

*Love*  
*is more than a pretty*  
*Valentine*





White, gently floating,  
Falling to the ground.  
My world looks like a snow globe,  
All the way around.

Swirling and spiraling,  
Like confetti from above,  
Its rich, white color,  
Reminds me of Jesus' love.

No matter what we do,  
He is always there,  
Listening to our requests;  
He hears our every prayer.

No matter what mistakes we make,  
Big or small or bad,  
He washes that sin white as snow,  
And makes my heart feel glad.

So as I watch the snow  
Slowly drifting down,  
I'm reminded that my Savior's love covers me,  
Like a blanket of snow on the ground.

## Love Like a Blanket

*Written by Lauren Cruzan  
Great Meadows, NJ  
2010 (7th Grade)*

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There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.

—C.S. Lewis

## 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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# Worth the Risk?

*What you get when you love someone is greater than what you risk.*



Various song titles communicate the idea, e.g., J. Geils Band's "Love Stinks" and Pat Benatar's "Love Is a Battlefield." Various song lyrics also communicate the idea. In "Love Bites," Def Leppard sings, "If you've got love in your sights, watch out; love bites, yes it does. It will be hell." In "True Love," Pink sings, "Nothing else can break my heart like true love." What is the idea these people are communicating?

These messages seem to be a warning that love is a bad thing, because it causes pain. Has this been your experience? Has love caused you pain?

I disagree with what these songs are saying. The problem is not love. The problem is the context in which we experience love. Because this is a broken world, everything we experience, even if it's something as wonderful as love, is experienced within the context of brokenness. The people we love are broken, and sometimes they act out of their brokenness, which leads to relational pain. We do the same ourselves, as we try to love others. I certainly do. Sometimes I allow my brokenness to manifest itself in fear, anger, envy, or other feelings/attitudes that cause pain and are extremely destructive to relationship.

What's the solution to our problem of brokenness? Should we just give up? Are we to abandon the wonderful goal of connecting with others in love, friendship, etc.? Our enemy would have us do this,

because he knows that isolation brings death. God, however, wishes us to have lives that are full, not empty.

One significant step in the right direction is to openly acknowledge our situation. That's what Joe, one of the characters in the film "Super 8," did as he said to another character, "Bad things happen, but you can still live. You can still live." This is an acknowledgment that, though we do experience pain in relationship, pain doesn't paralyze us. It's our attitude toward pain that sometimes paralyzes us, if we allow it to. If we view pain as something to be avoided at all costs, one of those costs will eventually be our own relational paralysis.

Commander Chakotay of the starship Voyager said it very eloquently, in a conversation with Mr. Neelix: "Nothing makes us more vulnerable than when we love someone. We can be hurt very easily. But I've always believed that what you get when you love someone is greater than what you risk."

If you agree with Commander Chakotay, that the benefits of relationship outweigh its risks, then you'll also agree with what Homer said in the film "Tomorrow, When the War Began": "The biggest risk is to take no risk."

— Pastor Scott Hausrath  
North Loup SDB Church, NE



## Love is a BFF...or is it?

**BFF...Best Friend Forever!** Have you ever tried to figure out exactly what that means? Is it love? Is it a commitment? What happens when something goes wrong? Does it really last forever? We asked some questions and here are interesting answers from a young lady (YL), a young man (YM), and a pastor (P):

**What qualities do you look for in a person to be your BFF?**

**YL:** *Honesty is the biggest. I look for someone who will tell me that I look awful if I do even if it's not what I want to hear. I look for someone who shares my interests and won't mind doing things together.*

**YM:** *They are your non-blood related sister or brother. My BFF needs to be someone I can go to for anything. They need to be willing to listen.*

**P:** *That person would need to treasure the concept of relationship, and also be a "safe" person. In other words, he would need to be emotionally and relationally healthy and mature, would be a giver instead of a taker, and would be affirming and encouraging. He would*

*also need to be patient, forgiving, and willing to work through the frustrations and misunderstandings that naturally occur in any close relationship.*

**Do the aspects of love listed in this scripture (1 Cor. 13:4-8) apply to BFFs?**

**YL:** *Absolutely. Every characteristic in the list is necessary for a good relationship with any person, not just a BFF.*

**YM:** *Of course! This definition of love applies to all kinds of love: husbands to wives, wives to husbands, mother to son, son to mother, and friends to friends.*

**P:** *Yes, they most certainly do. Once close friendship is established, it needs to be nurtured. Without qualities such as patience, kindness, humility, and faithfulness, this nurturing would be impossible.*

**Can you have more than one BFF?**

**YL:** *No, best is a superlative, the very nature of the word means only one. You can have many good friends, but only one best friend.*

**YM:** *Of course you can have more than one BFF. I do — my two BFFs and I have had our little trio for almost 6 years.*

**P:** *Yes, I believe you can. In my understanding, the label "best friend forever" does not bring a claim of exclusivity. I understand "best friends" to be "closest friends," and it seems that we all have several people whom we treasure as our closest friends.*



# Once close friendship is established, it needs to be nurtured.

## **Do males have BFFs or is it a female thing?**

**YL:** Males have BFFs. They use different names for them, but they exist. The guy they can joke with the most or just sit next to and have a good time is their BFF.

**YM:** I might never call them my BFFs (I simply call them my Best Friends). That doesn't mean they are not my Best Friends Forever. So, sure a guy can have a BFF.

**P:** I think both males and females have BFFs. Males tend to use different labels for these relationships, such as "buddies," but I believe that both genders can engage in deep, meaningful friendships.

## **Can your BFF be the opposite sex?**

**YL:** Yes! Personally I've had BFFs of the opposite sex. In some ways it is superior to one of the same sex. You get perspectives on things that you don't have. It opens your eyes to the other gender's point of view.

**YM:** Yes, in fact both of my BFFs are girls.

**P:** I believe that nurturing deep emotional connection with someone of the opposite gender also leads to deep physical attraction to that person. This is how God created us, and we'll get ourselves into trouble if we don't acknowledge this reality. If I were married, for example, I would not seek any female BFFs, because that would be playing with fire. Similarly, whether I were married or single, I would not seek a BFF relationship with a married woman.

## **What happens when something goes wrong? Do you talk about it or just drop calling that person BFF?**

**YL:** You talk about it! BFF is a commitment. You can't give up without trying. If the trying doesn't work then you should accept the loss and move on.

**YM:** This goes back to the definition in the verse: if love is truly patient and kind then that needs to come into play during those bad times. A truly BFF relationship cannot end over a simple argument. We need to be patient and talk it over, kind and caring for the view of the other person. You can't just end the relationship.

**P:** The reality is that in close friendships things sometimes do go wrong. That's just part of living in a broken world. If both partners in the friendship treasure their connection, and are relationally mature, they will work through the necessary steps to put the relationship back on track.

## **How long is Forever?**

**YL:** Forever is a long time! Forever is something we humans have no concept of because everything we see has an end. For me, forever is about 100,000 years because as humans we will never live on this earth to see that amount of time pass.

**YM:** I had a lot of trouble with this question. It is easy to define forever as never ending. But that is the problem. How long is forever in terms of our earthly lives? 5 years, 20 years, until death, or even next week? No matter how badly we might want to deny it, we live in a fallen world with fallen people, and thus it is impossible to define any friendship as lasting forever. That being said, this is not to patronize or to state that any friendship is on a pathway to failure, because if the friendship is set on a God and Christ-driven foundation and God wants it to be, the relationship will last forever and thrive.

**P:** I see no reason for a BFF relationship to end at any time. Even if people relocate and are not able to connect as often as they once did, the relationship can still be maintained through prayer, written correspondence, telephone calls, social networking, etc. Though I don't communicate with them every week or every month, my BFFs from 30 years ago can still be my BFFs today. SR

# Love Does Not Envy



## I Corinthians 13:4

ENVY is called a “green-eyed-monster”. It can be defined as a resentful emotion which “occurs when a person lacks another’s (perceived) superior quality, achievement or possession and wishes that the other lacked it.”

