"Let's get to work!"

Living your faith in the workplace
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 Jesus Christ.
- 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 Christ. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SBs just a little bit different.

If you would like more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Rd, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@iwave.com and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

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Newport Seventh Day Baptist Trilogy
Newport Seventh Day Baptist Trilogy, written by Iloa and Don Sanford and published by Heritage Books, is now available from the SDB Historical Society at a special discount price of $10, plus $1 postage where applicable.

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Meditations of faith in the workplace
by Norm Burdick

Dearest Lord,

What a whirlwind at the office today! All those people calling, demanding and needing our work product.

Call after call. File after file. Day after day. So much to do and sometimes so little time.

As I work through the day, I must admit that I rarely think about You or live my Christian faith in one of the most important areas of my life.

But You hit me between the eyes just a couple of weeks ago when the pastor preached on 2 Peter 1:5-11.

In that sermon, I learned that You had done Your part and that now it was time to do mine.

2 Peter 1:5-11 says, "Because you have these blessings, do your best to add these things to your lives: to your faith, add goodness; and to your goodness, add knowledge; and to your knowledge, add self-control; and to your self-control, add patience; and to your patience, add service for God; and to your service for God, add kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ; and to this kindness, add love.

"If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyone who does not have these things cannot see clearly. He is blind and has forgotten that he was made clean from his past sins.

"My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God. If you do all these things, you will never fall. And you will be given a very great welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (New Century Version).

Lord, I thought the pastor was talking directly to me. What have I done lately for You? Especially in the workplace? I really don’t want to make waves there.

Is that because I lack the courage to tell my coworkers that I am a Christian? Do I just use the excuse that I am so busy that I don’t have time for You at work?

Help me to find the best way to live my faith in the workplace.

I have discovered the wonderful blessings that come with living the 2 Peter 1:5-11 example.

Church folks just like you share how they witness for Christ on the job.

cont. on next page
Dear Lord,

I took every opportunity to look around today at the people I work with, to see how they live their faith in the workplace. It was a disappointing experience, I must admit. I am not sure that there are any Christians in my office. At least, they don’t act like it.

Is that what people see in me? I hope not!

I don't have to beat anyone over the head with my Bible. Not when I have You wrapped around me and shining through me. It's incredible!

In the process, I watched Herb today. He is a new Christian, I think. I have noticed that he carries his Bible and keeps it in his work area and reads it at lunch time. But he seems so distant and rude. I think he wears his Christianity on his sleeve, and it seems like he wants to thump up to his Bible.

I am sure that won't work for me. There has to be a better way to live my faith in the workplace.

Hi, Lord. It's Norm again.

I've done a great deal of thinking about You, and living for You in every way (even at work). After some experimenting, I have discovered the wonderful blessings that come with living the 2 Peter 1:5-11 example.

At a break in a recent meeting, a co-worker leaned over to me and told me that she knew I was different; that I was not like the other employees.

She had observed that I didn't swear or tell off-color or inappropriate jokes and stories; that I worked with great diligence; and that I didn't get involved in office politics or get angry at fellow workers. Wow! There was the opportunity to tell her of Christ and the difference He has made in my life.

Later that week, a co-worker I respect a great deal came into my office to confide in me about some personal problems he was experiencing.

I always knew there was a good reason why I brought that little New Testament to the office and kept it there. I was able to share the Scriptures with him.

My Great Lord and Master!!

What a discovery! Living life for You in the workplace is easy and beneficial.

When I set my mind on You, my spirit is full of knowledge, love, self-control, patience, kindness, goodness, and service. Not to mention the joy that fills the work hours spent with You.

I feel a smile on my face and a spring in my step when You are by my side.

There is definitely something to living my life for You even in the office. I don't have to beat anyone over the head with my Bible. Not when I have You wrapped around me and shining through me. It's incredible! The people I work with see You in me and come to me when they see Your light in my life.

Help me to be a witness for You always in the workplace. Amen.

From your loving servant, Norm

Norm Burdick is a member of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church.

'You're religious? You're kidding!'

by Lee Brittain

Black Monday, June 30, 1997, is called that by almost everyone affected by my company's restructuring.

It was late afternoon, and I was one of the last ones to get a call to come to the Human Resource office. After the official termination, I spoke with a counselor, brought in special for the day. Her job was to determine how we were handling our instant joblessness.

"What will you do when you leave today?" My response to her question caught her off guard. She seemed prepared for hysteria, anger, and even retaliation, but not for me to say, "Shoveling mulch." Why was I being so calm in the wake of my unexpected unemployment?

I trusted God and told her so. She told me that I was the only one she had talked with that day who was not distraught, and now she knew why. She, too, was a Christian.

Going back to my desk to retrieve my purse, I ended up handling a call from one of my customers because my supervisor was uncertain as to what to do for them. Relieved that I would do it, and thankful that I promised not to mention what was happening, he left me on my own.

My co-workers were in shock, first at my situation, and then at my willingness to still help the customer.

When I gave one of them some notes regarding customer needs requiring immediate attention, he couldn't believe it. He wanted to know why I would even care. He told me that if he were in my shoes, he wouldn't do it. I told him that it was the right thing to do. The customer shouldn't be penalized because of my plight.

