

Sabbath Recorder



SDB General Conference 2014 Issue

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication
September 2014

CONFERENCE FACES

Bethel University, St. Paul, MN July 27 – August 2, 2014



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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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From all of us

*Thank you to everyone who contributed
photographs to be used in this issue.*

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A Conference Full of Choices



"What a whirlwind week of adventure this year's Conference was! The theme "Choose" was perfectly descriptive of what the week offered. Here are just some of the things you may have chosen to be a part of..."

—Jeremiah Owen

Welcoming...



Fellowshipping...



Decisions...



God offers us free will by giving us the opportunity to choose!

"Almighty God, for fun, food, family, friends and fellowship we give you thanks."

— Mel Stephan,
Monday Bible Study

Conference Business:

This was the 202nd Annual Session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, Ltd.

Accepted into membership of the Conference:

SDB Church, Bradenton, FL
German SDB Church, Salemville, PA

Accredited as a Seventh Day Baptist Minister:

Rev. David Stall. Procedure for accreditation modified to include requirement for renewal every five years with a continuing education requirement

Graduated from seminary:

Nicholas Kersten, Carl Greene, and David Fox

Ordained as Seventh Day Baptist ministers

by their local congregations:

Dustin Mackintosh, Shay Rankhorn, David Johnson, Tim Smothers, and Nicholas Kersten

Bylaw change approved on first reading:

to include Seventh Day Baptist Christian Education as an agency of General Conference (reflecting merger of BCE with the Conference)

Statement of Belief modified:

At the end of the section on *God the Son*, the addition of "We believe that Jesus Christ, in keeping with His promise, will return suddenly, personally and visibly, at a time known only by God." The vote by churches was 362 votes Yes, and 86 votes No.

"Technology Production Taskforce":

A standing taskforce made up of 3 individuals to be appointed by the General Council by January 1, 2015 to operate under the supervision of Conference Services

"Hispanic Communications Taskforce":

To be created by the Tract and Communication Council

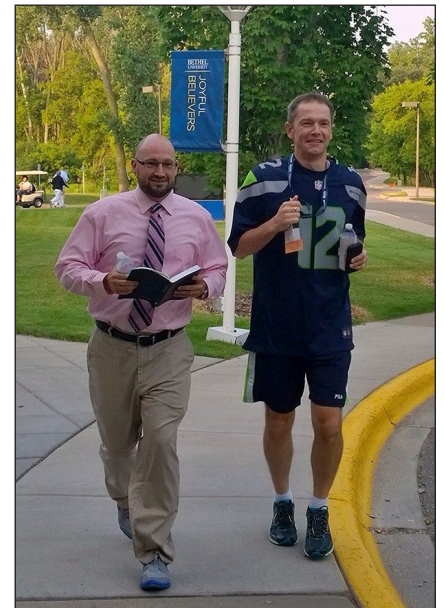
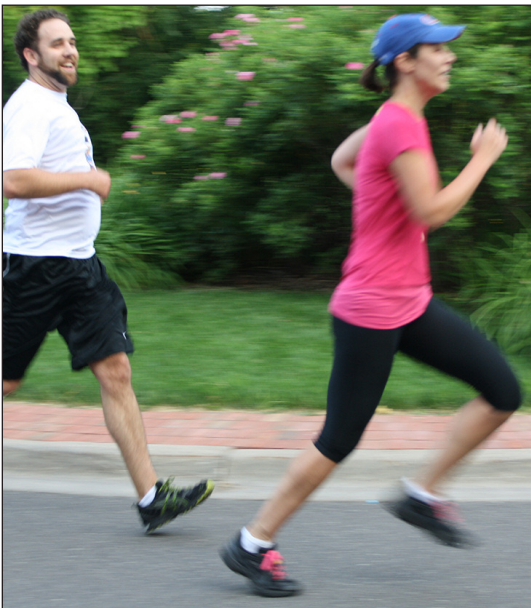
Plant and Re-plant Churches:

The General Council is to create a ministry area at the denominational level for Church Development and this new ministry be entrusted to at least one person who is experienced in and passionate about helping plant and re-plant churches

- God does not call superstars – He makes them.
- God does not lead aimlessly – He directs our paths.
- God does not command for our harm – He wants to bless us.

– Pastor David Taylor, Tuesday Bible Study

Fun & Food...



Conference by the Numbers

Total Registration	378
Registered Delegates	182
Churches Officially Represented	42
Ministers and Pastors present	41
Students Preparing for Ministry	4
TIME Students	1
Visitors	14
Associated Conferences	49
PreCon Retreats	51



Being Inspired...



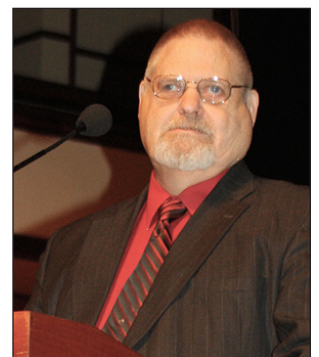
The focus of the service was a conversation about Love with the actions that Love demands – focusing on the dialogue of Peter and Jesus concerning love.

– Ken Chroniger
Tuesday Evening Worship



We build a lasting legacy when we love God, obey God, and hold fast to that which pleases him.

– Andrew Camenga
Friday Evening Worship



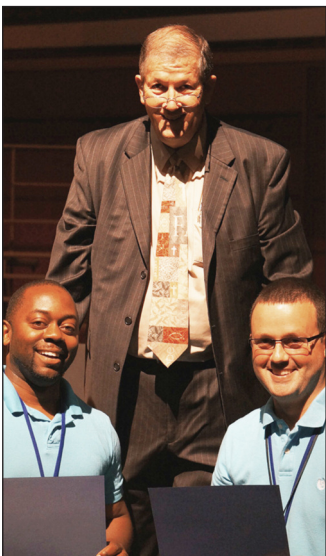
Music...



Recognitions...

God desires that we do more than just sit passively in our pews and read our Bibles failing to apply what we have heard and read. All of us need to get involved.

