

MISSIONARY REPORTER



SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
19 Hillside Ave, Ashaway, RI 02804

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A Tribute to Paul Johnson

All organizations have individuals that influence their members and success greatly. Paul Johnson was one of those fellows in the Missionary Society. Without him the work and accomplishments would not have moved forward as much. Through his 29 years as treasurer of the Missionary Society and the 41 years in the New London Savings Bank, he influenced the work, as well as kept the organization operating at its best through balanced books and firm accountability. He always appeared to enjoy the work he did in the books for the Missionary Society and attacked them with diligence. He was an excellent teacher and very patient with the staff in the office. It was a real pleasure to work with him and under his tutelage. We all looked to him as the master in the bookkeeping and accounting portion of the office and listened to his advice with eagerness. It was he who expounded upon the use of funds that were formerly untouchable or those where the board had reluctance to use. Through his encouragement we moved forward into corresponding with international contacts and the expansion of the work in the office. We appreciate all he has done to further the mission and work in the Society. He will be sorely missed. Thank you, Paul Johnson.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

**SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
THIRD QUARTER MEETING
October 25, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 2 pm by President Gordon Kilts

Members present: Calvin Babcock, Meleta Babcock, Joe Samuels, Sue Camenga, Justin Camenga, Leon Lawton, Dorothy Lawton, Teresa Johnson, Ron Elston, Vivian Looper, Kirk Looper, and Cindy Nadeau.

Guests: Leroy Burdick, Bill Burks.

Meeting opened with prayer led by Ron Elston.

Treasurer's Report presented by Calvin Babcock and accepted by motion.

Executive Director's Report presented by Kirk Looper and accepted by motion.

Report of the National Director of Extension presented by Ron Elston and accepted by motion.

The Investment Committee's Report was presented by Leon Lawton and accepted by motion.

The Mission Committee Report submitted by Patty Petersen and accepted by motion.

The Report from the Youth/Young Adult Committee was submitted by Levi Bond and accepted by motion.

The Report of the Executive/Advisory Committee Report was read by Beverly Kilts. A motion was carried to accept the report with its recommendations.

The meeting concluded with a time of prayer devoted to the many concerns voiced at our meetings and then adjourned to the January 24, 2010 quarterly meeting of the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Kilts, sec.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

The General Conference meetings are over and things in the office are back to normal and work here is progressing very well. There were several meetings during conference with individuals and churches that led to other meetings and work with individuals for a specific need. I am looking forward to the opportunity of working with several who want to do missionary work in our sister conferences and churches. It is always a very busy time at General Conference and tiring. However, it is very rewarding and well worth it. We get so many contacts from the United States in such a short period of time. I also enjoy the opportunity to meet with those interested in the work of the Missionary Society around the world.

We were able to complete the reorganization of the "Sister Church" program and get the information to the international contacts. The intent of this program is to introduce, on a one on one basis, our churches to one of the churches in our sister conferences and churches. I have heard from several countries about their interest in this program but have not received any detailed information from them to share with the USA churches. I have heard from seven of the USA churches that are interested.

During July we set up several events that carried over to the period after conference. It was in July that we visited Adams Center, NY, along with Gordon Lawton and Rob Appel, to see if something could be done about the situation that existed at that time. The pastor at that time had been accused of child abuse and a complaint was sent to the center, in Janesville, that the name of the pastor was on the church marquee. The one complaining felt that his name being on the marquee would discourage anyone from attending the church. So, a meeting was set up with the members of the church to assess the situation and the implications associated with it. We agreed to meet on July 7, for this purpose. A more detailed report is available upon request from the Missionary Society office.

We met with the members of the church and determined several things. One was that there was not enough evidence to convict the pastor of child abuse. Two, the church needed to close their postal mail box. Three, liquidation of funds was necessary for the continued operation of the church. Four, the phone needed to be disconnected and five, the list of signers on the bank account needed to be modified. The changes to the church functions were completed. It was further agreed that the former pastor could maintain residence until they relocated or another pastor was available to inhabit the parsonage. This would allow a presence on the property to discourage vandalism.

While there I arranged another meeting on August 11. We located a member, David Murphy, who was leading a group a short distance from Adams Center. He agreed to lead the church with a desire to increase the size of the congregation. I looked forward to the meeting. His first service in the meeting house was held on August 22. I have arranged for another meeting on October 31 to discuss the polity and beliefs of the General Conference with the Congregation.

This meeting was followed up by a meeting at the Newport Historical Society in Newport, RI. Guests with me were Vivian Looper, Justin and Sue Camenga, and Ken and Linda Chaffee. We enjoyed seeing the way that the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church has been taken as close to the way it was when the congregation met there. They finished it out with the original colors and structures. The crown that was over the pulpit will be replaced at a later date.

