



*The many  
faces of  
Grief*



## 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](mailto:sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Missionary Society Office, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway, R.I., on Sunday, March 16, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

–To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

–To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013.

–To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

–To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2014, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—*Kathy Hughes, Secretary*

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Oh yeah, and we're still on

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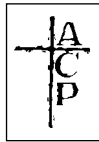


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# Party Crasher

## Party Crasher

by Renee Sanford  
Milton, Wis.



May 16, 2013. Doug would have been 61 on that day. We'd have been married over 30 years.

The day wore on and on. And no one called.

No one posted on Facebook about Doug. My self-talk moved from encouraging, to resigned, to weary, to full-blown out-of-control self-pity.



Doesn't anyone remember?  
Oh, of course they do. They're just busy. Be patient.  
I could call someone. No. No!  
They should call me. I'll just wait.

Someone will think of him.  
Someone will think of me.  
Lots of people care.  
Well, if they care so much, they would remember.  
Couldn't someone remember me, just once? Just once.  
Damn it, why do I always cry when I'm emotional?  
No one cares. No one remembers. I'm alone in the world. And I always will be.  
Nobody cares.  
Nobody understands.  
Nobody ever will.

As the darkness swirled around and within me, I suddenly became aware of the clear sweet voice and presence of the Holy Spirit.



*Beloved?*  
Lord?

*Yes, Beloved. I have a question for you. Why didn't you invite me to your pity party?*

Um... well...

I thought you'd tell me to get a grip and stop feeling sorry for myself?  
I didn't want you to see me like this? I'm ashamed.  
I didn't think you'd want to come.

*Beloved, I always want to be with you. I'll always come. You never need to be ashamed with me. And I already know how you feel.*

I guess you do. Thank you for coming. I should have invited you. *Well, your day would have gone better if you had. Now there's a bit of a problem we have to clear up. Do you realize you have another "guest" here? The Father of Lies. He jumped at the opportunity to come to your pity party and whisper lies to you. And you chose to listen. How about you stop listening to his lies and un-invite him. Now.*

Yes, Lord. Lying spirit, be gone, in Jesus' name.

With that simple request, the long litany of self-pitying lies stopped. The air was cleared and "nobody loves me" stopped.

But still I ached. I still longed to just sit and talk about Doug with someone, anyone, who remembered.



Lord, I don't know what to do. Forgive me for wallowing in self-pity. And for listening to lies instead of turning to your truth.

*You are forgiven, my friend.*

*That's better, isn't it? Now,  
what's the problem?*

And so I poured out my loneliness and the longing to remember.



It's Doug's birthday and no one remembers. Well, no one seems to remember. I just want to reminisce with someone and there isn't anyone. There isn't anyone who remembers and has the time or inclination to sit with me.

*Shhhh. Shhhh. Don't invite  
the lies back. I will reminisce  
with you.*

You?

*Yes, me. I created, Doug. I  
love him. I delight in him. I  
remember more than you  
can possibly imagine.*

Do you remember his crazy haircuts? The perm? The pony tail? The buzz cut? The rat-tail?

*Oh, yes, beloved! And I  
remember his first haircut  
as a toddler, too. I remember  
every hair. I remember how  
thick his hair was as a young  
man and how wispy his hair  
got from the chemo.*

Do you remember how he loved fireworks? We'd argue about it every year. We'd get out last year's leftovers and I'd say we had enough and he'd say we needed more. Then he'd always go out and spend way too much and I'd get prickly. We'd light off fireworks for the whole neighborhood, with buckets of water for the sizzling dead sparklers. Someone would always get burnt and he always had a bandage in

his pocket. At the end of the night we'd have more fireworks than we started with. And he'd look sheepish and I'd say, guess it's just like last year. And he'd say, "Probably be the same next year."

*I remember! I remember  
every sparkler, and every  
smile on every child's face.  
He loved fireworks. I love  
that sheepish grin of his.*

*I remember when he met  
you and realized you were  
my gift to him. He'd given up  
on finding a partner and he  
found you. I remember how  
he shared the Good News  
with you and brought you  
into the family of God.*

*I remember the joy when I  
joined you two together and  
how your daughter left half-  
way through the wedding  
because she thought it was  
time to go to Sabbath School.  
You found her playing quietly  
in the nursery, remember?*

I remember! Thank you, Lord, for giving us to each other. And for giving my daughter such a loving father. I can never thank you enough for all the blessings.

Do you remember how he loved to make popovers?

*I remember! I remember how  
he drove you crazy with his  
food phases. How he'd eat the  
same thing three times a day  
for a week. How he'd eat all  
the meat out of the stew you  
were planning for three meals.*

You remember that? You remember how angry I was?

*I remember. And it's time  
you forgave him for that,  
you know. I've forgiven you  
for much greater things.*

Doug, I forgive you for taking more than your fair share of the good parts of the stew. And I'm sorry for all the anger and resentment I've been harboring. Lord, forgive me for being so insistent on getting my fair share and for not finding a better way to handle it.

*You are forgiven, dear one.*

Do you remember his 56 shirt? Oh my. It was old when we met. With holes everywhere. It got more and more ragged but he wouldn't throw it out. His clothes when we

*cont. next page*



## Party Crasher, *cont.*

first met, I remember those too. What a relief when I found out he was color-blind—I thought he just had bad taste!

*Remember what you did for him? Getting everything in navy, gray and maroon so he could never get it wrong? The first time he realized you loved him?*

No, no I missed that.

*The first time he knew you loved him was when he came to visit and found you had put little white dots on the checkers so he could tell the red pieces from the black ones without squinting. He knew that day.*

I never knew that. I wish he'd been able to tell me.

Do you remember the year it was so cold that Doug disconnected the car batteries each night and brought them inside to keep warm and then reinstalled them in the morning?

*I remember. I remember how you would put his clothes in the dryer in the morning so he would be extra warm before going out in the cold.*

*Do you remember how much laughter there was in your home? Remember being so poor the first year you were married that you wrapped up the groceries and put them under the Christmas tree?*

Yes! That started a family tradition that still continues – of crazy practical gifts like scouring pads, and batteries and paper towels. Thank you for making us a family.

*Remember the day you pushed Doug to write his first worship service? He never would have put himself forward. He glorified me for twenty years with those beautiful services of praise. You both did well.*

I wish I hadn't shut him out. I have so many regrets, Lord. We were cruel to each other.

*Yes you were. You hardened your hearts and missed a lot of joy. But that's over now. Don't dwell on it. He isn't. I'm not. Remember the praise and the glory.*

Do you remember us studying your Word together where Jesus says

that we should forgive each other not seven times but seventy times seven (Matt. 18:22)? And how Doug and I did the math and concluded that 490 times wasn't nearly enough. Given our rocky relationship we'd need a LOT more than that. We thought of using  $70^7$ , but that was only 8,235,430,000,000. Probably not enough, we said. So we finally agreed to forgive each other  $7^{70}$  times, which is 143,503,601,609,868,434,285,603,076,356,671,071,740,077,383,739,246,066,639,249 times. Do you remember how on really annoying days I'd tell Doug I was deducting another 1,000,000 from the total? Somehow it made us laugh and made me feel better. And it didn't make a dent in

## What God Has Joined

by Renee Sanford



**I thought we would grow old together**

**You and I,**

**I thought we'd recapture the joy of our first love together,  
That the decades of acrimony and alienation would yield  
a gentle peace.**

**I thought that we'd get that miracle at least**

**Out of our stubborn commitment to keep on keeping on  
Against the pain, against the odds.**

**I thought there would be a light at the end of the tunnel  
of self-inflicted torment.**

**A soft light where we'd walk hand in hand on aching  
joints into our sunset.**

the total. I still have that number written down on my desk top.

*I remember. It's actually a pretty good picture of my infinite mercy. It gave me joy to see you two laughing together.*

I wish we'd done that more.

*So do I.*



I don't know how long we reminisced together—an hour or more at least.

He brought to my mind incidents and details I had forgotten. Big memories like the birth of our children. Small memories like picking dandelions and playing rock/paper/scissors to decide who cleaned the cat pan.

He helped me recall things to be

thankful for and things to repent of. We shared joys and sorrows, laughter and tears. He comforted me and opened my eyes to a new way to spend time with Him.

It had never occurred to me that the creator of the universe, the creator of Doug, the creator of me, would like to remember Doug with me. I had poured out my grief and regret to Him before. He had comforted me and dried my tears before. But this was different.

This was just the two of us, remembering someone we both loved, someone who had brought us joy and pain. Someone we both want to spend eternity with.