I took leave of my co-workers and promised to pray for them all. They couldn't comprehend my calm demeanor. "It is in God's hands," was my explanation.

It may have been Black Monday for the company as a whole, but I believe the clouds were not quite so ominous in my department. God's grace and peace were seen that day, and I am thankful that He was able to use me in that way.

It was a far cry from where I had been just a couple of years prior.

"You're kidding! You're religious? I never knew that!" These are words that should send a shudder through any spiritual heart, and they were said to me.

Although a Christian for many years, my style was more subtle than overt. I thought that being touched by kindness and generosity, people would want to know where it came from. Christians don't have a monopoly on these virtues though, and few took the time to discern the source of mine.

I was so ashamed. I had worked with this person for a couple of years. We had even spent some time together outside of work. My Christianity was the most important aspect of my life, and she had never seen it!

God's lesson was quickly and heartily learned. People would know of God first, and then witness the result of His work in my life.

Are there visible signs that this is having an effect on people I now work with?

Oh, yes! Little things like co-workers teasing that I'm no fun to gossip with because I won't—and they know why!

Remarks from my supervisor are even weightier. She says she admires me and finds me one of the most "balanced" people she knows. She even commented on the strength of my faith, noting that it bears out in my job and affects how I interact with people.

My Christian faith is especially poignant at this particular point in my current company's history. We are also restructuring. There are visible signs of anxiety, unrest, and distrust throughout the building. My supervisor seems to think that I will handle the pressure of all of the changes better than most, and she knows why.

People are watching, and they do take note of how our faith helps or hinders us.
Helping with all kinds of adjustments
by Brandon Crandall

If I had a personalized license plate, it would read ENCOURAGE.

Encouragement is a gift which we all have to some degree, and I have come to realize that it is my primary spiritual gift.

As a chiropractor, I talk to people who are experiencing a life-disrupting pain. Some have a serious injury which doesn’t allow them to work and threatens their income and lifestyle. Others may have stress in their lives which causes tension buildup and manifests itself in spinal problems.

These physical and emotional ills often cause people to lose hope. They need encouragement to make it through the hard times. Often, encouragement is simply listening, and understanding, as they talk about their fears and anxieties.

Sometimes encouragement involves “tough love”—making people face a change they may not want to make. Other times, encouragement involves helping them get their chins up enough to dream again; albeit a new dream, if their limitations are permanent.

Most importantly, people need to know that someone cares and expects improvement in their lives. When they’re facing trials, I often say, “I’m a Christian, and I’ll pray for you.”

People need to know that we care, that we feel prayer is important, and that we go to the Lord with the expectation that there is Hope in Him.

Health care for body and soul
by Barb Green

As a factory nurse, I treat employees for various injuries and illnesses. In addition to physical symptoms, these people have many problems: substance abuse, chronic diseases, and family conflicts that complicate the work issues.

I spend hours talking with workers whose stories are heartbreaking and must remain confidential. Although their problems are often the direct result of poor attitudes and choices, some of these people have no clue that they need to change or how to do it.

My job is to listen, not judge, and offer options. If I feel the employees may be receptive, I ask them about their faith. Often I tell them I’ll pray for them.

It has taken a long time to cultivate trust. I’ve been helped by the realization that even if I don’t fully understand the whole situation, God does.

Last year we started a noon prayer group in response to some serious problems. The group has dwindled to just a few, and I find myself in the leadership role. This experience has lifted all our spirits and helped us encourage one another.

I feel down about the work, one of my co-workers always reminds me that I am not the one in control—God is. If it weren’t for this group of Christians, my work life would sometimes be unbearable.

When I started this job five years ago, I could sense the presence of evil as I walked through the door each morning. There were days I hated to go to work. Yet when I had the opportunity to leave, I felt that God wanted me to stay.

I admired my work in a department where everyone is a Christian. I feel blessed to work in a department where everyone is a Christian. We admonish as well as support each other. When

Lee (p. 7), Ralph, Brandon, and Barb are members of the Milton, Wis., SDI Church.
Walking the walk
even (especially) at work
by Mary Jane McPherson

"...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"
(1 Corinthians 10:31b).

Living my faith is one way I share my faith at work. I have always put my whole self into my work and wouldn’t feel I’d done my best otherwise.

To me, living my faith means that I do my best to meet deadlines, that I give full attention to my work while I’m at my job, that I’m a team player, and if I tell someone I’ll do something, I do it.

It didn’t take me long to discover a group of fellow employees who meet weekly for Bible study and prayer.

As a former teacher in a Christian school, it was my practice to get together daily to pray for our students and administration. I must say it was different to join in a prayer time for the CEO of our bio-pharmaceutical company. What a joy to take to the Lord the cares and concerns of my company!

By joining this weekly group, I identified myself as a believer and have relationships at work that are based not only on our working together, but also on our love for God.

By talking to fellow employees, I learned that one man grew up in the town where our daughter, Karen, is attending college. As we talked more, I found that he also attended Messiah College and is now very active in his church.

Recently, the new director of my department met with each of us to “get to know us better.” During our discussion, we discovered a mutual enjoyment of music—Christian music!

We are witnesses for God without even opening our mouths. Since we have to “walk the walk” as well as “talk the talk,” we must guard against talk that erases our walk. Natural evangelism begins as I do the job I’ve been hired to do, treat people as I’d want to be treated (the Golden Rule), and do it joyfully for the glory of God.

