

**Touching
others for
Christ**

**2014
MISSIONS
ISSUE**



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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Seventh Day Baptist General Conference 2014

Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota

July 27 – August 2

[On Facebook at [SDB Conference 2014](#)]

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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. We are committed to 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, 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.



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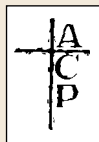


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The *Joy* of Missions

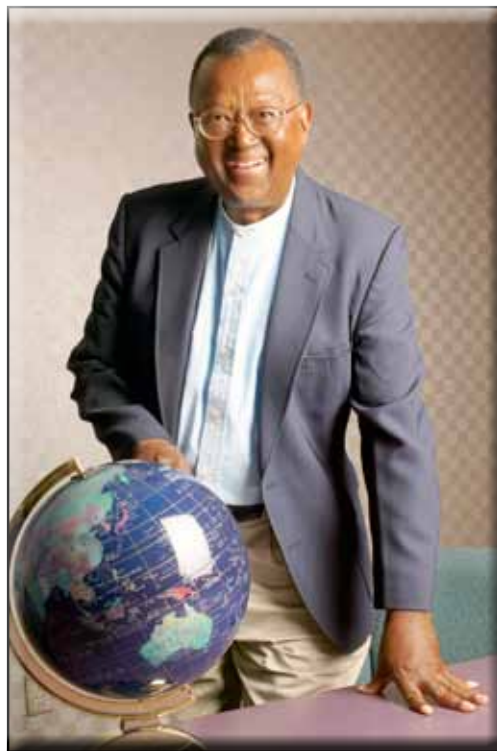
by Pastor Shirley Morgan
from Miami, Fla., SDB Church
serving in Corn Island, Nicaragua

News reports from around the world tell us that Christians are being persecuted for their faith, missionaries are thrown into prisons, and many suffer hardship because they are carrying the Gospel to those in need.

Why would anyone leave the comfort of their home to suffer such fates? The answer is simple: it is the joy of carrying out the most important mission on the face of the earth which is sharing the Good News of Salvation with a dying world.

What is joy? Dictionary.com describes it as: “*a feeling of great happiness, the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying, keen pleasure, elation.*” This definition is perfect—it puts in words the feeling I experience every time I have the opportunity to share God’s Word with others.

My experience in missions is not the result of a well-organized plan to go to foreign fields and share the Gospel (although I had dreamed



about being a missionary). It is the result of allowing God to use me in the midst of a situation I was not prepared for. It is trying to “bloom where planted,” understanding the Word of God that tells us that “...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28 NIV).

Even though I grew up on this island off the coast of Nicaragua, returning after 23 years was like going to a foreign land. If there was poverty when I was growing up, I was unaware of it. Everyone at

the time had their own beautiful houses and this was a thriving community.

So much has changed since then! This paradise is now plagued with poverty and lack of spiritual upbringing. I suddenly found myself in the midst of a chaotic situation and realized that I did not have to go to Africa or faraway lands to be a missionary.

This realization propelled me into starting a Children’s Ministry reaching out to children from all walks of life in my own neighborhood. The children are from different spiritual backgrounds—some go to church with their parents on Sunday and others don’t attend church anywhere.

In January 2014 the Lord allowed me to start a second group in a poverty-stricken neighborhood. The service is done in the yard of a grandmother who expresses that this is a “God thing” because there is so much hate, anger and curses in the neighborhood. The service is held on Sabbath afternoon and is attended by a considerable group of children. Immediately following the children’s church, a second service is held for adults from the area. Reaching out to the youth is a challenge in itself. However, this

part of ministry continues to be an integral part of the outreach.

A feeling of great happiness comes from knowing that these children are learning lessons from the Word of God that will enable them to make good choices as they grow up. It is the understanding that I am investing in their lives and that there will be a harvest in the future that makes every effort, every struggle, every criticism, worth the while.

The joy of missions comes from knowing that you are part of a bigger plan; that people all over the world are risking their lives, leaving their comfort zones to spread the news that God really loves the world.

Where does the joy of missions come from? Let me tell you:

- **The Joy of Missions** comes from the smile on a child's face because they have learned a new song that tells them of Jesus' love.
- **The Joy of Missions** comes from the cheerful voice of a child calling out your name just to let you know that they can recite the memory verse.
- **The Joy of Missions** comes from seeing the children, some barefoot, some with tattered clothes, fighting for a front seat so they can listen to Bible stories.
- **The Joy of Missions** comes from the willingness of the children to help carry the equipment over the rough terrain to the place where service is held.



The children's ministry in Pastor Shirley's neighborhood.



The Lord opened doors to expand to a new ministry in a more depressed area.

- **The Joy of Missions** comes from hearing a grandmother saying, "Now they are not cursing but singing the choruses."
- **The Joy of Missions** comes from going into the alley and lanes taking the Gospel to the lost.
- **The Joy of Missions** comes from meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of a people who are discriminated against.
- **The Joy of Missions** comes from the encouragement of

cont. next page

these people when you are down and considering giving up. I could continue on but I believe that you get the picture.

As Christians we are all called to missions. However, most will never experience the joy of missions

because they have bought into the deception that they are not called to the mission field. Your mission field doesn't have to be in Africa, or some other poor country—it can be right in your neighborhood.

How many of your neighbors are in need of the Savior? How many

of your coworkers and those closer to home? How many of your loved ones?

Missions require the following:

1. A heartfelt passion for lost souls; the understanding that Christ's mission must be our mission.
2. Perseverance in the face of trials and temptations, allowing the blocks that Satan hurls at us to become stepping stones to bring us higher in the Lord instead of stumbling blocks.
3. Forehead like flint that deflects the schemes that the enemy of our souls throws at us.
4. Steel-rod backbone that keeps you standing straight even when things are crumbling around you.
5. And a host of friends willing to bear you up in prayer as you go to the mission fields and be poured out for a people in need of the Savior.

Join me in living out the Joy of Missions! **SR**

Headed to Haiti to pursue the Joy of Missions!

Joel & Laura Sutton



Deployment Date Set
September 1, 2014
www.SDBMissions.org

Study on Missions Theology begins

*by Miriam Berg
Thornton, Colo.*

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to send out e-mail studies about missions to the people in my church. We started in Genesis and have been working our way through the Bible.

What follows is the first lesson of twelve. These studies will be available on the Missionary Society's website every other week starting **July 15, 2014**.

You can access them by going to "Articles" at SDBMissions.org. Or if you would like to receive these by e-mail twice a month, please contact info@sdbmissions.org and say that you would like to be put on the Missions Study e-mail list.



THE BEGINNING

by Miriam Berg

BIBLE STUDY

Very often—though we might not realize or admit it—we live like the Bible is all about us. We think it is merely a ‘rule book’ telling us what we should and shouldn’t do, our ‘family doctor’ showing us how to feel better, our ‘treasure map’ showing us how to get God’s blessings, etc.