It was a sweet time, a beautiful time. No one can remember our loved ones like the Lord. He loves them so much.

He delights in His creation. He delights in them. He wants us to remember them. And, as astonishing as it seems, He wants to spend time with us remembering them.

I asked Kevin if I could write this for the *Recorder* because I thought others who are grieving, who miss someone, might be helped by my experience and consider inviting the Lord to a “remembrance party.” He will come.



Lord? Thank you for coming and changing my party from pity to praise. Thank you for meeting my need before I even had words for it.

*I love you, dear heart.*

I love you, too. **SR**

**Not this. Not this.  
I never thought of this.  
I never thought of empty silent spaces,  
one light, one cup, one heart  
One alone in the half-dark struggling  
to capture emotion in words.  
I never thought one could stay coupled  
Still one, season after season after  
season  
Without you, with you, without you,  
with you  
I never thought.  
I never thought.  
Oh God, I never thought.**

*(Written on our 31st wedding anniversary,  
five years after Doug died.)*

I am so thankful that God included Jeremiah's writings in Scripture. Jeremiah knew the Lord, knew His plans, knew His plans were ultimately for good. Yet he cried out in grief and anguish. Jeremiah's misery—and the passion with which he shared it—helps me come to terms with my loneliness and grief, even as I see the mighty hand of God's goodness in my life, using my widowhood for His glory and ministry. I can grieve and worship Him. I can weep and praise Him.

I miss my beloved intensely and live joyfully. God understands.

—RS

# Tributes to Pastor Joe Samuels

*Rev. Joe A. Samuels of the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church, touched many lives and ministries all over the world. He passed away on December 24, 2013.*

*As we await the details of his storied life for next month's issue, we present these remembrances that were shared at his homegoing service in January.*

My pastor and my friend. The one who has meant so much to me and my family. He immersed me in baptism at the age of 15; performed my marriage ceremony; christened my three children; performed the marriage ceremonies of two of my children; and christened three of my five grandchildren. What legacy and attachment to this wonderful man of God. A pastor who taught me from a young age to walk in the way of the Lord without fear or compromise. I will miss my pastor. I will miss my friend. Rest in peace, Pastor Joe. You have done well here on earth. — **Joy Fuller**

Rev. Joe A. Samuels assumed pastoral duties at the NYC SDB Church at a critical period in our church's history. We were in great need of a spiritual Shepherd when "Pastor Joe" stepped in to minister to the flock until a resident pastor could be found. His brief tenure with us was exemplified by zeal for ministry, his deep love for the Sabbath, and his belief in excellent homiletics. Indeed, he will be long remembered for his well prepared and inspiring sermons.

Rev. Joe A. Samuels was a great visionary who not only conceptualized, but implemented as well. As a result he developed a training program to produce dynamic leaders who would not only serve their local churches, but who would also go on to become change agents. He envisioned a vibrant future for the SDB denomination with both spiritual and numeric growth, and he worked tirelessly to achieve that through his leadership training program, hosted at the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church.

One SDB giant has been called to join the Lord in higher service, and we know his works will follow him. We honor his legacy and mourn his passing, and extend our sincere condolences to

his widow Joyce, children, family members, and the Brethren at the Plainfield Church.

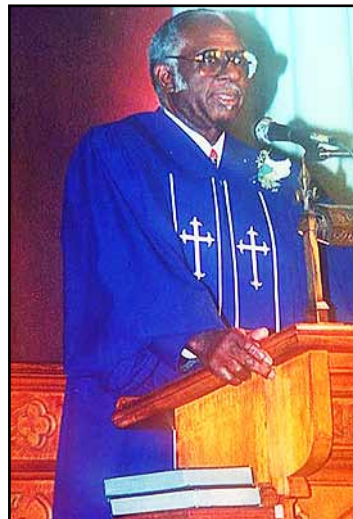
—**The New York City SDB Church**

## Tears from Africa

Every time we met across the endless ocean  
We found a humble symbol of our global mission  
Every time Joe Samuels visited us in Malawi  
We saw a man whose life was a mirror of wisdom  
Every time we sat before this mirror  
of service and wisdom  
We quietly, inwardly longed to be him  
on the best of our days  
Every time we talked, conversed,  
shared and communed  
We met someone who knew how to listen  
to our soul  
Every time we think of his departed soul in tears  
We deeply yearn to meet him again across  
the other ocean.

He was a friend,  
a brother, and our  
minister too  
No tongue can reach  
the depth of loss  
in our heart  
No words can speak  
the depth of loss  
in our soul  
May the wings of  
his spirit fly beyond  
our memories.

—**Bright Molande**  
Chairman of the  
Board of Trustees,  
Central African  
Conference **SR**



*Pastor Joe A. Samuels*



# Pastor Joe's Vision for the SDB Conference

*Pastor Joe Samuels passed from this earth on December 24, 2013.*

*When Pastor Joe began his year as Conference President in August 1989, we decided to run his Conference theme introduction as two President Pages that fall. I present them here as a testament to Joe's heart and vision for all Seventh Day Baptists.—Editor*



## The Preamble to a Vision

Seventh Day Baptists, I think we have a real opportunity here. In a society that is fraught with racial disunity, with moral and spiritual bankruptcy, with materialistic and atheistic bigotry, let us hold high the torch of ecclesiastical freedom and justice.

Let us rise to the challenge and demonstrate true agape love to all men and women, boys and girls who are washed in Jesus' blood and are saved by his marvelous grace. If God has accepted us all into His royal family, then we must embrace each other as sisters and brothers, whatever may be our social, cultural, or ethnic background.

The time has come for us to cast aside the meaningless rhetoric and begin to seriously and actively practice genuine acceptance and fellowship with one another in our churches, in our homes, in our community, and throughout the Conference.

We can do it, and by God's grace we will. The trickle of true agape fellowship might have begun some time ago. Now it begins to gush forth like a mighty rushing stream.

As your President, I come to you with a Vision of what I believe Almighty God wants for Seventh Day Baptists to accomplish in the not too distant months and years ahead. It is a Vision of all Seventh Day Baptists—whatever shade or color, rank or station, learned or unlearned, rich or poor—working together in unity of purpose and spirit.

When this begins to happen, Seventh Day Baptists all across this nation will then experience an unprecedented outpouring of the Spirit of God, resulting in a great spiritual revival like we have never known before. Was not our unity the very desire and heartbeat of Jesus, expressed in that agonizing prayer just prior to his going to the cross? I quote from John 17:21: "that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us."

A cry on his dying bed, so to speak, for a genuine unity of his disciples. Jesus did not regard disunity as a distinctive of which to be proud. It was a concern heavy on his heart up to his dying hour.

Disunity in our ranks is lethal to the advancement of Christ's kingdom here on earth. It is counter-productive to effective evangelism. Note the last part of verse 21: "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me." For what purpose was Jesus sent to the world? "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me." For what purpose was Jesus sent to the world? "I am come that they may have life and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Do you now understand that

unity among God's people is an imperative to revival and church growth? Could this be a significant reason for the lack of numerical and spiritual growth we so desire?

I am deeply convicted of the urgency for Seventh Day Baptists in my generation to respond to Jesus' heartcry for unity and togetherness. I have a longing and yearning for an unprecedented expansion of our denomination. I bring you this Vision.

If the future of our denomination is to reflect a vastly higher degree of success in reaching our generation for Christ, and the observance of the Sabbath, it is going to take at least three things on our part according to his Vision. What are they?

- 1) Our **collective sharing** of this Vision of togetherness.
- 2) A **determined effort** on the part of most, if not all of us, to prayerfully repent of our self-worship, and make the goal of Jesus Christ—the salvation of the world—our goal, too.
- 3) We must make a **conscious commitment to cooperate** with each other, as leaders and executives, as boards and agencies, churches and associations, and as members of the family of God.

This Vision I bring to you is one to stir your pure minds. It is one that requires some very hard things to be said, and extremely painful to listen to; but even much harder to listen to positively, indeed, it may even be considered impossible by some. But we must not forget that our

*cont. next page*

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God is a God of the impossible! The Apostle Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ”—and so can we.

### The Vision

I ask myself that very important and humiliating question, “Who am I?” The Lord replied, “Just a voice I picked up from the gutter of Kingston, Jamaica, washed it clean in the precious blood of My dear Son, sanctified it that I may send it to My people, Seventh Day Baptists, with a Vision of My will for them in the closing decade of this 2000 years.”