— Harold King
Sabbath Morning Worship



CHOOSE...TO PERUSE!

by Steven James

After approximately 730 days when the dynamic of getting to serve our Conference as president has been on my radar....I now, like many before me, get to breathe a sigh of relief. At the same time I bow my knees before the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who, by His amazing grace, infinite wisdom and unfailing love, made this year's Conference a blessing to many. As one of my last "presidential" duties — I get to share with you in this final article some parting thoughts.

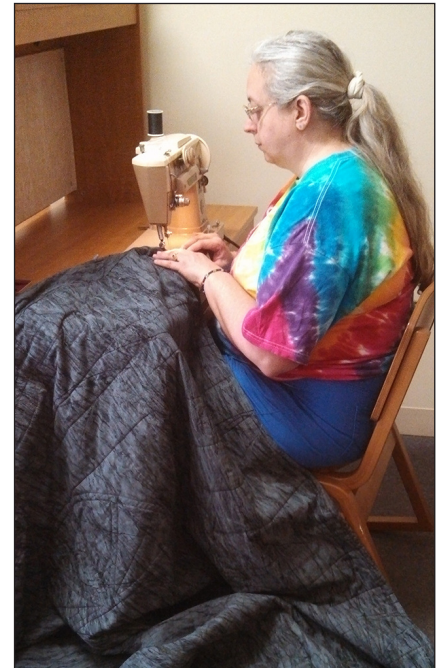
Personally Speaking

Building a year's focus on the theme of Joshua 24:14-15 was an incredibly personal privilege! Years ago, as a young man seeking God's guidance as to pastoral ministry, God brought that specific passage into my life in a variety of ways — like the arrows that Mark Mittelberg drew for us from his "Choosing Your Faith" talks and book — all pointing to one life-changing answer for me.

To be able to share the experience of traveling and speaking with my bride of almost 37 years was a huge joy for me! The summer that I was asked to serve, Debbie and I had already been discussing and forming plans for her to retire from her job so that she could have more time to spend with our grandchildren and to do the things that she loves to do.

When David Fox, on behalf of that year's nomination's team, asked if I would consider choosing to serve our Conference, it was as if another set of "arrows" was pointing to the center of a life-changing answer.

Needing almost a year to train her replacement, Debbie was able to retire just weeks before I began serving as president. She hit the ground running with me...first to serve on Primary Camp at Camp Harley Sutton just prior to Conference and then as our denomination's "first lady" (she already



was and will always be my first lady!) She was my rock, my best friend, my encourager and my counselor. She even pulled off a sweet surprise: making a quilted "banner" of this year's theme. Again, she was doing one of the things that she loves to do and does well!

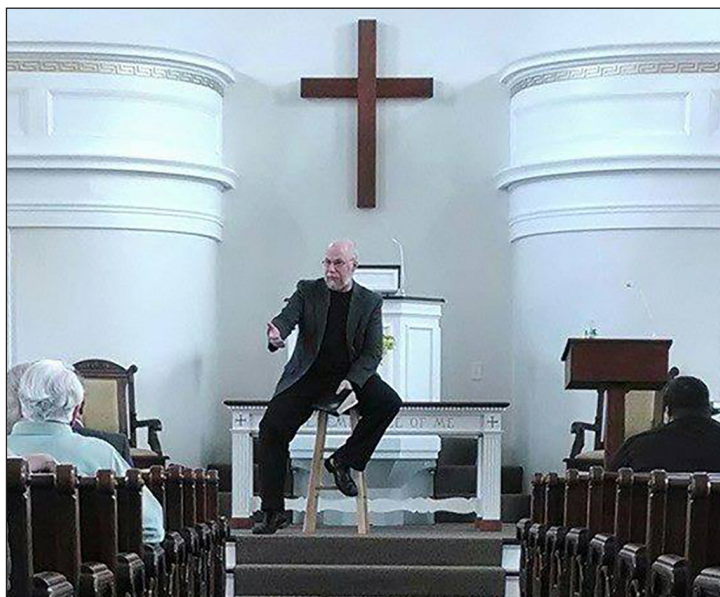
Our trips became an adventure for us and for others who followed our trips on Facebook. Since Debbie is a huge baseball fan, and she has a bucket list wish of going to every major league baseball stadium (30 of them),

she then put together opportunities for us to do so around my presidential speaking engagements.

When the dust settled, we had to visited 23 of the 30 stadiums from July of 2013 to August of 2014. It leaves only the west coast "cathedrals of the game" to visit sometime in the next year or so. We were able to travel to 25 of the 50 states including Washington, D.C. and Canada — whether driving (or walking) through or staying in those locations (not counting what we flew over).

What an incredible blessing getting to serve was to me (to us) personally!





Pastorally Speaking

Serving as president is a daunting privilege, whether one is a layperson or pastor. However, serving a church at the same time as serving a Conference of churches, is a multi-layered experience, both for a pastor and for the people he/she serves!

I'm so very deeply thankful for how the church I have the privilege of serving these 24 past years, the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, sacrificed much in allowing me to be away from them in other parts of the country and apart from them while at home, needing to do many administrative tasks as president. Because of some blind spots and weak points, at first it was a very difficult time for all of us. However, allowing God's grace to cover us and His love to fill our hearts, we were able to work through some of the initial bumps and allow the rest of "our year" of serving our Conference together to go much more smoothly.

I'm so very humbled and grateful for the encouragement that the Verona church gave me along the way. To know that they were "proud" of my serving as president gave me wind under my wings when the weight of the work was proving much bigger than me. I praise God for how a number of individuals were able to step up and step into various roles in my absence. I knew they could do so as members of Christ's body, each with abilities and gifts that God gave to be used for His glory, the good of others and the growth of His kingdom.

I am so very glad to be able to now plug back into what I love to do — serving as pastor of this flock of God right here in Verona, NY!

