

*Skateboarding
for Christ—
in India!*

Plus:

**Your solo
for the
Master
Conductor**



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.

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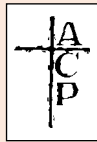


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Skateboarding for Christ in India!

by Nathaniel Muench
Fort Atkinson, Wis.

Editor's note: Starting in local skateboard parks in southern Wisconsin, Nathaniel and Zachary Muench wanted to reach out to others with the Gospel of Christ using their skateboarding skills. In just a few years, "Skaters of Christ" have taken their ministry around the country and now to other parts of the world.

Nathaniel reported this to the SDB Church in Milton (one of their mission sponsors—and where the Muenches attend) and shared about one of their latest adventures.



Thank you so much for your support this year!
Without you, India might not have happened.

Last September I flew to Fort Myers, Florida, to meet the team going to India. Six of us went in all: Justin Hanneken, the trip director from the mission organization Youth Hope; Mark and Shannon Koch, founders of "Ride Nature," an organization dedicated to bring skateboards and surfboards to kids in poverty; Ramon Raylu Martinez, a professional Break Dancer; Matthew Hagsten, a Youth Pastor in Fort Myers; and myself.

The next day, we had a six-hour layover in New Jersey. Matt brought out his guitar and I my ukulele. He pulled out some praise song tabs and we both started jamming in the terminal. Seeing people's faces and hearing them sing along made it one of the best experiences ever.

Dancing and jumping for Jesus

Thirty hours later we landed in India. David, the native missionary, was there to pick us up. The next morning it was "go time."

We did two school assemblies in the morning, each school having about 500-700 kids. Ramon would dance, then I jumped over him on my skateboard and did some



*The team gathers to head to India.
Nathaniel is in the white shirt,
second from left.*



boarding tricks for the kids. Then a couple of us got up to speak.

That afternoon we did some street ministry. In the evening we went to an orphanage, did our program and showed them an action sports video from “Ride Nature,” which they translated into their native language. The kids loved it! Afterwards we hung out with the kids and loved on them.

***Please pray for the kids in orphanages in different countries, also for the leaders of Christian-run orphanages, who work endlessly with little to no pay, being the hands and feet of Jesus.*

More schools, more lives touched

The next day we did a couple more schools. On Saturday we headed to a village called Big River. We did our thing and played some songs for the kids.

The greatest honor was hearing those kids giving testimonies of how good God had been, and getting to meet native missionary pastors who had traveled many miles on foot to meet us.

***Please pray for them—the Gospel is spreading like fire in those places, but the persecution is great.*

The next day (Sunday) we returned and did another event for a different group of kids. And

cont. next page



Skater of Christ Nathaniel Muench jumps over Ramon Martinez as hundreds of school children watch the event.

Skateboarding for Christ, cont. from p. 5

that evening did an event at a Christian College. Over the next two days we did more schools.

They've never seen a skateboard

Tuesday we headed out to another village for the rest of the trip. No civilization for miles! These places in India had never seen a skateboard, and it was such a blessing to show them how to skate and teach them tricks. That night we piled ourselves and about 10 kids into an eight-seater van and headed to the beach.

The next night (Wednesday) we did a video premiere in a neighboring village. After a pastor gave an appeal, many people came forward and gave their lives to Jesus. Thursday night we did four street events, pulling into a village, setting up speakers and turning on some music.



Nathaniel had some important one-on-one time with this group of children. Continue to pray for the Gospel to be preached in India.



Again I would skate and Ramon would dance. Then Ramon shared the Gospel and we would move to the next village. Friday morning we headed out, stopping at a surf contest happening. That was an honor as well because it was the second one ever in India. In the evening we headed home.

Mission accomplished / just begun

Looking back and writing this brings back so many good memories. Over this trip we did around 20 events. Because of your help, we were able to share the Gospel with over 5,000 people who might have never heard the name of Jesus. Thank you! **SR**

Nathaniel and Zach Muench and the "Skaters of Christ" traveled to Puerto Rico with two other skaters in early May for a week with our Seventh Day Baptist Church there, doing skate ministry and sharing the Gospel. If you want to support the Skaters of Christ financially, please contact the Milton SDB Church at TheConnectingChurch.org or call 608-868-2741.

Your solo for the Master Conductor

by Elianna Chroniger
Alfred Station, N.Y.



In the melody of life, God has broken it off here and there with rests, and we foolishly think we have come to the end of the theme. We may think there is no music in a rest, but there is the making of music in it. We must not slur over or omit these rests. God may send a time of forced leisure which makes a sudden pause in our melody.

Not without design does God write the music of our lives. It is up to us to learn the tune, be not dismayed at the rests, and follow our director. If we look up, God Himself will beat the time for us. *(Excerpt from a Beacon article by Lola Sutton, February 1950. Lola passed away in November, 2012.)*



Ellie's Great
Aunt Lola



Have you ever really wondered about life? I'm sure you've heard that "life is like a box chocolates." Maybe you've heard that "life is hard" or that "life isn't fair."

Well, I've been able to relate everything I come across to music. When I read my Great Aunt Lola's version of life being a song, I knew

cont. next page

Master Conductor, cont. from p. 7



Picture
the people
who fade
in and out
of your life
as musical
instruments
fading in
and out
of the
piece.

what I was going to write about next.

Have you ever thought of your life as one big musical number? Imagine your world as an orchestra in which you are the featured soloist. When you're born and you open your eyes, imagine—as you take your first breath—an orchestra taking their breath before a piece of music begins. That deep cleansing breath that a baby takes before its first cry is the same as the one before the birth of a beautiful piece of music.

As you go through your many days, picture the people who fade in and out of your life as musical instruments fading in and out of the piece. There's an intense sec-

tion with every clarinet in perfect tune, moving to a measure of nothing but flute. There's a year with a couple dozen good friends fading to a year with just one.

When you're having a bad day, imagine the deep dark sound of a cello and a violin playing some melancholy melody. Hear the sadness as the bows are pulled and pushed along the strings in the sweetest of minor tones.

As you experience the best days of your life, listen to the triumphant sound of trumpets rising over the notes of the orchestra. Feel the fanfare as they confidently put forth the highest and clearest of sounds.

All the while as you transition between the changes in tempo and dynamics, imagine your Heavenly Father conducting it all—the good, the bad, the calm, and the intense. Imagine that He is truly the only one who can see exactly what every musician (including you) will play. He's the only one with the insight to interpret the music and make every note work out perfectly.

As life draws to a close and you feel the concluding beats of the music, imagine the most amazing moment yet. Feel the crescendo as everything you have ever experienced has led to this moment. It's the moment when you'll meet your Creator and the world's trials won't matter.

Feel that intensity build and build until finally the music is over. The Conductor puts his arms down and engulfs you into the biggest hug you have ever received. Your solo is complete! It was the best solo you could have ever played. Your joy with how it finished is like that of an English horn player after the beautiful solo in "Russian Christmas Music" has gone off without a hitch.

You're finished now, and you have absolutely done your best. The audience erupts into enormous applause as they celebrate every ounce of work you put into the masterpiece that was your life. They know you poured your soul into your work, and now that it's over they are longing for more. More time, more music, more life.

You have instilled a sense of inspiration with the work you fulfilled. You have left a beautiful legacy for hundreds if not thousands of aspiring musicians who are only beginning their masterpiece of life.

Imagine your life as a musical number and you are the soloist with a masterful conductor. **SR**

God's Sabbath— The Rest that Is Blessed

**Sabbath Testimony by our
Conference President Rev. Steven James**

Next to sharing about my Savior, I love to share about His Sabbath!

I wasn't always a Seventh Day Baptist, nor sabbatarian in my faith and practice. Having become a follower of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in 1975, the Sabbath didn't appear on my radar with any validity until about 1980.