***“If God has accepted us all into His royal family, then we must embrace each other as sisters and brothers, whatever may be our social, cultural, or ethnic background.”***

Seventh Day Baptists, that’s my only credential; no rank, no station, just a voice in these closing years; a voice with a Vision from the Lord to you. Believe me, that is all the credentials I really need. We can respond to the challenge of the Vision, or we can ignore it and continue our perennial wanderings in the wilderness of frustration and despair.

I firmly believe that by the grace of God we can respond positively to the challenge of this Vision. There-

fore, I have chosen as our Conference theme: “**All One In Christ—Let’s Practice It**” from Galatians 3:28.

I think as we enter the year of “MORE 2000,” it is fitting that we be challenged to join together in what could very well be the last leg of the “Gospel Race,” and our final opportunity to bring in the harvest of souls that the Lord has so patiently reserved for Seventh Day Baptists over the past decades.

As we develop this theme through the year, I hope to share with you in much greater detail the areas in which we need to more actively demonstrate our togetherness as a people of God.

The following is an outline of my Vision of Unity and Togetherness. In our—

- 1. Relationships** among people
  - a) Between multiracial and multi-cultural fellowships
  - b) Between denominational boards and agencies
  - c) Between our administrators and executives
- 2. Resources** with which God has blessed us for ministry
  - a) Resource materials: In Christian Ed.; video; literature and music; Sabbath School materials
  - b) Men/Women who have valuable skills in experience, professions and leadership
  - c) Money with which to support joint projects (national and local); ministry for outreach; greater visibility
  - d) Our love (agape love) especially among our SDB family

- 3. Recognition and Utilization** of gifts for Ministry  
In this video age, we need to make available to the public:
  - a) Messages on various topics by

SDB Ministers

- b) Doctrinal Bible studies by SDB Ministers and others
- c) SDB worship services
- d) Seminar Presentations for:
  - Sabbath School officers (Church or Association level)
  - Church officers
  - Women’s Society
  - Youth Fellowships

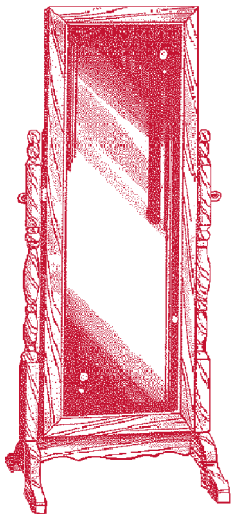
None of the above presentations or views will necessarily reflect the complete views and beliefs of all SDBs. But it will be the views and beliefs of a Seventh Day Baptist who is recognized to be gifted of God in a particular area of ministry, and who is currently engaged or was once engaged in that area of ministry for Seventh Day Baptists.

- 4. Response and cooperation** as encouragement/appreciation
  - a) In significant SDB programs and projects
  - b) The use of resource materials
  - c) In constructive criticisms and suggestions

We as individuals in the churches must provide constructive feedback—to our leaders, our workers, our heads of boards and agencies—of our approval or disapproval of, our satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the resource materials they produce for us, or the projects and policies they ask us to support.

They truly need our response which shows our appreciation or our concerns. Two-way communication is very vital in the development of a climate of unity and togetherness.

I am looking forward to being in your churches, at your Association meetings and in your homes. God bless you all. And please remember, we are “**All One In Christ—Let’s Practice It!**” **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*

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## "Gesundheit!" part 2

Last month, I wrote about how we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God. Even something as outwardly simple as a sneeze involves many complex actions and several parts of the human body.

Although I stated that a sneeze can leave our body at 100 mph, I recently learned that a sneeze can actually travel 300 miles an hour or faster. The 40,000 infectious droplets from a sneeze can have "a spray radius" of about five feet. Even though much of this spray comes out of our nose, we tend to sneeze with our mouth at least partially open. Thus, a considerable amount of these droplets are also emitted from our mouths.

As mentioned earlier, the Greek word for sneeze is "pneuma," which means "soul" or "spirit."

Many people automatically say, "Bless you" or "Gesundheit" when someone sneezes. However, no one says anything similar when people cough, blow their nose, or burp. Why do sneezes get special treatment, and what do those phrases actually mean? Here's some additional information not mentioned last month:

Many historians believe the practice of blessing a sneeze dates back to 77 AD. However, Pope Gregory I—also known as "Saint Gregory the Great"—is often cited for transforming that custom into an actual blessing.

Gregory, the first monk to become Pope, was born in Rome in 540 and became Pope in 590 after a year of floods and plague. [His predecessor, Pope Pelagius II, died of the plague.]

As the bubonic plague closed in on Rome, people thought sneezing was an early symptom. Pope Gregory called for litanies, processions, and unceasing prayer, asking for God's help and intercession against the disease. Columns of believers walked through the streets chanting, "Kyrie Eleison"—Greek for "Lord have mercy."

When a person sneezed, they were immediately blessed ("God bless you!") in the hope the disease wouldn't kill them. Some historians noted that "prayer apparently worked, judging by how quickly the plague of 590 AD diminished."

Other researchers point out that the Romans said, "Jupiter preserve you," when someone sneezed. They also said, "Salve," which meant, "Good health to you." The Greeks would wish each other "Long life."

The German term, "Gesundheit"—which literally means, "Health"—was prompted by the idea that a sneeze typically precedes illness. German-speaking immigrants to the U.S. brought the word into the English language early in the 20th Century.

Virtually every country around the globe has its own way of wishing sneezers well. People in Arabic countries say, "Alhamdulillah," which means, "Praise be to God." Hindus say, "Live!" or "Live well!"

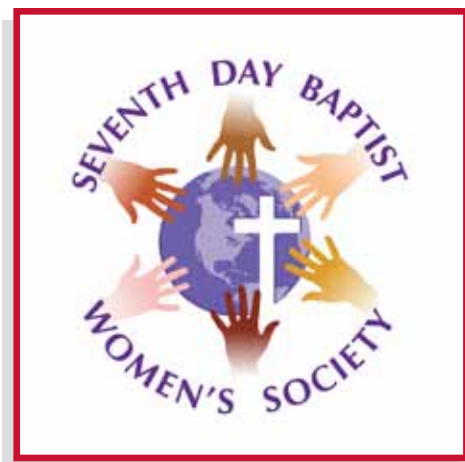
Some countries have special responses for sneezing children. In Russia, the traditional response is, "Bud zdorov" ("Be healthy"), followed by, "Rosti bolshoi," which means, "Grow big." When children sneeze in China, they will hear, "Bai sui"—"May you live 100 years."

Along with all the negative beliefs regarding sneezing (such as, it can open your body to evil spirit invasions or throw your soul out of your body) sneezing does have positive aspects. Many people used to believe it was a sign that God would answer their prayers. Nowadays, some people still believe sneezing is an omen of good fortune, or that a sneeze before breakfast is a sign that exciting news will arrive by day's end.

In today's society, many people simply say, "Bless you," instead of, "God bless you." Because of religious differences, this is viewed as more "politically correct." You aren't distinguishing who is doing the blessing.

By the way, iguanas are the "sneeziest" animals. It's how they rid their bodies of certain salts while digesting. "Gesundheit" and long life to you! **SR**





Women's Society page by Katrina Goodrich  
[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)

## Stepping out— with options

by Nadine Lawton

Journey with me! Spend time with me! How many times does the Lord ask someone in the Bible to do just that? He asked Abraham to take a journey of faith, more than once! The Israelites took a 40-year journey through the wilderness. And Jesus asked twelve men to take the journey of a lifetime.

At Conference in Colorado Springs last summer, the Women's Interest Committee asked me to continue on a journey for five more years. That journey is coordinating the "Stepping Out in Faith" fundraiser to increase the Dorotha Shettel Fund.

The Dorotha Shettel Fund was started to help our young adults—those who minister through Summer Christian Service Corps and Stained Glass—with expenses for Pre-Con and Conference. In past years some SCSCSers have had to return home after evaluation, because they could not afford to stay for Pre-Con and Conference. It is difficult for those young servants to go home and miss this capstone experience.

The last two years of Stepping Out in Faith, we asked you to keep track of your steps that you take during Lent and get pledges to raise the funds for our project. However, in the spirit of the summer projects and our individual journeys with the Lord which are all different, instead of asking you to lace up your shoes and logging your steps or mileage, this year let the Lord lead you as to where He wants you to take a step of faith.

Perhaps He will challenge you to read more books during this time. Or volunteer hours helping others. Maybe He wants you to complete that goal you set as a New Year's resolution and this is your second chance to meet that goal!

I'll pledge \$1 for every 15 minutes I spend de-cluttering. If you are a Sabbath School teacher, you might offer to donate a dollar for every Scripture Memorization verse your students memorize! Or maybe the Lord just wants you to make a donation to the Dorotha Shettel Fund.