Presidentially Speaking

What a huge privilege it was to serve as president! There have been so many gifted and capable presidents who've served before me, and who will serve after me. While the role has changed over the years, I found that the responsibilities I did have to be more than I could handle — but for the grace of God and the goodness of God's people! I oftentimes felt like Solomon who, when placed into his God-called position, admitted his need for God to lead, when he said, *"I am but a child; I do not know how to go out or come in. (A leadership expression.) And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people...therefore give to your servant an understanding heart...for who is able to (lead) this great people of Yours?"* (1 Kings 3:7-9)

I would carry a quarter in my pocket which I found in our hotel parking lot just outside of Philadelphia during one of our trips. We were on our way to Independence Hall, the birthplace of our country. The quarter became very meaningful to me as a reminder of what I would later learn that day about George Washington: how he was reluctant to serve as president, not feeling at all competent to the task, and fearing that the people were too worked up over what they thought he could do as their president. He did serve and did make a difference. I hope by God's grace I may have, too.

I watched God, when I would stumble and fumble, do amazing things in and through His people. I watched Him show Himself as being way ahead of the curve in so many ways — putting pieces together that I didn't see coming and putting other pieces together that were coming apart. I saw Him bring glory to His name through broken jars of clay. I am especially one such jar. I was blessed beyond words to see so many people come together throughout the year — just prior to and during Conference — with the wisdom, gifts and energy that can only come from the fullness of His Spirit.

I came to know my Savior in deep, profound ways that I wouldn't have experienced had it not been for His allowing me to serve in this way. From words fitly spoken to "arrows" pointing to the center of His unfolding will during the year, it was an adventure to see His hand leading. For that I am eternally grateful!

Thank you, my Seventh Day Baptist family, for receiving Debbie and me, and our children, into your "fold"; for the many opportunities I've had to serve you along the way; and for this incredible opportunity of serving you this past year as your president! SR

Robe of Achievement

by Karen Payne



The Robe of Achievement Committee (Janet Butler, Marcy Kersten and Karen Payne) as part of the Women's Board is pleased to announce that the choice for the 2014 recipient of the Robe of Achievement is Genny Pederson.

Genny Pederson was born in Milton Junction, WI and graduated from Milton Union High School. She was not raised in a Seventh Day Baptist family.

Since her marriage to her late husband, Loyal Pederson, her commitment to faith and family has been paramount. She has been actively involved in the Seventh Day Baptist Church in New Auburn, WI all her married life and has continued to be active there after she became a widow. Genny served as church president, vice-president, Sabbath School Superintendent and Secretary of the Women's Society. Genny has also served as a deaconess at the New Auburn church since 1974. That's 40 years!

Genny always wanted the church to go forward. Besides her involvement in Christian Education, her love for youth was evident by her involvement with foster kids (she had eight), foreign exchange students (she had four), leading 4-H, teaching and directing Vacation Bible School and Sabbath School, as well as raising her own six children. Genny was given the 4-H Leadership Achievement Recognition as a 4-H leader. Genny enjoyed being a member of the community choir. She also initiated and taught Bible studies at the assisted living and retirement home.

Genny rarely missed a church board meeting, planning meeting, or service. For that matter neither did her whole family. She found time to help her husband with the farm and sewed clothes for her children. When a newcomer arrived at her church, Genny was often the first person to greet them, invite them over for lunch and invite them back to church. The Pederson home was very often the hospitality place for guests at semi-annual meetings, SCSCers, pastors passing through, and other people in need of a place to stay. The Pederson family attended many conference sessions and probably got to know most of the people in the denomination.

Genny has been unable to do all that she used to after she had a stroke. Although her limitations have slowed her down, they have not stopped her. A few years ago she studied and passed her written and road tests to obtain her driver's license again. One of the places she drove to was an exercise class three times a week. And, of course, she is still a faithful attender at church services, Bible studies, women's meetings, etc.

When the Senior Saints issued a call for volunteers to help at the Dodge Center Church and Camp Joy projects, Genny and Loyal were there to answer the call. She even spent 10 days as a volunteer at the Rez Connection in South Dakota. SCSC was near and dear to her heart. Two of her children served in SCSC and she served as project director for the New Auburn church for 10 years.

Genny is a Type A personality who has never failed to speak her mind, but the speeches she gives always seem to be for the good of the church, community, or individual, not for her good. In fact there doesn't appear to be a selfish bone in her body. She always backed up her speaking with service. To Genny, service is not something she does, it is something she is.

It is with great pleasure that we award the Robe of Achievement for 2014 to Genny Pederson. SR

The Robe of Achievement announced at Conference in 2013 was presented to Linda Van Horn Camenga at the South Atlantic Association Meetings in Titusville, Florida on November 2, 2013. Members of the previous Women's Board made the presentation. Linda closed with reading Ephesians 2:8-10, her life verses: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.(NIV)



What and Why is SCSC?

by Linda Lawton

The “What” is easy. SCSC stands for Summer Christian Service Corps, which tells you a lot. When SCSC first started, the projects were six weeks long not counting Training, which constitutes basically an entire summer. As schools have gotten out later and started earlier and Conference has moved earlier in the year, that time was gradually condensed to five weeks, then four weeks. Now it is three weeks on site at the churches and a fourth week at Conference. The Christian part is fairly obvious. Students are asked to give us a brief statement of how they gave their lives to Christ and how their walk with Him has impacted them in terms of home, school, and work. Each student must be a member of a Seventh Day Baptist Church to be admitted to the program. As far as the “Service Corps,” they are trained to serve. That is the “What”. Much more important is the “Why”.

We are training leaders. We bring them together for a period of just over a week and we run them ragged. We train them to do Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School, Children’s Messages, leading worship and recreation. That is just the practical things they need to know to accomplish the immediate goals for the summer. What actually happens at Training is so much more than that.

We give them Pre-Training assignments that are designed to increase their spiritual growth exponentially. We deal with all kinds of spiritual issues when they

arrive at Training in the attempt to prepare them for whatever they may face on project. However, when we send them out they are NOT fully trained leaders; it takes years to create leaders. Something that we as a Committee wish to emphasize to all the churches is that you are our partners in training these leaders. When they are “on project” at the churches they are continuing that training. In addition, we want the home churches to understand that when these students get home, that training should continue.

In SCSC we are committed to training Servant-leaders. Not leaders who say “my way is the only way”, but leaders who are willing to give up their own desires to serve the cause of Christ. The summer in SCSC is a sacrifice. These students give up the ability to obtain a job to earn money for college, but more than that, they give up their own personal rights. The ultimate goal is to instill in them a sense of God’s leading in their lives and give them the tools that they need to become fully mature in Christ.