*“Envy, after all, comes from wanting something that isn’t yours. But grief comes from losing something you’ve already had.” — Jodi Picoult*

In the Bible the English word “Envy” is translated from two Old Testament words meaning envy and jealous; and three New Testament words meaning envious, desire, to covet.

For thus it is written: *“And it came to pass after certain days, that Cain brought of the fruits of the earth a sacrifice to God; and Abel also brought of the firstlings of his sheep, and of the fat thereof. And God had respect to Abel and to his offerings, but Cain and his sacrifices He did not regard. And Cain was deeply grieved, and his countenance fell. And God said to Cain, Why are you grieved, and why is your countenance fallen? If you offer rightly, but do not divide rightly, have you not sinned? Be at peace: your offering returns to yourself, and you shall again possess it. And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And it came to pass, while they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and killed him.”*

We can see how **envy** and jealousy led to the murder of a brother.

Through **envy**, also, Jacob fled from the face of Esau his brother.

**Envy** made Joseph to be persecuted and to come into bondage.

Acts 7:9 *“And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.”*

**Envy** compelled Moses to flee from the face of Pharaoh King of Egypt when he heard these words from his fellow countryman, *“Who made you a judge or a ruler over us? Will you kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?”*

*“Never underestimate the power of jealousy and the power of envy to destroy.” — Oliver Stone*

Because of **envy**, Aaron and Miriam had to make their home outside of the camp.

**Envy** brought down Dathan and Abiram, through the sedition which they excited against God’s servant Moses.

Psalm 106:17 *“The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.”*

Through **envy**, David underwent the hatred not only of foreigners, but was also persecuted by Saul King of Israel.

Consider what the Bible has to say about **ENVY**:

Job 5:2 — *“For wrath killeth the foolish man, and **envy** slayeth the silly one.”*

Proverbs 3:31 — *“**Envy** thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.”*

Proverbs 14:30 — *“A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but **envy** the rottenness of the bones.”*

Proverbs 23:17 — *“Let not thine heart **envy** sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.”*

Proverbs 27:4 — *“Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before **envy**?”*

Romans 1:28-32 — *“And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome, <sup>29</sup> Until they were filled (permeated and saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice. [They were] full of **envy** and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways. [They were] secret backbiters and gossipers, <sup>30</sup> Slanderers, hateful to and hating God, full of insolence, arrogance, [and] boasting; inventors of new forms of evil, disobedient and undutiful to parents. <sup>31</sup> [They were] without understanding, conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless [and] merciless. <sup>32</sup> Though they are fully aware of God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them.”*

— Amplified

James 4:5-7 — *“<sup>5</sup> Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to **envy**? <sup>6</sup> But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God...”*

Consider This:

Matthew 27:17-18 — *“<sup>17</sup> Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? <sup>18</sup> For he knew that for **envy** they had delivered him.”*

*“Envy is the art of counting the other fellow’s blessings instead of your own.” — Harold Coffin*



*"You can't be envious and happy at the same time"*  
—Frank Tyger

**Envy:** defined as a resentful emotion which "occurs when a person lacks another's superior quality, achievement or possession and wishes that the other lacked it." How that fits the tumultuous crowd that cried out, "crucify Him, crucify Him!"

And yet Jesus who was:  
Spit upon by them; Beaten by them; Abused by them;  
Mocked by them; Betrayed by them; Whipped by them;  
Tortured by them; and Crucified by them...  
Died willingly for them.

Hebrews 12:3 — *"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself..."*

Hebrews 12:2 — *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

John 3:16 — *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

*"Napoleon envied Caesar, Caesar envied Alexander, and Alexander, I daresay, envied Hercules, who never existed."*  
— Bertrand Russell  
(English Logician and Philosopher 1872-1970)

*"Love looks through a telescope;  
envy, through a microscope."* — Josh Billings

## WHY?

Because Love (divine love) **Does Not Envy!!!**

I John 4:18 — *"There is no fear in love; but perfect [teleios=complete, full, mature] love [Agapa=divine] casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*

Have you been made perfect (made complete, full) in the Divine Love of God?

A wonderful old song asks:

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?  
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?  
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?  
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?  
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?  
Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?  
Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?  
When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white!  
Will your soul be ready for His presence bright,  
Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,  
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;

Lay aside the garments of failed attempts and wrong turns  
and bad decisions and be washed in the cleansing and life  
giving Blood of Jesus our Christ that flows here and now  
from Calvary! SR

— Pastor David Taylor  
Central SDB Church  
Mitchellville, MD

## The 2014 Love Gift total is \$3605.00.

- Joel and Laura Sutton — mission to Haiti: \$1000.00
- Gospel Feet — shoes: \$200 — route through Clint Brown at SDB Missionary Society
- Bernie Wethington Youth Education for Missions: \$200 — send to Patti Wethington
- Bibles for leaders — reference study Bibles: \$200 — route through Clint Brown
- Jackson Butler — time worked on Stained Glass CD: \$200 — send to Jackson Butler in Janesville, WI
- Skaters for Christ: \$100 — send to Nathaniel & Zachary Muench in Fort Atkinson, KS

That's a total of \$1900.

The \$1705 remainder can be divided equally between  
Patty Petersen — church planting & evangelism: \$852.50  
Cameroon Mission for Compassion: \$852.50 — route through Clint Brown

— Margot Harris, Treasurer of the Women's Board

2014 Women's Board Love Gift



by Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten, Director of History & Education

**“...God is love.”**

—the Apostle John,  
in his first letter, verse 4:8b

**“Those who wish to succeed must  
ask the right preliminary questions.”**

—Aristotle, in *Metaphysics*

**“...Of course language is not an infallible guide,  
but it contains, with all its defects,  
a good deal of stored insight and experience.**

**If you begin by flouting it,  
it has a way of avenging itself later on.  
We had better not follow Humpty Dumpty in  
making words mean whatever we please.”**

— C. S. Lewis in the introductory chapter  
of *The Four Loves*

We are in the midst of a cultural crisis around love. When it comes to those four letters joined in English, we are confounded together as a culture about what they mean, how they should be employed, what they denote, and how valuable they are when they are employed. From music to movies to print to your conversation in the neighborhood coffee shop with your friends, there is a great quandary among us about what it means to love.

In order to address this topic, I'd like to take my cue from the Aristotle quote above and begin by asking what

I believe is the right starting question. My hope is to explain the battleground over this word, and to provide my suggested way forward for my Christian brothers and sisters. We will see if I can manage the task.

The question I will begin with, then, is this: What is love? (Obligatory embarrassing link to the song from the 1990s) We have no shortage of definitions to choose from. Songs, poems, stories, plays, photos, the laws of the nations, annoying email forwards, viral images/messages on social media...there is a limitless stream to choose from. I ran a Google search with the single word “love” as the search query and pulled 3.47 *billion* results. Incredibly, that might be significantly less than the total number of actual definitions in existence, as there are 7 billion people in the world and it is possible that each of us has our own.

But, because I am a certain kind of Christian, I'm going to go to what I consider the definitive resource on issues like this: the Bible. What does the Bible say about love? The answer to this is both more and less than you might think. There are fewer explicit definitions. Most of the exposition about love occurs as exemplified through key characters in specific narratives. In other words, the characters teach us what it is, but they don't define it for us. This echoes much of the confusion about love that follows. Most of us can recognize something loving when we see it. But love is bigger than any single act which demonstrates it. When it comes to identification, examples are only of so much use.