Before His earthly ministry began, Jesus took 40 days to spend time with His Father, to prepare for that ministry. He took other time out during His three years on earth to spend time with the Father and be refreshed for that journey.

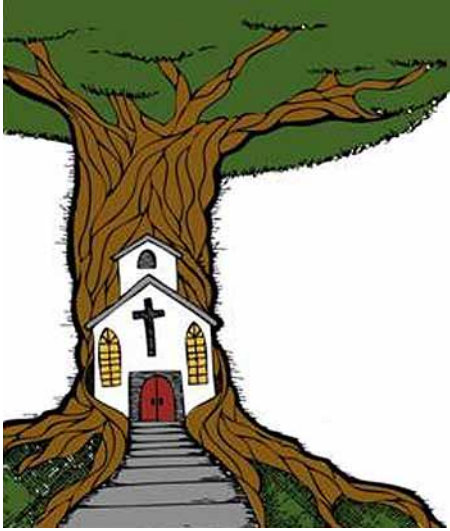
As in previous years, our journey will be during the Lenten season, which represents Jesus' time in the wilderness. This year it will be March 5 through April 20. Before we step out on this journey of faith, please spend time with the Father to find out what kind of journey He wants you to take.

The Women's Board has agreed to match our efforts up to \$2,000! Should we limit ourselves (or God) to that number? Can we raise enough so that the matching amount would make the total \$10,000? I know my God is big enough to help us step out in faith to reach the goal that He has in mind for this fundraiser.

More information and fundraising forms will be posted on the "Stepping Out in Faith" event page on Facebook. A mailing will also be sent to each of the churches, so if you are not a computer person who wants to participate, ask your pastor to pass the information on to you. Please send donations for the **Dorotha Shettel Fund** to the Women's Board at the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 53547-1678. Donations may be sent at any time.

Let's show our young adults that we support their willingness to faithfully step out of their comfort zone as they serve the Lord through the summer. "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8b) **SR**





# Registration for the “Be Witnesses” Church Planting Conference

Sponsored by the SDB Allegheny Association  
Monday, April 28 at 7:00 pm — Sabbath, May 3 at 5:00 pm

Cost: **\$75 per person**  
Location: **Camp Harley Sutton**  
**1 Camp Harley Road**  
**Alfred Station NY 14803**

Accommodations will be provided at the Camp. If you need transportation to Alfred Station, please fill in your arrival details.  
*You may also register on-line at <http://bewitnesses.ezregister.com>*

**Our GOAL** is to address the motivational barriers that have held Seventh Day Baptists back from their scriptural calling to plant healthy, Gospel-defined Seventh Day Baptist churches.

**Our HOPE** is to move the participants from the general question of “What should or might we be doing?” to answering the deeper questions of “What is God calling our specific congregation to do in our location?” and “How can we begin to participate in this God-inspired work now?”

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bedding** If driving, we ask that you bring your own bedding and towels. If flying (or if this is not possible) we can provide them  
 Yes, I will bring my own bedding / towels.  
 No, I cannot bring linens; please provide them.

**Meals** Food will be provided by the Allegheny Association. Any food allergies of which we should be aware?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Travel Plans

- I will be driving
- I will be flying into Rochester, NY
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Any restrictions on the types of food you may eat or choose to eat (i.e., vegetarian, etc)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Transportation Request

- I do not require transportation to Alfred Station
- Please provide transportation to Alfred Station

Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date / time \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COST** is \$75 per person. Make checks payable to:  
**“Allegheny Association of SDB Churches”**

- Payment of \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- I will pay at the Conference

*Please fill out and send this form to:*  
**Church Planting Conference**  
**Alfred Station SDB Church**  
**PO Box 7777**  
**Alfred Station NY 14803**



## A ‘Westerly’ by any other name

As promised in this space several months ago, this column (and more in following issues) will be devoted to help clear up common misconceptions and errors in Seventh Day Baptist history.

This month’s misconceptions surround the oldest surviving Seventh Day Baptist congregation in North America: the First Hopkinton congregation in Rhode Island. A number of errors spring from the many names given to this congregation and our other congregations in Rhode Island. To clarify, I will give a series of facts, and then try to clarify what those facts mean.

### First, the facts

The Newport, Rhode Island church was started in 1671. By 1680, members of that congregation had moved to the “Westerly” part of Rhode Island and constructed a second meetinghouse while remaining members at Newport.

In 1708, the group meeting in western Rhode Island requested to be recognized and set apart as an independent congregation. That request was granted. This western congregation was known both as First Hopkinton (the name of the congregation) and Westerly (for where it met).

In 1747, the area of southwest Rhode Island which had been called the town of Westerly was split into four smaller towns: Westerly, Hopkinton, Richmond, and Charlestown. As a result of the split, the First Hopkinton congregation was no longer located in the town of Westerly, but in the town of Hopkinton. Old habits die hard, though, and the congregation continued to be called “Westerly” for nearly a century.

Between 1770 and 1840, three more large congregations grew out of First Hopkinton, and sprawled out over the towns of Hopkinton and Westerly. The first of these groups began to meet in 1771 in Rockville—in the town of Hopkinton—and was comprised of members from First Hopkinton. In time, this group would construct their own meetinghouse (called “the Upper meetinghouse”) and keep their own record books, while at the same time retaining their membership at First Hopkinton.

Another group began to meet in Hopkinton City, town of Hopkinton. These two groups were set apart from First Hopkinton in 1835. The group in Rockville became known as “Third Hopkinton,” and the group in Hopkinton City became known as “Second Hopkinton.”

In 1840, the Pawcatuck SDB Church began with members from First Hopkinton who were meeting in the city of Westerly (town of Westerly). To avoid confusion (too late?) with First Hopkinton (still called the “Westerly” church by many), the group in the town of Westerly named their church for the river that ran through the city instead—“Pawcatuck.”

### And to clarify...

Now we will try to clarify these facts, to shed light on the common errors made as well.

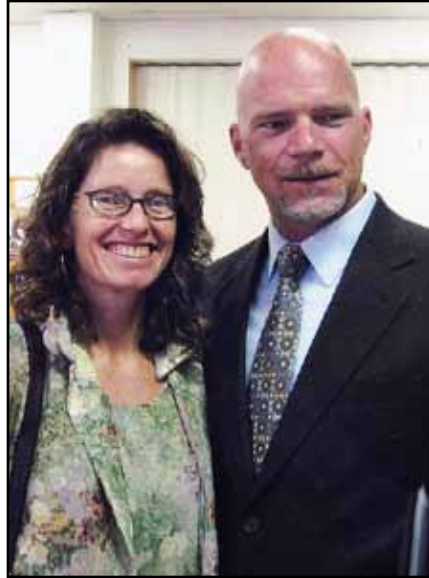
- Prior to 1708, researchers looking for SDB church membership in the “Westerly” part of Rhode Island must look to the records of the Newport church, as the two groups were considered a single congregation.
- When a person or record book refers to the “Westerly” SDB church, we must know *when* the reference is made before we can know which church they are referring to. From 1708 to about 1840, it is likely that they are really speaking about the “First Hopkinton” church, which is not presently located in the town of Westerly. *After* 1840, they are likely referring to the “Pawcatuck” church, which is located in the town of Westerly.
- When a person or book refers to the First Hopkinton church between 1771 and 1835, we must know which meeting of that congregation they are referring to—the “Lower meetinghouse” (Ashaway), or the “Upper meetinghouse” (Rockville)—as the two groups did keep separate records even though they were considered a single congregation.

Hopefully, these facts help to dispel confusion about these Rhode Island churches. For more information on this topic (as well as a map where you can virtually look at the meetinghouses), please visit the Historical Society’s website at [www.sdbhistory.org](http://www.sdbhistory.org). **SR**



# Seminarian Profile

## Seminarian Profile



**Name:** Keith McCall

**Birthdate and place:**

September 14, 1967 Titusville, FL

**Family:**

Wife: Joanne McCall

Sons: Keith McCall II (24), Alek Templin (19)

**Education:**

New Smyrna Beach [FL] High School (1985)

BS in Vocational Ed. at University of  
Central Florida (2003)

Columbia [SC] International University (Sem-  
inary) – began August 2012

I expect to graduate in May 2020

**Ministry experience:**

Youth Pastor of SDB Daytona Beach, FL  
(2003–2008)

Pastor of SDB Edgewater, FL (March 2008 –  
present)

**Other experience:**

Master Electrician – Electrical Contractor

**Favorite Bible passage:**

Psalm 51:10-13

**Favorite author:**

Hard to commit to a favorite. I appreciate differ-  
ent authors for different reasons. Would it be  
cheating to say, “God”??

