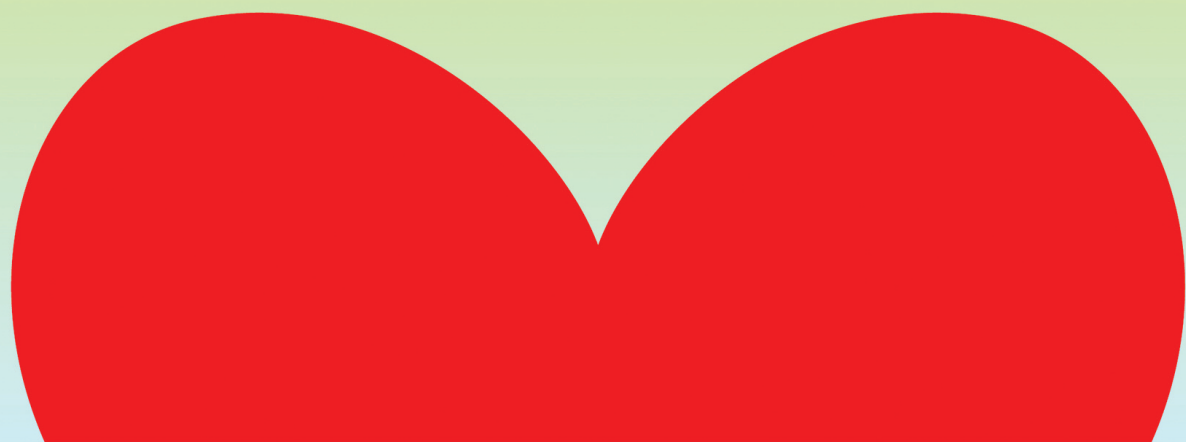
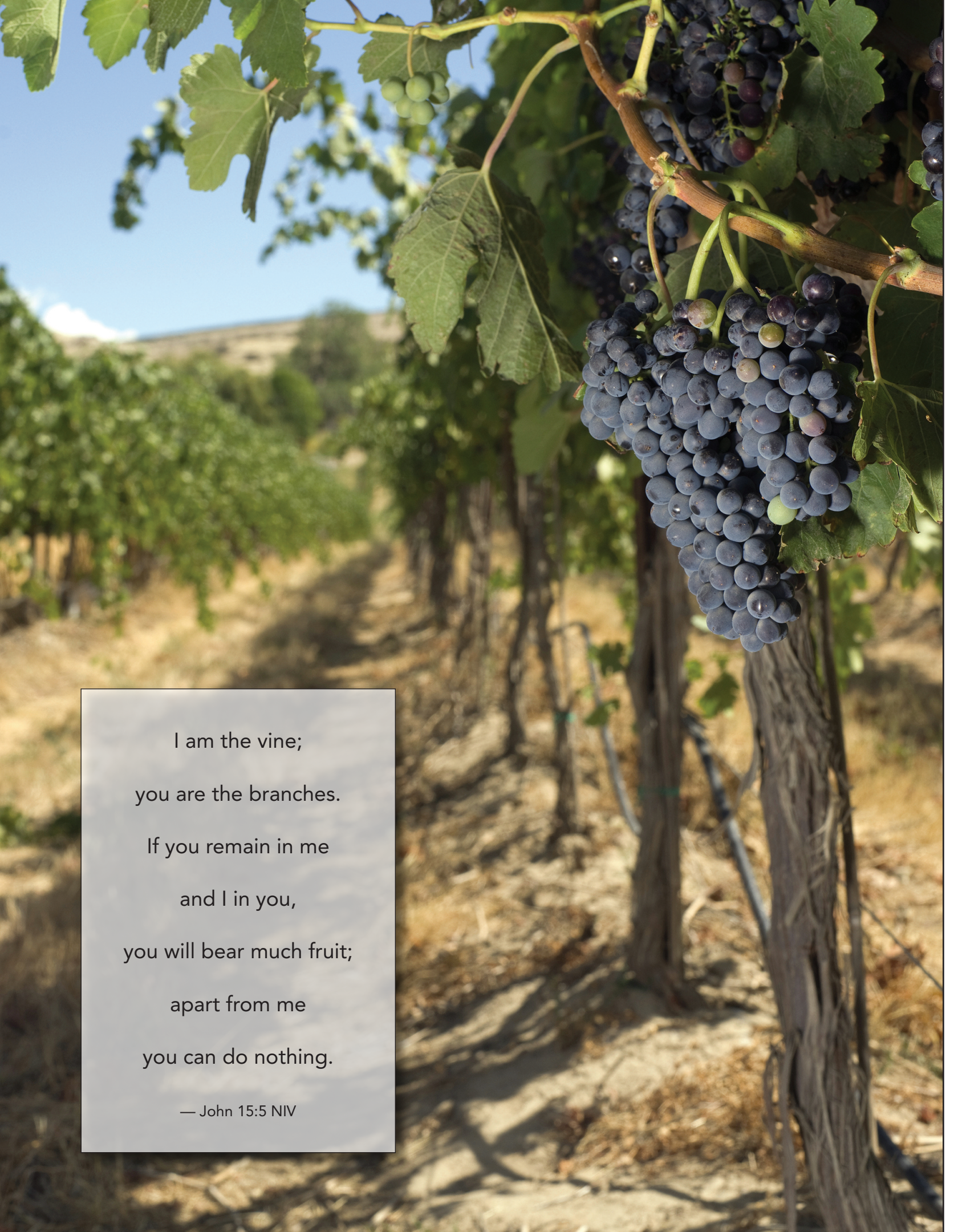


Sabbath

Recorder



**Broken can  
be fixed!**



I am the vine;  
you are the branches.  
If you remain in me  
and I in you,  
you will bear much fruit;  
apart from me  
you can do nothing.