But that is not what the Bible is mostly about. ***The Bible is more about God and His glory than it is about us.*** Even from the creation of the world, God was showing that His glory and His name are of utmost importance.

Genesis 1:28

God Commissions Adam and Eve

Why do you think God gave the command for people to be fruitful and multiply? What do you think He was envisioning? Could it be that He wanted the earth to be filled with people so that those people could glorify and worship Him?

Genesis 6:5-9

God Commissions Noah

Why did God destroy everyone else, but save Noah and his family? Verse 9 says it was because he was “a righteous man... and he walked with God.” God destroyed the people who did not bring Him glory, but saved Noah and his family because Noah loved and honored God.

Genesis 11:1-9

The Tower of Babel

Why did God confuse the people’s language and scatter them? Because they wanted to “make a name” for *themselves* (v.4) instead of wanting to make God’s name great. God will not share His glory with another.

So what does God’s desire to be glorified have to do with missions? Well, currently, between 30-40% of the world’s population is part of an unreached people group. What that means is

about a third of the people in the world couldn’t hear the Gospel even if they wanted to (at least not without learning a new language, crossing a border, dealing with an enemy tribe, etc.). These people will not come to know God through Jesus unless someone from their group comes into contact with a cross-cultural missionary of some sort.

Without cross-cultural missions, many people groups will never hear the Gospel, and will therefore not be able to glorify God through worship.

Romans 10:14 reminds us: “How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” ***If we believe that God is passionate about His glory in all the nations, then we must be passionate about missions until His name is glorified among ALL the nations.***

MISSIONS FACT

When the Bible talks about all nations, it is not talking about countries or geo-political boundaries.

The Greek word commonly translated nations is “*ethne*.” You can see the connection to *ethnicity* or *ethnic group*. We often use the phrase “people group” to mean the same thing.

Remember: When you read “nations” in the Bible, don’t think *country*. Think people group. **SR**



Preparing to Answer

by *Patty Petersen*

I just finished a 9-month assignment helping a new Seventh Day Baptist church get planted in Kingman, Arizona.

How did I get into this unlikely role of church planter? Looking back, I can see God preparing me step by step.

The early days

I chose to follow Jesus when I was 12, at church camp. I grew in the Christian faith through Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, sermons, parachurch organizations, Summer Christian Service Corps, Bible study, and memorizing Scripture. Along the way I was trained in evangelism using tracts, friendship, music, and surveys. I always wanted to influence more people to choose to follow Jesus, but I felt pretty ineffective.

As a young adult I served as a short-term missionary in Honduras, living with my husband in a squatter community on the outskirts of the capital city. Functioning in that culture was a huge stretch, causing me to turn to God much more often and wrestle with the big questions of suffering and evil in the world.

It was difficult to see so much poverty in our neighbors and not have any lasting solutions for them. It turned out that what lasted was the love we showed in Jesus' name and the friendships we made (to this day, thanks to Facebook).

I don't remember leading anyone to Christ, but I encouraged many and saw God at work. The experience made me more comfortable with people unlike me, and increased my desire



Teaching Sabbath School in Kingman, Arizona.

to right what wrongs were within my reach. (See Proverbs 29:7.)

Time for discipline

In my 30s I started noticing health problems. I didn't want chronic conditions to sidetrack me from being available to serve the Lord and realized I had to make changes. I joined a weight loss program and began to walk during my lunch hour.

Making healthier choices with what I ate and drank took many years, but I focused on educating myself and seeing progress, gaining self-control as I went along. I was encouraged by verses like 1 Cor. 6:19 (your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit) and 1 Cor. 9:24b-27, "Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things... but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

That includes the tongue

During my two decades in corporate America, one of the most valuable things I learned was how to use carefully chosen words to communicate effectively. I was especially convicted by James 1:26, "If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not control his tongue... this man's religion is worthless." I'll be working on this until the day I die, knowing it's a critical skill both inside and outside the Church.

Seven years ago I learned "the Way of the Master" approach to evangelism and it "clicked" for me. I could have a fun conversation with both friends and strangers which ended with them understanding why their sinful behavior makes them an enemy of God and what God has done to rescue them from eternal punishment. Because the dialogue is respectful and asks a lot of questions, people don't usually get defensive. I also learn about other worldviews from these conversations.

Over time as I've been out talking to people (downtown streets, fair booths, parks, airports, wherever), my concern and compassion for the lost has grown. Even the smartest PhD is a lost sheep until he gives his life to Christ. I see people with different eyes now and I'm willing to approach almost anyone.



Patty Petersen applying the “Way of the Master” technique at the SDB church’s booth in downtown Boulder, Colo.

Read, read, read

I appreciated Ralph Mackintosh (2013 Conference President) urging us to read Henry Blackaby’s book, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. What an encouragement to read how this man’s obedience led to people being saved and new churches started! He made it clear that following Jesus will cost you, but we’re in it to win souls and we should be willing to sacrifice for God’s greater glory and purposes.

Other books that influenced my willingness to yield more of my time, energy and earthly wealth were *Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand (Voice of the Martyrs), *God’s Smuggler* by Brother Andrew (Open Doors International, supporting persecuted Christians), and *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn. The book of Acts in the Bible was also a major motivator to give ever more for God’s work.

Goodbye to “stuff”

When I sensed God asking me to move beyond weekly street evangelism to serving Him full-time in church planting, I asked, “How do I get ready?” One answer was to sell the house.

It wasn’t easy but I needed freedom to go where God would send me and I needed the money. In order to move to an apartment, I had to say goodbye to extra furniture, books, kitchen stuff, etc.

Old photos and children’s artwork were scanned to the computer and tossed. I’m still downsizing and learning the lesson Paul taught in Phil. 4:11, “...I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

A year ago God asked me to quit my job and start helping new SDB churches. By then I had an invitation from Pastor Bob Peet to help with their new church in Kingman.

Making the big move

So, I stopped working (despite meager retirement savings), moved half my belongings to Arizona, and then started raising support. I was living on money from selling the house.

Yes, this felt scary, but I’d read and heard enough from other missionaries to know obedience is the first priority and that God provides. I appreciate the response from SDB churches and individuals who are supporting me in prayer and financially. If you want to participate, contact the Missionary Society at (401) 596-4326 or office@sdbmissions.org.

Helping Mom helped me

A few months before leaving for Arizona, I felt God asking me to do a favor for my mother in the form of renting an apartment, so she could live in better circumstances and provide a home base when I returned to Colorado on breaks. (Another use of house proceeds.)

I committed to doing it for a year, and what a blessing that was for both her and me! When the lease was up, God provided an apartment Mom could afford on her own, and a room for me in the home of fellow SDBs. I still have a home base and a garage to store my “stuff.” I’ve decided I only need to take what fits in my car to the next place to serve, and trust God for the rest.