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

Probably give it to SDB Edgewater Building Fund  
and/or Deep South Camp Building Fund. Actually,  
maybe pay off my truck first (about \$3K). It really  
depends on who gave it to me and why.

**A great answer to prayer was:**

My wonderful wife. No doubt an answer to a  
specific prayer.

**A project I’m excited about:**

The South Atlantic Association has started a build-  
ing fund for Deep South Camp. We are currently  
looking for property.

**My vision for SDBs:**

To be the light of the world wherever we may go,  
living out our faith as dedicated disciples and  
ambassadors for Christ. I want us to speak the  
truth of God’s Word in love, seek out and share  
our faith with the lost, be approachable to seek-  
ers, and proclaim and glorify the name of Jesus  
Christ until His return. **SR**



## A new member workbook is now available

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education is pleased to let you know that a template for a Church Membership Workbook is available for download from our website—

<http://7db.info/template>.

How does someone join your church? Is there a clear process? Could you explain it? Does your church have something in writing that will help someone exploring membership know what it means to be a member?

For some Seventh Day Baptist churches, the answer to this last question is a resounding “Yes.” For others, it’s more like, “We’ve thought about it, but haven’t done anything yet.” Every now and then, a church has called the BCE office looking for a place to start—and that is what this template provides.

The workbook that we offer was developed for use in the Next Step SDB Church of Thornton, Colo., by the Rev. Rodney Henry. The book was adapted for use in the Foothill Community Church of Montrose, Calif., and then further transformed in order to provide a more easily adapted workbook for churches across the Conference.

The workbook is about 23 pages long and contains these 10 major sections:

### **Steps to Membership:**

This section will typically include a bulleted list of steps in the process for joining the church.

### **Covenant:**

This section will include the local church covenant and provides a brief explanation for how the covenant shows we are built up together in Christ’s love.

### **Statement of Belief:**

This section lists the Statement of Belief from the General Conference. It can be easily replaced with the Statement of Faith of your local congregation.

### **Vision / Mission:**

A place to present and describe the vision and/or mission statements of your church. This section can be easily deleted if your church has chosen not to develop this kind of statement.

### **A Christian Church:**

A Biblical explanation of what the Church is.

### **A Baptist Church:**

An expansion of the last section exploring distinctives that are shared by many Baptist organizations.

### **A Seventh Day Baptist Church:**

A further expansion, exploring how and why local congregations choose to associate with other like-minded SDB churches.

### **Church Membership:**

A brief answer to the question, “Why do churches have membership?” It also explores what is required for membership.

### **Membership—Belonging or Participation:**

A more in-depth exploration of what membership really means.

### **Membership Checklist:**

A place to help the person seeking membership keep track of where they are in the membership process.

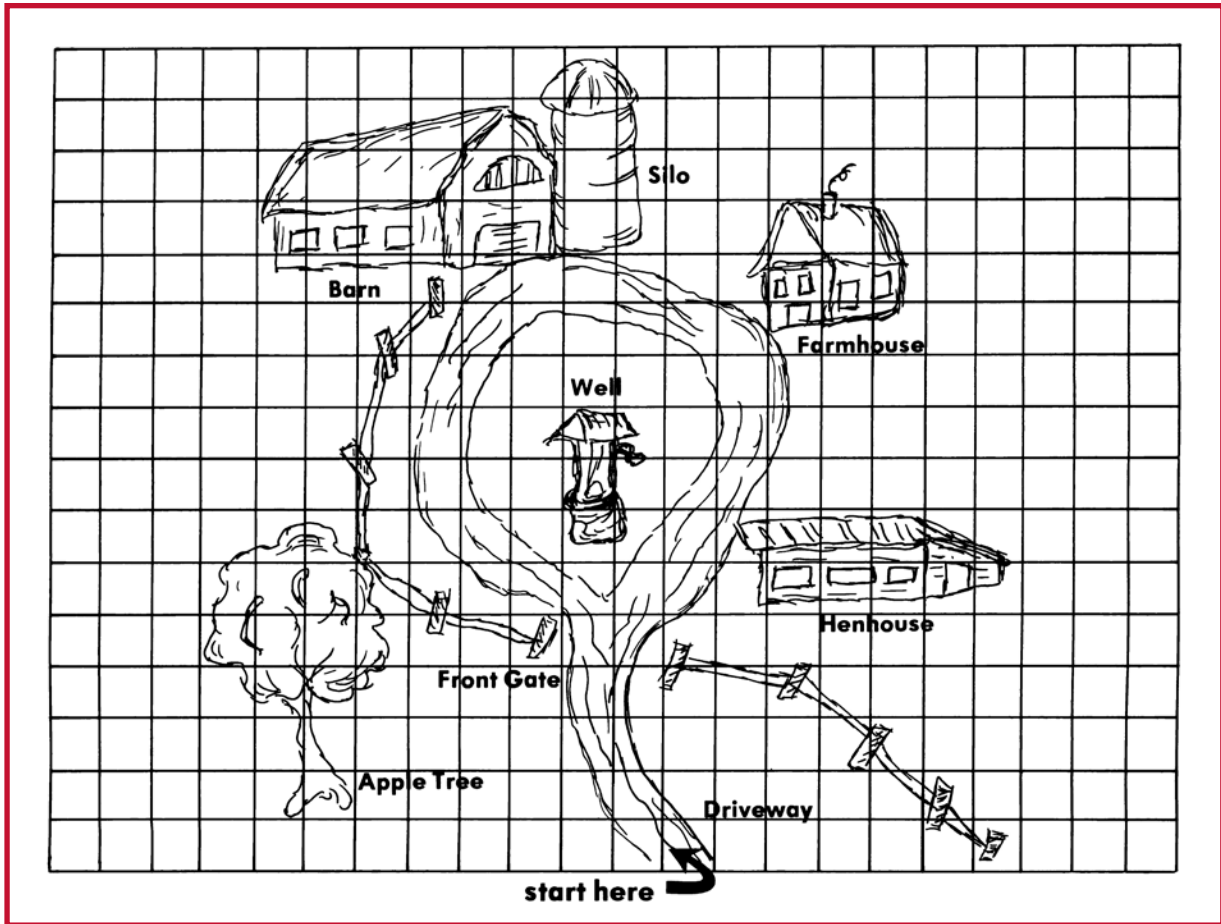
The template is easy to download and modify. You should be able to open it in your word processor and start making the needed changes.

For those with a more technical bent: the template is a MS Word (.doc) file. It uses standard fonts (Arial, Times New Roman), and styles are defined for every element in the book. The phrase “replace with” is used for every spot where local changes are needed. **SR**



# Grandpa Homer's Special Place

Artwork and text based on *The Sabbath Visitor*, August 1983, by Larry Graffius.



Grandpa Homer told Susan and Andy that there was a very special place where they could always go and find a special friend. They could always tell him their problems or just share happy times together. This friend would always be there to listen.

Here is the map of Grandpa's farm and directions to discover the mystery place. Can you help Susan and Andy find the place Grandpa was telling about?

Each block is one step. Start at the arrow on the driveway at the bottom of the picture. Use a crayon or marker to trace your path. **SR**

**The directions:**

- Go—
- 9 steps up
  - 4 steps right
  - 3 steps up
  - 4 steps left
  - 3 steps up
  - 3 steps left
  - 3 steps down
  - 4 steps left
  - 3 steps down
  - 4 steps right
  - 9 steps down
  - 3 steps right

**The answer:**

By following the directions given, the path forms the shape of the cross — reminding us that God is always there for us.



# the BEACON

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

February 2014

## The “L” word

by Elianna Chroniger  
Alfred Station, N.Y.

In February, you’ll start to hear lots of people using it. That’s right, the “L” word is love.

People nowadays use this word as much as they use the word “like.” Let me tell you—it’s, like, a lot of, like, times.

The word “love” doesn’t seem to hold much meaning anymore. People “love” a girlfriend or boyfriend of two days. They “love” that new purse or those new shoes. The deep sense of the word “love” is gone. It fascinates me that some people “love” anything and anyone they meet, as soon as they see them.

I think our problem is that we only have one word to encompass so many levels of feeling. This is where the Greeks got it right. People need different words for the different kinds of love.

We need a word to express the love of a brother or sister, like the word “Phileo” in Greek. We need another word to express the love between a man and woman, like the word “Eros.”

We also need a word to describe the unconditional love of a parent for a child, or the love of our Heavenly Father for us. This is my favorite word. The word is “Agape.”