That is what SCSC is about. It is not about providing labor for a few weeks for the churches, or staffing church camps or Vacation Bible School. It is about producing fully mature, dedicated Christian leaders who stand firm in the knowledge that they are well-loved sons and daughters of God. I feel very privileged to be a part of it. [SR](#)

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE



**"Shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is Savior to all
He is Lord of Heaven and Earth!"**

Our Children's Conference kids came to Minnesota ready to sing, learn, and praise the Lord. The theme of this associated conference was CHOOSE, just like the General Conference. Under the leadership of director Charlotte Chroniger, the kids had a wonderful week of Bible teaching, music, field trips, and outreach. Similar to VBS, the kids rotated through various stations. We opened together as a group and then started our daily schedules. The Bible stories for the week focused on individuals who made "good choices."

Joshua was strong and courageous and he chose to follow God's plans over and over again. Esther was brave and she chose to stand up for her people. John the Baptist chose to preach the truth about sin and he announced the coming Messiah. Ruth was dedicated and she chose to show her love for Naomi and Naomi's God. Joseph chose to forgive his brothers and God ultimately used him to save all of Israel.

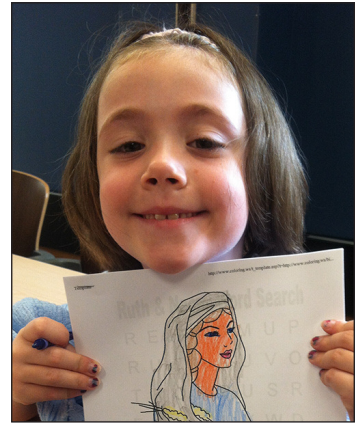
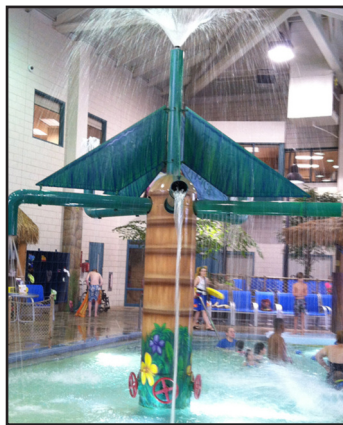
Throughout the week we prepared crafts and music to share at a local nursing home, Johanna Shores Presbyterian Home. This was a beautiful facility complete with a town square-style hospitality room, gift shop, and aviary. The residents loved hearing the children and we were blessed to see our kids reach out to them with the love of Christ. Other day trips of the week included a visit to the Shoreview Community Center indoor pool as well as the Como Zoo. As we talked about each day's activities the kids would say "I can't wait for the pool" or "I can't wait for the zoo." But it really showed the heart of our kids when we heard them say "I can't wait to go to the nursing home!" SDB kids chose to serve during their week at Conference.

We were further blessed by the kids' comments all week long. For example: one discussion included the



CONFERENCE 2014

by Valerie Probasco



word “precious.” The teacher explained that “precious” means something or someone is very special. A very young SDB replied, “My mommy said I’m precious ... and cute!” Another day during Music time, Miss Charlotte talked to the kids about choosing an instrument. She told them that she chose the piano and she even remembered her very first recital piece, “Swans on a Lake”. With this, she played the song for the class. At the end, one sweet little voice of encouragement commented: “You’ve gotten a lot better.” On Friday, we asked the kids to share what they liked the most about Conference. You’ll be happy to hear that they love a lot of the same things we do, not to mention crafts, Play-Doh, and riding the elevator.



The Children’s Conference committee would like to thank everyone who taught or helped out during the week. We had a wonderful time and couldn’t have done it without you! Many thanks to the Transportation Committee who devoted their time to helping us make smooth transitions to and from Bethel University. Thanks also to Charlotte Chroniger who organized the curriculum, materials, staff, and program to provide a smooth and enjoyable week for our young SDBs. One final word of thanks to all of the parents and family members who shared your kids with us. They are a legacy and it was a privilege to spend time with each and every one. Thank you for raising them up to CHOOSE Jesus! SR



The Beacon...

Hi, I'm Becca!

Hi, I'm Ellie!

And we are your Beacon editors for the next year. You probably already know me—I did this job two years ago.

You probably know me too, but that's because of my dad, Pastor Ken Chroniger!

Life of a pastor's kid. Everybody knows who you are, even when you have no idea where they came from.

That's pretty much how we both live! We're known by everyone!

It's got some perks, too. For example, everyone trusts us, so when we say things like, "We want to change the entire Beacon and have two editors," Pat Cruzan is like, "Well, okay!"

Thus, the situation we are in is born! And we are very happy to be here.

This year, we are hoping to change not only the way the Beacon is written, but also how it's read!

We're going to start posting the articles on Facebook so that they're actually read by the youth, who are apparently too lazy to go to the website or pick up a magazine.

Hopefully, we will be featuring more writers than just us! We're also adding a new feature called "The Spotlight," in which we'll feature a Seventh Day Baptist youth group and what they are doing each month.

Spotlight! Hahaha! Get it? We're writing for the Beacon!

Yes, Elianna. I think they get it.

Alright, sorry guys. I think they understand how this year is going to go!

Yes. I will be the voice of reason here.

No, Becca, I meant the changes.

Oh right, the changes. Yes, I'm very excited about all we'll be doing this year.

So am I! OH! And so what we have learned applies to our lives today—

Ellie...

And God has a lot to say in His book...

Elianna Rose Chroniger!

You see, we know that God's word is for everyone, and now that our song is done we'll take a look!

Are you finished?

I could always sing it again!

No, that's really okay. Anyway, as she was saying—

I mean, singing—we have some scripture to leave you with!

It's next year's Conference theme passage, Psalm 1:3.