The struggle doesn't end with the stories which demonstrate what love is — it extends to the very words that the Biblical writers use to describe it. Though too much is often made of this by preachers — the words are often used as synonyms — Biblical Greek actually has a variety of words for love. Although it's not as clear, the Hebrew concept for love is similarly as broad as the English word "love," though there are subtle differences between the meanings of the words used in the two languages. The point is adequately made, but would be bolstered by study of other languages: either languages have a single broad word to describe love as a broad array of concepts, or they have multiple words to try and distinguish subtle shades of meaning between culturally described types. In either case, the language is necessarily imprecise or functionally incomplete, or even more maddeningly, both at the same time. How much of our struggle with love is built on this incompleteness and imprecision?

The individual examples and the languages aren't enough to get us to our destination. So what do we do?

Happily, the Bible, though it doesn't give us lots of devoted philosophical discussion about love, it does actually give a definition of love in 1 John. While this doesn't permit space to talk about the entire book, we do need to know that John is very interested in encouraging his audience to flee from the ways of the world and live according to the example of Jesus Christ. In chapter 3, both parts are in full view. In verses 1-10, there is an invocation to avoid sin. Starting in verse 11, John begins an exposition about love that will take the rest of chapter 3 and most of chapter 4. He begins by commanding his audience to love one another, and then grounds that command in the example of Jesus himself, who he tells us in verse 16 (yes, 1 John 3:16) is an example because he laid down his life for us. At the end of chapter 3 and the beginning of chapter 4, John affirms that there are many spirits in the world that are not of God. Christians have been filled with the Holy Spirit, so they have the equipping they need to live a life of love. Beginning in

1 John 4:7, John lays it on the line with respect to this command to love one another. He says flatly that God is love, and that anyone who loves is reflecting the nature of God to the broader world. All love is sourced in God, and so anywhere a person in this world encounters the real deal, they are encountering the person of God.

*<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

*<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

*<sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

This is not the same as saying God has love or God does love. He **IS** love. In other words, there is no love if there is no God. Love exists because God exists, and what we call love is really one important part of God's fundamental nature. For that reason, the definition of love is not a thing...it is a person. Our first question was desperately wrong. The right question is not, "What is love?" but rather, "WHO is love?" And now that we have asked the right question we have our answer: God is love.

The reason the language of humans fails to describe love is because all human language fails to describe God. We are unable to get far enough outside of our

*Continued on next page...*

# 10 Ways To Love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

## Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Missionary Society Office, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway, RI, on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014.
- To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2014, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

— Kathy Hughes, Secretary

## Struggling with Love

*Continued from page 11*

humanity to have an accurate frame of reference to capture him. We can make many true descriptions, but they will always only ever be part of the picture. Our language founders on the rocks of God's nature and sovereignty. In the same way, while individual acts and accounts of loving acts done by humans will show us how to love, they will never, in themselves, be an adequate description of love. No human act will ever describe God. People are contingent beings — our acts reflect God because we are his artisanship.

Perhaps most importantly though, because love is sourced in God's character, the definition of it must be in accordance with the nature of God and the revelation of God in Scripture. It is not a human construct, it is a human echo of the divine nature. Nothing can rightly be called love which is inconsistent with God's nature and his revealed will in the Scriptures. We are not free to define the word any more than we are free to change God because of our whims. Our struggle with what love is, at its most basic level, is a struggle with our own understanding of the nature of God. For this reason, no one should be surprised that our culture is (and many other world cultures are) struggling with love. As long as sin exists, the struggle with love will exist as well. SR





## Love is Not for Wimps

A lot of times it seems that when we think of love we think of delicate or soft things like lace, teddy bears, heart pillows, balloons, or flowers. But when we look at love as demonstrated in the Bible, we get the picture of something that may be gentle and kind, but is also something that takes perseverance and sacrifice.

The world sends us many confusing messages of what love is in popular music, entertainment, and advertisements. With this in mind, when I worked with our youth at the Texarkana SDB Church, in Arkansas, we tried to discuss what we mean by “love” each February. This is important because often we mistakenly equate simple attraction and affection for love. But true love, as demonstrated by God, is a sustained will for the good of another. In romantic scenarios, often attraction to someone will motivate what may appear to be selfless acts, but if superficial attraction is the source of motivation, what is being displayed is neither truly selfless nor likely to be sustained.

For example, true love for a spouse would not be about personal comfort and self-gratification, but about seeing to the needs of our husband or wife before our own wants and needs. A friend of mine recently relayed a story that was shared with him about a conversation between a father and his son who was soon to be a groom. The story went that the son asked for any advice his father might have and in return the father quizzed

his son on why he was marrying the young lady. The son’s response was to enumerate the many ways that she complimented his life, how much he enjoyed being around her, and her many qualities. The father’s sage advice was to not marry this woman until his son had determined in his heart that the reason he was joining her life to his was that he might daily make her life better in ways that were truly valuable.

**Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)**

In December 2014, I had the privilege of visiting with the fledgling Seventh Day Baptist group in Cumberland, Maryland. There, at Full Gospel SDB, I was able to give a message on what love looks like as demonstrated by the Bible. I shared that as God showed in sending His own Son as a sacrifice for our sins, true love is not self-seeking, and in action may cost us much. True love requires courage, commitment, and often giving up our own comfort or maybe experiencing personal pain to see good in the life of another. This is the stuff of spiritual warriors, because it is fruit manifested by work of the Holy Spirit, in our lives. God’s love is heroic, overcomes fear, and is selfless. God’s love is sensitive to not carelessly injure others. However, it is not cowardly. As they were designed to do in connection with God, who is Love, real men (and women) live lives of selfless love. SR





# Worship Him

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul writes to the church in Corinth concerning worship. It seems the church was extolling the virtues of one method of worship and completely ignoring the rest to the distraction and disservice of its members and community. Their worship had become a circus of performances centered around speaking in tongues. Paul explains that there is a time and place for tongues in worship, but he encouraged the Corinthians to keep it orderly, brief, and to use other forms of worship for edification of all (v 23-26). In response to this issue he introduces the idea of two forms of worship: public and private.

Private worship is between you and God. Paul tells the Corinthians that unless certain conditions are met they should keep silent and let their worship be between them and God (v 28). Public worship occurs around other people. It is still between you and God, however it can be a shared or observed experience by others. Paul gives examples like hymns, prophecies, lessons which can be shared by all in appropriate moments. Public worship together should be for everyone to learn and be encouraged (v 31).

Paul also hits another important idea in this passage: worship should draw people into Christ, not drive them away — and he isn't just talking about Christians. Generally, we, as Christians, are told not to care about what other people think of us and our beliefs. Here though, Paul asks us to consider strangers to God during our public worship times. True worship of God is accessible and inclusive to everyone — even a stranger to God. When we place more emphasis on the method of worship than the goal of praising an almighty, omnipotent, worthy God we aren't really worshiping anymore.

Sometimes I feel as though music is the 21st century church's speaking in tongues. Understand that I love music and it can be a beautiful expression and act of worship in a highly accessible way. But we often make the mistake of putting it as the end-all-be-all of worship. We exclusively call music time at church worship time and revere music leaders as worship leaders. We forget that there is more to worship than singing and close ourselves to anything but that single experience. What happens when I lose my voice and can't sing? How many people raise their hands during music time to get closer to God? How many of those people have ever raised their hands in worship during a sermon? We get so wrapped up in the perfect sound, having all the worship band members and instruments, that two things happen: instead of worship, we have a show; and we get in the mindset that we must have a worshipful connection during the music and try and force worship to happen. Not to say that having a band during worship or a good sound negates worship (because it doesn't) but we need to be careful of our motivation. The moment the focus becomes the form of worship rather than the God who is the reason for worship, we get into trouble.