Defined, Agape means loving, even when the person you love does not love you back. That’s *incredible* to think about. I can’t even imagine

someone who can handle that. I guess that’s probably because the people I know aren’t superheroes, and they do get upset like everyone does.

However there is always one person (without human emotions to get in His way) Who loves you so

You'll  
Love  
This

much that He doesn’t care if you love Him back. As you face struggles and question God, or just don’t see why something challenging could happen, He still loves you! God won’t get mad at you for being friends with another girl. He doesn’t stop speaking to you because you ignore Him. He is al-

ways there to listen to you, even if all you want to do is yell.

He won’t interrupt you or tell you that you’re wrong. He won’t be anything other than loving, even when you think you don’t deserve it.

Our Heavenly Father is so great. He is always there to love us. The Agape love He shows us may be hard for us to wrap our minds around, but that doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist. Remember that today. Remember that, even if you aren’t a scholar and you just can’t grasp God’s love for you—He still loves you!

Think about God’s Agape for you, and try to extend the same courtesy to someone else. Someone who isn’t your husband, wife, or child. Step outside of your comfort zone and show someone who has never really known God how it feels to be loved even when they screw up.

Show them that they don’t have to understand God either. He loves anyone and everyone. Black, White, Asian, male, female, or any other stereotype—God loves us all with the unfailing Agape love that we don’t deserve.

Remember the different meanings of love. Every time you hear someone say “I love you,” wonder if they know about the Agape love of Christ. Share it with them. Be one of the few human beings who come close to showing complete Agape love. **SR**

# Fully Rely On God

by Benny Uhlich



Nearly two years ago I left my parents' house in my home state of Washington and moved far away to Ohio. It was one of the scariest things I'd ever done, but also the most exciting.

I had saved some money from my previous job before I moved, and had a job interview set up in Ohio. I went through a very nice interview and was offered the position, but I turned it down after I prayed seriously about it. This was very hard for me because I had no income, no permanent place to stay, and only knew a few people.

Very quickly, I found a place to live with a complete stranger who became a really close friend. Things were looking up... as long as I could pay rent.

Then I got a job, but was laid off after only two months. I had no clue what to do, and at this point, no job meant no money to pay rent. My roommate and I moved into a different apartment after living in our house for six months together. We ended up moving into a three-bedroom apartment with seven of us living in there. That meant a lot less money for rent, and our new

landlord set up a rent payment plan for when I actually had the money. Everything was working so well that I even got engaged, and then six months later, married.

During our engagement we decided to move away from Ohio and try something new. Two weeks after our wedding, we drove back to my original home of Kent, Washington, and moved into my parents' house. This was not where I wanted to be with my new wife, but we needed to prepare ourselves. We've been married for a year now, and we are still living with my folks.

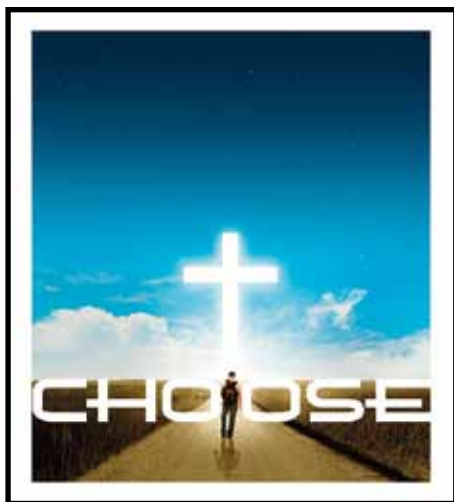
While this might have been a great story, I did learn something through all this. When I moved away, I didn't have everything set for my survival, but I trusted that

God would take care of me—and He did. When I was looking for an income, God took care of me with a patient landlord and family members helping me with groceries.

Now that we've moved in with my parents, we've been looking for our own place. It hasn't happened yet, but God is still taking care of us. We both have good jobs, and wonderful parents who have allowed us to stay with them for the last year and for as long as we need.

God has promised to take care of His children, and He does. I always heard that God would protect me, but I have finally learned and found out for myself.

"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."  
(1 Chronicles 16:11) **SR**



St. Paul, MN July 27–Aug. 2, 2014

## ***The President's Page***

by Steven James



# Choose... to Fuse!

One of the most blessed dynamics of church life is to connect together.

The apostle Paul, the man whom God used to write or impact most of the New Testament, admitted the need to be connected with others.

In Romans 1, he shares his heart with the believers in a very transparent way in declaring how he felt about them and needed them, and that he looked forward (in verse 12) to the encouragement they would give him, through their “mutual faith.”

This phrase, “mutual faith” could be literally translated “one-another faith.”

The Christian life was never meant to be lived in isolation. Over 120 times, we are commanded in Scripture to “one another” each other: love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, forgive one another, be patient with one another, watch over one another, etc.

Let’s look at a few this month.

### **Love One Another**

Jesus challenges us to love each other (John 13:34-35). He didn’t leave it up to us to determine what that love should “look” like or what its level of expression should be, however. He said that we are to love each other “as He loved us.” That’s the bar He set. We need His grace to love like that!

Love is the ultimate virtue to be clothed with, as it ties all of the other virtues together (Colossians 3:14). It covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).

Of all of the life-changing “forces” that we are to possess—faith in our Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, hope in His second coming, and love for one another—love is the greatest of the three.

If we do not love each other, we are not truly Christians nor God’s children, as Jesus said that all would know that we are His disciples by our love (John 13:35) and John writes that love proves that we truly have “life” (1 John 3:10-24; 4:7-16)

So let’s choose to fuse by “one anothering” each other with love!

### **Watch Over One Another**

Many of the “old” Baptist covenants contain words that convey how we should “watch over one another for good,” taken from Hebrews 10:24 – “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

To “consider one another” means to give each other more than a casual thought or glance. It means to intentionally and intensely pay attention to each other. And when combined with the “love” dynamic covered above, we should do this out of love and care.

It is also written in Hebrews 10:24 that we are to “provoke” one another, or literally, to “stir each other up, spur each other on, agitate each other for” living a life of love and good works (or a changed life).

In order to “one another” each other, you and I have to have “an other” in our lives and be “an other” in the lives of others. Who is an “other” who adds significance to your life? What other lives around you are you yourself adding significance to?

The next verse shares what I believe is one of the greatest, built-in dynamics of church life that affords the most readily available means of watching over each other: that of assembling together as a church family. Truly for us as followers of Christ, assembly is required!

It is said in our history as SDBs, that the early churches had a very passionate watch care over each other, so much so that if one was absent from assembling, others in the assembly (not just the pastor, by the way) would take on a “shepherd’s” role and seek out the missing sheep to make sure all was well in their lives.

So will we, as this new year continues to unfold, choose to fuse? We’ve only explored two of many “one another each other” directives in God’s Word. Let’s tackle these, and explore others, as we continue to explore the choices we’re making as a Conference, as churches, and as God’s children! **SR**



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Anybody need a “Do-Over”?

I have a confession. I like the movie “*Groundhog Day*.” In fact, I have even used this movie backdrop for our chapel time at the SDB Center on a Wednesday morning.

“*Groundhog Day*” debuted 20 years ago and starred Bill Murray as “Phil,” and Andie MacDowell as “Rita.” The plot is about a self-centered meteorologist named Phil Connors and his news producer Rita, who work for a Pittsburgh television station. They travel to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania on February 1 to cover the annual Groundhog Day festivities on the morning of February 2.

However, Phil doesn’t like the assignment or the people of the town, and begrudgingly gives his report on the festivities. He then quickly gets his team on the road back to Pittsburgh only to have a freak blizzard come in and shut down the highway. They are forced to return to Punxsutawney and stay another night.

When Phil wakes up the next day, he hears the same disc jockeys talking over the same song (“*I Got You Babe*” by Sonny & Cher) on the clock radio. Phil later discovers that it is not the 3rd of February, but rather, he is living February 2nd all over again! For many times following this event, Phil becomes aware that he is reliving Ground-

hog Day over and over again.

However, only Phil realizes this is occurring. At first he is confused and misuses this discovery in negative ways. But eventually Phil decides that he can make a positive difference through this experience, finally makes the right choices, and moves on to see the morning of February 3rd.

Do you remember as a kid calling for a “Do-Over”? Like getting an extra strike when batting so you’re not out, or taking another basketball shot at the free throw line. Or, how about making a mistake with an Etch-A-Sketch, then simply turning it upside down and shaking it to make the mistake go away and starting over?

Even today, kids and adults can take an extra turn at a video game, just because they know that this time they will get the sequence perfect, and be able to move on to the next level.