"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—

whatever they do prospers." (NIV)

Thank you very much for reading, and we look forward to editing the column for the rest of the year! SR

by Elianna Rose Chroniger and Rebecca Olson

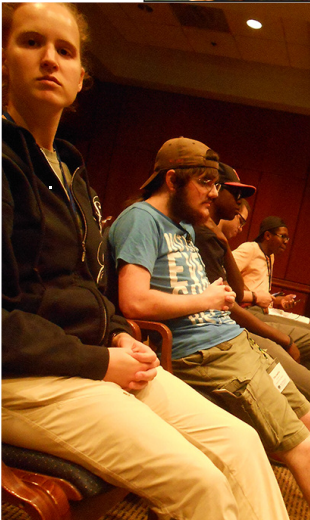
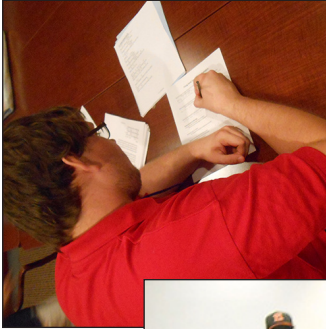
Youth PreCon



Ooops! So sorry...Beacon Page is under construction til next month. Enjoy the photos!! –the Editor

Young Adult PreCon

How do you choose perfection, and how do you stick to such a choice?
The theme of this year's Young Adult PreCon was "Choosing Perfection".



If we read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24, we are given a list of commands and expectations. These expectations include not seeking revenge (*"Make sure that nobody pays back an eye for an eye"*), rejoicing always, praying continuously, giving thanks in all situations, refusing to quench the Holy Spirit and not treating prophecies with contempt. Because of who we are, we fail in this sense. Yet, this verse ends with an awesome message: *"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it"* (Matthew 5:23-24). The first part of this verse becomes much more personal when the word sanctify is replaced with its definition. *"May God himself, the God of peace, set you apart as holy through and through"*. As humans we are obviously not perfect, but this does not mean that all is over. Jesus came and died on the cross in order to forgive us. Reread the above verse with the definition for sanctify substituted: *May God set you apart as holy*. This is outstanding! God loves us beyond all measure and despite our imperfections, he wants to be with us and thus sets us aside as holy. We, who are imperfect, stained, and torn, are set apart by God as holy. Despite our failures, our God will set us aside as holy. Yet, this does not give us permission to stop trying to be perfect. God, our heavenly father, tells us that we must be perfect. Yet we continue to proclaim that we are not perfect and thus give up. If we look at Matthew 5:48 it says *"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"*. Just because we cannot be perfect does not mean that we should not be striving to be perfect. He has commanded that we should be perfect, thus it should be our goal. This year's Young Adult PreCon explored a subject that needs to be understood. God made us to be perfect and thus that must be our final goal. We must strive to be perfect. SR

Scripture Memory Verses

2014-2015

Theme: Steadfast

The 2014-15 program is based on the theme chosen by Conference President Bill Probasco of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, New Jersey.

Families can work together to memorize these verses – each age group memorizes part or all of the same verses.

For those who prefer memorizing contiguous passages, the longer passage of Hebrews 12:22-29 is provided as an alternative. Memorizing it qualifies as complete participation in the program.

This year, the adult/youth and junior verses are the same. Instead of using a,b,c designators, ellipses were used to indicate partial verses.

Instructions for how to submit the list of participants will be provided to churches as the program nears completion in 2015.

Please use the Bible translation that works best in your home and church setting. The 1984 edition of the New International Version was used for this list. *Copyright information for verses: THE HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.*

Alternative Passage: Hebrews 12:22-29

OCTOBER	Youth/Adult ... For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. – Daniel 6:26
	Junior ... For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. – Daniel 6:26
	Primary His dominion will never end. – Daniel 6:26

NOVEMBER	Youth/Adult So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as LORD, continue to live in him, – Colossians 2:6
	Junior So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as LORD, continue to live in him, – Colossians 2:6
	Primary Continue to live in Jesus. – Colossians 2:6

DECEMBER	Youth/Adult ...rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. – Colossians 2:7
	Junior ...rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. – Colossians 2:7
	Primary Overflow with thankfulness. – Colossians 2:7

JANUARY

Youth/Adult

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.
– Isaiah 26:3

Junior

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.
– Isaiah 26:3

Primary

Trust in God.
– Isaiah 26:3

APRIL

Youth/Adult

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
– 2 Peter 3:18

Junior

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
– 2 Peter 3:18

Primary

To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
– 2 Peter 3:18 b

FEBRUARY

Youth/Adult

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
– Galatians 5:1

Junior

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
– Galatians 5:1

Primary

Christ has set us free.
– Galatians 5:1

MAY

Youth/Adult

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices ...
– Psalm 16:8-9

Junior

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices ...
– Psalm 16:8-9

Primary

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices.
– Psalm 16:9a

MARCH

Youth/Adult

... be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.
– 2 Peter 3:17

Junior

... be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.
– 2 Peter 3:17

Primary

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.
– 2 Peter 3:18 a

JUNE

Youth/Adult

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.
– 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Junior

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.
– 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Primary

Stand firm in the faith.
– 1 Corinthians 16:13



President's Page

Bill Probasco



I had to pray:
"God, why this word?
Why this theme?!"
God gave me the
image of a strong tree
with deep roots
planted by a river.

When I was asked about serving as the Conference President for this coming year, God gave me very little time to ponder a theme. So little time in fact that before I could even locate my wife Valerie to discuss and pray about this opportunity, I felt God had put one word in my mind: "Steadfast". It's not what I would call an "everyday" word, so it was a little unexpected. But "steadfast" it was.

What does steadfast mean?

Basically it means you hold tight to a cause, belief, or commitment. As I shared at Conference in August, I think everyone is steadfast about something. Some may jog or work out each day — a *steadfast* commitment to exercise; I have a good friend in West Virginia who had season tickets to the Minnesota Vikings and would travel there regularly for games — a *steadfast* fan; and I have a colleague that makes sure he gets to work about 45 minutes early in order to get started before he gets interrupted by "the crowd" arriving right at 8 AM — a *steadfast* work ethic.

But I knew these weren't the causes, beliefs, or commitments dear to God. He certainly had a different idea when he gave me this one word: STEADFAST. So, I had to pray: "God, why this word? Why this theme?!" Instead of all these examples of other people being committed to various causes, God gave me the image of a strong tree with deep roots planted by a river.