When we lose our focus on God in worship we drift apart. People argue about hymns versus contemporary music, the proper length and delivery of a sermon, etc. Or they all get together and form a clique where acceptance is dependent on your beliefs in a certain thing. This is not what worship is supposed to look like. Paul beseeches us to use worship in such a way that it brings others into understanding and edification. God is not a God of confusion but of peace (v 33). SR

Women's Society page  
Katrina Goodrich  
[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)





# JACOB'S WELL CHURCH

There is a fear that we won't grow. It is often in the back of my mind. It is ever before me as I preach each and every Sabbath. I look into the seats and see the same few people (I love each and every one of them) and worry that maybe I might have been wrong about this; maybe there was not supposed to be a church here.

Maybe I misread everything.

When my wife, Jessica, and I came to the conclusion that we would need to move to the Deep South to complete my seminary education, we did so with a great deal of trepidation. I remember saying those words from the pulpit at Middle Island, where I had been filling the pulpit for three years: "We are moving to South Carolina." It was an utterance that came with a fear that there would be no one to serve those precious people — and how silly that was! To think that God would call me away but not continue to take care of them was ridiculous; I am hardly His only resource and Pastor Scott Smith would come to be the pastor in that church. (Thank God for him!)

The fact is that God had called us away to do a great deal of work and have a new adventure. I knew from the moment that decision was made that we were to plant an SDB Church in the Columbia area, and after more than three years of waiting and praying, Jacob's Well Church was born in the Columbia-adjacent town of Lexington — and trust me when I say that it was God's timing. We needed to meet and come to love the Catoes and others. We needed the encouragement and training that the time in Columbia would give us. I needed to finish Seminary.

During that time, I attended and completed my school-required internship at Park Street Baptist Church in downtown Columbia. It was an old church in decline and it had more than its share of problems. Though it was a mighty church in its day, it had suffered splits. Now it was under the leadership of a spectacular pastor, Dr. Samuel Catoe. Eventually, Pastor Sam resigned and retired at around the same time that Jacob's Well Church was starting up. (God's timing, right?)

When the church first launched in July, 2013, we met in my home.

It was intimate and appropriate for us at that time, but with eyes toward growth, we searched for a new place. I met with several pastors and leaders in other denominations. I felt the work of blessing the church was a burden on my shoulders. It wasn't. It simply had to be the right place at the right time. Then around Christmastime of that same year, we moved into Emmanuel Baptist Church's facility. It was where we were supposed to be.

Our growth has been incremental. Sometimes we have had to strive to even meet due to illness and/or distance. We sometimes have difficulty paying our bills and desire to do ministry that we don't yet have the resources (both money and time) to do.

In the end, though, we have to look back and see where God has been. He orchestrated all of this. It might be that our group was never meant to last more than a short season — though I don't believe this is the case — but even so, God is on His throne.

Our church is one which constantly lays its purpose and calling at the feet of Jesus. Every word from the pulpit, every lesson learned, every song sung is an opportunity to proclaim our faith; we will not be here forever — but we are here for now and we are bowing in worship.

Looking back, there have been plenty of reasons to be anxious, and I have often fallen to that temptation. But He has been there in every moment whispering to me to stop my worry. Nothing I do or say can change what the Father has in store and all praise to Him for that.

Our prayer now is for God to send us people who are looking to serve. We need financial help, but our need for help in service is greater. At this time, we long to grow to a place where we can worship and work in our community as a witness to our relationship with Jesus.

We're small now, but anxiety is fleeting. God is so good. SR

— Pastor Charles R. Meathrell  
Lexington, SC

***Come to worship. Come to Serve. Come to the WELL.***



## Spotlight on Church Planting



A dear friend once said to me, “I wouldn’t be a feminist if I didn’t think Jesus was one.” This really struck a chord with me — Jesus was certainly revolutionary when it came to calling women equal to men. The first person he ever revealed his identity as the Messiah to was a woman. And on top of that, a Samaritan, at a well in John 4. This was Jesus’ first declaration that his salvation would be for all people. Before saying outright to any of his disciples that he was God incarnate, he said so to a woman, and one that most Jews would never dare to associate with. We know this definitely wasn’t normal behavior because verse 27 says that the disciples “marveled that he was talking with a woman.”

I could see what my friend was saying. But there had always been something about feminism that struck a wrong chord with me — despite its basic definition of equality between men and women, feminism seemed to go beyond that most of the time. There were just too many extreme views which I disagreed with, including the idea that a woman can do anything a man can do, and vice versa — I personally believe in the traditional complementarian views of a man being the spiritual leader of the household and a woman being his emotional support and helpmate.

Nevertheless, I struggled with this for some time, until I was sent an article by popular Christian blogger Matt Walsh. While reading this article, Walsh wrote one thing that stuck out to me incredibly. Out of context, the direct quote makes little sense, so I’m going to paraphrase. Walsh said that perfect feminism already exists within perfect Christianity. This one sentence cleared the whole issue up for me — why I strongly felt that men and women were created equal, but still shied away from being called a feminist.

Perfect feminism exists within perfect Christianity.

It’s incredible to me that Walsh wrote this as a side thought in an article about modesty. I think it’s worthy of a whole article, and I intend to write that article here. Perfect feminism — the equality of men and women, without all the

bells and whistles that bothered me, without the pro-choice rallies, without the blatant disregard of modesty, without the political affiliations — already exists within perfect Christianity.

Now, I see why some might insist that feminism is still important as an independent movement. After all, perfect Christianity certainly doesn’t exist in this world. I know plenty of Christians who are incredible examples of faith, whom I look up to and go to for advice, who could surely tell you exactly why they are not perfect Christians. “I don’t read my Bible on a regular basis.” “I’m really uncomfortable with prayer, and so I don’t pray all that often.” “I often fail to treat men and women as the equal yet different counterparts that God created them to be.”

Despite this lack of perfect Christians, I feel pretty strongly that perfect feminism is just an extension of Christianity. I have always believed that I could insert my Christianity for whatever else I believe, because all my beliefs

and opinions are driven by my Christianity. There are many social issues that can be represented by the statement, “I am a Christian.” In this case, I am not a feminist, I am a Christian.

Have you ever heard of the “I need feminism because” meme? It’s a series of photos that people take and post online holding up signs with reasons why they need feminism. “I need feminism because I don’t want my gender to make choices for me.” “I need feminism because no one debates whether men can ‘have it all.’” “I need feminism because the worst thing you can call a man is a woman.” Well, I’m about to make a radical declaration.

I don’t need feminism because I have been created by a God who sent His Son to die for me, declaring in that simple act that I am no worse and no better than anyone else on this earth, male or female.

It’s this equality that is ultimately important. No matter what you believe about men and women — that there are no distinctions in their roles in the church or at home, that women should stay home and raise children, that women should or shouldn’t be allowed to preach, teach, or speak in church — there still needs to be an underlying recognition of our inherent equality. God made us equal. We need to remember as we explore the dynamic that God created between the two genders that equality between them exists, no matter what. <sup>SR</sup>

— Rebecca Olson  
Berlin SDB Church, NY



## The Beacon

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



# A Few Things To Remember

by Daniel Lovelace  
Metro Atlanta SDB Church

It's 10:03 AM, I have to be at work at 12 PM, I was supposed to turn in a *Sabbath Recorder* article yesterday, a deadline I forgot was approaching so soon, and I still don't quite know what to write about.



Man, I have a chance to write to Seventh Day Baptists all over the USA (and Canada, and other places), and I don't even know what to write. I need to throw something together fast. God's been teaching me many different things these days, why aren't any of them meshing together in a form good enough to write up and send out? I'm going to write an article and people are going to think, "Wow, Daniel's slacking a bit, I wonder what's going on with him?"

In times like these I need to remember a few things. First, I don't serve a reputation. There are many SDBs all over the country who are very gracious toward me with their encouragements and these things, but I don't serve my name or reputation. I serve the Lord. When the building or protection of my reputation becomes my focus in anything I'm doing or saying, I am dishonoring God by seeking my glory over His own. I'm also building a weight on myself that I was never meant to carry. John Paul Jackson said, "The heaviest reputation is the one you make for yourself." So even as I write this, I need to be reminded, it's not about what others think, it's about what God thinks. Honor and obey Him above all, and let the people think what they may from there.

