 23

On Campus: June 8-13

Robe of Achievement 2014 Nominations

The Robe of Achievement Committee of the Women’s Society is seeking nominations of a woman (member of an SDB Church) who has had an influence or contributed “beyond the limits of her own community and church.”

A complete resume must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities.

The deadline is **March 31, 2014**. If you would like to re-nominate a person you have nominated within the last 2 years, you do NOT have to complete a new resume form. Simply notify Karen Payne (email below) that you wish to re-nominate the person and send any updates.

Submit resumes to:

Karen Payne, 13528 595th Street
Claremont, MN 55924

Or, by email to karen.payne1127@gmail.com
A nomination form is available at SDBWomen.org



“Pro & Con”—Still on sale!! Buy 2 get 1 Free!!

Now’s your chance to stock up on these attractive and convincing tracts. These “Pro & Con” four-panel tracts usually sell for 8 cents each (our cost). For a limited time, when you buy two we’ll add one for free! So if you order **100** tracts for \$8.00, you’ll get **150** for the same price.

Each piece is 3-3/4 x 7 inches with a full-color cover.
(See the May SR for the complete text.)

Contact media@seventhdaybaptist.org and mention the “Buy 2 get 1 Free” special on “Pro & Con.”

We’ll let you know the shipping costs before sending your order.

Listening to God and obeying

by Clayton Pinder

A testimony from the past

Editor's note: A dear servant of the Lord, Clayton Pinder served as our Conference President in 2001, using the theme "Try God." He submitted several good articles for his President's Page that year; this one appeared in March 2001. Clayton's obituary is on page 26 in this issue.



Do you ever hear God talking to you? How do you respond?

In my life, I've learned to listen for Him. The method God uses to communicate varies, but you can be sure it's Him wanting to get your attention and reaction.

I've felt the Lord asking me to do something for Him many times. One instance occurred in the early 1970s, when I was working in Summersville, W.Va. A fellow employee got laid off. He was in management, had a large family, and didn't believe in God.

Several times he talked to me about my faith and asked why I believed. He had been a choir boy when he was younger, but had gotten away from church. He confessed he didn't have faith in God any more. Frankly, he said it even stronger than that.

"I don't believe in God and all that 'stuff,'" he scowled. But he knew I did.

I didn't see my friend for a couple of weeks. Then one day, when I was in a meeting, God spoke to me out of the blue: "Go see your friend." The message was very clear and persistent. After "hearing" nothing but that, I asked to be excused and left to see my friend.

When I arrived at his house, he

said he was expecting me. He had been very depressed. He told me that he had gone out that morning, bought a bottle of wine, and planned to commit suicide.

There he was—unemployed and a disappointment to his family. He

"I don't believe in God and all that 'stuff'" he scowled. But he knew I did.

was probably going to lose his house, and he didn't know what to do. He felt that his life was really messed up.

I told him that God had sent me to see him. We talked a long while, and I finally asked him to *Try God*.

Once again he informed me that he didn't believe in God, but he knew I did. Before I left, I convinced him not to do anything rash. "I'll check on you in the morning," I promised.

Later that night, a miracle happened. The next morning, I got a call from my friend. And *what* a call! The man on the phone was a new person—one who had tried God and found out what He can do.

My friend related that he had knelt by his bed and talked to God.

He told God that he didn't know how to pray, but that he wanted God to save him and help him.

In a very excited voice he told me how a "peace and warmth" had come over him, and that he knew he was safe and protected.

Earlier that morning, his former boss called and assured him that he would receive a paycheck until he got a new job. He told my friend he would give him the money to go home to be with his family, and would even help him sell his house. "Don't worry about your house," he said.

Here's the important point: If you try God and put your trust in Him, and let Him lead you, you will receive salvation and His blessing. **SR**



Clayton Pinder

BCE to move toward merging with Conference

*by Andrew Camenga
BCE Executive*

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education has adopted a resolution to move toward merging with the SDB General Conference as soon as is practical.