CLT and General Council meetings were held during July 21 – 24 with Sabbath services on campus on the 25th. General Conference occurred on the following week which ended August 1.

In September, a group of us traveled to Guyana, South America, to look over the projects that had been started there. This group included Joe Samuels, Calvin Babcock, Elnora Andries, Paul Andries, and Amy Damon. The Americas Committee had sent in a request that we check to see if the Guyanese Conference members could afford to obtain the church building located in Kitty, Georgetown. There was a concern that we would sell them the property and they would not be able to maintain it. This would result in it falling to disuse and waste. It would become a burden to them. We assessed the needs of the two projects, the Kitty church and Camp Glory. Some trips will be planned in the near future to repair and complete the structures in the projects. Stay alert to reports and requests from the Missionary Society if you are interested in participating in a project. A more complete report on this trip is available from the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society office.

We returned from Guyana on September 10 and I left Ashaway, RI, on my way to visit the Lincoln and Omaha, NE, churches along with the Rez Connection, located in South Dakota. The Living Word Seventh Day Baptist Church in Lincoln has been working on the CPR program, sponsored by the denomination, and is on level three. This is the level where the pastor is to determine a vision for the church and bring it before the church. They have about 20 in average attendance and appear to be very successful. The larger number of regular attendees appears to be 40s or under.

I could not get in touch with Mading Bol, pastor of the Omaha Sudanese Seventh Day Baptist Church in Omaha. I later received an e-mail message from him explaining that he is in Anchorage, AK, trying to get their church started. Ron and I plan to visit Alaska in November. We also plan to visit the Tok Seventh Day Baptist Church.

I visited the Rez Connection and talked with the Marks family. It is always a pleasure to visit the Rez because of their optimistic attitude. I could see that they work hard and use their money wisely. I continue to be impressed with the efficiency with which they work. They raised most of their food. Several of them hunt to augment their food supply. They still need to buy their clothing, paper goods, and schools supplies. The supplies for the ministry are supported by donations.

This year the Marks' children grew corn, pumpkins, beans, and other vegetable crops. They obtain spending money through the sale of these goods. When I was there they had plans for Sabina, their oldest daughter of age 12, to raise 50 baby chicks beginning in November. They will be ready to butcher in six weeks. The children also care for the other birds such as turkeys, chickens, guineas, peacock, ducks, and geese.

Chet and I spoke of the continued support of the ministries at the Rez Connection, or rather the lack of support. They are not working with the Native American children at this point. It costs about \$1,000 per month to run one bus for one trip per week. The only work they are doing is the home schooling that is available to any of the children that want it. They home school their own children and I found that they follow the reputation of home schooled children as a rule. They are very advanced with their education. I pray that they will gain support from our churches and individuals so that they can restart their work with the Native American Children.

I spoke to Chet about the number of individuals concerned about their church sign. During the busy part of the spring and summer they had painted out the time of worship at their church building. He explained that when the weather allowed they would meet in a park so that they can evangelize the people at the park. That means that they are not in their church building as a "regular worship service" but went to where the people who need the Lord could hear the Gospel. I feel that the church there probably was doing work that the other churches should be doing as well. I suggested that he paint the time on the Sabbath for worship with a line under it to contact Pastor Chet to see where they will be meeting. He also explained that the service on Sunday was a Bible study for anyone wanting to attend. This was meant to get those who had to work on Saturday, not to substitute for Sabbath but to augment it. Again, I believe that more Bible studies, with personal invitations to non-members, would probably help the outreach of our other churches. I pray that we do not judge that church for their non-traditional worship service methods. And I thank Chet for his enlightenment about the possibilities of outreach and the spread of the Gospel. A more complete report on the Rez Connection is available through the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society office.

Plans are being made for trips to the Rez Connection to finish some of the projects that need work plus the regular work that needs to be done to help the family. These projects are planned for the last of June through the first of July. With the help from Patty Petersen, continuous work should be available for anyone wanting to join the project. Watch for more information in the January issue of the Sabbath Recorder or contact the Missionary Society office.

Also, during this quarter we received word from Pastor Al Paypa, General Secretary of the Philippine Conference, that his wife had gone into the hospital for an emergency cesarean section and that the baby was not doing well. He requested financial assistance for the emergency and post partum expenses. The funds were raised through the speedy work of the Christian Social Action Committee who supplied most of the funds. Recently, we received another request for additional funds amounting to \$2,000.