Mary Jane McPherson is a member of the Miami, Fla., SDB Church.

Truckin’ for Jesus—
A peculiar way to witness
by David Davis

Several years ago, I worked for a construction company owned by a Seventh Day Baptist. Quite often customers would ask us to do work on Saturday. The owner’s reply was that we would not be able to do it. Now it was our “church day.”

What a great response to a question that had followed me through all of my work years! I had often pondered different responses to the “work on Sabbath” question, but here it was, two simple words: “We cannot.”

Yes, my intent to witness to these guys was doused quickly, and I had lots of time to ponder why they disliked Christians so much.

I watched and listened over the next few months and discovered that the “fellowshipping” Christians on day shift would often not get their work done, thus leaving extra work for the night shift. Also, many people I’ve known over the years have a story about how a Christian got the best of them in some money transaction, or how a church couldn’t part with its building fund to feed a hungry family.

Establish a good work ethic
A common “actions are louder than words” witness seems to follow lots of us Christians around. Therefore, it quickly became clear that I needed to establish a good work ethic to prove to my co-workers and supervisor that I could be a hard worker as well as a Christian.

I would not let my beliefs inconvenience them!! Of course, it was not that easy. When one sets out to prove something, quite often we lose sight of the goal and fall into common patterns of the work world. Yep, here I was, a “silent Christian” workaholic. Some of those people were surprised to find out years later that I was a Christian!

Thanks to the grace of God, we can learn from our mistakes. I am now a better employee and supervisor that I could be a hard worker as well as a Christian. I would not let my beliefs inconvenience them!!

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Embarrassed by being peculiar? In the past several years I have analyzed my reluctance to witness and to share my “weekend plans.” I would ask myself, “Are you ashamed of what you believe?”

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ed to let people know: 1) you’re a Christian, and 2) you go to church on Saturday? The answer was always “No... I’m proud to be a Christian and a Seventh Day Baptist! So what am I going to do about it?” I recall several events that stick in my mind that have helped me witness to those around me. Seven years ago our new neighbor introduced himself as “Bob, and my wife’s name is a little different—it’s Myrna.”

Hmmm... haven’t I seen a tract about a Baptist church that’s a little different? And didn’t our Conference theme verse last year talk about being “a peculiar people”? I’ve adopted that approach of letting people know I go to church on Sabbath. A person might ask, “What are you doing this weekend?” My response is something like, “Well, Saturday is my church day. Yeah, I know it’s a little different (weird), isn’t it?” That sure beats hanging my head, kicking the dirt and saying, “Oh, nothing special.” Sabbath day is special to me, and I want people to know it.

Sabbath becomes an open door

Being in the trucking industry, I am often asked to work on Sabbath day. My standard response to my employer is, “Saturday is my church day, and I avoid working that day.” They also know that if there is an emergency situation, people in the workplace are a bit gun-shy about “preachy” people. But letting them know that you go to church on Saturday (even though it’s a bit out of the ordinary); that you believe in Jesus Christ, alone, for salvation; and that you believe in the Bible, gets the message across, and co-workers don’t even know you’re invading their comfort zone.

Others may stand up for you

Another man I worked for responded to a customer’s request that I be available on Sabbath with, “It’s a Christian and he means it, so he’s not going to be available. Besides, he does more than any of the other drivers Monday through Friday.”

While I was quite embarrassed when the customer later told me the story, it reminded me how closely people watch my actions.

As I memorized the new Conference theme verse this fall, I realized how Scriptural it is to make sure our actions are as loud as our words, and that we reflect The One who calls us to be holy, because He is holy.

“But just as He who called you is holy, be holy in all you do. For: it is written ‘Be holy, because I am holy’” 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV).

Dave Davis is a member of the Seattle Area SDB Church.

I needed to establish a good work ethic to prove to my co-workers and supervisor that I could be a hard worker as well as a Christian.

Thought of the impact on our associates if we could abandon the tendency to complain about the season’s obligations and the pressure to meet everyone’s expectations! Instead, why not rethink the holiday (i.e. “sunday”) season as Jesus’ birth day party with expressions of God’s love in sending the ultimate Gift?

Give to “the least of these”

During the past couple of years, our family has found new ways to share with those less fortunate.

See how many conversations about gift-giving, decorations, and special holiday events leave an open door to express your faith in that Holy Child of Bethlehem.

A special Christmas dinner/ party is hosted by the Alfred, N.Y., Women’s Society. Their nearby sisters in Alfred Station provide meat and dessert for a community dinner following the church Christmas program.

How do we come across?

As we plan our church and family activities and do our shopping, what attitudes do we project about gift-giving, decorations, and special holiday events? How do we come across?

We need to carefully consider what we say as well as how we say it. Biblical people watch our actions. If we are not being what we say we are, they will judge us as “parchy.” We need to carefully consider what we say as well as how we say it.

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A soldier of many wars

The October "Pearls from the Past" column highlighted the designation of the Milton House as a National Historical Landmark. This southern Wisconsin inn served as a station in the Underground Railroad, helping runaway slaves escape to freedom in Canada. Seventy-First Baptists were credited with providing some of the documentation which authenticated what was, by nature, secret.