The Board of Directors met October 25-27, 2013, for a retreat at Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, N.Y. Our meetings began with a time of prayer on Friday night and concluded with a group picture just before noon on Sunday. In between we worshipped together, ate together, slept in the bunk rooms, and considered the overall ministry of the Board of Christian Education, our relationship to the General Conference, and budget planning for 2015.

We dedicated considerable time to making a decision about whether this ministry should remain an independent corporation or should merge with the General Conference. The end result of the discussion was a clear decision to move toward merging with the Conference. We have communicated this decision with the General Council and General Conference office.

The following text is based on that communication:

In 2010, the General Conference adopted recommendations from an Ad Hoc Committee on Denominational Reorganization. Two years later, this action was confirmed by Conference action—adopting bylaw changes that implemented the recommendations.

One of the Ad Hoc recommendations directly addressed the Board of Christian Education:

That... the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education ...



Christian Ed Directors at the retreat. Front (l. to r.): Joshua Michaels, Paul Andries, George Lawson and Kory Geske. Back: Andrew Camenga, Omari Rhoden, Sandy Layton, Dawn Palmiter, Charlotte Chroniger, Peggy Chroniger, Tim Bancroft and Allen Hauber.

We dedicated considerable time to making a decision about whether we should remain an independent corporation or should merge with the General Conference. The end result was a clear decision to move toward merging.

legally merge with the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

Over this last year, our Board of Directors has gathered information, diligently prayed, and struggled with determining together God's guidance in our response to the recommendation from General Conference.

On October 25-27, 2013, our directors adopted the following: Resolved, that the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc. will move toward merging with the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd., as soon as is practical.

The directors have appointed Andrew Camenga, Paul Andries, Nathanael Lawton, and Allen Hauber as a committee to oversee the merger process for the Board of Christian Education. We look forward to working with the General Council of the General Conference to move toward implementing this decision as quickly as is possible. It is our hope to minimize the time spent in an uncertain organizational structure in order to provide all involved the opportunity to devote more attention to tasks that are specifically ministry oriented. **SR**

Obituaries

Sayre.—Margaret “Peg” (Brown) Sayre, 101, died at the Milton, Wis., Senior Center on July 12, 2013.

Peg was born on March 28, 1912, the third child of Linn Henry Brown and Maggie May (Hakes) Brown. She grew up in Rodger’s Park in Chicago, Ill. Peg graduated from Senn High School in Chicago, and graduated from Milton College in 1934. She was active in athletics and Shakespeare plays during college.

She was married to Walter R. Sayre in her Chicago home on September 8, 1934. They returned to Milton to live where Walter owned the Blackhawk Garage (later named Sayre Motors) and also raised mink as a business venture. Walt and Peg later owned the Sayre Bus Company in Milton. Peg was a bookkeeper for the family businesses.

She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. Always interested in the activities and politics in Milton, she served as President of the Women’s Village Improvement Club in 1949. An avid golfer, Peg continued to play until she was 93, shooting in the 60’s. They wintered in Texas, where she had a hole-in-one at age 77.

After retirement, Peg became a quilter and volunteered at the Gathering Place in Milton, helping with quilting projects until age 98. She and Walt traveled extensively for 16 years in their private plane with other airplane enthusiasts to various destinations in Mexico and Central America, as well as across the United States.

Peg was preceded in death by her husband, Walter, in 1995. She was the loving mother of Laura Sayre Hamann of Hummelstown, Pa., and John Sayre of Tomahawk, Wis. She is also survived by six grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held on

August 5, 2013, at the Milton SDB Church with Rev. Herb Saunders officiating.

Barber.—Doris Lenore Goodrich Barber, 96, passed away on October 30, 2013 at her home in Garden City, Kan. She was born on May 29, 1917 in North Loup, Neb., to Clifford John and Eva May (Pierce) Goodrich.