This has been an exciting and busy quarter and I praise God that he keeps me healthy and able to complete the work I have set for myself. The next quarter will include visits to Mid-Continent Association, Springfield, MA, Adams Center, NY,

and international trips to India, The Philippines, and possibly Indonesia. I continue to communicate needs to the Missions Keyworkers and individuals with specific interests. The response is very good and I appreciate everyone willing to sacrifice to see these needs covered and the advancement of Seventh Day Baptists throughout the world. Every church should have a Missions Keyworker to relay this information. Any church not having one should elect one and send the postal and e-mail address to the Missionary Society office. Those affiliated with the Missionary Society, either individually or through their church, can be proud of themselves for their contributions to the work, foreign and nationally. We thank you for your support.

Schedule:

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| Oct. 3 | Solid Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church, Tulsa, OK |
| Oct. 10 | Mid-Continent Association, Boulder, CO |
| Oct. 14 - 16 | CLT Meetings, Janesville, WI |
| Oct. 24 - 25 | Board of Managers Meeting, Ashaway, RI |
| Oct. 26 | Investment Committee Meeting, Ashaway, RI |
| Oct. 31 | Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, Adams Center, NY |
| Nov. 4-8 | Anchorage and Tok, Alaska |
| Nov. 21 | Springfield, MA |
| Dec. | International trip to India, The Philippines, and possibly Indonesia |

Respectfully Submitted,
G. Kirk Looper

NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION THIRD QUARTER 2009

This quarter has been a time of evaluating, as to the Missionary Society's approach to contacts, church planting and extension.

The Society has been requested to become more proactive in all areas, and beginning in January 2010 we plan to implement a more proactive approach.

The activities of the third quarter included General Conference held in Lancaster, PA. I held two meetings with the National Missions Conference Committee answering questions concerning the work on the National Field. The committee had several new members this year and they had many questions. Some I was able to answer and some, requesting church planting statistics about success and failure rates on church plants, I was unable to answer. I never view a church plant as a failure as we can learn from that experience. Also if that plant has done ministry for any length of time the seeds have been planted and God (not man) will give the increase. As you can see I am not a numbers or statistics person when it comes to the ministry. Perhaps that works in the business world, but I fail to see its value in ministry.

Andrew Samuels chaired a meeting between Rob Appel and myself. Missionary Society Executive Director, Kirk Looper, also attended the meeting.

The National Missions presentation focused on the steps we follow when we receive a contact, and how we work with the other boards and agencies in a team effort.

Several meetings were held with pastors and leaders interested in developing outreach or hosting a seminar. From those meetings we obtained contacts that are being developed.

Several trips were made to the southern states to follow up on requests and contacts. I have made a number of visits to northwest Arkansas to the Yellville area to meet with a contact given by Pastor Gabe Bejjani in Riverside, CA. Bro. Freeman Weaver is interested in starting a Seventh Day Baptist witness in that area. Bro. Weaver has a Baptist background and has been active in ministry for a number of years. The Society has provided books, tracts and materials to Pastor Weaver which are being distributed throughout the area introducing them to Seventh Day Baptists. A radio program is also in the works.

I have followed up on contacts in Arizona and Montana, provided by the Seventy Baptist Center, with follow-up trips scheduled for next spring. I have established contacts in Washington state and South Dakota and have sent information and spoken with them.

Updates from our active church plants in California, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Alaska have been made as well. Trips to some of these locations are scheduled for later this year.

This quarter I hosted a meeting with Executive Director Rob Appel in Poplar Bluff, MO. Director Appel shared his vision for a tune up for Seventh Day Baptists as well as work on the home field.

Much work has gone into the Safe Church Seminar program which is available to our churches in the United States and Canada. I will be conducting Part II, Developing a Church Security Team, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, RI, in October.

I had been requested to speak during special services at Pastor Alvin Bernard's Church in Decatur, GA, but became ill during the trip and had to return home. Pastor Bernard reported 130 attending and five ordained to the Deaconate. I plan a visit with the Decatur group before the first of the year.

Information has been sent to Missionary Society Webmaster, Beverly Kilts. We hope this information will be valuable and appreciate Beverly and her commitment to missions work.

In His Service,
Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr.

There was no report from the Africa Committee (Allegheny Association).

There was no report from the Americas Committee (South Atlantic Association).

There was no report from the Asia Committee (Pacific Coast Association).

There was no report from the Hispanic Committee (Eastern Association).