Second, I need to take time to listen for God's voice. I was thinking so hard about what to write (while not really coming up with anything). But whose words really matter here? Mine, or God's? Maybe I could come up with something that seemed pretty great, but if God isn't with me on it, and doesn't bless the readers of it, what good is it really? So even while I'm busy running

around trying to take care of things, I need to remember to listen for God. Some times I just need to stop what I'm doing and just be quiet before God. Even if I don't sense Him saying anything, it is so important to acknowledge my need for Him and His voice throughout my day. It keeps my heart from pridefully considering that I can take care of everything on my own. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Third, I have to trust God. Whether it's with the various things and questions I'm facing in my life these days, or for the completion of this article, I must keep my trust in the Lord. In Jeremiah 17:5+7 it says "Cursed is the one who trusts in man... But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord..." Is my trust in myself for the solving of those issues and questions? Is my trust in myself for piecing this article together? If it is, my trust is in the wrong place. And just like building our own reputation, putting our dependence on our abilities only builds a burden of pride in ourselves which will weigh us down and crush us. Trusting the Lord is so freeing, because no longer is it based off our strength and wisdom, it's based off of His. And then whatever praise comes for it, it goes to Him, rightly building His reputation!

So that's what I'll say. Stay humble before God. We can't do what God calls and desires us to do by our own strength. But that's such a good thing, because there's so much more blessing and joy there. Don't seek your reputation, seek His reputation. Listen to Him. And trust Him. SR



## Christian Education

by Andrew J. Camenga

Have you ever played “Provoke Thy Sister”? It is a game I played far too often while growing up. I described this game a few years ago:

The game was going well. We’d been playing for a little bit, and I finally moved the last needed piece into place. All six of the points in my home area were covered, they had a piece on the bar, and I was ready to taunt the other player with the fact that as long as I kept my home covered I was the only player who could move. Finishing my turn, I handed the dice to the other player while saying, “Here are the dice. Oh, wait, you can’t move. I might as well go again.” After a couple of rounds, my taunting had the desired result: the board and all the pieces went flying across the room. I’d won the game and was happy about that.

In retrospect, the game I was playing wasn’t backgammon, it was “Provoke Thy Sister.”

I’m not alone. Most people know how to make others mad; we instinctively know how to provoke. Sometimes we talk about having our buttons pushed or pushing another’s buttons. That language reveals something about us — as we live with other people, we learn what makes them tick: how they respond to circumstances, areas that are sensitive to exposure, etc. We also learn that we can use this knowledge to behave in ways that “cause” predictable results.

While when we talk about provoking others, the first image that jumps to mind is causing anger. But, the predictable result does not have to be anger. I have talked with many people who reminisce about a teacher who could be easily distracted from the purpose of the class. Sometimes, the stories talk about discovering a teacher’s favorite topic and asking questions about that topic. Sometimes, it is finding something else that drives a teacher to distraction and exploiting it. The goal of the students was to cause the teacher to focus on something other than the topic at hand. For some Sabbath school teachers and some public school teachers, this was an easy job. The students behaved in a way to provoke the teacher to distracted teaching.

That kind of provocation is what the letter to the Hebrews means when it says: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (10:24, KJV). The



command is straightforward — look at each other and carefully think about what you can do to cause them to respond with love, to respond with deeds that God would call good. As we use English today, “provoke” is almost inextricably linked with anger. So modern translations of the verse substitute phrases like “spur one another on,” “stir up one another,” “stimulate one another,” “motivate one another,” and even “encourage one another.”

God has given us the ability to watch others and to learn what we can do to help others respond. We can twist that ability and “encourage” anger and hostility. We can also use it as He intended to encourage love and good deeds. In the verse quoted above, we’re told that God’s desire is for us to use this ability to “cause” love and good deeds.

In other words, God has called us to act in ways that encourage others to change for the better. We are called to be deliberate about making this happen. Deliberate-ness is a quality that God wants us to have. Don’t drift through life and hope that everything works out okay. Be deliberate — use the gifts, abilities, and insights God has given you to think about others. In Christ’s love, help your brothers and sisters in Christ grow. Help them grow in evangelism, nurture, discipleship, and stewardship.

*(this article based heavily on an article written for the July 2010 Sabbath Recorder)*

On a personal note: It has been a delight to serve Seventh Day Baptists for the last 15 years as the executive director of the Board of Christian Education. Seeing your joy in serving Jesus and others has been a consistent encouragement. Thank you for the opportunity. May God use all of us to further His Kingdom wherever we are sent. SR





## Organ and Tissue Donation: a Gift That Lives On

Transplantation holds the promise of life for thousands of patients with life-threatening conditions and diseases. The generosity of donor families who at a time of great tragedy decide to help others is immeasurable. Organ transplantation is important because it saves lives. Over 19 people die every day because they did not receive an organ in time. One donor can save eight lives and improve the lives of 50 or more people. Donating a loved one's organs gives the family something to hold onto — a part of that loved one still lives on. Organ donation may add 5 years to someone's life — anything more than that is bonus.

More than 28,000 organ transplants, 45,000 eye transplants and 750,000 tissue transplants are performed each year in the United States. More than 8,000 families donated their loved one's organs last year. Over 6,500 people made the decision to become a living organ donor by donating a kidney or part of their liver to save another's life. In Wisconsin more than 2000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant; in the U.S., 120,000.

Anyone can register to be a donor, even if you have pre-existing medical conditions. At the time of death, the appropriate donation professionals will review the patient's medical and social histories and current medical tests to determine eligibility for donation. Often tissue can be used when an organ can't.

Organs that can be transplanted include the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and intestines. Examples of tissue that can be transplanted include bone, heart valves, ligaments, tendons, veins, skin and corneas.

Organ recovery takes place only after all efforts to save the person's life have been exhausted and death declared. There is no expense to the donor's family. All costs are taken care of by the recovery agency.

Most religions fully support donation and consider it an act of charity. Recovery agencies work closely with funeral providers so that the body is not disfigured and funeral services are not delayed.

The transplant system is designed to make sure that the person who is the best possible match, is in the most medical need, and who is waiting the longest is offered the transplant first. Factors such as race, gender, age, income or social status are not considered.

Any one of us could someday be in need of an organ transplant. People of all ages with diabetes, high blood pressure, cystic fibrosis and other common illnesses are waiting for organs. Approximately 40,000 people under the age of 50 are currently waiting in the U.S. People suffering from serious burns, injuries or genetic disorders are in need of tissue transplants.

Residents of Wisconsin can authorize donation by going to the Wisconsin Donor Registry at [YesIWillWisconsin.com](http://YesIWillWisconsin.com) or by signing the proper place on your drivers' license. Residents of Illinois register at [LifeGoesOn.com](http://LifeGoesOn.com) and Michigan residents at [GiftOfLifeMichigan.org](http://GiftOfLifeMichigan.org). If you are from another state, go to [DonateLifeAmerica.org](http://DonateLifeAmerica.org) to learn how to register to be a donor in your state. You can also provide for this in your Health Care Power of Attorney by stating that you authorize donation of your organs and tissues. Tell your family about your donation decision. Families cannot override your decision to donate.

Advances in technology allow more people than ever to be donors, even those over 70 and/or those with previous medical conditions and disease. Making a decision about donation comes for many families at a time of great stress, anxiety and sadness. By understanding the facts about donation, you can educate and prepare your family about your decision to become a donor, and they will find peace knowing they've carried out your wishes. <sup>[SR]</sup>



February is a great time of year. There are many great things that occur during this month to which I can really look forward: my family celebrates several birthdays this month, including my own on Groundhog's Day; there's the Super Bowl; Valentine's Day; and Presidents' Day.