As a member of an independent Baptist church, I had the "usual" arsenal of Bible verses and arguments to oppose something as strange, and even sinful, as keeping the Sabbath. (Or so I thought.)

Time to Explore some More

During a time when I was, by God's grace, coming to realize that I needed to study God's Word for myself, without the lenses provided to me by my pastor and other sources, it seemed that the Holy Spirit prompted me about the Sabbath—asking, in effect, "Why am I obeying nine of God's Ten Commandments?"

To that prompting question from deep within, I had no honest answer. I realized that this was a topic that I needed to explore from God's Word thoroughly.



Good News not Just for Jews

For hours and days I studied and prayed. I came to the conviction that the Sabbath was indeed made for me—not just for the Jews (Mark 2:27-28); that God's law was not nullified because I was saved by grace (Romans 3:31); and that this day was truly blessed from the dawn (or dusk) of Creation for new creations (like me) until the new creation of the heavens and the earth, if not beyond. (Genesis 2:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; 5:6; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Hebrews 4:9; etc.)

Coming to this conviction was exciting, but not easy. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are heading upstream in a downstream cultural current. When we

cont. next page

as Christians choose to consecrate God's Sabbath, the current gets even rougher, both from without (the culture) and within (the Church).

Stressed by the Test

Choosing to honor this day by keeping it holy and receiving its blessings became a test on many fronts.

On the job front: I had to seek another position where I worked in order to keep the Sabbath special. While this succeeded initially, throughout the next 10 years there would be times where I had to choose to lose when it came to income.

On the church front: It meant leaving the church that had been foundational to my formative years as a believer, as well as for my wife. To many with whom we had once been close, it was like we now were "lepers." While we did gather with another sabbatarian group for a period of about six months, the majority of the next 8 years we would find ourselves to be lone Sabbath-keepers without a church.

On the family front: It meant that we had grown another "third" eye in addition to being on-fire Christians in the minds of some of our loved ones. It created some conflict at times that wasn't easy to endure.

God's Rest – To Be Possessed and Professed

God carried us through all of these tests. While the stress of such tests is much less since finding Seventh Day Baptists (initially joining the Nortonville SDB Church in Kansas, seeking to plant a church in Junction City, KS and now serving as pastor in Verona, NY) tests still arise on other, perhaps more practical and personal fronts, as I continue to honor and experience God's Sabbath in all of its blessedness and holiness.

As I share this brief testimony, I've been a Sabbath-keeping believer now for about one-fourth of a century. For many of you that may be small compared to the years you've known and owned the Sabbath as your



own in faith and practice. While I may have the profession of this special day down when it comes to what I believe about it and how I share it with others, I still have a ways to go when it comes to the *possession* of God's Sabbath—how I honor it and enjoy it in the way God intended.

Rest, Reach, Rejoice and Reconnect

I look forward to Sabbaths, even though for me, as a pastor, they tend to be quite "full" of responsibilities. I love to gather together with

God's people to celebrate our Savior and consecrate His Sabbath. I love the rhythm that it affords to rest, reach out, rejoice and reconnect with family and friends each week.

I love how this day is the one from which each week launches and to which each week leads—a pivotal time given to mankind by God. That is why, in the eight passages in the New Testament mentioning the first day of the week, they are literally translated as "the first of the sabbaths," a custom in Jesus' day of referring to the days numerically as they relate to being sandwiched by the bookends of God's Sabbaths.

I love how, as a New Testament believer, I can hold my head up high and my heart strong because the new covenant isn't a new set of laws, but the same Ten Commandments written in my mind and on my heart, instead of on stone or paper. (Hebrews 9-10; Jeremiah 31; Ezekiel 11, 18 & 36)

Care to Share

I believe that we as Seventh Day Baptists have an unlimited growth potential if we embrace our responsibility of sharing our Savior with those who don't yet know Him and sharing His Sabbath with those who do know Him. One is essential to enjoying life with God forever and the other to expressing love for God and others fully.

May you be blessed with the rest that is best this Sabbath! **SR**

Important letter concerning our vote on the Statement of Belief

Dear SDB Churches and Membership:

We pray that this communication might find you and your congregation well. The General Council and staff of the General Conference pray frequently for you.

We are writing this letter to you concerning issues of conscience brought about by the proposed amendment to our Statement of Belief concerning the return of Christ. The proposed amendment was passed as a first reading at our General Conference sessions in 2013 with an overwhelming voice vote and was sent to all member churches in January 2014 to prepare for a vote by churches at our General Conference sessions in 2014. *(That January letter and this one has been sent to each church via certified mail. Both letters concerning the amendment will also be posted at www.seventhdaybaptist.org.)*

We believe there is overwhelming support for the intent of the proposed amendment. The reason behind its proposal is to communicate our common belief that Christ will return (while not committing to a certain eschatology) as the hope of the Gospel and that the timing of His return is known to God alone.

Communication has been received from both clergy and laity within our churches which let us know that the wording of the proposed amendment has caused some confusion regarding these matters. Because of these genuine concerns of conscience, the General Council would like to be proactive in addressing them.

Therefore, after consultation with our parliamentarians and denominational leaders, we are seeking unanimous consent from the delegates to the 2014 General Conference sessions **to change the word *Father* to *God* in the proposed amendment to the Statement of Belief.** The new sentence would then read, **"We believe that Jesus Christ, in keeping with His promise, will return suddenly, personally and visibly, at a time known only by God."**

We believe that this change from one specific person of the Godhead to involve the entire Godhead will eliminate the concerns of conscience communicated to us. This should permit us to bring greater unity to a statement which expresses our common belief.

If we are not able to achieve unanimous consent, we will seek to temporarily suspend the rules regarding the framing of the question to allow this amendment.

As you instruct your delegates or send your votes to the Conference office, please understand that this change will take place at our Conference sessions in 2014 and your delegates or votes should be prepared accordingly. If you are already in favor of the amendment as currently worded, this should not change your vote. If you have issues of conscience over the current wording of the proposed amendment but concur with the intent, we believe that this change to the amendment should help address your concern.

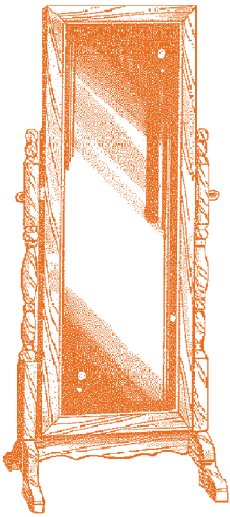
It is our eager desire to serve Seventh Day Baptists and to communicate the Gospel and our beliefs as clearly as possible. If you should have any questions, or need any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the General Council or the General Conference office.

May we be faithful to God and each other as we strive to advance His Kingdom!

Serving Christ's Kingdom and SDBs,

The SDB General Council

Dannette Montague, Susan Fox, Rod Noel, Dale Thorngate, John Pethtel (Chairman)



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 better door waiting to be opened

"When one door closes, another door opens."

I'm sure many people recognize that quote and think it comes from the Bible. Several origin theories abound, but the most common is that Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) penned those words.

Bell was a Scottish-born American inventor and educator, best known for inventing the telephone. The complete quote is, "When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

One internet writer explained that quote this way:

"Sometimes our disappointments in life can become God's appointments, so don't let closed doors bother you. The things we think of as failures and problems can often end up being blessings in disguise."

Another wrote, "For those who believe in God, the belief that for every door that closes we see another door open goes way beyond simple optimism. Optimism is great, but it provides no basis, other than hard work and chance, that the other door would ever open.

"By faith, though, we know that God is ultimately in control and has a multitude of doors waiting for us. We look to Him for guidance and direction, and we know that all things work together for good for

those that love God—*things happen for a reason*. So, if you've had a door close on you recently, be of good cheer, for God has a better door just waiting to be opened for you."

This issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* marks a closing of a door for me; one I close by choice.

I can't believe I've been penning Reflections for more than 13 years. That's over 150 columns since March of 2001. Even after I retired as the *SR's* Assistant Editor in 2008, I kept writing this page.

I don't like change. However, since Rev. Kev is stepping down as Editor Extraordinaire, I've decided this is my last Reflections. Kevin has always made me "look good" as a writer, and I simply don't want to pass on that daunting challenge to anyone else.

Also, God recently opened the door to one of my ultimate dreams: having a book published. As a budding novelist, I'm excited to walk through that door and down yet another writing path.

My first book is a murder mystery, and I felt God's leading to donate half of the profits to the Milton (Wis.) Food Pantry ministry. I plan to write a sequel, but I'm also hoping to write an inspirational book about my faith-filled battle—and ultimate victory—over breast cancer.

I'm still writing a weekly humor column for the *Milton Courier*, as well as a monthly interview column. Side projects include completing my parents' biographies.

So... I obviously haven't been simply sitting around and eating bon-bons since retiring from the Center. (I do force myself to down a daily dose of Dove® dark chocolate.)

My monthly interview column will probably be the next thing "to bite the dust" as I concentrate on other writing ventures. I've written my humor column for over 35 years, so that will be the most difficult door to eventually close. Meanwhile, I pray God will continue to bless my endeavors as I glorify Him through the talents He's given me.

I leave the *SR* with a heartfelt "Thank You" to Kevin and to all of you faithful readers. I pray God's blessings on each and every one of you.

Goodbye, shalom, toodle-oo, cheerio, farvel, adieu, sayonara, ciao, auf wiedersehen, aloha, arrive-derci, guten tag, au revoir, alavidha, adeus, do svidaniya, salaam, hooroo, dovizhdane, dooey, dag, tot ziens, kwaheri, zài jiàn, ma'a salamma, and adios.

P.S. My computer's spell-checker just exploded. **SR**





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

Serving more than food (or cheesecake)

Confession: Last year was the first time I had ever been to the Women's Banquet.

For those of you who have never gone to General Conference or never attended the banquet, it is typically an evening meal where women of the Conference dress up, leave children and husbands to their own devices, and sit down together for a meal. (There was cheesecake!)

As it turns out it is *not* an excuse for women to be late to the evening service. The banquet is a chance to celebrate together the work of women in the Conference. But what work are we celebrating?

Initially the mission of the Women's Society was to organize and support women's groups in the denomination. The focus of many of these groups was the mission field, supporting international ministry as well as domestic. Today one of the large focuses of the society is Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC)—a leadership program for young adults developed to inspire and educate young leaders through short-term missions.

This program was initiated by the Women's Society and we continue to be its major supporter today. A few years ago Stained Glass began being sponsored by the Society under an umbrella with SCSC. This year SCSC celebrates 50 years of service to the denomination and looks forward to being around 50 more years!

Women from all across the Conference bring in crafts that they've made or gathered and sell them in an effort to help offset the costs of the SCSC program. It is a great place to pick up stocking stuffers, gifts, or a little something for yourself.

People have sent jewelry, knit or crocheted items, purses, tote bags, and a plethora of other things. Even those who aren't "pinterest royalty" have contributed by purchasing things to send or even by finding things already in your home that you have never used. Some



people (like me) contribute by frequenting the Craft Table during Conference.

As the old idiom goes, you can't have too much of a good thing! So the more people who donate, the better. The Craft Table is just a small part of SCSC support. Teams and projects are vetted, training set up and executed, and so much more.

Another function of the Society is to collect and distribute an annual Love Gift.

The Love Gift is collected all year from women throughout the denomination as well as at the banquet. Last year money from this program was designated for Seventh Day Baptist families experiencing illness, as well as to help purchase mosquito nets for school children in Uganda, Haiti, and Jamaica.

Basically each year the Women's Society takes up an offering and puts it to use aiding brothers and sisters in Christ at home and abroad. An offering is taken up at General Conference (which is at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minn., this year) or donations can be sent to the Women's Board directly.

Designate for the "**Love Gift**" and send to Margot Harris, SDB Women's Board Treasurer at Seventh Day Baptist Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Going to the Women's Banquet at Conference was fun. (Did I mention there was cheesecake?!) I'm definitely planning on attending again to celebrate and get an update on the amazing work of the Society.

Perhaps you can't make it to Conference but that doesn't mean you can't get involved in the work of the Women's Society. You can find us at the Seventh Day Baptist website and we have a website of our own! Want to learn more? Want to join the Society officially? Visit <http://sdbwboard.squarespace.com> to learn more or to contact us.

Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society: "Not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28) **SR**



Correcting Mistakes— Part 3

by Oscar Burdick

Note from Nick: This is the last of three articles correcting significant errors published about English SDB history found in Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Volume 1 and 2, which was published by the General Conference in 1910.

We remind you that a document containing corrections (listed by page numbers) is available on the Historical Society's website: www.sdbhistory.org. These corrections spring from Oscar Burdick's extensive work on this subject over many years as he has worked to research and write an authoritative work on English SDBs.

- **About Edward Stennet[t], and several false assertions about him:** Now that the death date and age are known for Edward Stennet[t], November 21, 1705, age 77, he must have been born in 1627 or 1628. He could not then be a priest opponent of Theophilus Brabourne (1632 book). Stennet was a Baptist by 1656, and Seventh Day by 1658 or before, and lived at Abingdon so could not have been a sequestered Church of England priest at Wallingford in 1662.
- **About the later generations of the Stennett family:** Joseph Stennett, a son of Joseph Stennett, Jr. was probably not an SDB. Joseph the son of Dr. Samuel Stennett was not a Sabbathkeeper. That there was a "Samuel Stennet I" seems to be an assumption concerning a later man, a Dr. Samuel Stennett cousin; the description of an earlier Samuel I appears to be assumptions partly based on a different Stennett.
- Westmancote, Worcestershire was simply the address of the Natton pastor, Rev. John Miller, not the location of a distinct congregation there in 1829.
- **About the existence of an SDB congregation in Swansea, Wales, under the leadership of Ephraim Wheaton:** Swanzey, Wales is a misunderstanding of Swanzey in Massachusetts; the congregation was in America, not Wales. This congregation does not appear to have been SDB, though some members may have held seventh-day views for a period of time.
- There were no SDB churches in Burton-on-Trent, Derbyshire in the 1600s. This is a misunderstanding of a reference from a newspaper article in 1901. The misunderstood quote in the article about Burton-on-Trent, Derbyshire in the 1600s actually refers to "some [Seventh-day Baptists] around Bourton [Gloucestershire]."

- The early Baptist records of Hexham (which include Thomas Tillam) have long since been published; it was not Seventh Day. This appears not to have been assumed until an 1879 book.¹
- **About the suggestion that Dr. Peter Chamberlen was a SDB pastor:** It has been printed he was probably pastor in 1653 in the Mill Yard Church (London) sequence. But a BAPTIST record book (1652-1654) in the Bodleian Library (Oxford), appears to demonstrate he was the *de facto* leader of that Baptist church about that time. C.H. Greene, who did most of the English research for Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Volume 1, later wrote that this 1652-1654 church "could by no means be a Sabbatarian church."²
- The following should not be considered SDB, though they are listed as such in *SDBEA, Volume 1*: Edward Brerewood, John Fryth (Frith), Alexander Gordon, Vavasor Powell, Thomas Rogers, Robert Shalder (Spalder, Spaulder), Philip Tanny (Tandy), John Tombes, Ephraim Wheaton, and William Whiston. **SR**



Oscar Burdick is an ordained Seventh Day Baptist minister and a member of the Bay Area, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church. He is retired as Librarian for Collection Development of the Graduate Theological Union Library in Berkeley and 2007 recipient of the SDB Historical Society's Gold Headed Cane award.