About three weeks after the recognition celebration, a man who was involved in mapping out the Milton Cemetery came to the Historical Society in search of information about Daniel Newcomb, whose tombstone carried the note that he was a veteran of the War of 1812. Our surname index to The Sabbath Recorder indicated that Newcomb's obituary was in the issue for December 21, 1865. Instead of finding the untimely demise of Newcomb, I found a copy of the funeral sermon on the front page. It had been preached in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. The pastor, Darwin R. Maxson, had served as a chaplain with the 85th New York Infantry in the Civil War, and thus lived through some of the events which marked Newcomb's opposition to slavery.

"When this great nation, and the leading churches of this nation, went down on their knees at the feet of slavery, as they certainly did in 1860, and so in 1865, among the noble few who did not bow the knee was Father Newcomb. He preferred being called a fanatic, by a fanatical multitude of slavery worshippers, to getting down and worshiping with them.... He had read the third [chapter] of Matthew, that Christ's gospel laid the axe unto the root of the tree that brought not forth good fruit, and hewed it down. This seemed to him to be not only the divine plan of providence, but the only successful plan. In becoming a radical abolitionist, he preferred the truth to the multitude, and trusted to God's good time to dig out the upas by the roots."  

Daniel Newcomb lived long enough to see the conclusion of the war to preserve the nation and outlaw slavery. But he was spared the tragedy of seeing how long the effects of this war would endure. His tombstone in the Milton Cemetery indicates that he fought in the War of 1812. It does not reflect the greater struggle that he faced in the prejudice and injustice of his time.

As people visit the Historical Landmark of the Milton House, perhaps they can be reminded of the countless other people who helped create the climate in which the work of the Underground Railroad could be effective.


"Ibid.

"Ibid., 'The upas was an Asiatic tree of the mulberry family, whose leaves that contained poisonous glaucesides used as an arrow poison' (Webster)."
Witnessing without hang-ups
Get straight talk on evangelism (book reviews from CPH)

It's not as difficult to share the Gospel with friends and family as some Christians may think. In fact, evangelism can be a very natural part of our lives.

Now, Out of the Bleachers and Onto the Field, a new release from Concordia Publishing House (CPH), presents a clear, step-by-step plan for sharing the Gospel. Gibson shares from years of firsthand experience reaching out to non-Christians and helping others share their faith. His real-life examples featured throughout the book help readers become more prepared and confident to be Christ's witnesses wherever they are.

Readers learn easy-to-remember points to cover when sharing the Gospel. And they see how to follow up with new believers and encourage involvement in a church.

Help young adults seek Scripture for life answers

Adults in their 20s and early 30s are looking for answers to their spiritual and moral questions, yet they frequently feel that traditional Bible studies simply aren't relevant to their lives.

Twenty-Something: Forward in Faith is an important way to help younger adults approach new challenges in life from a position of faith.

Forward in Faith addresses the specific needs of these maturing adults. The 20 reproducible lessons in each book can be used in any sequence, and are designed to be completed in a single session. The interactive format encourages group discussions—the learning style young adults prefer.

For more information on these books, contact Doris Engstrom at (800) 774-0274. Her e-mail address is: doris@cphnet.org.

What are some of the ways God used you in Mexico?

Alicia: To us, it seemed like God didn't waste any time in revealing His awesome plan for our time in Mexico.

The first day we were there was a Sabbath. We had brought Sabbath School supplies without any idea how they would be used. During the service, we understood that they were having a "spur of the moment" business meeting about starting a children's program. Sabbath School teachers were assigned and other details were worked out.

We were blessed to be in the midst of this decision-making and were asked to help a teacher create a lesson plan. It was awesome to be able to return three Sabbaths later and assist with the class and see how God was working through that program.

Eric: Thank God for music, the universal language!

Neither Alicia nor I spoke Spanish very well, even after 21 college credits of it. Yet both of us wanted to share the love we had for our Savior.

As we headed out the door that first Sabbath, our host, Pastor Rosalio Camacho, asked me where my violin was. I turned and retrieved it from our room.

When we arrived at the church, I asked Luis [Lovelace] when I was supposed to play. He told me to get ready because it probably wouldn't happen randomly. Sure enough, about an hour into Sabbath School, Pastor Camacho said, "Eric, violin, play." At least, that's what I understood!

So I got up, played a song, and sat back down. Then later during the service, I heard the command again: "Eric, violin, play."

As I played this time, I looked at the faces of the people in the church to see if what I was trying to say through my music was being understood. The smiles and comments after church assured me that my love for Jesus was seen. We were communicating!

The last day in Mexico, we were back in Madero, at Pastor Camacho's church. By now, both Alicia and I were speaking—comprehending—Spanish much better. A lady from the church mentioned that I had played "How Great Thou Art" on my violin three weeks before, and was disappointed that she missed it.

So, between Sabbath School and the service, I performed that song for her, and for a few others who were still gathered. As I played, tears poured down her face. We were communicating. "Gracias a Dios por musica."

Alicia: Amen!

Eric: Luis answered every one of our questions without complaint. This may not seem like such a big deal until you realize how many questions we bombarded him with!