This is represented in the Conference 2015 logo. You see the river flowing by this robust, healthy tree. It comes straight of out the scriptures:

David wrote: *He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.* (Psalm 1:3)

In Jeremiah it says ... *Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.* (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Who wants to be an "anxious tree"? With deep roots, a steadfast Christian doesn't need to worry. Storms come to all people; however, those that stand fast in the Word and have received Christ's saving grace stand a much better chance at weathering the storm.

So, as we embark on this next year together, I want to encourage you to build up your foundation of Faith. I will be praying for our Conference, and I ask you to pray for me and my family over these next 12 months. There's a lot to be done between now and Conference 2015. I plan to share a little bit each issue, as well as to share in person with many of our churches and Associations. In the meantime, encourage one another. Lift up one another. Help others "grow their roots". You never know, they might help you dig a little deeper too!

Times may arise when you question if your roots are deep enough. There are times in everyone's life when it seems storms are just over the horizon — and even right overhead! But that's when fellowship really helps out. When you're surrounded by other trees, the wind doesn't seem so bad. God plants forests, not one tree hills. Together we're stronger. We're **STEADFAST.** SR

Encourage other SDBs by sharing on Facebook (SDB2015), or check out the website (www.SDB2015.com) for next year's Conference in Amish Country — Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Some have said recently that, “Seventh Day Baptists are working at lightning speed lately.” They were referring to the speed in which we have been making decisions and moving towards a consolidated focus and budget. There have been so many things happening that you almost need a game program to keep up with the action and the players.

In September 2013, Andrew Camenga announced that in December 2014 he would be leaving his post as Executive Director of the Board of Christian Education (BCE). The BCE also announced their intent to legally merge with the General Conference.

In late October of the same year, Kevin Butler announced his resignation which took place just this past June 30. Kevin stayed on a bit longer than expected to get the Conference program done and take care of his personal belongings. I personally appreciate Kevin’s devotion and commitment.

During the recent May Historical Society meeting, the voting members of the Society overwhelmingly agreed to start the process of legally merging with the General Conference. They have appointed a three person committee to work on this process.

The Conference just added two more churches to the membership role. As of the writing of this article (July), we have three more who have requested the membership procedure to start. By the time of this issue, it could be more than three!

At the General Conference meetings in July, I talked about 19 churches across the USA and Canada that are conducting services each week that you might not know about. Some are home churches. Some are church plants. Some have been around for over 10 years and are working towards Conference membership. Some are “courting” Seventh Day Baptists to find


out who we are and if they feel that they are one of us too!

I made this presentation at Conference because I have heard from some folks along the way that they think Seventh Day Baptists are a dying denomination. I shared this information about these 19 churches because many people only know what is going on in their backyard and they are happy to know that there is new work. Here is another fact: we have people contacting us at the SDB Center in Janesville almost on a daily basis. Just since January, we have been working with 35 contacts who are very interested in Seventh Day Baptists and what we are doing.

Yes folks, Seventh Day Baptists are alive and well! We are moving at a speed of change that we have never worked at before! Jeremiah Owen, SDB Emerging Media Director, reports that we have over 40,000 “Likes” on Facebook and Twitter is over 27,000. Jeremiah says, *“I attribute most of the growth to a couple new ads and some really popular posts that had a lot of shares and thus a lot of eye balls. Definitely getting blessed with some more traffic and that’s a great thing!”*

Two short years ago we did not have Facebook and Twitter accounts. Two short years ago we did not know that there were 40,000 people who like Seventh Day Baptists! Two short years ago not everybody was “hashtagging” every event...#SDBsRock...#SDBsLightningSpeed.

I hope that in reading this article you are encouraged! My hope is you are blessed by reading this article.

I am blessed in serving this General Conference for the past ten years. Thank you for your confidence and your trust as I carry out the work of God with His people called Seventh Day Baptists! 



The Nick of Time
Nick Kersten
Librarian-Historian

A Two Way Street: Jamaican SDB Pastors in North America Part 2

By Rev. Andrew Samuels



Last month, we began a series of three articles from Rev. Andrew Samuels detailing the relationship between the SDB Conferences in the USA & Canada and Jamaica. This is the second of those three articles. This series will be concluded in next month's Recorder.

There is no question that the American Missionary Society and the Jamaica Conference intentionally cooperated in moving toward handing the reins of the work over to the native leaders. Concerted efforts were made to train such leaders, financial provision was made to support this initiative, and the sense was that an investment was being made in the Jamaican personnel; one which was hoped to produce rewarding returns. Not only did the Americans work towards training Jamaican leaders in Jamaica, but they also identified one individual who was selected to travel to the United States to be educated with the goal of him returning to Jamaica to impart his formal training to his compatriots.

Socrates Thompson was the beneficiary of this arrangement. In 1946 he began studying at Alfred University in New York, from which he graduated, and followed that up with the completion of a Bachelor's degree at Milton College. Both are Seventh Day Baptist educational institutions. He did return to Jamaica in 1950 and served on the field there. It is more than fitting that history will record him as the first Jamaican to serve as pastor of a Seventh Day Baptist Church in the United States. That stewardship began at the New York City SDB Church in the mid-1970's.

Since then, approximately 26 others have migrated from that tiny Caribbean island to North America and have served in a pastoral capacity stretching along the eastern seaboard from Toronto, Canada in the north to Miami, Florida in the south, and even across to Los Angeles, California on the west coast. Only about five of them were not Seventh Day Baptists when they lived in Jamaica, but became affiliated with the denomination after migrating to the North American continent. The records will also show that approximately 17 churches

and groups in eight American states and one Canadian province have benefitted from the pastoral services of these Jamaican immigrants. Four of these groups are no longer in existence and one is no longer a Seventh Day Baptist Church. In addition, there are presently three seminary students of Jamaican background serving in leadership roles in the Toronto SDB Church.

My observations have led me to at least four characteristics that have contributed to such a proliferation of Jamaicans serving in a pastoral capacity in SDB Churches in North America.