This means war

I think of it as living in a time of war—serious spiritual war. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 says, “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”

I make sacrifices for the cause. I don’t live as if it were a time of peace. There are lives at stake. How can I face Jesus in heaven with my one talent and tell Him I buried it to keep it safe? He would be justified in throwing me out the door. “Faithless, worthless servant!”

Instead I want to hear Him say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” **SR**

ME?? A *missionary*???

*by Pastor Paul Andries
Washington, D.C.*



Wow! Missions. Mission field. Missionary. Those are words that I would have never associated with myself, having had no special training in that area.

I never envisioned myself talking about mission work, let alone going on mission trips. I considered “missionaries” as unique (strange) individuals. Yet, here I am talking about missions, as a result of trips I was privileged to take over the past few years.

How my “mission” began

It would be helpful to note that my initial visit to Guyana was never (at least in my mind) intended to be a “mission trip.” Dr. Ron Davis, with a team of nurses, was planning a Medical Mission trip to Guyana for July 2007. As a native from there, they requested that I accompany them as the Team Pastor.

My initial reaction was a big “NO” as I had done with previous requests. But, after seeking the Lord, it was clear to me that I

should submit to His providential will and extend my ministry borders, beginning with Guyana.

The leadership of the Washington SDB Church (where I pastor) thought it was high time for me to make that trip and see firsthand some of what the church had been supporting over the years. I was in. It was 28 years since I had last been in Guyana.

Undercover missionary

Very few people knew that I was on the team, including extended family members. Only my church and immediate family knew that I was going.

I should have known the Lord was up to something. The team spent the first afternoon at the zoo, and a television crew was there. They interviewed us and the conversation was actually broadcast the next morning. Oh, what a surprise!

Blending in with the culture and “hiding” within the team were my intentions. It was not long before several older Guyanese began making the connections of their ghostly offspring.

People found me to express appreciation for the materials (Bibles,



The preferred—and most sensible—mode of transportation.



Pastor Paul Andries (left) teaches Bible basics to some eager students.



Strong Concordances, clothes, guitars, supplies, etc.) we had shipped over the past 2-3 years. Several leaders asked me to come and do some leadership training with them.

You want me to do what?

I am quite aware that I am neither a missionary nor an instructor, so therefore I wanted to say no. But I am comfortable, however, sharing the Word and Biblical principles that would encourage others to move toward their calling. So my answer was “Yes.” Then there was the matter of how (finance) and when (time). I was completely settled that the Lord would have to work out those “minor” details. He did.

The Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Guyana has been yearning to train their leaders since the establishment of the churches and Conference 100 years ago. They are very grateful for those who have visited in the past, but are looking for future training that would further prepare them for ministry in their local churches and communities.

A warm-up for things to come

I could not respond to their request until I had fulfilled my obligations as Conference President of our churches in the U.S. and Canada. However, I was able to share general thoughts relating to *“The Making, Calling & Qualifying of God’s Leaders for His Church”* with some of the key leaders on my return trip in 2008. After two sessions with the Guyana Conference’s leader, we felt that this was the direction the Lord was leading. A leadership training session was held using material based on that lesson.

Hunger for the Word and passion to see it spread among all people in the land is their cry. The trainings were held at the Bona Ventura SDB Church on the Pomeeroon River. This is the most central point, facilitating those who travel from the interior regions.

Why on the river?

The sole means of transportation in that region is by boat. One might wonder: Why not hold the training in the city, or a place where other modes of transportation are more readily available? When you consider the cost of living, coupled with location, it would be more difficult for the leaders from the interior region to attend.

The interior brethren literally travel for hours, sometimes by a small motor boat, and sometimes paddling in canoes. They make the trip because they are given the opportunity to learn. This is not only a sacrifice on all fronts, but also a demonstration of their passion and yearning for the Word of God.

Even though they have MUCH less than we, our brothers and sisters in Guyana have demonstrated

cont. next page

a level of faithfulness that should put most Christians in our Conference on a shame bench.

More than ability and aptitude

One key thing I have observed in ministry over the years is that it isn't just your ability and aptitude, but rather your *availability* and *attitude* that God uses. "Lord," I prayed, "Even with my limited ability, I ask that You use me where You see fit.

During the evaluation process of the February 2013 training, I was urged by the participants and President to return for another session. They said to me, "You need to come at least twice a year." I was told that I have a "connection" with this group, and "We do not want the fire to go out."

Come again?

These men are serious! They are hungry for the Word. Most of them have no formal training. They are trying to become agents of change within the Conference. I was also told, "This was the first time that so many leaders came out to any training program in the Conference in a very long time." There were an average of 19 leaders in attendance.

They asked, "Pastor, could you come again?" Most of them said, "We want to learn how to study the Bible." I agree completely. I had taught this in the D.C. church, both at our Wednesday night Bible Study and the CALLED Program. A few adjustments were made specifically for the group in Guyana, and I named it "*The Principle of Biblical Interpretation.*"



Much more than just a piece of paper!

Where's the paperwork?

Because of their lack of formal training, most of them feel inadequate to minister and are scoffed at in their community for not having a document or certificate of authorization. Conference President Pastor Sherlock and I felt since the materials were of good quality, certificates were in order.

The attendees received a certificate of completion for each of the workshops. This might not mean much to us, but to them, receiving that piece of paper was extremely meaningful. Now they could show their communities they have a certificate of some Biblical Training.

Time to learn about us

At the conclusion of the workshop held September 15 thru 20, they unanimously said, "We need to know more about Seventh Day Baptists and our history." I have been in contact with the SDB Librarian/Historian in putting together something for that session. I thank the Historical Society and its leadership for sending me a box of material on Guyana's history, as well as complementary materials to help support this effort to further their education.

A date for my return to Guyana has not been set. My knowledge is limited, yet more advanced than most of those men. They want me to share what I know, which humbles me greatly. I have made this promise to the Lord: "As long as I have breath, my health is intact, they want me to come, and the funds are made available—I will make this trip as often as possible," as the Lord permits.

Education is key

This is a group of people who are hungry for education; that is, the Word of God. Yes, they want other teaching and helpful *material* things for ministries, but I believe the greatest need is education. As they are set free educationally—coupled with their spiritual insights and desire for oneness within the Conference—they would become less dependent on our Conference. They are aware of this and are making preparations.

I hope to take a team at a future date to assist with a more advanced training program similar to the T.I.M.E. or CALLED programs.

As I think of all of my people in Guyana and their needs, I am reminded of Isaiah and his people of the Northern Kingdom and their needs. "*Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*" (Isa. 6:5-8).

On behalf of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Guyana, thank you for the multiple means of support you have given to advance their leadership. **SR**



ABOVE & BEYOND

Sometimes a word or phrase is spoken and it sticks with you. There are some lines that don't fade into your memory (movie quotes, Bible verses, BAZINGA!).