¹ Robert Barclay, *The Inner Life...* (1879), p.252

² Charles H. Greene, "Material relating to the origin... of the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church," pp. [4-5], a manuscript in the SDBHS library. That is a Greene letter to Corliss F. Randolph.



Pastor Profile

Pastor Profile



Name: Ericessen A. Cooper

Birthdate and place:

December 30, 1962 St. Andrew, Jamaica

Family:

Wife: Crystal

Children: Chenille, Jibreel, Kaila

Education:

Kingston College (High School) – Jamaica, 1978

Hunter College – B.A. Communications, 1985

Ministry Experience:

Youth Fellowship President (1982, 1987-96),

Youth Advisor (1997–2000),

Moderator (1998–2007)

Current Ministry Position:

Pastor – New York City SDB Church since April 2005

Other Experience:

Recreational Therapist – UCP (1993-95),

Audio-Visual Technician – Grand Hyatt Hotel
(1987-88),

Strand Mapper – Warner Amex Cable (1985-87)

Other employment:

Supervisor III – New York City Department
of Social Services (1989 – present)

My first job was:

as a microfiche clerk in Hunter College's
Registrar office.

Personal Hero:

My mother– Pearl Cooper;

Biblical– King David.

Favorite childhood memory:

My grandmother would call me on Thursday and ask me what kind of porridge I wanted after church on Sabbaths. I didn't like soup, and neither did my grandfather, so we had porridge every Sabbath.

Favorite Author: John C. Maxwell

If given an all-expense paid vacation we would:

take the family on a cruise of the Eastern Caribbean.

A great answer to prayer was:

My life partner, Crystal.

A project I'm excited about:

The church's Community Outreach Program. We have been able to meet many physical and spiritual needs of our community. Partnering with other organizations, we have provided much-needed assistance during some difficult times.

My vision for SDBs:

More evangelical outreach in the cities where we have our General Conference. There should be a radio or television presence within that community, allowing people to ask questions and have those questions answered by the Conference President or someone from the General Council. We should plant a church/group whenever we are closing Conference. **SR**



Age & Grade Guide for Conference

Our SDB General Conference sessions are intended to be great events for families to attend. We work every year to make sure that age-appropriate events are available with adequate supervision.

One part of making these events work is setting guidelines for who may attend. To find where your children or sponsored youth fit in, here is the current set of guidelines:

Answer the following questions to determine which program you participate in for the programs organized and run by the Board of Christian Education during the week of General Conference.

***Question One: How old am I?** If you are—
3 years or younger, you participate in the Nursery (run by the Host Committee)
4–18 years, answer the second question.
19 years or older, you are an adult

***Question Two: What is the last grade that I completed?**

If you have not completed Kindergarten, there is a Preschool class for children.

If you have completed—

K-6th, participate in Children activities.

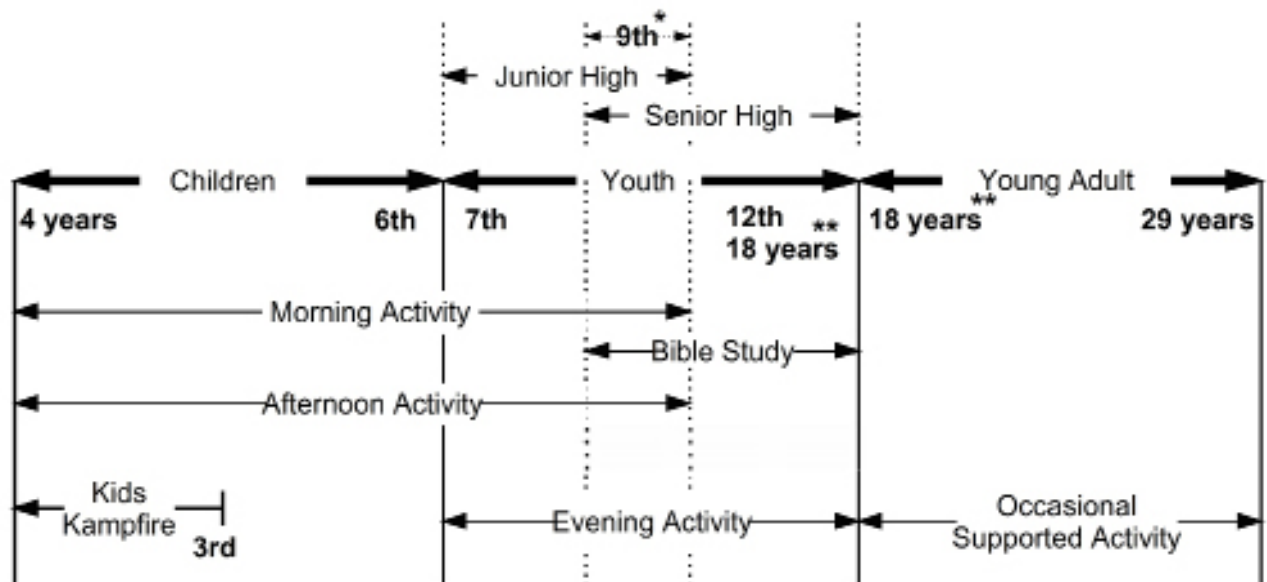
7th and 8th, participate in Junior High activities.

9th, choose to participate in either Junior High or Senior High activities (one choice, no switching).

10th–12th and are not yet 18 years are Senior High.

Those who are 18 years old may choose to participate in either Senior High and Youth or Young Adult activities. 18-year-olds who attend Young Adult Pre-Con have chosen to be counted as adults and are *not* eligible to participate in official Youth activities. **SR**

Visual Expression of the Age/Grade Breakdowns



All grades represent grade level completed.

* 9th Grader elects to be either in Junior High for all activities or Senior High for all activities.

** 18 year olds who choose to attend Young Adult Pre-Con are not eligible for Youth activities.



FOCUS on Missions

Why are SDBs so few in number?

by Clinton R. Brown
sdbmissions.org

As I visit Seventh Day Baptist ministries in other countries, they will explain how they have a hard time in their communities with people not presuming they are Seventh-day Adventists. They share that the Adventists have built schools, universities, and churches in their region, so when you start to say you are “Seventh Day...” people will expect or even *think* they hear “Adventist” when you say **Baptist**. I explain to them that it’s the same way in the USA as well as many countries around the world.

Like the Catholics and Muslims, Adventists have pooled their resources to share their doctrines and establish a global presence. This is frustrating for the local SDB churches

in many nations, since they find themselves having to choose on one hand affiliating and worshipping with their convictions as Seventh Day Baptists, and on the other, more educational and financial opportunities.

Recently, someone in the group in Ghana was trying to encourage me to have Seventh Day Baptists adopt the resource management principles of the Adventists since those had been more successful in their eyes. I had to explain that this is what distinguishes Baptists from Adventists in church organization.

As I understood it, I would have to take away their local control of resources—as well as those of our other churches around the world—

and determine for them where those resources should go. They appreciated that their congregation has the ability to respond to what God is calling them to do and apply their own assets accordingly. But they were still concerned that when they went to other areas there were no other Seventh Day Baptists.

They wanted someone to go and establish the name of Jesus in neighboring areas as “Seventh Day Baptists.” I agreed heartily with them and in light of the desire God had instilled in them, asked *who better* to do that than their own church?