A Pioneering Spirit

Jamaican Seventh Day Baptists have not been afraid to venture out into the unknown to seek out uncharted waters and to blaze a trail for those coming behind. Having an enterprising mindset has been a hallmark of Jamaicans and has served them well in their endeavors. Of the 17 churches and groups already identified as pastored by Jamaicans over the last 40 years, arguably only one of those was not started by groups consisting of primarily Jamaican individuals. The contrasts with the adopted country, and the differences in culture, have not been insurmountable hurdles. Rather, the diversity has served as a motivating influence for the establishment of something new. That pioneering spirit was accompanied by the possession of a portable faith. When there has been migration, mostly for the pursuit of economic and career opportunities, Jamaican Seventh Day Baptists have taken their faith with them. And in the midst of their academic and vocational quests, they have typically ensured that their spiritual heritage and legacy were not left behind. ^{SR}

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



Jamaica: To God Be the Glory!

by Elizabeth Camenga



Lauren teaching Sabbath School at Kentish SDB

Lindsay and Peter Ray

“Hallelujah!” “God is Good!” “Praise the LORD!” For three weeks this summer, Lauren Telford (Texarkana SDB), Lindsay Crouch (Bay Area SDB), and I (Milton SDB) joined our Jamaican brothers and sisters in singing and shouting God’s praises. The Women’s Board and the Missionary Society partnered to send an SCSC team outside of the US. Pastor Garfield Miller of Jamaica served as our Project Director. He worked beside us and proved to be an indispensable part of our team.

For three weeks, we worked alongside three SDB churches to share the gospel and to encourage the Church. At each church, we ran a VBS program for kids and teens, covering the fruit of the Spirit and the armor of God. By the time we left Jamaica, we had engaged 160 kids with the gospel and challenged them to embrace the life God has for them.

To prepare for this project, we took the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course. (Hard work, but highly recommended.) One of the key points in the course is that God is worthy of all glory. Glory is either the renown itself or the thing that brings renown. The glory of God is the weight of all His attributes and acts through all time that bring praise. God reveals His glory to the nations that the nations may give glory back to Him. While in Jamaica, we watched as God revealed His glory in different ways wherever we went.

God is a God of Renewal

In the mountain church of Kentish, we rejoiced with a church that had nearly died but has been seeing new growth after moving to where the people were. The VBS we ran helped the church to reconnect with their community, especially the children. Once in a valley (both figurative and literal), Kentish SDB Church is becoming once more a “city on a hill.”

God is Our Provider

For our second week, we hopped over to the Portmore SDB Church in a low-income urban area. Monday morning we expected 40 kids but nearly 80 (mostly unchurched kids) flooded in. The Lord of the Harvest provided supplies and personnel for 80. The harvest is ready and the incredible support of the church tells me that the workers are too.

God is the Chief Fisher of Men

For our third and final week, we headed back into the countryside to Maiden Hall, the site of the Jamaica SDB Conference. Children came from the local church, the community, and the Conference. Many were “churched” but had not yet accepted Christ personally. One student asked his mother at the end of the week if he could be baptized. When asked why, he said he wanted to grow up to tell people about Jesus around the world like our team and Pastor Miller!



Elizabeth playing blob tag with teens.

Bringing it Home

Our time in Jamaica stretched me. Different food. Different perception of time. Different climate. Different accents. Different worship services. As we encountered many “different” things, we ourselves changed. There were several times I prayed that God would help me to worship Him in spite of the unfamiliarity around me. God answered those prayers. Being displaced from my own culture, I came to view God through a wider angle lens.

Lauren, Lindsay, and I are still working through much of what we learned and praying over what comes next. I can say two things: 1) We were blessed to join Jamaican laborers in God’s vineyard to prepare the way of the Lord. 2) I am 100% certain that God selected the team and the leaders. I would love to talk to you about the mission (and the fun!). Thank you to everyone who supported our team. SR



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



By Brenda Rankhorn

I had the privilege of attending a pastor's wives retreat in Fairview, TN this past year. The retreat I attended included seminars, worship, and time for camaraderie between attendees in its schedule. A group of about fourteen women and I took this journey together.

We took seminars on arming ourselves with truth to help us be all God wants us to be: balancing the roles of a pastor's spouse; making a haven for our pastor/husband; handling the hurts and disappointments of the ministry; and encouragement to face the future in your role as a pastor's spouse. The study sessions and discussions spurred by these topics were excellent and helpful to me in my role as the spouse of a pastor. I learned a lot from these courses and was very encouraged. I discovered many useful tools during this time and hope to use them often in my role in the ministry.

It was a blessing to go somewhere and be just me. I wasn't there filling the role of a "pastor's wife" or being the mother of two small boys. I didn't have to attend to the needs of others or keep up with rowdy children. I was able to learn, worship, and be fed without distraction. Also since I wasn't there in an official capacity, it felt safe to share my burdens and worries with others and receive encouragement and prayer regarding them. It was a blessing to be able to speak with women who shared similar struggles and heartaches of being in ministry.

A majority of the women who attended were Sunday keepers. I found that some of the challenges in ministry we face are different. These women tended to feel more pressure from their churches and to have more church related work that is expected of them than I do. However they did not have a husband who is trying to keep up with two jobs which allows them more time to see to

the needs of their churches. It is often easier for them to minister to their congregations alongside their husbands, making serving together a common primary objective rather than a secondary one. Despite these differences we were able to commiserate and offer support, prayer, and share ideas with one another.

The retreat at Fairhaven was a peaceful time of reflection and learning. I would recommend attendance to anyone as my time there was particularly beneficial. I found the study sessions practical and useful and sharing with others uplifting. The entire atmosphere was extremely encouraging and helpful to me personally.

I am grateful to the Women's Society for helping to provide this experience for me through the tuition fund. Without the monetary aid I would probably not have been able to attend. [SR](#)

The SDB Women's Society mission is to encourage, educate, inspire, and connect women in the denomination and develop future leaders.

One way that the Women's Society supports this mission is through the Women in Ministry Tuition Fund. This fund is designated to provide financial support for women who want to take a seminar, course or workshop to help them in their mission field. Candidates who may apply include wives of pastors or seminary students, ministerial students, those pursuing a Christian Education career, and denominational employees.