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE
Mid-Continent Association
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

The highlight of this quarter was having Pastor Chet Marks attend General Conference and present the Way of the Master evangelism training course over 5 days, with assistance from me. The students were all adults this year. Of special note were three pastors, all of whom wanted to take the program back to their churches (Ronnie Higson, Keith McCall, Jerry Vaught). We had 19 people attend at least one session, with 7 completing the course. On Friday, six of us spent an hour handing out gospel tracts in downtown Lancaster, PA, and engaging people in conversation. Everyone had a good experience, and Ruth Owopeta and Janice Kenyon reported one young man praying to repent and commit his life to Christ. Praise the Lord! The role-playing during class is helpful, but the "fishing trip" is essential for people to gain confidence in sharing their faith more often, whether with strangers or friends. Outside of class we answered questions from people about this approach to personal evangelism, and there seems to be continued high interest among Seventh Day Baptists for this training at Conference. Hopefully we can offer it again next year. Special thanks to Cletus Severence for his assistance at the Rez Connection while Pastor Chet was at General Conference.

There are a couple prayer requests for the Rez Connection ministry. One is for a working vehicle for the Marks family before winter comes. Pastor Chet purchased an inexpensive 15-passenger van in March which worked fairly well for a few months but needs extensive repair work and is not safe to drive. They also have an older model pickup truck, but it also needs major repairs. Pastor Chet is not able to attend the Mid-Continent Association meetings in Boulder this month because of the lack of a safe vehicle to drive. The second request is that God would restore Pastor Chet to good health. He's had some health troubles in the past few months. Thank you for bringing these before the Lord.

With a thankful heart,
Patty Petersen, Chairman

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE
Northwest Association
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

I attended the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in July, and visited the Youth Interest Committee. I thanked the youth for their hard work on the Bricks for Malawi project last spring, which was a great success. Shay Rankhorn also shared about his research for Summer Institute on the history of Seventh Day Baptist youth supporting missions.

I also listened to their desires for future projects. They wanted a Sabbath School lesson series similar to the Helping Hand, but written specifically for youth. This issue was raised in a few Interest Committees. As a result the Truth for Youth Sabbath School lessons produced by the Washington D.C. area Seventh Day Baptist Churches has been made available on the Board of Christian Education website. We hope that our sister churches overseas will also be able to use this resource.

Respectfully Submitted,
Levi Bond

EXECUTIVE/ADISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

October 24, 2009, 7 pm

Members present: Kirk Looper, Gordon Kilts, Ron Elston, Justin Camenga, Calvin Babcock, Beverly Kilts
Guest: Bill Burks.

Ron Elston presented report on current work with the churches and the Safe Church program.
We recommend that the date of July 11, 2010 be set for the July, 2010 meeting.

Sunday, October 25, 2009, 9 am

Members present: Kirk Looper, Joe Samuels, Justin Camenga, Calvin Babcock, Gordon Kilts, Beverly Kilts.

We recommend the adoption of the proposed budget for 2010.

We recommend that we move \$8,000 from China Fund for the Philippines TIME Program.

President, Gordon Kilts appointed Calvin Babcock to serve as acting treasurer until the annual meeting, 2010.

A motion carried that a letter be written to Washington Trust and to Newport Federal banks authorizing Calvin to have on-line access to financial records at said banks.

President Gordon Kilts appointed Justin Camenga as an assistant treasurer.

A motion carried that Gifts for Special Purposes Accounting be made available at the Executive Director's discretion.

The Memorial Board will be meeting with the executive committee at the April 25th meeting.

We recommend that we continue with the Guyana Project and we authorize Kirk to appoint a project manager for that project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Kilts, sec.

Nominating Committee: Calvin Babcock and Kathy Hughes

**JOB DISCRIPTION
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

National Director of Extension:

The National Director of Extension's responsibility shall be to cooperate in the outreach and growth of the Seventh Day Baptist witness in the United States and Canada.

The position is primarily a field work position, and he is expected to be actively involved in outreach efforts on the national field. He will be expected to spend, on the average, approximately 2/3 of his working time on the field. He will respond to contacts as referred by the Executive Director of the Missionary Society.

The term of contract for the National Director of Extension will be two years, with an annual review by the Executive Committee of the Missionary Society.

The National Director of Extension shall:

1. Be directly responsible to the Executive Director of the Missionary Society, keeping in close contact and submitting regular written reports, including trip and financial reports.
2. Work with established Missionary Society Board policies and goals.
3. Submit quarterly reports to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society.
4. Be a student of the Word and of how God is causing churches to grow, maintaining a high standard of personal and professional conduct.
5. Provide seminars, consultations, group presentations, and advice to pastors, and churches.
6. At the end of the activities listed in #5, secure evaluations from one or more key leaders. A copy is to be sent to the Executive Director of the Missionary Society.
7. Follow up on contacts regarding goals and strategies for their church planting and outreach efforts as requested.
8. Oversee training and utilization of the National Field Development Team volunteers under the supervision of the Executive Director of the Missionary Society.