It seems like more and more people are looking for a “Do-Over.” Even in amateur golf, they have a thing called a “mulligan,” which is just a fancy word for a do-over.

So why does it seem so important to be able to have a Do-Over? It’s probably because we don’t always make the best choices the first time, and we’re looking for an out. But unlike the movie *Groundhog Day*,

we can’t get a whole new day to replace the one we messed up in. Or can we?

Although we can’t start a new day, God has provided us a way to start over.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*”

Those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for their old life is gone and a new life has begun!

In Philippians 3:12-14 Paul writes, “*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*”

We are to keep working toward the day when we will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved us for and wants us to be!

So, do you need a Do-Over in your spiritual life and in your personal life? Do you need to recommit to Christ? If you do, you have that opportunity! Maybe today is your “Groundhog Day.” **SR**

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.

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**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](mailto:karen.payne1127@gmail.com)  
A nomination form is available at [SDBWomen.org](http://SDBWomen.org)



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(See the May SR for the complete text.)

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# FOCUS on Missions

## Kinships renewed in Korea

by Clinton R. Brown  
sdbmissions.org

I did not plan on going to South Korea. I wanted to go, but our contacts there had just started actively communicating with us again, so they were six months to a year on the waiting list for a visit.

I was scheduled to go to the Philippines in November (with Pastor Michael Pearl from Bradenton, Fla.), and our Board had already authorized a visit to the Andhra Pradesh SDB Conference in India. Though anxious to receive us, Korea would just have to wait.

That is, until our best connection leaving India included a two-hour layover in Seoul, Korea. Extending that layover for a day would allow us to sit for a few hours with the Koreans and give us a chance to get to know each other a little bit better.

To our surprise, because of a problem with the Indian embassy, we were *not* going to be able to go to Andhra Pradesh. This freed up our plans and allowed a last-minute flight correction putting us in Korea for nearly a week. Looking back, it seemed we were supposed to go to Korea all along.

The Korean reception was gracious, friendly, and welcoming. They shared their food, families, history and lives with us. At first, I had believed this was a new group of Sabbath keepers, just discovering us and wanting to affiliate. But soon I was introduced to Jin Sung Kim, an honored, older leader of the group.

After bowing then shaking my hand, Jin Sung Kim sat down and pulled out a thick portfolio of documents and pictures. With it he took me through a history of relationships with the U.S. and Canada Conference, the World Federation,

*S. Korean SDB  
Jin Sung Kim  
(r.) with Clint  
Brown in 2013.*



2013



1974

*Jin Sung Kim  
(r.) with Leon  
Lawton (back  
row) in 1974.*

and the Missionary Society spanning 50 years. There were letters of encouragement from the then *Sabbath Recorder* editor, Leon Maltby, as early as 1963. Documents of a global SDB ambassadorial tour in 1974 (including Leon Lawton) were produced.

Then their photographs confirmed baptisms, Korean SDB churches, and even some level of attendance at a 1996 SDB World Federation gathering. Brother Kim's daughter was standing next to Gabriel Bejjani, representing to them, South Korea's participation.

Their desire to validate the long-standing relationship was matched only by their drive to move forward in ministry together. They are eager to make plans for the future and see God raised up through Korean SDBs in cooperation with our global family of Sabbathkeeping believers. We confirmed that their leaders' beliefs and polity are in agreement with those generally held by Seventh Day Baptists around the world, and their



*Two future SDBs?*

congregation confirmed for us that those leaders were the ones God had called to pastor their congregations.

They are putting together documents in their own language—a Constitution, Statement of Belief, and Covenant—as well as making plans for regional and global ministry, while seeking God's will for them in these endeavors. May we pray for the renewal of this old SDB ministry focused on new opportunities to impact the region to God's glory. **SR**

# SDB researcher gets honor

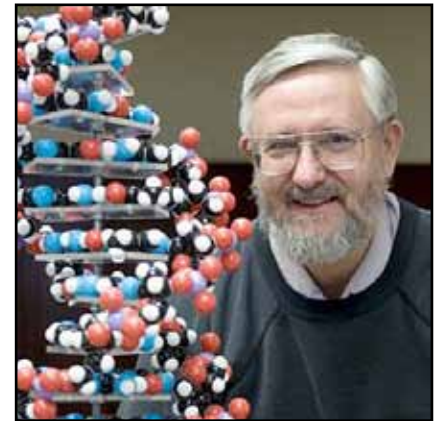
*Editor's note: Here's a special news item that seemed to slip "under the radar" for well over a year. Dr. Bernie Yurke, husband of Pastor Jeanne Yurke, received a well-deserved recognition in 2012. This is from the Boise (Idaho) State University website:*

Bernard Yurke has been named a Distinguished Research Fellow at Boise State for his unprecedented work in nanoscale science and technology research. Yurke has made

a wide range of contributions to science in multiple disciplines over the years, including the development of new technologies for fabricating devices using DNA as a nanoscale building material.

The rank of Distinguished Research Fellow is the most prestigious academic appointment Boise State can bestow upon its research faculty.

"Not only is Dr. Yurke an accomplished researcher, he is an inspiring role model and mentor to all levels



news.boisestate.edu

Dr. Bernard Yurke

## "Little" is relative

Hello Kevin,

We stand in awe at God's provisions here in Little Genesee, N.Y. We remember well you standing in our midst after the church fire and asking, "What do you want your church to be?" and who we want for members.

Seeking only the will of God, the remnant worked diligently to construct a new building and a new church body. Since that day 10 years ago our attendance has increased five-fold. Assistance from the Memorial Board helped institute a new outreach program that has returned our little church to a favored place in this community.

The gifted people God has sent to join our resurgence are paramount in our rebirth. A new sign, along with improved parking and exterior lighting, shows God's handiwork to anyone who passes. We have expanded program and worship to accommodate all who come in the name of the Lord. We have instituted programs to assure the safety of all who come and are diligently working at expanding possibilities in Christian Education. We have found it necessary to add four pews in the sanctuary and are looking for more space now. We are prayerfully considering new facilities to expand our campus as we reach out to the lost and dying.


God is doing for us in Little Genesee what we never could do for ourselves. He is growing the body of believers as He sees the need in this rural community. Please keep us all in prayer as we continue to grow and seek God's wisdom and word in all that we do.

*Kevin Palmiter –Pastor, Little Genesee, N.Y., SDB Church*

of scientists from high school students to graduate students to faculty members," said President Bob Kustra. "He has brought innovation and change to Idaho and is very deserving of this new title."

Considered one of the founders of the field of DNA nanotechnology, Yurke's research accomplishments are long and distinguished. He has authored or co-authored more than 120 publications in multiple fields and holds 13 patents. He and his collaborators at Rutgers University were among the first to introduce DNA nanotechnology into polymer gels, which has created a new class of hydrogels that are now being used to examine cellular responses of spinal cord neurons, detect diseases and monitor drug release.

"The joy of discovery is what motivates me most," Yurke said. "A great education depends on great faculty and that is exactly what we have here at Boise State. I am both honored and humbled by this new designation."

Congratulations to Dr. Bernie for this honor! 



## New members

### Central SDB

#### Mitchellville, MD

*David Taylor, pastor*

Joined after baptism

Japheth (Jay) Sieglein

Joined after testimony

Laura Alonzo

Susan Sieglein

Joined by letter

Joel Alonzo

Beatriz Velasquez

Jorge Alberto Velasquez

Jorge Antonio Velasquez

Keila Velasquez

### Daytona Beach, FL

*Wray Winborne, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Court A. Thomas

### Foothill Community

#### Montrose, CA

*Jim Schorr, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Jim Schorr

Zorik Gevorkian

Carol Montague

### Little Genesee, NY

*Kevin Palmiter, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Randy Peterson

Joined by letter

Pastor JoAnne Kandel

Mark Kandel

### Little Rock, AR

*Jeffrey Monroe, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Brendan Patnode

Kathy Patnode

### Philadelphia, PA

*Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Marcia Bowen

William Towns

Zanna Towns

Joined after baptism

Fateem Diabate

## Births

**Fick.**—A daughter, Sarah Ann-Elizabeth, was born to Bill and Samantha (Tennyson) Fick of Battle Creek, MI on August 3, 2013.

**Jara.**—A son, Rafael Felipe, was born to Andres and Cathy (Payne) Jara of Colorado Springs, CO on December 17, 2013.

## Marriage

**Monroe – Westphall.** Benjamin Monroe and Brittney Westphall were united in marriage on October 12, 2013 in Howell, AR with Ben's father, Pastor Jeffrey Monroe, officiating.