During SCSC training one year, our team was given some advice I think about often. We were told that when we finished a task we should look around, find several other things that needed to be done, and ask the person in charge what they wanted us to start on next. If they blanked, then we could articulate our ideas and things could keep moving.

Taking the initiative like this is a small matter and most of the time people would never notice if it didn't happen. But when you do, you stand out. Sometimes I wonder if that is where Christians miss an opportunity.

We are set on trying to live a better life, a more Christ-like life, to be the example of his light in a dark world. We attempt to live lives of godliness (a good thing to strive for) but it is impossible for us to be perfect. What is left when we fail? Is it really enough to fail less than non-Christians? Living a good life is what many people try to do. Is there really any difference doing that because of a religious belief? I think it is the absent actions which no one knows enough to miss that could set us apart. We need to look around and see what needs to be done – consistently.

In Colossians 4:5-6, Paul says that we should behave wisely and speak with grace, tempered with truth, toward unbelievers. Paul is concerned with our behavior toward others. This isn't living a pure life others can see so maybe they'll want it, too. That sort of behavior isn't about others

at all, it's all about you. We can't be pure even though that struggle is a part of our witness. Our behavior towards others is about caring for them physically, mentally, and then spiritually. We should be consciously looking for ways to support others, seeing what they need even if they don't say it outright.

Speech is next. Paul says we should speak grace into the lives of other people. Not "kumbaya" communication but actually listening and then responding in truth. Being allowed to speak and be heard isn't something that happens very often for many people these days. It's even more rare for them to actually be listened to. The last part of verse six talks about knowing how to answer people, having the wit to make an articulated diplomatic response. But we can't respond if we don't listen. No matter how communicative our actions might be, they don't tell the entire story. People need the why. We won't get to tell them about our experience unless we are looking for and acting upon the opportunities they give us.

I think we treat evangelism as if we have to be on the street corner approaching strangers, using tracts, giving them the Gospel. But our best evangelistic opportunities don't always come in that package. Sometimes the opportunity is with family, coworkers, friends, or neighbors. We miss it because we aren't looking around to see what else needs to be done. God gives us opportunities to fulfill the Great Commission and will guide our behavior and words. All we need to do is recognize when it happens. God went above and beyond for us. What seems like above and beyond to other people is everyday when you are with Him. **SR**

Ladies don't forget to bring or send your contributions to the Women's Craft table at Conference.

Get your ticket to the Women's Banquet! Hope to see you all there!



The Nick of Time
Nick Kersten
Librarian-Historian

The Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society voted at its annual meeting, June 1, to pursue merger with the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada. The vote was 89 to 8 in favor of pursuing merger. This included votes of members present at the meeting and those sending proxy votes of “yes” or “no” on the specific question. In response, the Society will begin work on a formal merger agreement which would assure continuation of the Society’s work through a Historical Council of the Conference. The hope is that the merger agreement would be ready for vote by Society members in 2015 with probable vote by the General Conference in 2016, the 100-year anniversary of the Society.

JAMAICAN SDB PASTORS IN NORTH AMERICA

By Rev. Andy Samuels


Over the last 40 years—approximately the span of a generation—no less than 27 Jamaicans or men of Jamaican descent have served as Pastor, Assistant Pastor, or Associate Pastor of a Seventh Day Baptist Church in North America. That is quite a remarkable occurrence when considered from any angle, and by any measurement. But what are some of the factors that have led to that phenomenal development?

A little historical background is useful here. In 1923, the first contact from Sabbathkeepers in Jamaica to Seventh Day Baptists in the United States was made. A denomination called Free Seventh-day Adventist was crumbling and individuals in one of those churches found themselves in possession of a publication called “The Voice.” This publication was published by Pastor Robert St. Clair, pastor of the Detroit, Michigan SDB Church, who received a letter from Jamaica. The individuals were very interested in what they had read.

Pastor St. Clair and the Northwestern Association responded to the inquiry by sending to Jamaica one of their pastors, Clifford Hansen, along with the Corresponding Secretary of the SDB Missionary Society, William Burdick. The visit was a fruitful one because at the end of a period of visiting churches, studying, teaching, and preaching, a group of 14 former Free Seventh-day Adventist Churches decided to become Seventh Day Baptist.

By 1927, it had become clear that the churches in Jamaica needed help on the field, and so a series of long-term American missionaries were sent to aid in the work. These included Rev. and Mrs. Burdette Coon, Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Hargis, Rev. Luther Crichlow, Rev. and Mrs. Wardner Fitz Randolph and Rev. and Mrs. Leon Lawton. Their collective service extended until 1964.

During this period, the need for trained native workers was prominently entrenched in the minds of both the Americans and the Jamaicans. As a response to the growing sense that the Jamaica Conference would need to have trained leaders to succeed their benefactors from the north, Crandall High School was opened in 1948 with the objective of providing a high school education to Seventh Day Baptist children, as well as early training for ministry to those so inclined.

The list of principals supplied to Crandall High School by the American SDB Missionary Society spans from 1948-1978. It includes Rev. and Mrs. Neal Mills, Dr. and Mrs. Orville Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Brissey, Mr. and Mrs. Courtland Davis, Mr. Wayne Crandall, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Mackintosh. 

Andy Samuels is the pastor of the Miami, FL SDB Church, chairman of the Standing Committee on Faith and Order, and the General Secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

2014 Institute held

Sessions deal with the Sabbath

by Gordon Lawton
Dean, SDB School
of Ministry

Seven students gathered in Janesville, Wis., at the SDB Center for the final week of the “Summer” Institute in Sabbath Theology. The students began participating on-line in February and submitted their Sabbath Theology paper at the end of the class session in Wisconsin.

Students were Tim Bancroft from Wellsville, N.Y. and a member at First Genesee SDB, Little Genesee, N.Y.; Clint Brown from Westerly, R.I. and a member at First Hopkinton SDB, Ashaway, R.I.; Johnmark Camenga, Pastor at Lost Creek, W.Va.; Carl Greene, Pastor at Hebron, Pa.; Kevin Palmiter, Pastor at First Genesee, N.Y.; Ray Peterson from Racine, Wis., and a member at Pataskala, Ohio; and David Stall, Pastor at First Hopkinton SDB in Ashaway, R.I.

The Sabbath—from creation



Summer Institute 2014. Seated (left to right): Tim Bancroft, Clint Brown, and Kevin Palmiter. Standing (l. to r.): Gordon Lawton, David Stall, Ray Peterson, Carl Greene, and Johnmark Camenga.

through the Scriptures—was studied. This included looking at its origin and practices in the Old Testament, as well as the example of Jesus and

the early Church. We had a session discussing the practical application of Sabbath principles found in the Bible, as well as a time of trying to understand the reasoning of those who do not keep the seventh-day Sabbath. (Understanding is not the same as agreement.)

It was a good time of learning about this important topic as well as deepening friendships and building new ones. Those taking the class at the seminary/graduate level received a letter grade. Others were graded Pass/Fail.