Alicia: The Camachos were a blessing right from the beginning. Their house became our "home away from home." Their open arms were a great blessing to us and gave us the strength to head back out into the sometimes primitive (by our standards) world to visit the churches. The running water...
Running to the King

by Aubrey Appel

Just a little something to get you into the Christmas spirit (taken from Matthew, Chapter 2).

Yeah, we're mentioned in the New Testament once or twice. We're the ones people call wise men, magi, wise guys. We started our journey centuries ago, it seems, but of course it's only been a few years.

We were so excited at the beginning of our great adventure; could hardly wait to get started. So excited to tell our friends about our discovery and how it would change our lives.

I remember when I first told my wife and children about the unusually large star in the East. How it meant that a king was to be born. A king like no other, perhaps the greatest leader of his people... ever.

The sky seemed to open up, like someone was taking tremendous hands and pushing away a cover of blackness. The star appeared once again, and we found ourselves running towards the prize.

We found the infant King and rejoiced for God's goodness. His omnipotent hand had led us to everlasting life for ourselves and to take back to our families.

Have you left your "comfort zone" and set out to find your Savior?

I ran to the King. What are you running to?
The President's Page

Someone's watching
by Norma Rudert

deeded that this was what a "real" Christian must be like. (I never
saw her again, and I wonder if that is a familiar name to anyone.)

Two of our pastors told me about the holy qualities they observed in
their own father-in-law. One refused to retaliate or become bitter
when he went through a period of harsh criticism by his parishioners.
The other father-in-law gained self-control over a hot temper, and be-
came a model of calm equanimity in his later years.

In our Michigan Sabbath School class, Don Crusan mentioned some-
one he knew while growing up in North Loup, Neb. This man (the
father of our Pastor Emeritus, Or-leo Babcock) is remembered for
his gentle, quiet goodness. Even though he has been dead for near-
ly 50 years, his spiritual influence is still felt.

The fact that we can and do af-
fect the character of young people
simply by our ordinary, day-to-day
actions is a sobering thought. Each
one of us has the power to enhance
the faith of others, an awesome re-
sponsibility to which all Christians
have been called.

When we are in Daytona Beach,
Fla., we enjoy walking along the
ocean, and I always go barefoot,
close enough to the water's edge
to leave footprints. Anyone within
earspot is obliged to listen to this
stanzia from Longfellow's "Psalm
of Life":
Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

We may not achieve the status
of "great men," but we are still
leaving impressions. What about
my footprints? What about yours?

1 Peter 1:15 instructs us to "be
holy in all you do." Christians are
to be the demonstration models of
citizens of a holy nation, partly be-
cause other people are watching us.

And Proverbs 15:3 reminds us
that Someone else is watching, too:
"The eyes of the Lord are every-
where, keeping watch on the
wicked and the good."

We may not
achieve the status of "great men," but we are still leaving impressions. What about my footprints? What about yours?

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Association urges:
"Give of your best"
by Marjorie Goodrich

The North Loup, Neb., Seventh
Day Baptist Church hosted the an-
nual meeting of the Mid-Continent
Association on Oct. 9-11, 1998, with
Jim Goodrich presiding.

Friday vespers were led by Scott
Smith and Rev. Steve Saunders of
Nortonville, Kan. President Good-
rich led the Sabbath service, with
Pastor Christian Mattson as
speaker. The choir presented two
numbers.

While the youth took time to
climb Happy Jack's Peak, the
adults got involved in a seminar on "What Is Your Best?" This ex-
tended the theme, "Give of your
best to the Master," selected by the
president.

The Lonny Carpenter family of
Ord, Neb., presented an inspira-
tional concert Saturday evening.

The young adults had overnight
activities at Camp Riverview, while
some of the younger people went
to the Marilyn Williams home in
Taylor, Neb.

A business meeting was held at
the Community Center, where most
of the meals were served. On Sun-
day morning, following dismissal,
guests enjoyed a lunch and pre-
pared to return to their homes.

In addition to North Loup and
Nortonville, Association attendees
represented SDB churches from
Boulder, Denver, and Colorado
Springs, Colo.

Battle Creek church appreciates pastor
by Judy Parrish

On October 17, 1998, the Battle
Creek, Mich., SDB Church honored
Pastor Harold King as part of its
Pastor Appreciation Day celebra-
tion.

We have been blessed to have
Pastor Harold and Kathi with us
since January 1, 1998, and appreci-
ate their love and care for our
church and community.

Pastor Harold was surprised
when he entered the church Sab-
bath morning and saw the Pastor
Appreciation banners throughout
the church. Some of them were
made by the children and Youth
Fellowship. He was presented a
boutonniere, and there was a car-
sage for Kathi.

During our praise time, songs
were chosen that related to memo-
rable messages Pastor Harold has
given since he has been with us
(with topics such as marriage and
true worship).

An article in the local paper's
"Reses" column that Sabbath al-
lowed us to publicly acknowledge
this special couple's ministry.

Pastor Harold was surprised
when he entered the church Sab-
bath morning and saw the Pastor Appreciation banners throughout the church.

This was followed by a presen-
tation time. Pastor Harold and
Kathi received cards from the con-
gregation and children's Sabbath
School, and personal thank-you
notes and gifts from the church
and VS.

Following worship, we held
a reception to celebrate our pastor's
spiritual gifts and fruit-in
cake!