I encouraged the SDBs in Ghana to build congregations with hearts for reaching their neighbors locally, nationally, and globally. I told them that I would do all I could to urge other Conferences, including my own, to come alongside and assist in the global mission. I also shared that it would be easier for me to inspire others about Ghana if I could hold them up as a God-driven example of how we are all to respond to the Great Commission as God leads us to action. They expressed commitment to do their part. 



The Ghana SDB congregation has sacrificed time and funds to build a solid worship facility. Below: The interior nears completion.



The SDB delegation (l. to r.): Ghana Assistant Pastor Justice Wilson, Danny Lee from Colorado Springs, Ghana Pastor Daniel Agyapong, Clinton Brown of the SDB Missionary Society, and Ghana Conference President Felix Ankrah.



the BEACON

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

June 2014

I'm being "followed!"

by Casey Greene
Berlin, N.Y.

Have you ever been "followed" by a Bible verse? No, it's not literally following you, but suddenly it's everywhere.

You see it on a random poster you never noticed before. Then the pastor speaks on it Sabbath day. A few days later you see it in the passage you just happened to open up to. It's alarming, and exciting.

That's where I am at lately. My verse is 2 Corinthians 12:9 which says, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

I especially love this verse because I've seen it in action. In March, I had the privilege to go on a mission trip to Guatemala City.

I went with a group of 20 teenagers and a handful of adults. None of us could speak Spanish fluently and a third of our group didn't even speak English as a first language. We realized that we would need God to do a mighty work in us if we were going to be effective. 2 Corinthians 12:9 became our verse for the trip.

The second day in Guatemala was the first time (of many) that we saw this verse play itself out. We had the opportunity to spend time with the special needs children at the government-run orphanage. There were many people in my group,

myself included, who didn't have much experience with handicapped people. We weren't sure how to act or what exactly we should be doing, but it didn't matter. We did our best and Christ's love shone through us.

Those children knew that they were valued in that moment and you could see it in their faces. It wasn't us. We were just a bunch of awkward teenagers who could barely speak Spanish. It was all God.

However, it didn't end there. After spending time with the special needs kids, we got to eat with the teen moms who live at the government orphanage. These girls ranged in age from 21 to 10, all either pregnant or with children under 3.

Nearly all of these girls had been the victim of abuse. How could we relate to those who had gone through such unspeakable horror? We couldn't really relate to them, but that didn't matter. We gave them supplies for their babies, and more importantly we prayed for them.

We prayed that they would feel valued and that they would feel loved. We prayed that they would learn to know God and that their children would as well.

By the end of our time with them, most of them had opened up. They shared with us and asked us to pray with them some more. They hugged

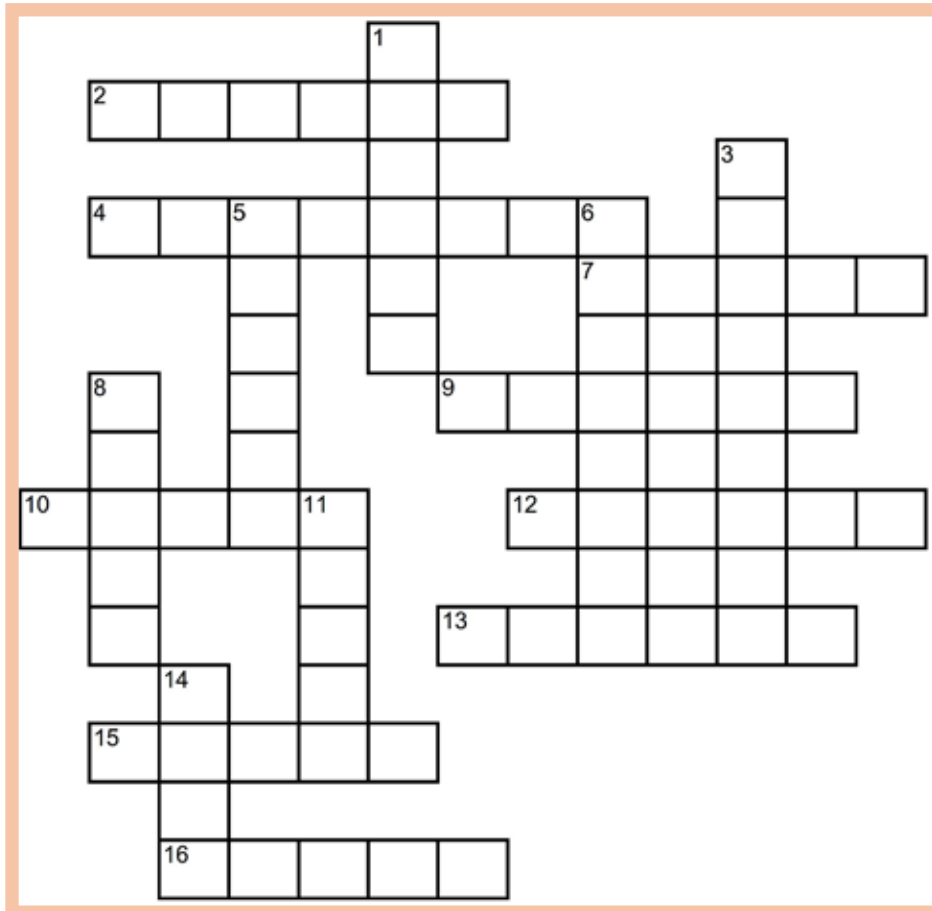
us and told us thank you over and over. That wasn't us. We couldn't have put them at ease and we couldn't have made them happy, but God could, and He graciously did it through us.

As the week went on we kept seeing God work. He moved in the hearts of the group as a whole and we became closer. As one of my classmates put it, we moved closer to God so we moved closer to each other.

My class had never gotten along prior to the trip, but there we were united in a way only God could have brought about. We saw a guy in our group truly accept Christ as his Savior. We saw God begin to work on the heart of a Buddhist girl in our group. God was working among us and it was obvious and powerful.

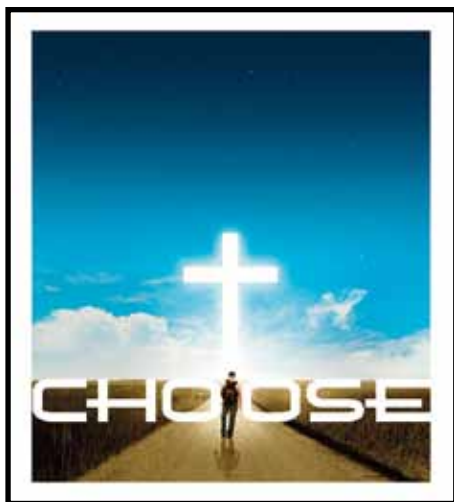
I've been back from Guatemala for a little over a month now and that verse still shows up everywhere, and I love it. It's a good reminder for me to share about how God worked while I was gone, and it's also a reminder that God works through me in the states, too. I'm a prideful person and boasting about my weaknesses isn't my favorite thing to do. But seeing God's power is, so I will boast about my weaknesses all the more. I'd like to challenge you to do the same. **SR**

Saul's Story in Acts 9:1-22



Read the Bible story in Acts 9:1-22. Choose the correct word to finish the sentences. Use the chosen words to fill in the crossword.

- 15-Across:** At first, Saul (loved, hated) Christians.
- 3-Down:** Saul wanted to (help, persecute) Christians.
- 6-Down:** In order to find more Christians, Saul went to (Damascus, Jerusalem).
- 2-Across & 16-Across:** On the way, Saul saw a (strange animal, bright light).
- 8-Down:** When he saw that, Saul became (blind, sick).
- 1-Down:** Saul learned that what he did displeased God, and that Jesus is the (Christ, enemy).
- 11-Down & 13-Across & 9-Across:** For the next (seven, three) days, Saul (fasted, arrested) and (prayed, jailed).
- 10-Across & 4 Across:** Then he received his (hearing, sight) and was (baptized, imprisoned).
- 12-Across:** Saul went to Damascus to (accuse, praise) Jesus' followers.
- 7-Across:** While he was there, he learned to (distrust, agree) with them.
- 5-Down & 14-Down:** He began to (preach, insult), and his name was changed to (Paul, Silas).