For more applications and additional information you can visit the Women's Society website at www.sdbwomen.org

Pastor Profile

James Schorr

Birth date: November 19th 1954
Place of birth: Bakersfield, California

Current position:
Pastor at Foothill Community Church
Montrose, California

Family:
Married to Tamara on August 4, 1979
3 Daughters: Trisha, Son-in-law Brian
Danielle, Alexandria
Grand Daughter: Deklynn

Education:
Millikan High School
Long Beach City College

Jesus found me: November 11, 1977
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

Started sharing with unsaved neighbors which became a Bible study and was asked to become part of Calvary Chapel Seal Beach, doing High School and College and leading Worship

Ordained: 1981 Calvary Chapel Seal Beach



Former positions:

Youth leader and Worship Pastor
Calvary Chapel Seal Beach 4 years
Associate Pastor and Worship Leader
Long Beach Christian Fellowship 11 Years
Worship Pastor, Parkcrest Christian Church 10 years
Worship Pastor, Lighthouse 4 square Church 8 Years
Pastor, Foothill Community Church 3 years

My first job was:

Paperboy, McDonalds, Night crew Grocery Store,
Disneyland, Construction

Personal hero: My Father

Favorite childhood memory: Fishing with my Dad

Favorite Bible passage: Philippians 1:6

"Being confident in this very thing that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"

Favorite author: Clive Cussler

If given an all-expense paid vacation I (we) would:
go to Tahiti

A great answer to prayer was:

Being able to buy a home for my disabled daughter and her friends to live in.

A project I'm excited about:

To see my Fishing company (Cousins Tackle) take off in the market place

My vision for SDBs: To see a church plant in southern LA County and Orange County California SR

BIRTHS

BOFINGER – A daughter, Clara Grace, was born to Eric and Katy (Scull) Bofinger of Langhorne, PA on April 8, 2014.

KENNIE – A daughter, Myla, was born to Tracy and Amanda (Barley) Kennie of Washington, DC on June 10, 2014.

MATTHEWS – A son, Mason Gray, was born to Shayne and Danielle (Richards) Matthews of Texarkana, TX. on June 6, 2014.

NELSON – A daughter, Cordelia Pierce, was born to Nathan and Christina ("Tina" Pierce) Nelson of Madison, WI, on July 16, 2014.

REYES – A daughter, Shyiera, was born to Xavier and Natasha (Nairne) Reyes of Germantown, MD on March 4, 2014.

NEW MEMBERS

Battle Creek SDB
Battle Creek, MI
Rev. Tim Smothers

Joined after Testimony
Ella Lowe
Laura Teegardin
Karen Smothers
Jeff Bruinkool

Bay Area SDB
Pinole, CA
Steve Crouch, pastor

Joined after Baptism:
Emily Hutchinson

DEATH NOTICE

PASTOR WILLIAM VIS passed from this life on Sabbath, July 19, 2014 at the age of 98. He was a Pastor in the Paint Rock SDB Church, and the West Palm Beach SDB Church. He also helped in planting the Miami SDB Church.

KEVIN:
THANK YOU SO-O-O-O
MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICES
TO STONE CREEK AND TO US... TO ME
AND FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT YOU HAVE
GIVEN TO ALL OF US
JAN REEMANOS

Kevin,
Thank you for the SR!
We'll miss working with
you! Debbie Harrett
MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU IN THIS
TRANSITION. YOUR DELIGHT IN LIFE
& SENSE OF HUMOR ARE AN INSPIRATION
TO ME.
MATT BERG

Kevin,
The Bradenton SDB church
appreciates all of your unique
writing talents through the years.
We wish you the best in your
endeavors.

Pastor Michael and Pamela
Spear

Hey Special K!
You have blessed my life with
your friendship and love of Christ, His
Church + our Conference! Thank you!
Pastor Tom James

Kevin,
Words are inadequate -
your humor, insightful
comments, & servant's
heart will be missed. You are
much appreciated!
Althea Hood

Kevin -
ENJOY RETIREMENT.
CONTINUE TO SERVE &
SERVE THE LORD. God
bless you - Cheryl
Kusner

Thanks, Kevin, for your humor, gentle
spirit, and willingness to serve.
You have been a HUGE blessing to
all of us who have worked with
you. Love you,
Jane Mackintosh

Kevin, thank you so much
for your many years of
faithful service! We
have been blessed!
-Ginny Evans

Kevin -
Enjoy your retirement
family, and baseball!
Dad bless you and
Thanks Don R.

What do you say
after all these years
Thanks so much
Robert Van Horn

Thank you
for 25 years.
Jim Bond

You have been an
inspiration to me
and many others. I
look forward to your
future endeavors!
Dean Fox

Kevin,
God bless you!
Pastor Dave
& Margaret

Kevin:
You're much too young to retire!
GET A JOB! Thank you for
blessing SOB's with your excellent
work and contributions
Ralph Mackintosh

Kevin -
You are a hero
to all who know you.
Thank-you for
serving well.
Jim Goodrich



In the "Kevin's Korner" of his first
issue of *The SR* in April 1989,
Kevin said:

"I remember picking up *The
Sabbath Recorder* from the Davis'
coffee table, looking at John
Bevis' editorial, and stating boldly,
'I could do that!'"

Twenty-five years later we all
know that Kevin could do that and
he did it very well!

Thanks for taking
the time to put us all
in pictures over the years.
'Smile!' - Bill Probasco

Kevin!
Thanks for all of
your awesome work,
and your heart and
character that always
shined while you worked!
Dave Stall

Thank you for your patience
with my late articles! And
for just being a great editor
in general.
-Seth @sborn

Kevin,
Thank you for
all of your hard work and dedication,
and for hilarious TEL reports!
Katherine Griffin

KEVIN!
You ARE A
TREASURE
AS AN EDITOR
AND A FRIEND!
Gretchen

Thanks Kevin,
Your conference
reports were
Outstanding
Becky Crouch

Thank you for your
dedication!
Pleasure to know and know
you!
Kevin -
you've been a
wonderful
editor - God
bless your
retirement
from the SR!
Charlotte
Chongier

Periodicals postage paid
at Janesville, WI
and additional offices

Coming Next Summer:
Seventh Day Baptist Conference 2015
July 26 - August 1
Lancaster Bible College
Lancaster, Pennsylvania



That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers. —Psalms 1:3