We in Battle Creek hope to bear
much true fruit for the Lord in His
vineyard with the Kings.
Worship unites Baptists at Berlin conference

Berlin, Germany (BWA)—Sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, more than 600 Baptists from 58 countries and each of the six continents met in Berlin, Germany, from October 15-18 at the Schoenberg Baptist Church for the first-ever International Baptist Conference on Worship. Delegates found themselves united around an issue that is often divisive, not only for Baptists but the entire Christian community.

Conceived around five different styles of worship, a concluding conference “declaration” stated that each style, whether traditional, contemporary, Holy Spirit-renewal, seeker-sensitive, reflective-modalitative, Asian, African-American, African, Caribbean, Latin-American, or European-American, has “relevance, meaning, and power” and “all forms of worship ‘windows’ through which we see God.” “Integral to Baptist worship,” the statement said, “is belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church, is the focus of worship and praise.” Each style or form must be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While no one need accept all styles, we should celebrate how others worship.

There are, however, many things about which Baptists need to recognize. These include:

- Music sometimes is performance and does not glorify God or engage people in worship.
- The great importance of the Lord’s Supper and baptism is not always understood.
- Our prayers are unbalanced between talking and listening to God.
- Our worship preparation is often left to those who lead instead of being familiar with all who come to seek an encounter with the living God.

We have not always adequately taught people in our churches the meaning of worship and how to worship.

- We have often been guilty of believing our style or form in the best and only way to worship.

While the statement did not require a vote, it reflected the consensus of spirit that permeated the meeting.

At the start, Tony Cupit, BWA director for Study and Research who led the conference, laid a foundation for understanding that defined Baptist identity on the subject.

“We are here to worship God, to follow the leading of God’s Holy Spirit,” he said to the participants, the overwhelming majority of whom had some involvement in worship planning and leadership. “We are here to pray, listen, learn, celebrate our unity in Christ, fellowship, and worship.”

From the opening notes of the famous German hymn of Martin Luther, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” to the great benediction of George Frederick Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus,” the musical part of worship was a kaleidoscope of changing patterns and styles that reflected the creativity of God, the Creator of us all.

Structure walked together with spontaneity, and Liturgy embraced drama and dance. Songs and cries of African joy and suffering, serene Asian melody, Latin American beat and Caribbean calypso rhythms joined rich Russian and Romanian music to praise God. In silence and with applause, in stillness and with movement, participants worshiped God.

“Worship is deeply linked with the power and the reality of the Holy Spirit,” said Karl Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. He sees the divinity and the human influence of modern thinking about God as a challenge, especially as “truth and worship have become subjective and each individual requires their taste to be satisfied.”

“One of the greatest models of unity in worship,” said Denton Lota, general secretary of the BWA who spoke of the effect of worship on fellowship. “Worship has to be individual, but it also must be corporate,” he said. “Now, in the world where there is a revolution of worship, and we are here to learn from Baptists all over the world.”

For many, this was the first time such a panorama of options was presented. From the testimonies around the church and in the sessions, these different ways of worship were accepted and celebrated.

“We came here with the feeling that we African-Americans knew how to worship, and I came here to see what you do,” said Nathaniel Tyler-Lloyd, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Bronx, N.Y. “I leave here affirmed that we do know how to worship, and informed that there is something for all of us to learn from each other and end this separation.”

“We can have lots of attitudes about worship styles,” said Paul Basden, pastor of Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. “But the least helpful attitude to judge others. Our modern day variety of worship is a gift of Pentecost, not Babel.”

Mackintoshes, cont. from page 17

and flushing toilets came to be greatly appreciated after using outhouses and the “anything but private” bucket-bath.

Norma’s cooking was also greatly enjoyed, especially the dishes with non-spicy ingredients! I could have skipped the chicken and pork, but Luis would disagree with me on that one.

Eric: The Camacho children were a blessing as well. I learned more Spanish from them—especially from the older one, Normita—than I did during a whole semester in college. They should be getting “big bucks” to teach Spanish!

Alicia: As Eric said, the blessings that God poured out on us during this trip were measureless.

Another person who comes to mind is “Pa” (otherwise known as Antonio), the beef farmer. He taught us so much in the short time we were in his home in Mira Mar.

His love and relationship with God were so evident that, despite the language barrier, it was clear where he stood. We glimpsed this when he talked about his family.

“Pa showed our friends as the world thinks,” he said, “but we are rich in spirit.” He’s content with his life, and with all that God has given him. I just hope I’ll be able to thank God in all circumstances, the way Pa does.

Eric: During the three and a half weeks we were in Mexico, we ate and drank what was given to us, and trusted God that the water and food wasn’t contaminated. Now that I’m back, I think God had it for us to do, I understand why He kept me from getting sick.

We traveled mostly by bus. (I didn’t know so many people could fit into one bus!) Long walks under the hot Mexican sun would have been impossible, and running to an outhouse every few minutes doesn’t sound fun, either. If we hadn’t been feeling well, there’s no way we could have done the traveling and ministry that we did.

Alicia: Another blessing that comes to mind is the old, poor cowboy from Buena Vista.