St. Paul, MN July 27–Aug. 2, 2014

The President's Page

by Steven James



Making Choice Choices

Let's explore some more choices that we can make by using our Scripture Memory verses.

The Most Important Choice and Its Voice

Joshua 24:14-15; Joshua 24:22

The first "choice" choice we must make is to choose the Lord. We are choosing to serve Him, fear Him and have Him only.

The second "choice" choice we must make is to give our choice of choosing the Lord a voice. Jesus Himself spoke of "confessing Him" before others as our Lord and Savior (Matthew 10:32-33). The apostle Paul also stressed this when he said that if we "confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved" (Romans 10:9-10).

Choose Church – Psalm 84:10

David couldn't think of anywhere else he'd rather be than what we would call "church" today. It was of vital importance—to experience the special presence of God that we get to do when gathered together (Matthew 18:20), and to have a purpose in church life (a doorkeeper) that we get to have as part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). Is "church" an *option*, or a matter of *obedience*, to you?

Choose Truth – Psalm 119:30

If truth matters to us, and we choose to embrace it, then we are choosing Jesus Who is the truth (John 14:6); choosing God's Word, which is the truth (John 17:17); and we are choosing to speak the truth with love (Ephesians 4:15).

Choose a Good Name – Proverbs 22:1

As we choose God's good name, we take it in vain if we claim the name but don't live up to the same (Exodus 20:7; Proverbs 30:7-9). Do our churches have "good names" in our communities? (Acts 2:46-47) Would those who "watch" our walk, give us the name of "Christian" in their talk? (Acts 11:28)

Choose Sabbath – Isaiah 56:5

When we choose our Savior's Sabbath, we are choosing to swim against the current of our Christian culture. There is, however, blessing in making such choices. If we've chosen Sabbath without the benefit of having been raised in a Sabbath-keeping home ("strangers" in the passage) or if our children and grandchildren have chosen to not keep Sabbath after being raised in such an environment—and we feel like we then have no sabbatarian legacy ("eunuchs" in the passage)—be assured that God's blessing rests upon you for making this "choice" choice!

Choose to Chill – Luke 10:42

We often think that "doing" is our "duty." While there is nothing wrong with serving (Martha), there is something better: sitting at Jesus' feet (Mary). Because relationships require relating, which can be difficult and awkward at times, we often resort to tasks rather than talk or touch. Spend time with Jesus daily!

Choose to be Chosen – John 15:16

Pastor Paul Andries shared at Eastern Association how God has chosen us to be on His team (from Eph. 1). We choose to recognize that it's Christ's prerogative (You didn't choose me...) and His purpose (...and ordained you). We choose to proclaim (...that you should go...) and we choose to be productive (...and bear fruit) by being used of God in His bringing others to His Son. We choose the goal of permanence in being fruitful (...fruit that will last) and we choose to productively pray in the process (...that whatever you ask may be done). This "choice" choice has ramifications for our churches, our Conference and ultimately for Christ Himself.

Choose Pain – Hebrews 11:25

There will be times when we are faced with choosing pain when everything's going "perfect"—when it means giving up position, prestige, power and pleasure for the sake of the One Who gave it all up for us. Choosing pain isn't our natural choice, but it is a "choice" choice we can make supernaturally, by focusing on the "invisible One" Who will reward us. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

On an Excursion for God!

Have you ever experienced a time where you know it was God intervening on your behalf? Or, if you had gone ahead with your own plans, it might not have turned out so well, or not at all? This story has to do with younger people—our own Stained Glass music ministry.

In late February I had found a vehicle out in California that I thought would be the perfect mode of transportation for the Stained Glass group this summer. It was a burgundy Ford Excursion. I asked Joe Pradetto Sr. of Riverside, if he would be able to go look at the SUV. He agreed and went on the 23rd of February. Joe found some things wrong, but thought overall it was worth the money that we had offered on it.

I then proceeded to ask the dealer if he would take my personal car in a trade. I was planning on driving out west, stopping at four of our churches before arriving in California. They said they were interested and that they would need to see the car in person. Because of this, I did not put a down payment on the SUV to hold it. I arrived in Palm Desert on Sunday, March 16.

On Monday I called the dealership before jumping in the car to drive almost two hours to the Los Angeles area. My contact there informed that another buyer placed a down payment on the SUV on the 16th. He thought that the sale wouldn't go through because the

potential buyer did not have a great credit rating and would have to come up with cash.

Something told me, "Put your car on Craigslist." My wife confirmed that too, and so I did. On Wednesday I was informed that the other buyer did come up with the cash, AND my car sold that day as well!

In the meantime, having the feeling that we were not going to get this

God closed the door on the SUV in California because it was not the right one for us. He opened the door in Texas because it was!

SUV, Marian Anderson (Chairman of the Stained Glass Ministry) and I started looking at vehicles on the internet. I found a chestnut-colored Excursion in Texas. A few minutes later Marian texts me, "Did you see the one in Texas?" I contacted the dealer about their vehicle and arranged for Richard Shepard (Houston SDB Church) to go and check it out for me. When he got to the dealer they had him test drive a different SUV because the one he came in to look at was sold.

Richard called me a few miles into this test drive saying they had

run out of gas, the SUV was white, it had some obvious problems, and oh, it ran on diesel. I asked Richard to let me talk to the dealer. When I spoke with him I let him know that the SUV was put on a hold for me and that when he arrived back at his place of business he needs to check on this because I am not interested in the white Excursion.

When he called me back he was laughing. He said when he had first asked about the chestnut colored Excursion that morning, he was told that it was sold. But he didn't ask to whom it was sold. It had *my name* on it!

Richard then drove that SUV. He found two small problem areas, and the dealership fixed them. Richard said that this one was a winner!

God closed the door on the SUV in California because it was not the right one for us. He opened the door in Texas because it was! The Excursion we bought in Texas had 30,000 fewer miles. It was clean inside and out. It had a spare tire! It had a luggage rack on top. And, it cost \$5 less. Now, five dollars is not much, but it shows that God has a sense of humor, too.

I want to thank those men who were so willing to help out when called: Joe Pradetto in California, and Richard Shepard and Frank Chaffin in Houston. Frank picked me up from the airport and gave me a ride to the dealership so I could drive home our prize. **SR**

Loyal SDBs honored as medical center volunteers

ROME, GEORGIA. – The Rev. David and Bettie Pearson, volunteers with the Floyd Medical Center Auxiliary for 11 years, were named the Good Samaritan Volunteers of the Year on April 16, 2014.

The award was presented at Floyd’s annual luncheon as part of National Volunteer Appreciation Month.

The luncheon honors the more than 200 volunteers who serve at Floyd.* Volunteers are recognized for their dedication and contribution to the American Red Cross, Floyd Medical Center Auxiliary, First Steps, Heyman HospiceCare, Floyd Healthcare Foundation, Floyd Medical Explorers, Arts in Medicine and Support Services.

For over a decade, the Pearsons have conducted weekly Sunday morning church services in the chapel located in Floyd’s Inpatient Rehabilitation facility. First seeing a need when Mrs. Pearson was a patient at Floyd, the retired missionaries to Africa now sing, pray and study with a variety of patients.




Kurt Stuenkel (left) of the Floyd Medical Center honored Rev. and Mrs. David Pearson for their outstanding volunteer work.