This is one of three such classes that teach SDB distinctives. Last year was SDB Polity and next year is SDB History. **SR**

Books read included:

The Sabbath: Symbol of Creation and Re-Creation
by Herbert E. Saunders (American Sabbath Tract Society, 1970)

Perspectives On the Sabbath, Four Views
edited by John Donato (B&H Academic, 2011)

Spiritual Sabbathism by A.H. Lewis
(American Sabbath Tract Society, 1910)

True to the Sabbath, True to Our God: Practical Sabbath Keeping
by Larry Graffius

(American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, 1998)

Divine Rest for Human Restlessness
by Samuele Bacchiocchi (Biblical Perspectives, 1988)



Committing the Word to memory

Part of obeying all that Christ commanded is remembering what He said and what He valued. Seventh Day Baptists encourage this part of discipleship by memorizing Scripture together.

The Board of Christian Education has strengthened that impulse with the annual Scripture Memory program. Since the program began, more than 1,900 people from 68 churches have participated.

Mary G. Clare Scripture Memory Bowl

We grant the Mary G. Clare Scripture Memorization Award each year to the SDB church with the most participants. This seven-inch silver plate bowl is held by the winning church for the year and then passed to the winner. Since the program began 1981, 12 different churches have won the award.

2013 Toronto, ON	2002 New York City, NY	1991 Lost Creek, WV
2012 Alfred Station, NY	2001 New York City, NY	1990 Lost Creek, WV
2011 Boulder, CO	2000 New York City, NY &	1989 Lost Creek, WV
2010 Toronto, ON	Toronto, ON	1988 Richburg, NY
2009 Toronto, ON	1999 New York City, NY	1987 Lost Creek, WV
2008 Toronto, ON	1998 Seattle, WA	1986 -no program-
2007 Toronto, ON &	1997 Toronto, ON	1985 Seattle, WA
Milton, WI	1996 Toronto, ON	1984 -no award-
2006 Toronto, ON	1995 Verona, NY	1983 Riverside, CA
2005 Toronto, ON	1994 Lost Creek, WV	1982 Riverside, CA
2004 Milton, WI	1993 Lost Creek, WV	1981 Dodge Center, MN
2003 Shiloh, NJ	1992 Lost Creek, WV	

Scripture Memory HONOR ROLL

In 2002, recognizing that smaller churches might never have the chance to win the Scripture Memory Bowl, the Board instituted the Scripture Memory Honor Roll to recognize churches with an amazing participation rate in the program. Churches are placed on the Honor Roll when their participation rate exceeds 50% of their average worship attendance. Six churches have attained the honor roll in at least one year. **SR**

2013 Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church, Salemville, PA	2008 All Nations, Gardena, CA Metro Atlanta, Hiram, GA Middle Island, New Milton, WV
2012 & 2011 Middle Island, New Milton, WV	2005 Vision Christian Fellowship, Westerly, RI Central SDB Church, Mitchellville, MD
2009 All Nations, Gardena, CA Middle Island, New Milton, WV	



FOCUS on Missions

Forever changed in West Africa

by Danny Lee
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Danny Lee leads a baby dedication service at an SDB church in Ghana.

I was humbly blessed to accompany Missionary Society Director Clint Brown to the Republic of Cameroon, Liberia and Ghana on a much-needed mission trip to see SDBs in West Africa.

We first flew to Cameroon and had the pleasure of attending their Annual Conference in a small village located in the jungle. We worshipped with some wonderful people and shared a feast with them. We also had several meetings with local Christians, pastors, the Conference President, former Minister of Cameroon, and a local chief.

On the way out of the country, we were booked on a flight that did not exist, so we got on the last flight to Lagos, Nigeria. Upon arriving in Nigeria, the officials realized we did not have Visas. They took our passports and detained us in a room with some guards for the evening.

What a blessing! We were able to talk about Jesus with several and

encourage one to pursue his desire of being a pastor. I am certain this was God's will for why we were in Nigeria "by mistake." All was good in the morning and we were able to continue to Liberia.

While in Liberia, security went everywhere with us. Since the country was recovering from a civil war, some were concerned for our safety. We were able to meet with many Christians, pastors, and University leaders. It was great to visit several churches and schools during our brief time there. We attended and spoke at a church service and held a Q&A with several of the local pastors. From Liberia we headed to Ghana.

In Ghana, we were able to visit the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Accra. We delivered the morning message and conducted a baby dedication during the service. In addition, we held a Q&A with the church and later met with the church Board. We saw some land the church

owns and visited a Sunday church that supports our SDB friends.

What a pleasure to see a wonderful church building they had built in the last year, and then be able to help them a little with building a drainage system, bathroom plumbing and floor. In addition, we were able to spend some time with local church leaders sightseeing the local area.

All of the people we met with were loving and very accommodating. They are all committed and hard workers for the Lord. I consider them my brothers and sisters in Christ. Visiting with the children was pure joy.

God is truly working in West Africa, which was so evident in our visit. My travels around the world confirm that the Gospel of the one true God is consistently 100% the same everywhere I go. There is only one Holy Spirit speaking the same message to everyone in the world.

As we were getting bit by mosquitoes, redirected at times, eating foods that could have upset our stomachs, speaking boldly by the Holy Spirit bringing forth Scripture and in areas that were not the safest, God performed miracles each day of our trip. I learned what it is like to stay in constant prayer for days on end and be thankful for the simplest things.

The needs are many in these areas and my prayer is that everyone either begins to give or increases the amount they give to missions. No matter the amount, it is all worthy and needed. I am forever changed by this trip and look forward to hopefully revisiting these areas at a later time. **SR**



the BEACON

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

July/August 2014

By Seth Osborn
Boulder, CO

What Do I Do Now?

Well, here I am. My last *Beacon* article. After serving for two years as the editor/most-of-the-time-writer, I'm now at the end. Similarly, I'm at the end of my high school career; I graduated on May 25. And I'm also at the end of a romantic relationship. Actually we broke up just a few hours before I sat down to write this.

So many endings. It's a little overwhelming to be quite honest. What do I do now that everything is coming to a close? What else than look forward to the new beginnings? This may be the last time I write for *the Beacon*, but it's most certainly not the last time I'll write. Who knows, maybe I'll even end up writing for *The Sabbath Recorder* again at some point. I'm done with grade school, but come August 25 I'll be off to my first day of college classes. Though I am sad about the breakup, it does open up new opportunities for me. Without having to struggle with long distance and spending enough time talking to my significant other, I can spend more time with the friends that are close to me, or read more books, or spend more time outside.

Wow. Now all the beginnings are starting to overwhelm me. Well, I should probably see what advice God has for me. Let me just open up my new Bible that I got from my church as a graduation gift. (Hey, it's already coming in handy!)

Good old Jeremiah 29:11. I think I used this one in my first article, too. *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Joshua 1:9. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* Proverbs 19:21. *"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand."*



Let's go back a little earlier in that book, too. Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

Okay. Sorry to drop all of those on you at once, but they had some overlap in what they were saying.