After graduating high school at North Loup, she married Dell Claude Barber on July 20, 1935 at Scottsbluff, Neb. He preceded her in death in 1999. She lived most of her adult life in Colorado Springs, Colo., and worked as a baker in the YWCA Cafeteria, a cook at the Ponderosa Southern Baptist Assembly Grounds, and in the accounting department for Preferred Risk Insurance Company. She moved to Garden City in 2012. She enjoyed genealogy, history, writing and traveling.

Doris was a member of the SpringsLife Seventh Day Baptist Church of Colorado Springs, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution—Kinnikinnik Chapter of Colorado Springs, and the Colo. State Historical Society.

She was preceded in death by her husband; son, Theron Duane Barber; grandson, Kenneth James Watts; great-grandson, Derrick Clayton Andrews; two brothers, Paul Goodrich and Charles Goodrich, and two sisters, Dorothy Stanghellini and Ersel Jorgensen.

She is survived by three daughters, Carley Avon Hazelton of Garden City, Kan.; Bonnie Bee Watts of Tullahoma, Tenn.; Dixie Rae Boyer of Rush, Colo.; a son, Charles Leon Barber of Colorado Springs; a brother, Ronald Goodrich of Pueblo, Colo.; two sisters, Frances Van Horn of North Loup, Neb., and Beverly Stillman of Albuquerque,

Births

Owen.—A son, Micah Paul, was born to Jeremiah and Sarah (Keating) Owen of Canyon Country, CA on October 24, 2013.

Owen.—A daughter, Marlowe Faith, was born to Phillip and Heather Owen of Castaic, CA on November 5, 2013.

Killingbeck.—A daughter, Avah Grace, was born to Caleb and Jenna (Wethington) Killingbeck of Reed City, MI on November 22, 2013.

N.M.; 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on November 6, 2013 at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home in Colorado Springs with Pastor Carley Hazelton officiating. Burial was at Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Wheeler.—Charles Raymond Wheeler, 94, of Nortonville, Kan., passed away on November 25, 2013 at Heartland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, Mo.

Charles was born on June 25, 1919 in Nortonville, to Earnest R. and Marie Edna (Lugibihl) Wheeler. He was an Independent Milk Hauler in Kansas City for 30 years. On June 20, 1942, Charles married Reba Elizabeth Kenyon and together they made their home on the Wheeler farm, until they moved into Nortonville in 1968.

He served on the Nortonville City Council for 18 years, carried Meals on Wheels, delivered surplus food for the government, and served as a Nortonville Voluntary Fireman. Charles was a life member of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist

cont. next page

Obituaries, cont. from page 25

Church, serving as a Deacon, Trustee, and was church Treasurer for 71 years. Charles also was caretaker of the church property and lawn for 25 years.

Charles was preceded in death by his sister, Louise Sullivan; brother, Merlin Wheeler; and three infant sisters.

Charles is survived by his wife, Reba, to whom he had been married for 71 years. (See next obituary.) Additional survivors include sons Kent and Sam of Atchison, Kan.; daughter, Mavice Stapp of Omaha, Neb.; six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews; and two brothers, Rev. Edgar Wheeler of Westerly, R.I., and Dr. Robert Wheeler of Weiser, Idaho.

Funeral services were held on November 30, at the Becker-Dyer-Stanton Funeral Home, Atchison, with Dr. Kenneth Smith and Chaplain Cliff Bond officiating. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Wheeler.—Reba Wheeler, 93, of Nortonville, Kan., passed away on December 7, 2013 at the Village Villa in Nortonville.

Reba was born February 7, 1920 in Nortonville, the daughter of Orla and Essie (Van Horn) Kenyon. She graduated from Nortonville High School in 1938 and enrolled in Atchison County Community High School where she took Normal Training. She taught at the Sugar Bowl School, west of Nortonville.