“I have preached to much larger congregations, but there is something very special and heartwarming ministering to the twos and threes,” Mr. Pearson said. “It is hard to explain, but I find the closeness, warmth and love exchanged to be spiritually enriching and very satisfying.”

Prior to retiring to northwest

Georgia, the Pearsons served churches in five states and spent 30 years as missionaries in Central Africa as part of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society.

Kurt Stuenkel, Floyd President and CEO, says it is an honor to recognize Floyd’s volunteers for the many hours of service they provide.

“As a not-for-profit hospital, we can’t say enough about how much the volunteers mean to our organization,” Stuenkel said. “The work they do is immensely important and helps us continue to provide the excellent quality of care Floyd has become known for.” 

**According to Wikipedia, Floyd Medical Center is a system of health care providers serving Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama since 1942. Located in Rome, Ga., it is Floyd County’s largest employer with over 2,000 employees.*

Please assist our Retired Pastors

Your generous gifts can help support those who gave so much, and their survivors. Please make your check out to COSAR, with “**Pastor’s Retirement Fund**” in the memo line, and send it to the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

A monthly automatic gift can also be arranged. Contact the SDB Center at 608-752-5055.

SDB General Conference 2014

Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota

July 27 – August 2

Traveling to Conference by Air, Rail or Bus?

Airlines to MSP

Are you considering coming to Conference by air? There is excellent air service to Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP). Your Host Committee will be glad to pick you up with our Conference shuttle at either of the terminals at this airport. There will be a \$20 per person charge for shuttle service (each way).

Lindbergh Terminal (Terminal 1)

If you fly by Air Canada, Air France, Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, Great Lakes, United, or US Airways, you will arrive at Terminal 1. Our shuttle pickup will be at Door 6.



Humphrey Terminal (Terminal 2)

If you fly by Airtran, Iceland Air, Southwest, Spirit, or Sun Country, you will arrive at Terminal 2. Our shuttle pickup will be at Door 8.

Both of these doors are at the *extreme right* as you go out of the terminal onto the street.

When you register for Conference (by June 30) please let us know the time of your arrival, and the airline you will be using. Regular shuttle service is planned for Sunday afternoon, July 27. There may be a short wait to make the most efficient use of the shuttles. Otherwise, shuttle service including pickups for pre-Conference meetings and camps—will be on an as-needed basis. There will be a \$20 per person charge for shuttle service.

Amtrak Train

We also plan to pick up those arriving by Amtrak. The Empire Builder is the one Amtrak train serving Minneapolis/St. Paul. It arrives at Union Depot from the west scheduled at 7:50 am and from the east scheduled at 10:31 pm. Let your Host Committee know if you need shuttle service from the train.

Greyhound

Greyhound Bus now goes into Union Depot in St. Paul. Please make sure your final stop is St. Paul, and NOT Minneapolis. Let us know when you plan to arrive.

Traveling Directions by Car

From the East or West on I-694:

Take **Exit 41** A/I-35W South

Take **Exit 26** and turn left (east) on Co Road E 2 (County Road 73)

Turn right (south) on old State Highway 10 (Snelling Ave./County Road 76)

Turn left on Bethel Drive into Bethel University

After entering the campus, use the main parking lot on the right side of the road.

Registration is in the Lundquist Community Life Building on the left.

Patricia Cruzan named interim editor of *The Sabbath Recorder*

The SDB General Council has named Patricia “Pat” Cruzan of Shiloh, New Jersey, as the new Interim Editor of *The Sabbath Recorder* magazine. The *Recorder* has been the denominational periodical since 1844.

Her name may be familiar to many of our older readers since she worked as the *Recorder’s* Art Director when John Bevis was editor in the 1970s and early ’80s.

After the SDB Center moved from Plainfield, N.J. to Janesville, Wis., Pat worked in the advertising department of a weekly newspaper. She then did layout and design for newsletters, ads, and a local magazine in an ad agency. Pat has a degree in English Literature from The King’s College in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and has taken a number of Adult Education Commercial Art courses.

Having worked with Mrs. Cruzan on many projects over the years, outgoing *SR* Editor Kevin Butler is positive about the future.

“I’m excited to see how Pat will improve the looks of the old *Recorder*,” says Editor Butler. “Her previous work speaks for itself. Pat’s a wonderful graphic artist and a great servant of God. Our publication will be in good hands.” Butler steps down on June 30, completing over 25 years of service.

Her volunteer work on SDB projects includes:

- Designing and editing the “Journey of a Lifetime” special edition of the *SR* in 2000
- Designing three book covers for Rev. Don Sanford: *Conscience Taken Captive*, *A Free People in Search of a Free Land*, *Greater Than Its Parts*
- Cover design and layout work for SDB tracts: *The Facts of Life*, *Baptism, Pro & Con*, *What the Bible Teaches about the Sabbath*, *By What Authority*. The “Identity” brochure thumbprint cover is her design along with the layout of its pages.



Patricia Cruzan

“I am really pleased whenever given the opportunity to use the gift God has given me for Seventh Day Baptists.”


- Created the newsletter for the Women’s Board when it was in Shiloh; designed the current Women’s Board logo
- Several Conference theme logos (including this year’s “Choose” graphic for Pastor Steven James)
- Brochures for the Memorial Board
- Maintains the website for the Shiloh Church, makes brochures, ads, posters, and newsletter
- At General Conference, attends the Communications Interest Committee
- Member of the New Media Committee and had input on new social media logo design

Our Executive Director, Rob Appel shares, “Pat Cruzan has always been interested in our publications. Whether it is a tract, a mailer, a brochure, and especially the *Recorder*, you will find Pat involved and willing to share her expertise. She is passionate about print materials and their ability to send a message.”

Pat says, “I have always had a passion for the possibilities of spreading the Word through a denominational magazine.

“I am really pleased whenever given the opportunity to use the gift God has given me for Seventh Day Baptists.”

She is married to George Cruzan and is a member of the Shiloh SDB Church. The Cruzans have three sons and eight grandchildren.

Pat will work from her home in New Jersey. She will assist with some of the pages of the July-August *Sabbath Recorder*, then be at the helm of the September issue. She can be reached by e-mail at sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org. 

Marriages

Parker – Young. Jack Parker and Linda Young were united in marriage on February 15, 2014 at the White Cloud (MI) Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Monroe – Spears. Caleb Monroe and Nikki Spears were united in marriage on March 15, 2014 at Re-mount Baptist Church in N. Little Rock, AR. Pastor Jeffrey Monroe, father of the groom, officiated.

Spearl – Mirabel. Pastor Michael Spearl and Laura Mirabal were united in marriage on March 29, 2014, at the Bradenton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Bradenton, FL.

Obituaries

Epp.—Eugene Epp, 90, of Angwin, Calif., died on February 21, 2014.

He was born on May 28, 1923 in Shafter, Calif., at the home of his parents John and Kathrine Epp. Gene grew up helping on the family farm in the central valley.

During World War II, Gene served in a Conscientious Objector's camp in Oregon. He felt he could not morally bear arms, and in lieu of combat duty was assigned to fight huge forest fires and to help construct the Wikiup Dam, which is still in service near Bend, Ore.

He married Blanch Gearing on August 25, 1946. After settling in Hollister, Calif., Gene started his own business called "Gene's Repair Shop," repairing small engines. During Gene's retirement years, he and Blanch moved from Hollister to Angwin, Calif., to be near their family. Blanch died on February 2, 1999 after 52 years of marriage.

He was a charter member of the Bay Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, often traveling almost 100 miles to the church's meeting place. In the days of Bay Area joint meetings with the Monterey fellowship, he and Blanch would arrange for meeting places. Gene's favorite Scripture was what he called "The 1-2-3 of the Sabbath": 1st book, 2nd chapter, 3rd verse.