We had just finished church, and Eric and I were standing in front of the building talking with him and some other people. Out of the blue, he handed each of us 20 pesos, about the equivalent of $2.20. He said that he was a poor man and knew it wasn’t much, but he wanted us to have it. After trying to explain that we had our own money, we accepted it with great thanks.

My heart was broken for this man, who would probably have to go without in order for us to have that money that I was reminded of the rich widow in the Bible who gave her last pennies. Jesus said she gave more than the rich man who gave greatly. I’ll always carry the memory of that cowboy, and how he gave from his heart.

What did you learn, and how did you grow?

Alicia: One thing that constantly amazed us was how God could use even us “gringuitos.” The first major hurdle to clear was the language and cultural barrier.

I gave a brief speech at the Buena Vista church. When I finished, I tried to say “Es todo” (which translates, “It’s all”). There were quite a few laughs when the “truth” finally came out as “Es toro,” which translates, “It’s bull.” There were quite a few laughs when the “truth” finally came out.

Another time I was trying to explain to our hostess that I didn’t want to eat because I wasn’t hungry. “No tengo hambre.” But it came out, “No tengo hambre.”

Which means I didn’t want to eat because I didn’t have a man!

Eric: I have grown in numerous ways in Christ. One thing God was really laying on my heart was:

“Here you are, my son, in a place you are not familiar with, in a culture you have never been in, with people you don’t know, speaking a language you cannot speak—and still I can use you.” How much more can God use us at home?

God is capable of anything and everything. When my pride shrank and I rely solely on God for everything, including communication. He takes over and works in ways that I can only dream of. God is good!

Alicia: How have I grown? I’ve asked myself that question more than once since returning home. I think the answer is that I’ve learned a little bit more about who I am in Christ. I’m able to see how I look to the spiritual world with His light shining out of me. And that light enables me to do awesome things in His name. Just by belonging to the Father, I am made a child of God.

It says in Galatians 4:5, “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out Abba, Father.” So with that Spirit living inside me, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). That promise is an incredible reminder of just who I am in Him.

If I could say just one thing about what God taught me in Mexico, it would be that He is good to me and can use me anywhere, anytime. He will shine through me if I let Him.
North Central gathering includes a “Preach-On”

by Margaret Stevens


Highlights of the meeting included a “Preach-On,” in which Pastors Mike Burns, Keith Jelison, Harold King, Dale Bould, Dale Smalley, and Bertris Welvington spoke on their interpretation of John 14:12. Each pastor was limited to 15 minutes.

Supreme Court refuses to review voucher ruling

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Supreme Court sidestepped a major church-state dispute Nov. 9, leaving in place taxpayer funding for religious schools in Milwaukee, Wis.

The court's action put off another day a ruling on whether the use of vouchers to pay for parochial school tuition violates the separation of church and state. Left intact was a ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that upheld the inclusion of religious schools in Milwaukee's voucher program.

Up to 15,000 lower-income students can use vouchers to attend more than 100 private schools, most of which are sectarian. This permits the shifting of up to $70 million from public to private schools during the current school term, voucher opponents say.

Two lower courts ruled that the program violated church-state provisions of the Wisconsin Constitution, but the state's top court disagreed, holding that the program offended neither the state nor federal constitutions.

In a 4-2 ruling, the Wisconsin Supreme Court said the voucher program does not have the primary effect of advancing religion because it "places on equal footing options of public and private school choice, and vests in the hands of parents to choose where to direct the funds allocated for their children's benefit."

Voucher supporters found more to cheer about in the U.S. Court's rejection of the case.

The court's refusal to review the case as disappointing but insisted it set no nationwide precedent.

"This action by the court means only that Milwaukee's program may proceed," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. "It does not amount to a high court blessing of tax aid to religious schools."

Brent Walker, general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee, noted that the high court is "as cautious as it is conservative" in avoiding constitutional issues until forced to decide them.

Walker said, "The Supreme Court’s refusal to review does not mean it agrees with the decision or creates any legal precedent beyond the borders of Wisconsin."

Norma Rudert, 1999 Conference President, brought the Sabbath evening message. Speaking in her home church, she dealt in an inspiring way with the theme for next year's Conference: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16. Her talk, and that of Rod Henry's, was followed by an exciting concert by Erik and Manly Henry.

The Teen Center next door, and the pool at Woods and Waters Resort, added much to the enjoyment of our youth.

Next October's meeting will be held in Albion, with Association President Calvin Babcock presiding.

Accessions

Boulder, CO
David Thorgate, pastor
Joined by letter
Beth S. Burdick
Victoria H. Burdick
Benjamin Harris
Linda D. Harris
Pastor Robert Harris
Joan Jergensen
Angie Lee
Pastor L.B. Lee

North Loup, NE
Christian Mattison, pastor
Joined by letter
Jody Looper
Beverly Soper
Earl Soper

Marlboro, NJ
Larry Gruftias, pastor
Joined after baptism
Daniel Beaudette
Kim Cramm
Tracey Morgan

Married

Meyer.—Herbert K. Meyer, 79, of Arvada, Colo., died on September 18, 1998, at home after a long illness. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 3, 1918. In 1979, he retired from the Bell Telephone Laboratory after 43 years as a Service Coordinator. He and his wife later moved to Colorado to be near their three daughters. After her death, he married Jane Bottoms in 1985.