I enjoy Presidents' Weekend, since there are often programs on TV dealing with Presidential history, a subject I enjoy. Having read several books dealing with many US Presidents, I still find something new this time of year. But one fact that always has impressed me was the surprisingly tender-heart of one president very much in love with a woman. No, I'm not talking about rumor, innuendo, or gossip about some President's hidden secrets. I'm actually talking about a US President who throughout

his life kept up an amazing correspondence of love letters to his fiancée, and later wife. The real surprise is that it was our 2nd President, John Adams. Throughout the American Revolution, Adams was apart from his dear Abigail, either serving in Philadelphia or representing our fledgling nation in France and the Netherlands. Whenever possible, he and Abigail would write. Throughout their lifetime, they would write nearly 1,200 letters to each other. If only they had been born in the texting age! You see, the interesting thing is, John Adams was not known for his charm and sweet disposition. Many that met him found him to be abrasive and a bit of an elitist. He and Benjamin Franklin went to Paris during the Revolution to ask for support, and Adams clashed so badly with Franklin, and French society, he was moved to a new assignment. He would

be the only single term president of our first five. Despite his difficulty at getting along with others, he helped forge a new nation and always had Abigail on his side. Often she couldn't be at his side, but she was always on his side. He could turn to her for comfort. The words they wrote were intended for each other, but as time has worn on, these letters have become public record and show their deep love and respect for each other.

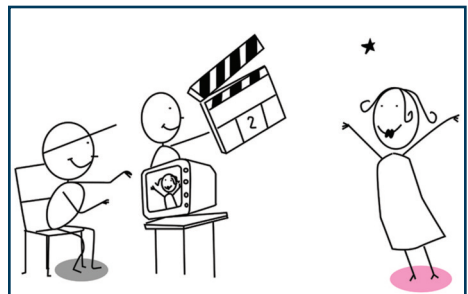
One biblical parallel might be made through the Apostle Paul. He would travel alone or with just a handful of people, typically not with close loved ones during his journeys. He didn't particularly get along with everyone he met (such as Peter), and on more than one occasion he was either thrown at with stones or thrown into prison. It

was during these times that Paul shared his love (often tough love). He wrote to churches and individuals, sharing with them, caring about them, shepherding them, and trying to straighten out doctrinal issues in some locations. (Imagine what he could have done with Instant Messaging...!) Paul may never have intended for his letters to become so wide-read and quoted, but through his witness long, long ago, we are blessed by his teaching with early Christians. If not for Paul's steadfast efforts, we couldn't quote the Roman Road; we wouldn't have half of the New Testament; we wouldn't have a strong Christian example who had to overcome a thorn of the flesh; and where would we be during weddings without 2 Corinthians 13? Today, verses from this "Love Chapter" have been translated into hundreds of languages. Consequently, millions of "Gentiles" have learned about Jesus' atoning sacrifice.

In our modern age, I imagine most of us have sent more texts and e-mails than actual hand-written letters. Time marches on, and we change and adapt. Who are we reaching out to with a text, e-mail, or old-fashioned handwritten "love" letter? Can people look beyond your less desirable tendencies and hear a life-changing message about God's love? Written any good Valentines lately? God has, but it might need to be delivered by you. Now our world is all about texting, social media, e-mail, blogs, etc. I don't know how long things we write today

will continue to make an impact, but we can learn a valuable lesson from John Adams and the Apostle Paul. While expressing our love — and that of our Savior — to those we care about, we might just set an example for someone in years or even generations to come. Sort of a Valentine that keeps on giving...

So, let me say to you, my fellow Seventh Day Baptists, I love you all. Thank you for your prayers of support for a "Steadfast" year for me — and the denomination. I pray that all of you will feel your faith grow, like a tree planted by the water (Psalm 1:3). God loves you more than you can ever know...and He always will. He told me. And He asked me to write this letter to you...this steadfast Valentine! SR



### How about something different?

President Bill Probasco would like to challenge our churches to film a little commercial. Highlight an outreach; show off your youth; do a 30-second infomercial on what your church does week-in and week-out. It doesn't need to be long, just original. Parody some classic commercial; make up a new jingle for your Sabbath School class. BE CREATIVE. Then post it to the Conference Facebook Page! We'll cross promote you on the main SDB website, twitter, Instagram, etc.!

## Role Swap at Next Step

There has been a significant change in pastoral leadership at the Next Step Christian Church in Thornton, CO. On January 3, 2015, Pastor Dustin Mackintosh was installed as the Lead Pastor of the church. After graduating from Denver Seminary, Pastor Dusty served more than two years as the Assistant Pastor of Next Step.



Pastor Rod Henry, after serving more than 15 years as Lead Pastor, will now be serving as the Assistant Pastor to the church and to Pastor Dusty. Pastor Dusty will focus on leading and feeding the Next Step congregation into its more preferable future because there is always a more preferable future ahead for God's church. SR



## White Cloud SDB Church Welcomes Pastor Shick and Family

The White Cloud Seventh Day Baptist church welcomes their new pastor, Keith Shick Jr., his wife, Sarah, and their children, Kashya (age 7) and Keith III (age 5). Keith was born in Japan and raised as a “military brat” until high school age when his family moved back to the States. At that time, Keith started attending White Cloud High School in Michigan and graduated in 1989. After high school Keith remained in the West Michigan/Grand Rapids area where he met his wife Sarah while taking ballroom dance classes. They eventually married in 2004 and have been happily “in-step” ever since. Sarah is a certified teacher and is currently teaching 1st grade in nearby Kent City, Michigan. During Keith and Sarah’s early relationship, Sarah rededicated her life to Christ and was baptized at the White Cloud SDB church in 2003.

Over the last decade, Keith and Sarah have been instrumental in the formation, organization, and leadership of the newly formed SDB church in Grand Rapids, MI (All Nations SDB Church). During this time Keith was moderator of the All Nations Church and filled in as pastor when needed. In addition, Keith began and finished the SDB CALLED ministerial program and was licensed to preach in 2013.

Now that Pastor Shick and his family have “found home” at the SDB church in White Cloud, Keith plans to continue his formal ministerial training and education. He plans on moving forward with many of the ministries in White Cloud, including missions at home and abroad, church ministries, and The Teen Center in White Cloud. The members of White Cloud SDB church are extremely thankful that the Lord has provided such a fine young

man and his beautiful family to embrace our church family. The members of White Cloud SDB church are committed to helping Pastor “JR” Shick pursue this endeavor, and through prayer and hard work aid him in leading our church into the future. SR



## Robe of Achievement Nominations

The Deadline is **March 31** to submit nominations for the Robe of Achievement award from the Women’s Society. The woman you nominate must be a member of an SDB church who has had an influence or contributed beyond the limits of her own community and church. A complete resume must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities.