Reba and Charles R. Wheeler were married at sunset at the Orla Kenyon farm home on June 20, 1942. They set up housekeeping on the Wheeler farm and moved to Nortonville in 1968. They were married for 71 years.

She was a lifelong member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, sang in the choir, taught Sabbath School and was active in the Ladies Missionary

Society. Reba assisted in organizing the Christian Endeavor meetings for the church's youth group. For many years she wrote and assisted in publishing the church's "Messenger" newsletter.

Reba had many talents and loved flowers. She had numerous Iris beds—as many as 100 at a time—and knew the names of all the varieties. She also enjoyed quilting and embroidery work. Reba was a foster parent and loved hosting family dinners.

Reba was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; sister, Orlene Mitchell and Kathryn Niemann. She is survived by sons Kent and Sam Wheeler, both of Atchison, Kan.; daughter, Mavice Stapp, Omaha, Neb.; six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on December 11, 2013 at the O'Trimble Funeral Home in Nortonville. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Pinder.—Clayton Edward Pinder, 84, passed away December 9, 2013 at his home in DeLand, Fla.

Mr. Pinder was a Certified Public Accountant and professor at Salem College in Salem, W.Va. He was a veteran, serving in the Army Signal Corps during the Korean War. After graduating from St. Lawrence University, he attended Wharton School of Business where he received his MBA.

On April 18, 1954, Clayton married Leora Sholtz. They would be celebrating 60 years on their next wedding anniversary. He was employed by Atlas Powder in Wilmington, Del.; American Viscose in Nitro, W.Va.; FMC in Philadelphia, Pa.; Bright of America in Summersville, W.Va.; and Salem (W.Va.) College, as well as owner of a private CPA practice in Salem.

He enjoyed refinishing antiques and collecting coins, stamps, and miniature elephants. He was a member of the CPA Society of West Virginia where Clayton and Leora lived for over 40 years before moving to DeLand in 2005.

Clayton was a member of Seventh Day Baptist churches in Marlboro, N.J.; Lost Creek, W.Va.; and Daytona Beach, Fla. Helping others was a high priority which he did by working in many different ways through his church and denomination. Clayton was a lay pastor at Crites Mountain Church in West Virginia, president of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in 2001, treasurer for Camp Joy and the Daytona Beach church, member and past chairman of COSAR, financial auditor for the SDB office, and active in prison ministry at Tomoka Correctional Institute.

Clayton is survived by his wife Leora; son, Edward D. Pinder of Ft. Worth, Texas; daughters, Carol L. Swanson of Grand Island, Neb., Susan J. Fox of Columbus, Ohio, and Lisa J. Benson of Jupiter, Fla.; a twin brother, Carlton Pinder of DeLand; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on December 14 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Daytona Beach. Many people's lives have been touched by Clayton Pinder and he will be missed. **SR**

Death Notices

William W. "Bill" Thompson, 94, of Coudersport, PA died December 4, 2013.

Yvonne Louise (Swanson) Stephan, 73, of Rensselaer, NY, passed away on December 11, 2013.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

From generic to specific

I've shared this story locally at Christmastime, but I believe the main message goes beyond the season. The characters are real; the situation was not.

The week before Christmas vacation, it was time to exchange gifts at our 5th grade class! The girls had picked other girl names, the guys got other guy names.

Mrs. Murphy started reading off the gift tags, "ladies first" of course. *Finally*, Mrs. Murphy said, "All right, boys—are you ready?" Were we *ready*?!

"David Havener. Francis McDonough." "Danny..." —and she paused, because it

could be Danny Deal, Danny Vollmer or Danny English. It was Danny Deal.

"Norman Houck." (*Oh, yeah! That was 'MY guy' that Mom and I shopped for.*)

This went on and on for what seemed like forever. Then Mrs. Murphy said, "Kevin..."

I started to get up and began rehearsing in my mind, "Thank you, thank you very much..."

"...Dardano."