Herbert enjoyed traveling, and he and Jane took many trips throughout the United States and Canada. He served on four Lutheran church councils. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Boulder, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jane; one son, Robert, of Galena, Ohio; twin daughters, Lynn Lynch and Lois Taylor, both of Denver, Colo.; three stepchildren, Roger Bottoms of Parker, Colo., Donna Browning of Westminster, Colo., and Ann Little of Oceanside, Calif.; 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held on September 21, 1998, with the Rev. Ralph Grosser and David Thorngate officiating.

Davidson.—Keith Davidson, 85, of Cleburne, Texas, died on October 10, 1998. He was born on January 13, 1913, and was a member of the Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas.

Although Keith was a member of Remembrance for only a short time, he was a great blessing driving almost 70 miles round-trip each Sabbath. He was re-baptized last spring, and was a witty student of history and the Bible. The church's Bible study on Sabbath mornings was blessed by his presence, and he will be greatly missed.

At a young age, Keith was a cowboy in northern Nevada and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam.
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Kevin's Korner

Have you ever seen the book entitled, "What They Didn't Teach You in Seminary"?
If your church expects the pastor to stand in the back of the sanctuary to greet the congregation as they leave, this book left out one extremely important chapter: "Hugging."
And I think I could help write it. After hugging the same church folks for years, one gets to know their hugging style. Tilting heads to the left, most go for the straightforward quick embrace. Of course, one guy insists on a right-handed tilt.

Many prefer just a half-hug, my left arm over their shoulders (while they can rest their head on my shoulder; or the shorter ones get buried in my chest). Some extend a handshake-only-thank-you-very-much. And that's fine; it's something the pastor has to learn.

Other hug variations take some practice. Like one older woman thrusts her left arm high, forcing me to dip my right arm around her waist (see how complicated this gets)? or else I wind up with missing teeth as I try to counter her arm move.

Two shorter ladies want me to lean forward for a cheek-to-cheek experience (right ones only), which can get uncomfortable for them if I'm growing a beard. Another tall, solid, outgoing, nearing-retirement motherly maternity nurse expects (and gets) nothing but a full-body squeeze.

Pastor Steve James of the Verona, N.Y., church used to carry a briefcase that you just couldn't miss. Embazoned on one side—thanks to a colorful bumper sticker—was the question, "Have you hugged your pastor today?"

Truth is, all of us could use a hug this time of year. The holidays can accentuate some unmet needs of the recent past, or of days long gone.

The end of the year can also magnify the mistakes and misgivings of the previous 11 months. We may feel lonely, unworthy, longing to be accepted. We yearn to be loved.

We need a hug.

Mainstay Resources, the originators of the 50-Day Spiritual Adventure, have also created material for an Advent celebration. This timely tidbit on hugging comes from this year's celebration packet:

Hundreds of years ago, the early Church came up with a plan for extending friendship in the middle of the worship service. They called it "Passing the Peace."

Some offered a "Holy Kiss." Others embraced.

They were on to something. Hugging is one of the best gifts you can give—

* Hugging is Healthy. It helps the body's immune system. It cures depression, it reduces stress, it aids sound sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects...

* Hugging is All Natural. It is organic, naturally sweet, has no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients, and is 100% wholesome.

* Hugging is Practically Perfect. There are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic check-ups, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements. The low-energy consumption of a hug results in a high-energy yield. Finally, hugs are inflation-proof, non-fattening, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-poluting, and of course, fully returnable!

So, how about a hug?

Jeanette Appel of Stonestort, Ill., widow of the Rev. A. Addison Appel, passed away on November 8. Her obituary will appear next month. This Christmas will not be the same without my hug from Jeanette.

—Editor
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<td>Poland needs new books</td>
<td>Jan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Kirk Looper)</td>
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<td>Roaming Romania—for God</td>
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<td>(by Heather Spaur)</td>
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<td>SCSC 1998—Team LAUGHTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Althea Rood)</td>
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<td>Setting the priority of outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Russell Johnson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDB World Federation map</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
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<td>SW Association well attended</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Ron Elston)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take refuge in Him for healing</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Shelley Shobe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tapping in to God's resources</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Jack Nelson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The road to financial recovery</td>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Mary Jane McPherson)</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ten Virtues of the Sabbath</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td>(by Jean Albion)</td>
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<td>Truckin' for Jesus (by David Davis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Mary Knox)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Untapped miracles (by Bill Richardson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walking the walk even (especially) at work</td>
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<td>(by Mary Jane McPherson)</td>
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<td>What can happen in a blender</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(by Mayola Warner)</td>
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<td>What to do with Buck</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<td>(by Jack Williams)</td>
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<td>&quot;What's wrong with Fanny Crosby?&quot;</td>
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<td>(by Doreen Davis)</td>
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<td>Working for the real Supervisor</td>
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<td>(by Ralph Hays)</td>
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<tr>
<td>'You're religious? You're kidding!'</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<td>(by Lee Brittain)</td>
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## Kevin's Korner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you know what time it is?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plug in and don't dry up</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family connections</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>An alliance of ministry</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>The ministry of rest</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick a card, any card</td>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring/summer &quot;madness&quot;</td>
<td>July-Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Fret not!&quot;</td>
<td>Sept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking a lighthouse tour</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How about a hug?</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
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