A nomination form is available at [SDBWomen.org](http://SDBWomen.org)

A paper copy of the form is available from:

Karen Payne, 13528 595th Street, Claremont, MN 55924  
or email [karen.payne1127@gmail.com](mailto:karen.payne1127@gmail.com)

## 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

## Mid-Winter Youth Retreat



(Left to Right)

Top Row: Phillip Oaks , Ethan Gilbert, Madison Defelice, Alyssa White, Shaeley Stover, Kenny Stover, Jameson Kenyon, Wyatt Greene

Middle Row: Onika Day, Jacob Stover, Darnell Watson, Amya Snyder, Annie Lloyd, Samantha Quick, Luke Greene

Bottom Row: Megan Perry, Kat Cwynar, Abigail Noel, Madge Chroniger, Elianna Chroniger, Amber Trudell, Onnah Bink, Katie Greene

December 30, 2014 to January 1, 2015, youth from four different churches (Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church, First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hebron, Abiding Love, and Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church) gathered for a mid-winter retreat held at Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, NY. The theme of the retreat was "Catching God's Wave" for your life based on the movie "Soul Surfer." We also had an intriguing Bible trivia quiz based on the book of James where four teams competed. The winning team was team "Us" made up of Katie Greene, Onnah Bink, Phillip Oaks, Kenny Stover and Amya Snyder. At the end of the retreat the youth circled up to welcome the new year of devoting our life to catching the wave God has in store for each of us. [SR]

## How Central SDB Church raised over \$3,000 for Pastor's Retirement Fund

Each quarter Central SDB Church in Mitchellville, Maryland gives 100% of the Sabbath School offering to a mission project. The Pastor's Retirement Fund was the mission project for the fourth quarter of 2014. Each week we profiled a different recipient of the fund by passing out 4x5 cards with the picture and profile of that individual. This kept the mission project in focus for the entire quarter. As an added step, the church gave out small cardboard boxes for the congregation to take home to keep during the quarter and to put in them any loose change they may have. At the end of the quarter the boxes were returned to the church. The money was designated to the Pastor's Retirement Fund.

On the last Sabbath of December, the

youth class and two adult classes were given a quiz and awards were given to the first person in each class who had the most accurate answers. It was fun watching the members cramming in preparation for the quiz, like a student getting ready to take an exam. Since our church is bilingual we had the quiz questions in both English and Spanish. At the beginning of the worship service the winners of the quiz were recognized and presented with a gift of a coffee mug with the SDB logo and the name of the church.

Central sponsors a Spanish branch church, so the mug had the Central SDB Church name on one side and the Spanish church name on the other side: Ministerio Gracia sobre Gracia. [SR]



Have you heard about several changes at the SDB denominational level?  
...and question why there are so many changes?  
...or wonder how you can keep up with what's going on anymore?

...Welcome to an exciting time of change among Seventh Day Baptists.  
Read more to discover what's changed and why, as well as how you can find out  
what's going on now and in the coming year.

## What's changed?

A year ago, we had six full time and two part time executives. Starting in January 2015, we have five full time and two part time executives with about half of those people doing something different than they were previously. A lot has changed, here's a summary of what's changed from just a year ago.

At the beginning of 2014	At the beginning of 2015
<b>Rob Appel:</b> full time Executive Director	No change to this position
<b>Ron Ochs:</b> part time Financial Officer, working with Jeremy Howard and Jan Ehlers to support both SDB Denomination and SDB Memorial Fund	No change to these positions; but several internal improvements to operational procedures (note that Jeremy & Jan together provide 45+ years of experience at the Center)
<b>Clint Brown:</b> full time Executive Director for the SDB Missionary Society	No change to this position
<b>Althea Rood:</b> part time, volunteer, Women's Society President	No change to this position
1 ½ staff for Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin Butler:</b> full time Director of Communications and Sabbath Recorder Editor (RESIGNED 6/30/14)</li> <li>• <b>Jeremiah Owen:</b> part time Emerging Media Director</li> </ul>	1 ½ staff for Communications (different) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jeremiah Owen:</b> expanded from part time to full time, picking up Kevin's non-SR responsibilities</li> <li>• <b>Pat Cruzan:</b> part time picking up SR Editor only from Kevin</li> </ul>
<b>Nick Kersten:</b> full time combination of Historical Society Executive and New Contacts Coordinator	<b>Nick Kersten:</b> full time combination of reduced Historical Society and added Education pieces from Gordon and Andrew, no longer doing New Contacts Coordinator
<b>Gordon Lawton:</b> full time Dean of Center on Ministry & Director of Pastoral Services (RESIGNED 10/1/14)	<b>John Pethtel:</b> full time combination of a new position created at Conference 2014 for Church Development and Pastoral Services responsibilities
<b>Andrew Camenga:</b> full time Board of Christian Education executive; working with a 14 member Board of Directors (RESIGNED 12/31/14)	Education responsibilities have moved to Nick Kersten working with the newly formed five member Christian Education Council (CEC) and Helping Hand responsibilities picked up by editor Steve Osborn.



## Why all the changes?

There are three key items facilitating these changes: First, three executives resigned throughout 2014 enabling a re-evaluation of their responsibilities for synergy and overlap. Second, there were decisions made by BCE and SDB Historical Society indicating their intent to merge with the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. And, third, decisions were made at Conference 2014 to create the Christian Education Council (CEC) and a new executive position dedicated to Church Development.

## How can I find out what's going on?

As these changes have occurred throughout 2014, General Council has been sharing information and announcements through 1) posting to the SDBlog on the Seventh Day Baptist website ([seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org)), 2) social media announcements pointing to the SDBlog, and 3) the *Sabbath Recorder* (paper and online). We have been keeping the current executives updated after each of our regular meetings (about every 2 months) and talked to several people attending General Conference meetings.

## Are there any more changes coming?

In 2015, we expect the denomination staffing to be stable, but our focus will be on strengthening the working relationships between the executives, their supporting elected Councils (i.e. TCC, COM, CEC, etc.) and the General Council. This includes a shift in the role of supporting Councils to be more actively engaged in the work of their part of the organization as we work together to build up God's Kingdom.

The catalyst for a lot of the changes we are seeing today started back in 2010 when the General Conference accepted the initial recommendations of the AdHoc 2 committee for restructuring and in 2012 when the by-law changes for the recommended restructuring were approved. Five years later it is exciting to see things changing, but change also causes a certain amount of uneasiness too. Please join the General Council in our prayers for God's continued guidance and strength. The members of the SDB General Council are available anytime for questions or concerns. We want to ensure that you are comfortable in these times of change. SR

## How to contact General Council:

Email address to all of the General Council members:

[sdbgeneralcouncil@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbgeneralcouncil@seventhdaybaptist.org)

Regular mail can be sent to:

Susie Fox, General Council Chair

1722 Taylor Station Road, Blacklick, OH 43004.

## NEW Contact Information for Directors:

**Jeremiah Owen**

Director of Communications

[jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org)

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**Rev. John J. Pethtel**

Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services

[jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org)

cell: (304) 629-9823

**Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten**

Director of Education & History

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office: (608) 752-5055

cell: (608) 201-4850

## SDBs ONLINE

### Where to Find Seventh Day Baptists Online:

<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://gplus.to/7thDayBaptists>

<http://7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/7thdaybaptists/>

<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>

## OBITUARIES

**BOND** – W. Allen Bond passed away with family by his side on October 18, 2014 at Willow Gardens Care Center in Marion, IA when his tired heart could beat no longer.

Allen was born on March 19, 1920 to Clifford and Alena (Maxson) Bond in Nortonville KS. He was married to Kathryn (Katy) Kinder on June 10, 1945 in Milton, WV.

Allen graduated from Salem College on May 31, 1945 and from Alfred University on June 7, 1948. He also attended Wheaton College and Northern Baptist Seminary in Chicago. He was ordained as a Seventh Day Baptist minister on March 26, 1949 in Washington, DC.

In 1952 he moved from Maryland to Marion IA, where he resided the rest of his life.

In addition to pastoring and being involved in several church organizations and missions, he had a drywall and later a printing business.

Allen was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Gerald and Ira, a sister Alma, and his wife. He is survived by four children: Richard (Lisa), Karen (Roger), David, and Gary (Cynthia), three grandchildren: Joshua, Christina and Adam; and three great grandchildren: Connor, Elyssa and Braydon.

A Memorial Service was held October 26, 2014 at Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories in Cedar Rapids IA, and he was buried with his wife Katy October 27, 2014 at Cedar Memorial, Cedar Rapids IA.

**ROBINSON** – Alice F. Robinson, 81, of Middlebourne, WV departed this life Sunday, December 28, 2014 at her home. She was born in Sistersville, WV May 21, 1933 a daughter of the late Marques Archie and Edna Owens Still.