## Obituaries

**Thompson.**—William W. "Bill" Thompson, 94, died on December 4, 2013 at Sweden Valley Manor in Coudersport, Pa., where he had lived for the past two years.

He was predeceased by Kathryn, his wife of 70 years, as well as his parents and siblings.

Bill was a lifelong member of the Hebron (Pa.) Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Hebron Grange, and a 70-year member of the Coudersport Consistory.

Mr. Thompson worked as a farmer with his father, Alva and brother Roy; and for PennDOT on road maintenance and bridge construction. There are currently

nine working bridges in Potter County that he helped build in the 1940s and 1950s. He also worked for Tennessee Gas at Compressor Station 313 for 26 years.

Bill is survived by two sons, William, of Ontario, N.Y., and George of Marietta, Ga.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on December 11, at the Hebron SDB Church, with Pastor Carl Greene officiating. Burial was in the Hebron Cemetery.

**Stephan.**—Yvonne Louise (Swanson) Stephan, 73, of Rensselaer, N.Y., passed away into the arms



*Yvonne  
Stephan  
(1940 - 2013)*

of her Lord on the way to Albany Medical Center on December 11, 2013 after a six month courageous battle with brain cancer.

Born September 18, 1940 in Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago, Ill., she was the daughter of the

*cont. next page*

## Obituaries, cont. from page 25

late David Einar and Dagmar Alice (Augdahl) Swanson. After graduating from New Trier High School she attended North Park College in Chicago for three years. She transferred to The College of Emporia (Kansas) and graduated in 1963.

Yvonne returned to Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia to complete her teaching credentials and taught third grade for one year at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. At Ft. Leavenworth, Yvonne married US Army soldier Melvin F. Stephan on April 24, 1965. Mel, a Chaplain's Assistant, was transferred to Europe where their first son, Karl Joseph, was born in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Returning to the states, Mel completed his degree at Milton (Wis.) College. Their second son, Richard Kirk, was born in Janesville, Wis., and Yvonne was involved in the music program at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. While Mel was completing a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, D.C.), Yvonne served as a beloved pastor's wife and mother at the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, Pa., from 1971 to 1983, where she was greatly involved in the Christian Education and music ministries.

Yvonne's love of music, expertise

and skills were also shared at the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church (1983-1990) where she completed post graduate courses from Alfred University; at the Marlboro SDB Church in Bridgeton, N.J. (1991-1995); at the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church; and most recently as a member of the Raritan Valley SDB Church in Bridgewater, N.J.

Using her seamstress skills in 1993, Yvonne crafted the current SDB Women's Society "Robe of Achievement," replacing and emulating the original award robe from China.

Yvonne was credentialed as a substitute School Teacher in all the local school districts where the Stephans resided, and one year she was employed as a full-time reading teacher who also taught grades K-6 Spanish, although she only spoke a tiny bit of Spanish. Throughout the years Yvonne's love and skill at storytelling engaged the attention of countless children (and adults).

Survivors include her loving husband Mel; her two sons, Karl and Richard; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and one sibling, David Fritzjof Swanson.

A funeral was held at the W.J. Lyons Jr. Funeral Home in Rensselaer on December 15. Pastor Matthew Olson officiated. A celebration of her life and committal of ashes will be at the Shiloh SDB Church and Cemetery on June 28, 2014.

**Hays.**—William H. "Bill" Hays II, 73, of Westerly, R.I., passed away on December 21, 2013.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marcia (Madsen) Hays.

Bill was the son of William H. Hays and Margaret (Tefft) Hays, born November 14, 1940 in Pittsburgh, Pa. He graduated from Stonington (Conn.) High School in 1958, attended the University of Connecticut, the apprenticeship

program at Electric Boat for outside machinists, and Boston School of Photography.

Following his love of photography, he left EB to go into the printing/photography business, and then into commercial photography. He taught Basic Photography and darkroom techniques in area night schools.

He was the leader of Boy Scout Troop 17 at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly. Bill was the leader of an Outdoor Explorer Post and the first to receive both the Spurgeon Award for volunteers in exploring and the Silver Beaver for volunteers in Boy Scouting. He was in Scouting for over 50 years.

He enjoyed the New England Patriots and was an avid, lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Bill was instrumental in organizing the Whalers Chapter in North American Family Campers, the Swamp Yankee Sams in the Good Sams Camping Club, and the South Coast Wireless Society Amateur Radio Club (call sign KA1ZZR). He was a member of Tri City Amateur Radio Club, the American Radio Relay League, and also of Trout Unlimited. He was an avid fly fisherman, and served on various committees connected with the Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival from its inception. He was very proud of his Scottish heritage.

He attended the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton and had been a trustee of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Besides his wife, Bill is survived by several nieces and nephews, and his two sisters-in-law. He was predeceased by his parents and his two brothers, James J. Hays, Sr. and Robert A. Hays.

A funeral service was held at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home on December 28, with Pastor David Stall officiating. **SR**

### Death Notices

**Rev. Joseph A. Samuels**, 77, of Plainfield, NJ died on December 24, 2013. (See pages 8-10; obituary to follow)

**Miriam J. Mills**, 74, of New London, CT died on January 5, 2014. She was the daughter of Rev. Neal and Martha Gates Mills.

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Mind your markers

Elizabeth Akers Allen wrote this in 1860:  
“Backward, turn backward,  
O time in your flight,  
Make me a child again just for tonight.  
Backward, flow backward,  
O tide of the years!  
I am so weary of toil and of tears.”

It's comforting to recall happier times of childhood. But *living* in the past can become troublesome when it's simply an escape from your current work or being involved in the present.

If only there were some “markers” to reflect on to give us strength for today...

Moses charged the Israelites to remember such events as he was preparing to transfer his leadership, and the throngs were about to enter the Promised Land.

In Deuteronomy 8:1-3, Moses carefully guided the people toward exactly what they were to remember. In fact, that command to “remember” could be translated “mark.” (Think of a chart or a map where certain facts or events are marked and riveted into your memory.)

“Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years” verse 2 says. Going on, the remembering or marking is for specific purposes:

- “to humble you”
- “to test you in order to know what was in your heart”
- “to teach you that man does not live on bread alone”

### Pride

We need to learn the same lessons today. David Rhodes once said that “Pride is the dande-

lion of the soul. Its root goes deep; only a little left behind sprouts again. Its seeds lodge in the tiniest encouraging cracks. And it flourishes in good soil. The danger of pride is that it feeds on goodness.”  
Are we humble?

### What's in our heart?

In his book *Fan the Flame*, Joe Stowell writes, “The ‘Heart’ is used in Scripture as the most comprehensive term for the authentic person. It is the part of our being where we desire, deliberate, and decide. It has been described as ‘the place of conscious and decisive spiritual activity,’ ‘the comprehensive term for a person as a whole; his feelings, desires, passions, thought, understanding and will.’ And it’s ‘the center of a person. The place to which God turns.’”

That memory, that event, that marker—was it a test to see what's in your heart?



### Not live on bread alone

How many times do we miss the “manna” of the Lord and try to rely on our own street-smarts and the “physical” answers?

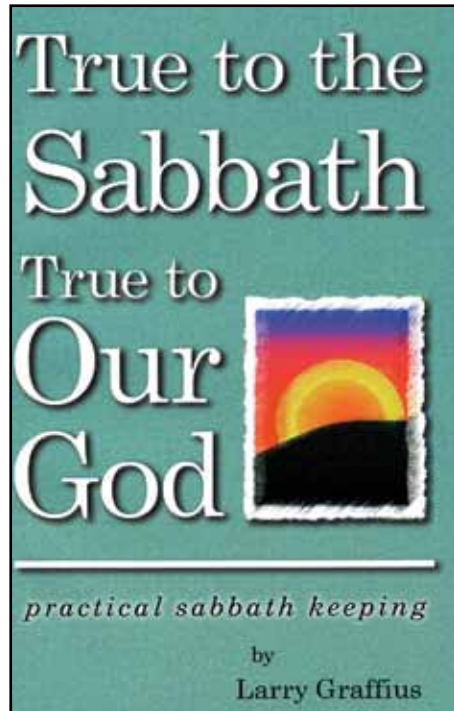
God implores us to not put our full trust in food or the physical. He says, “Trust ME. Believe in MY promises. Pray to ME and don't get sucked into the ways of the world!”

Nicholas Rowe said that “Memory is a ‘treasurer’ to whom we must give funds if we want to draw the assistance we need.”

Let's visit that reservoir of memory and those markers of our lives, but make sure that we don't live there.

May we remember our times of wandering and testing in order to be humbled, to see what's in our heart, and to trust the Lord instead of the physical.





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