I figured it might be easier to lay them all out first and then examine the whole of what they're saying. Okay, so let's look at one of the big common threads here: God has plans, and those are the plans that are gonna work out. We might have our own plans for how things will turn out, but those aren't guaranteed to work. God's plans will, though, and these plans are for our benefit. Things might get rough along the way, but things will all be good in the end. We just have to quit relying on our plans and the way we think things should work. Instead, we should turn to God and trust Him.

I don't know about you guys, but I feel better now. I'm not feeling completely good, and I'm sure that negative feelings will still follow me around for a while. But that's okay. Trusting in God doesn't mean you'll only ever have positive feelings. I just can't let those feelings get the best of me. Whenever I'm overwhelmed by them, I can look through the Bible again, reading these and more encouraging verses to help me. I can pray for help through the hard times. I just need to remember Jesus' advice in Matthew 11:29-30: *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* **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.

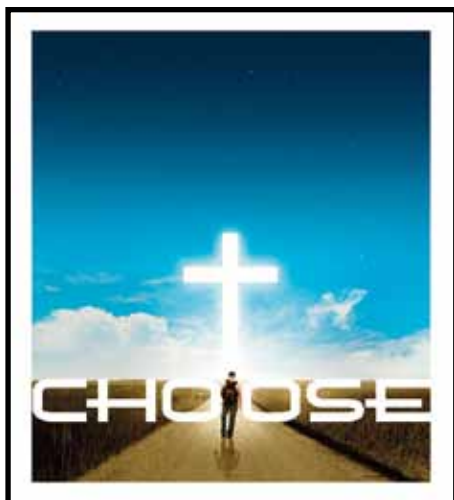
It is our eager desire to serve Seventh Day Baptists and to communicate the Gospel and our beliefs as clearly as possible. If you should have any questions, or need any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the General Council or the General Conference office.

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)



St. Paul, MN July 27–Aug. 2, 2014

The President's Page

by Steven James



Choose... to be Fruitful!

As my final installment as this year's Conference President, and keeping on track in sharing some thoughts about each passage in our Scripture Memory program for 2013-2014, we have one last passage—the “big” one—to tackle. It's **John 15:1-17**.

Perhaps it's “big” not just because it is the traditional “long” one that we can choose to hide in our hearts (or not), but maybe it can also be considered “big” because of what it says about God's passion for us to be fruitful as His people and to love one another.

I believe that the final two verses of our passage sum up what Jesus said previously: verse 16 echoes the words of being fruitful, which I see as summing up verses 1-8; while verse 17 mentions love, which sums up verses 9-15.

If we take that approach of connecting verse 16 with verses 1-8, then I believe that the fruit of which Jesus speaks is the fruit of others coming to Christ for salvation.

I will focus on the “fruit” aspect.

In this passage are the dynamics of One Gardener, One Vine and many branches. There are two kinds of branches: those who remain in the Vine and those who don't. There are four levels of productivity among the branches that remain in the



Vine: no fruit, fruit, more fruit, and much fruit.

That being said, when we choose to be fruitful—to be a part of what God is doing in drawing others to His Son Jesus Christ (John 6:44)—we are then choosing to:

Be Purified

Jesus speaks of a branch in Him that isn't fruitful. Bruce Wilkinson (*Prayer of Jabez; Secrets of the Vine*) hits the nail on the head when he shares how the word usually translated as “cut off” in verse 2 should more fittingly be translated as “lifts up.” This fits the language

of the New Testament when the Greek word is used elsewhere, as well as the 1st century ways of caring for vines and branches.

The word picture is of a branch that naturally grows along the ground. It gets covered with dirt and debris, hidden from warmth and light, and thus becomes unproductive.

The gardener will lift that branch up and out of the dirt and debris, cleanse it, and prop it up off the ground where it can receive the necessary dynamics for fruitful growth. Perhaps we need to ask

cont. on page 24



Saying goodbye to the people who make a difference in our Conference work is not easy. I have been trying to figure out how to write about Kevin Butler and his 25 years serving as Director of Communications of the American Tract and Communication Council. His contributions to the betterment of *The Sabbath Recorder* have been noted due of the look of the magazine.

Kevin started the job as Director on January 3, 1989. He was hired by Rev. Dale Thorngate who was the Conference Executive Secretary at that time. Kevin had vision. Kevin had dreams. Kevin saw the opportunity as T&CC Director as a ministry, not just a job.

When a likeable, funny, and favored coworker like Kevin accepts another opportunity, it can often be a blow for the people he leaves behind. His empty desk can represent its own operational challenges – the search for suitable candidates, deciding who will handle his duties, and possibly even rewriting the job or job description. When someone leaves his place of employment after 25 years, it affects not only the office as a whole, but the individuals left behind as well. Of course our real challenge is to remember that he hasn't really left us; he has just left his job.

Nothing is more satisfying than enjoying the company of the people you work with. This is especially true if some of those people can create a fun and exciting work environment. Kevin was an inspiring colleague who was funny when humor was needed and serious when it called for a more somber mood. This was inspiring to our work at the Center and also contagious to our daily attitudes.

So, although it might feel like a winter atmosphere here in July at the SDB Center, (Kevin's first month gone from the job), we know that we must maintain a positive attitude about the situation; however, this is probably easier said than done. And you our readers will be missing Kevin too.

Here are a few ways to help you keep up your spirits after a fun co-worker/friend has left:

Keep In Touch

You should try to keep in touch. This is especially true if you had a close friendship. Nothing is more deflating to both parties as a lack of communication after someone

It Feels Like Winter on a Summer Day



leaves a job or community. If they were a friend before, they are a friend after. Stay in touch and work to continue to build your relationship.

Avoid Being Negative

You should avoid all negativity. You should do tasks that you know you can accomplish well. Be the responsible person on the team and change the tone of the discussion if it turns negative. Being positive and not negative will help you and your environment recover from the absence of your friend.

cont. on page 23

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.

Shiloh Church honored

by Donna S. Bond
Shiloh, N.J.

Too often we hear the cries of separation of Church and State from those who wish for “freedom from religion” rather than “freedom of religion” as envisioned by our Founding Fathers. It was therefore refreshing to attend Ranch Hope’s* Founder’s Banquet celebrating their Golden anniversary on May 8, 2014.

We had been told that the Shiloh SDB Church was to receive the 2014 Christian Partner Award from Ranch Hope. However, we did not expect the State of New Jersey Legislature to acknowledge our 50 years of support to Ranch Hope with a framed “Joint Legislative Commendation.”