Alice was a homemaker and a member of the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving stepmother Orpha F. Still. Also preceding her were sister Ruth Saralee Fiest and brother-in-law Lawrence of Newark, OH, and sister Lora Hazel Eddy of Sistersville. Alice is survived by her husband John W. Robinson; a son David Warren Robinson and his wife LeeAnna of Washington, WV; three daughters: Clara Jane Glover and her husband Paul of Middlebourne, Roberta Anne Ash and her husband Rick of Salem, WV, Emily Sue Robinson of Middlebourne, and brother in law Charles Eddy of Sistersville.

She greatly loved her grandchildren: Allyson Bree Lough and her husband Clifton, Adrienne Nichole Dawson and her husband Derek, Andrew Brendan Negie and his wife Angie, Justin Michael Ash and his wife Krystin, Abram Bryce Negie and his wife Jennifer, Nathan Warren Robinson, Annaleise Corinne Robinson and Tyler Mitchell Ash. Alice found great joy in her great-grandchildren: Eudora Grace Lough, Aubrey Noel Dawson, Powers Alexander Dawson, Cora Mae Lough, Sadie Marie Negie, Kinley Reagan Ash and Ryleigh Isabelle Ash.

## NEW MEMBERS

### PAINT ROCK SDB CHURCH

Paint Rock, AL  
Clyde Thompson, Pastor

Joined by testimony  
Jeannie Thompson  
Dylan Crenshaw  
Jesse Hutchens  
John Hutchens  
Barbara Sandusky  
Rick Boring

### PHILADELPHIA SDB CHURCH

Philadelphia, PA  
Kenroy Cruickshank, Pastor

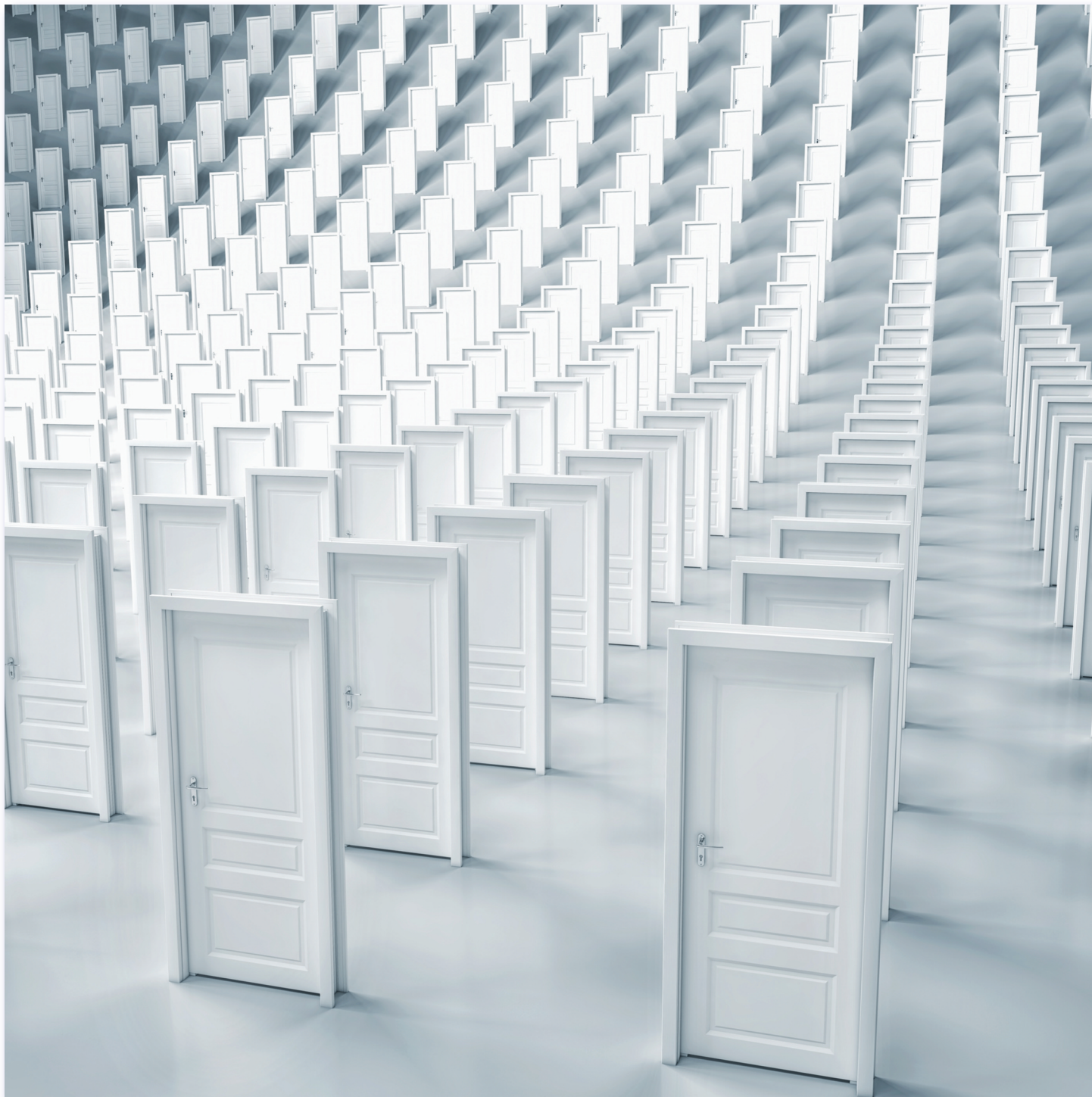
Joined after baptism  
Joseph Faulkner  
  
Transfer of membership  
Cyrus Cruickshank

## DEATH NOTICE

**OWEN** – Paul James Owen II, 81, of the Foothill Community Church, Montrose, CA died on January 12, 2015. Obituary will be in the next *Sabbath Recorder*.

## BIRTH

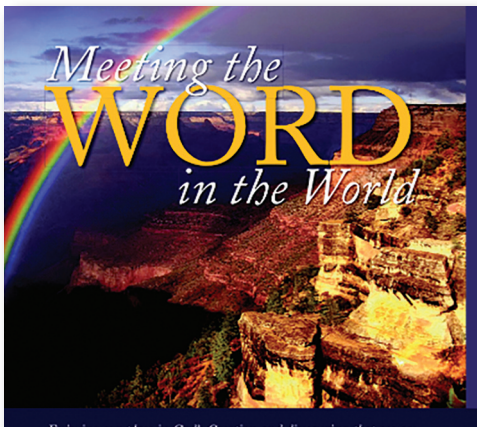
**ROGERS** – A son, Prestyn James, was born to Hannah Rogers of Ord, NE, on September 1, 2014.



God put a million, million doors in the world  
for His Love to walk through.

One of those doors is you.





*Enjoying our place in God's Creation  
and discovering that we are a part of  
"God's workmanship, created in Christ  
Jesus to do good works, which God  
prepared in advance for us to do."*

*— Ephesians 2:10*



*Glen W. Warner,  
an "internationally  
unknown author,"  
is a retired SDB  
pastor.*

## SCSC Celebrating 50 Years!

Celebrating 50 years in 2015, the Seventh Day Baptist Summer Christian Service Corps is pleased to offer a book of brief meditations by Pastor Glen Warner. You can support this valuable ministry of SCSC by your gift of \$25 and receive this book as a thank you! Every penny will be given to support SCSC 2015.

### **To order:**

Email: [glwarner@moldedfiberglass.com](mailto:glwarner@moldedfiberglass.com)

Mail: Glen Warner

1830 Elm Drive

Ashtabula, OH 44004

**Mail your check to Glen Warner payable to "SCSC"**

**No credit cards**

Book shipped day order received.

*You may order a quantity for a church fund raising  
project for SCSC and make payment after all the  
books are sold.*

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See page 24...