Gene is survived by his daughter Barbara Hassard, granddaughter Amy Lee, and two great-granddaughters; a sister, Anna Griffith,

a brother, David Epp; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held March 16, 2014, in Angwin, led by Gene's daughter Barbara and family. In attendance were Anita Carter, Oscar Burdick, and Pastor Steve Crouch of the Bay Area SDB Church.

Ellis.—Frances W. Ellis, 104, died on February 23, 2014 at Wedgewood of Winter Haven, an assisted living home in Winter Haven, Fla. She was born February 17, 1910, the daughter of Dr. Frank S. and Anna (Wooden) Wells. She grew up attending the Plainfield (N.J.) SDB Church.

Frances graduated from Alfred (N.Y.) University with a BA degree and was employed as a social worker until her marriage. She married Delmar B. Ellis October 12, 1935 and moved to Stephentown, N.Y., which was their home for 60 years. She was a loyal member of the Berlin (N.Y.) SDB Church, where she served as teacher, clerk, and deaconess.

Survivors include her loving children, Ruth Hazen, Tracys Landing, Md.; Robert Ellis, Milford, N.Y.; Howard Ellis, Winter Haven, Fla.; and Sandra Clare, Bridgewater, N.J. Other survivors include eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Berlin SDB Church on May 24, 2014 with Pastor Matthew Olson officiating. *SR*

Birth

Hipskind.—A daughter, Emma Joy, was born to Greg and Jennifer (Butler) Hipskind of Rock Island, IL on May 16, 2014.

German Seventh Day Baptist Church 786 Golden Rule Road New Enterprise, PA 16664

The GSDB Church is in need of a spiritual leader for our small congregation located in beautiful Morrison's Cove, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. We are actively seeking a Pastor to fill this position on a permanent basis.

If you believe that God is calling you to this position, please contact Don Graffius at graffius@atlanticbb.net or (814) 766-3414 for more information and details.

We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.



Called to be a pastor?

God calls each of us to a special ministry within His Church. Historically, the **Seventh Day Baptist Church in White Cloud, Michigan** has been faithfully involved in serving the Lord through a vital prayer ministry, a global mission ministry, a community youth ministry, and an active senior ministry. The church is committed to following God’s call.

The White Cloud Church is seeking a Pastor who is inspired by God—not only to minister to God’s people and the community, but to shepherd the church into our next experience with God and His vision for us.

If you sense God calling you to come to White Cloud to be a Pastor, please contact us. We have been praying diligently and have full faith that God’s will and timing are perfect!

You may reach the church by calling Ed Cruzan at 231-689-5252, or by email at cruzanec@att.net, for more information.



Annual Corporation Meeting Notice

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held on the campus of Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, following the evening worship service of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., on Monday, July 28, 2014. The specific location for the meeting will be announced on campus.

The purposes of this meeting shall be: (1) to act upon the 2013 Annual Report of the Board of Directors; (2) to discuss and vote on the proposed dissolution of The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., in accordance with the Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets approved by the Board of Directors; and (3) to act upon other such matters as may properly come before the meeting. Specifically, in order to properly approve the Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets, the Members will vote on two resolutions as follows:

RESOLVED: That the Members of The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc. (the “Corporation”) hereby find that it is in the best interests of the Corporation that it promptly dissolve (the “Dissolution”); and it is further

RESOLVED: That, in connection with one of the required steps in order to effect the Dissolution, the Members of the Corporation have duly considered, and now hereby approve, the Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets of The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., which has been prepared by special counsel and adopted by the Corporation’s Board of Directors.

These documents will be available on our website (<http://educatingchristians.org/annual-meeting>) once they have been approved by the Corporation’s directors.

Members of the member churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2014 General Conference sessions in St. Paul, MN, are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

More than just an editor

Before coming here to the SDB Center, I had the privilege of working in a number of different occupations.

Each summer during high school and college I was employed at a local telephone company, working my way up from trimming branches off the lines to installing new phones. After college I got security clearance to work at a regional computer center for GE's Aerospace and Defense Division.

Deciding that the big company was a bit too impersonal, I went back to the little phone company and tried my hand at sales. (Didn't do so well.) Next came Radio

Shack, where I got into store management and won a sales contest to Acapulco.

The "call" to ministry had been tugging at my heart for years, so we left everything and everybody we knew and went off to seminary. I continued to work at a Radio Shack near the school, then did campus maintenance, then got a dream job being in charge of the audio-visual equipment for the seminary library and classrooms.

Following seminary I accepted the call to pastor our new church in Madison, Wis. In an attempt to promote our church, I recorded a series of short Bible commentaries for the local Christian radio station. Not long after, I wound up using my college radio experience and worked there as a part-time announcer, mostly Sunday mornings—allowing the other staff members to go to their churches.

My "Walter Mitty" experience of different careers got enhanced when it came to creating and performing the Tract Council presentation at Conference. Wanting to convey our information in an entertaining and memorable way, I got to play the role of a game show host (several times with vintage and current games), TV newscaster, talk show host, lawyer and detective.

"Hats off" to the TCC members who played along in those skits, plus a string of cameo guests including Jim Skaggs, Paul Manuel and the recurring role of "Barbie Dull" played by Cheri Appel. Thanks so much!

Another facet to this communication ministry involved many meetings and much travel. I was blessed to be on the ground floor of the MORE 2000 vision plan formulated by Rod Henry—our Ministry of Revival and Evangelism. That was followed by the "Invitation to Conversation" series spearheaded by Ernest Bee.

Other church events and General Council meetings kept me on the move, not to mention our annual General Conference meetings. I also represented SDBs on the Baptist Joint Committee, sending me to Washington twice a year for a decade.



Some of the trips went beyond our borders. Thanks to a generous benefactor, Janet and I were able to attend Baptist World Congress conventions in Australia and England, and an SDB World Federation gathering in Brazil. Wonderful experiences!

While I spent more than my fair share of time editing and doing layout on the computer, the Lord expanded my horizons and life experiences in so many awesome ways over this quarter-century.

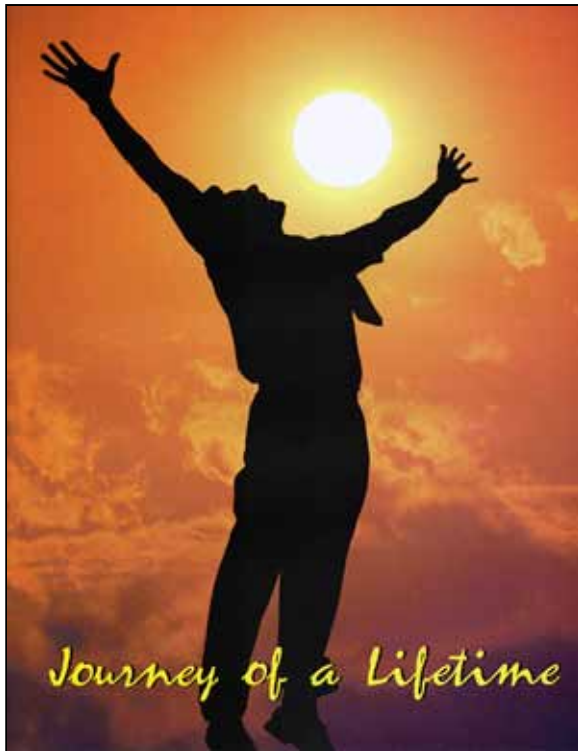
In most ministries, it's hard to have tangible evidence of how you affect or change lives. With the *Recorder*, I can have my pic snapped next to a stack of printed copies, saying, "This is what I've done!"

But I am also grateful for the innumerable intangibles—the church visits, the gracious hosts, and the loving family that is Seventh Day Baptists.

Next month, Lord willing, I'll share about what's next.



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.*"