The citation is too lengthy to quote verbatim, but “**Whereas**” introduced the following:

- 1) Our District Legislative Representatives are pleased to “honor and congratulate” (the) “Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh upon receiving the 2014 Christian Partner Award”; and

- 2) The church is “honored and saluted for its outstanding contributions to Ranch Hope and its exemplary dedication” to those in need; and
- 3) Pastor and the congregation have provided volunteer assistance and supported special projects; and
- 4) Strength and success of our State, our communities and our Nation depend on organizations which act together to “further a cause,” “perform a necessary service” or “relieve others from unavoidable hardship”; and
- 5) The people of New Jersey are indebted to the Church whose endeavors improve the “quality of life of those surrounding them.”

Pastor Donald Chroniger accepted the awards on behalf of the church, stating that the church’s involvement began under the leadership of Pastor Charles Bond and continued through the pastorate of John Camenga to the present day.

Executive Director Dave Bailey Jr. commended the congregation for prayer support, financial support and volunteer work.

Drawing from a variety of unexpected success stories, keynote speaker Dr. Tony Campolo of Evangelical Associates for The Promotion of Education, proposed that faith-based agencies work because they provide HOPE for those who need it.

However, some 400 in attendance did not need to rely only on secondhand success stories. Jermaine Jones, a former Ranch Hope resident who placed in the top ten on American Idol, embodied success when he sang, “I Look to You.”

The challenge today is to continue the legacy of assistance to faith-based ministries that go beyond the scope of the local church. **SR**

*(ref. April’s *Sabbath Recorder* or search “Ranch Hope” for more information)



It Feels Like Winter, cont. from p. 21

Change Your Work Habits

Adjust your work routine to take on a different feel. For example, if Kevin was a big part of your workflow, then maybe you can establish a new workflow where you do things differently. This way you won’t automatically be reminded of “the way it used to be” around the office. By creating a new routine, you replace the space with a positive routine of your own making.

Start New Projects

In keeping with the idea of the previous tip, you should try to launch into a new project, whether at home or at

work. Start a project that you especially have control over and this will give you something new to focus on that doesn’t involve your former co-worker or friend. The new project can consume your day-to-day feelings and concerns that might leave you little time to think about the way it used to be.

I hope and pray that these help some of you. I know we all pray that Kevin will be as happy in his new endeavors, as he made us happy with our working with him! **SR**

Choose... to be Fruitful, cont. from p. 20

God to raise us up out of the dirt and debris of life, and into the warmth of His love and light of His Son so we can start bearing fruit as we've been designed to do!

Be Pruned

After a branch is lifted up (v. 2a) and is now becoming productive, it needs pruning from time to time to become even more productive. While there may be “pretty green leaves” on a branch, that is not the purpose of a fruit-bearing branch.

How much of our lives as Christians, as churches, and as a Conference are made up of producing leaves but not fruit? God the Father, as the Master Gardener, wants us to produce **fruit**—not just be covered with “leaves.” As such, He will prune out of our lives that which hinders production.

Be Partakers

Jesus repeated several times our need to remain connected to Him as the vine. The only way for us as branches to be productive is to partake from Him as the vine—the source of our life! One source of nourishment is alluded to, I believe, in this passage: that of the life-giving vitality of the words of Jesus Christ (v. 8).

Persevere

Jesus uses the term “abide” or “continue” in this passage a number of times. He stresses how we, as branches, need to “remain” in Him and what happens if one should remove himself from Jesus as the vine (v. 6). This is a different perspective from that of the branch mentioned in verse 2, as that branch is one that still re-

mains in the vine, although not productive. To “continue in” something—or to not “remain in” something—one has to be “in” that something to begin with. Jesus didn't say that one was to “get in” or to “stay out,” but rather to “continue, abide or remain”—with the opposite being to “get out; leave; or remove oneself.”

***There are
four levels of
productivity among
the branches that
remain in the Vine:
no fruit, fruit,
more fruit, and
much fruit.***

Be Productive

Jesus alludes to a real progression of productivity. We go from being unproductive and needing to be lifted up out of the dirt (v. 2a), to being productive but needing to be pruned so as to be “more productive” (vv. 2b-3), to being “very productive” (vv. 5 & 8). God doesn't stop at “level one” or “level two,” but seeks the maximum amount of fruit possible as He tends to us as branches.

Why should we also have such a desire for “much” fruit? Because it brings the most glory to God, and it is proof of being Jesus' disciples (v. 8). We heartily sing of how proof of our discipleship is “love,” and rightfully so. But lots of fruit is also proof!

Be Prayerful

The aspect of prayer should permeate the whole process. We are often too quick to get moving without checking first if that is where God is moving. (Remember last year's Conference theme?) We can therefore end up with lots of green leaves and little fruit—all because we don't take time to pray and then obey.

Proclaim

With all of the pieces in place—being purified from the dirt and debris that life dumps on us; being pruned of what hinders growth; being partakers of the True Vine; and having a persevering, productive and prayerful attitude—we are then to *proclaim*. I find that dynamic in the two-letter word in verse 16 as Jesus sums up verses 1-8: “...that you should **GO** and bear fruit.”

That little word, which occurs in the other gospels as part of what we call the “Great Commission,” oftentimes becomes our “great omission.” We don't “go” and we don't “proclaim” or share our saving faith with those who don't know Jesus, and our Sabbath faith with those who do know Him.

Fulfilling this commission, I believe, is one of the primary reasons for our recorded notable growth as churches and a Conference in the 1800s. Letting it become our great “omission” is one of the reasons, I believe, for our decline in the 1900s.

Yes, in terms of memorization, the passage of John 15:1-17 is “big.” However, in terms of our “mission” as churches and a Conference, it is extremely “big” should we choose to be fruitful! **SR**

New members

Full Gospel SDB Cumberland, MD

Ron Higson, pastor

Joined by letter

Sandi Clark

Daniel Pikora

Shiloh, NJ

Don Chroniger, pastor

Joined after baptism

Jonah Charles Bond

Births

Crouch.—A daughter—yes, a *daughter* after five boys—Katriel Janette, was born to Rick and Grace (Camenga) Crouch of Titusville, FL on June 2, 2014.

Inabnit.—A son, Declan Craig, was born to Eric and Erin (Burdick) Inabnit of Algona, WA on June 8, 2014.

Marriage

Bond – Williams. Richard Aaron Bond and Katherine “Kate” Williams were united in marriage on May 17, 2014, at the home of the bride’s parents in Bridgeton, NJ. Rev. Everett C. Dickinson performed the ceremony.

Dan Richards has accepted the call to serve as Pastor of the Texarkana, Ark., SDB Church. His leadership follows the retirement of long time Pastor Mynor Soper.



All church/family news should go to our Interim Editor

Pat Cruzan at sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Obituary

Loofboro.—Dortha J. Loofboro, 80, passed away on May 28, 2014 at the Grandview Care Center in Blair, Wis. She was born October 5, 1933 in Salem, W.Va., the daughter of Carroll and Lucretia (Thompson) Bond.