Kevin Dardano? Kevin **DARDANO**??? Oh man, he lives out in the country in that huge house, and his Dad runs the Rexall Pharmacy in town—he doesn't need any present!! So frustrated!

She read a few more names, and then there were **NO MORE** gifts under the tree.

"Did everybody get something?" Mrs. Murphy asked.

I raised my hand slowly. "Um, Mrs. Murphy, I didn't get one." Apparently my giver was either sick or he forgot.

"Oh, Kevin," she paused. "Up behind my desk, there's a present for you wrapped in blue paper."

Now *that's* more like it, I thought. *Excuse me, but I've got a special present behind the teacher's desk. It must be SO BIG that it can't fit under the tree! Make way for the special recipient of... of... a VERY SMALL blue box.*

There must be some mistake here. This can't possibly be for... And then I read the nametag on the gift: "Boy."



As everyone else was unwrapping their gifts given specifically to them, I unwrapped a six-inch ruler (from the local pharmacy) and a Bozo the Clown pencil eraser.

Christmas—the REAL Christmas— goes beyond "Generic."

Christmas—the arrival of Jesus—happened at a specific time for a specific reason.

God the Father sent his specific Son into this specific world to a specific couple who would go to a specific barn for the baby to be placed in a specific manger.

Angels told specific shepherds on a specific hillside to go to a specific village to worship a specific baby who would be the light of the world.

Some specific wise men followed specific prophecies and brought specific gifts to a specific house for a specific future King.

"God so loved the world..." can sound pretty generic. But if you make it specific, it can change your life. Forever.

"For God so loved... Kevin Butler." (And even Kevin Dardano. He was a good guy.)

"For God so loved [your name], that He gave his [SPECIFIC] Son, that if [your name] believes in Him, [you] will not perish, but [you] will have eternal life."

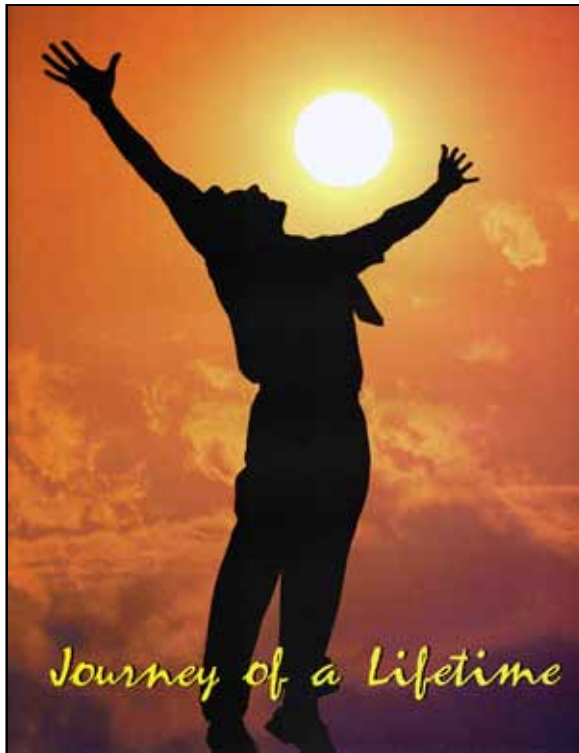
The brightest Light of the World, Jesus, was very special. He needs to be singled out and remembered.

Christmas is way more than a generic holiday. God gave Jesus for you, and you, and you, and each one of you!

May YOU be a beacon of love and light for someone special and specific this year!



Share the Journey



If you enjoy religious allegories, you'll enjoy reading our full-color special issue "Journey of a Lifetime." And after you read it, how about sharing the story with neighbors and friends?

To receive copies of this special outreach issue, contact us at the **Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547**. Our phone number is 608-752-5055, and our e-mail is media@seventhdaybaptist.org.

Individual copies are free. We will need to add shipping charges for larger quantities. Please contact us for those costs.

We pray that the Lord will bless this story of our beliefs, and many others will join us on our "Journey of a Lifetime."