Dortha married Leland Green August 21, 1951 in Lost Creek, W.Va. He passed October 8, 1979. She then married Carroll Loofboro December 26, 1982 at the Milton (Wis.) Seventh Day Baptist Church. He passed April 15, 2006.

Dortha moved to Milton in 1982. She had taught home economics in Oconto Falls, Oconto, and Stratford, Wisconsin Schools. She then taught food service and sanitation at Blackhawk Tech in Beloit, Wis.

She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church and Whitehall United Methodist churches. She was active in both churches in woman’s circle. She served as a deacon in Milton.

In high school Dortha was active in 4-H and FFA. She enjoyed showing hereford cattle and won many championships. Dortha was a fantastic cook and baker.

She enjoyed sewing and quilting and gifted several grandchildren with quilts. Her gracious manner of making people feel welcome and appreciated will be greatly missed.

Dortha is survived by her sister Sylvia Shreves of Charleston, W.Va.; and her children: David Green of Mondovi, Wis., Lois Bailey of Whitehall, Wis., and Janet Green of Marshfield, Wis.; Sue Hoff, Linda Gilmore, Warren Loofboro, Neil Loofboro, Rodney Loofboro, LeRoy Loofboro, Bob Loofboro all of Milton, Wis.; Alan Loofboro of Carthage, Texas, Lori Ball of Imboden, Ark.; along with 26 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Leland Green and Carroll Loofboro.

Funeral services were held on June 2, 2014 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Milton, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Junction Cemetery. A memorial service was also held on June 3 at the Whitehall, Wis., United Methodist Church. **SR**

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.

About a Rev named Kev

My adult children got together (collaborated, conspired) to generate this wild tribute to their Old Man. Janet, honey, what have we created?? My guess is some grateful and creative and funny kids. Thanks, guys and gals!—Editor

Hey Pappy!

Here's what your family came up with for a page to honor YOU! [Sung to the tune of "The Beverly Hillbillies"]:

"Come and listen to a story about a Rev named Kev
Once a seminarian, barely kept his family fed
Then one day he became a millionaire—
Okay, not quite; he became an editaire
(*An editor that is, of The Sabbath Recorder...*)

"He would mark it up with red from
the cover to the back
Fixin' all the errors while he wore his fanny pack
Gatherin' all the features from 'round the country
He sure grieved the loss of the Hostess bakery!
(*No more snacks right next door, that is.*)

"We'd go visit Dad in his organized messes
From the creepy basement borrow Christian VHS's
Lighthouses all around and the
smell of fresh coffee
Raid "Matt and Jax snacks"
while we worked for free
(*Stuffing so many envelopes
for a pizza lunch*)

"He would pack up his bags and
fly to parts unknown
Meeting up with committees,
he was rarely alone—
To Denver, Seattle, all
across the U-S-A
Then to Nortonville, and
Atlanta of G-A
(*Mighty BIG THANKS
to all those SR
Committee folks!*)

"He drafted up a page, spelling corner
with a 'K'
Divulgin' family matters nearly ev'ry other day
Shipped around the world so that
everybody'd know
The SDB magazine with the sweet logo...
(*"S.R." that is...*)

"Twenty-five long years of a monthly deadline
May have messed with his mind, but not
his hairline
He's shown to his family what commitment
truly is
His kids' big events? No, he never did miss
(*He's a pretty neat grand-pappy, too*)

"And now for Rev Kev a new adventure awaits
God's blessings on him flow down from
heaven's gates

Twenty-five long years of
serving the Lord!
Whatever you do next,
we hope you won't
be bored!"

*"Bored silly, that is. Set a spell,
take your shoes off.
You know you're loved
now, ya hear?"*



We've come a long way in 25 years!!

Love you, Pops!
Jenny and Greg
Crystal
Matt and Danielle
and Jackson
(*With the blessing of
Momma Janet*)

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

Breathing, Being and Benedictions

After my Korner in June, some people were hoping to hear my plan for what I'll be doing next. Here it is:

Breathing.

I want to pull back from a quarter-century of deadlines and just breathe for a bit. I want to concentrate on "being" more than doing.

In April, I was immensely blessed to participate in a "Biblical Imagination" conference led by singer, author and scholar Michael Card. He has produced commentaries and musical albums based on the Gospels of Luke and Mark, and

his latest conference reviewed his work in Matthew.

The timing of this conference on the Gospel of Matthew was perfect. Michael Card sees "identity" as a huge focus for the apostle. Who are we in the eyes of God and others?

Our last exercise for the two-day gathering was for each of us to re-write the Beatitudes from a personal perspective. As I was inspired and wrote "my" Beatitudes, I was struck at the progression that will soon hit me in real life—that of being an editor, a former editor, then just me.

Blessed is the "lone wolf," only-paid-staff editor who has a lot of people to thank for a 25-year run, knowing that there's NO WAY he could have done it "alone"—for his is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed is this editor who mourns for not always giving credit to others (or God)—for he shall be comforted.

Blessed is the editor who gives thanks and gives it up and gives it over to others—for he shall inherit the earth.

Blessed is the former editor who lays down the title and the position and recognition and deadlines to seek God—for he shall be filled.

Blessed is the former editor who plans to give of himself to others instead of expecting or demanding of others—for he shall be shown mercy.

Blessed am I when I have one focus and one purpose and one motive: to give God the glory—for I shall see God.

Blessed am I when I teach others this way of life, guiding them to peace—for I shall be called a son of God.

Blessed am I when my co-workers and so-called successful friends call me crazy—for mine is the kingdom of heaven.

They come in threes

When radio humorist Garrison Keillor signs off on the daily Writer's Almanac, his encouragement is to "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch." That's pretty good.

Some of the most popular and memorable biblical phrases include three items.

In Micah 6:8 we are to "Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."

The great love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 guides us toward "Faith, hope and love."

Paul closes his second letter to the church in Corinth with, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

So how do I close out my final Korner?

I go back to Michael Card and remember a benediction he voiced at the end of a special Christmas concert last year. Funny, it's got three parts—and for emphasis he repeated it three times. I bestow it upon you, thanking you for your faithful readership and support:

**Go and be God's people,
forgiving each other, and
loving one another deeply.**

**Go and be God's people,
forgiving each other, and
loving one another deeply.**

**Go and be God's people,
forgiving each other, and
loving one another deeply.**

AMEN



The Editor gets
the final word:



Thank You

To the Creator and Sustainer of the universe
To the SDB Conference for your patience and trust
To Leanne, the Center Staff, and writers
for your faithful and excellent work

As I dedicated my first issue to my Dad,
I gratefully dedicate this one to

Janet Davis Butler

Thank you for being my rock-steady helpmate. Your skills
and love have guided our home during my work-related absences.
Your wisdom and sensitivity continue to amaze and bless me.

I'm so glad we followed God's plan together.
I'm so glad "I found the one whom my soul loves."
(Song of Solomon 3:4)

I'm so glad you are by my side as a new journey begins.
"Excelsior!"