— John 15:5 NIV

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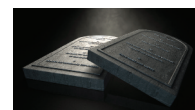
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Top Ten Words:  
God in a Box



July 26 – August 1, 2015

# Sabbath Recorder

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## Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are.

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

### The Seventh Day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience – not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs a people with a difference.

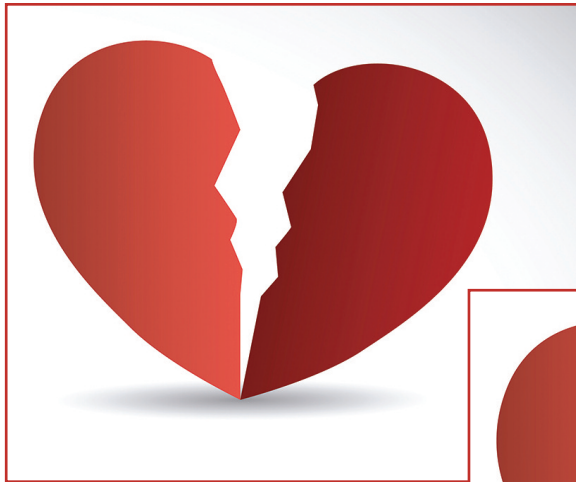
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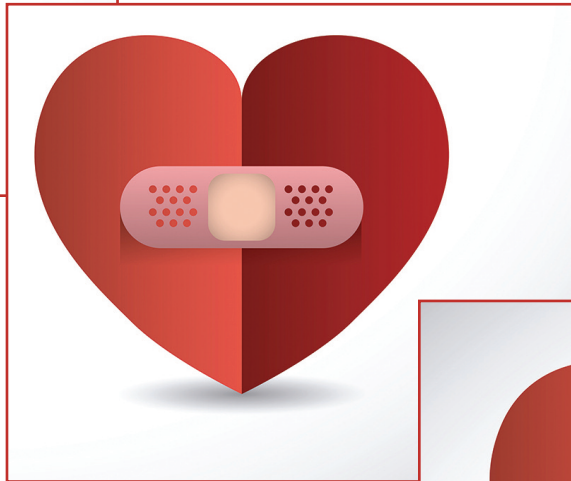
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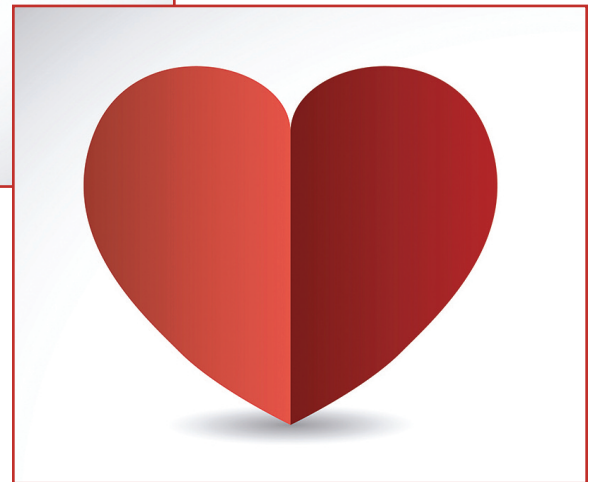


Since when do we give up on something because it's broken?

The church is not beyond repair.



I don't want to be part of a generation who doesn't believe.



*by Rebecca Olson*

Since when do we give up on something because it's broken? Since when do we look at a principle and say, "There's something wrong with it, so let's just throw it out"? Saying that makes me so uncomfortable. The thought that my generation is giving up on something that's broken hurts me. But that's what I see everywhere — I'm surrounded by people who don't believe. My peers don't believe in marriage because they've witnessed so much divorce. They don't believe in abstinence because they've been privy to so much well-meant but ultimately detrimental pressure to stay pure. They don't believe in modesty because they've had rulers slapped against their thighs and t-shirts forced over their bathing suits.

Worst of all, a great number of my peers don't believe in God because they look at a broken church and assume that our God is defined by the people who represent Him on this earth.

I don't want to be part of a generation that doesn't believe. I don't want to be surrounded by people who refuse to fix what is broken. Now, I don't need to tell you what's broken about the church — you all know. I'm not here to scold you or tell you you've ruined Christianity because of your mistakes. That's what a lot of people seem to think, isn't it? That because the church is broken, it's beyond repair.

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I don't get that. When was the church not broken? When was she ever a whole, perfect representation of the God she worshipped? If the church wasn't always broken, what kind of New Testament would we have? It would be six books long, I can tell you that. 21 out of the 27 books in the New Testament are epistles — letters to the early church. And if you read through those letters, they all have the same basic message. *Dear church, they begin. Dear church, you are loved. God loves you, and He is not giving up on you. But dear church, you are broken.*

The Romans had a problem with relying on the law. The Ephesians needed to work on unity. James wrote to the church to remind its members to mind their tongues. Each letter enforces that the church has things it needs to work on. The church was never perfect. It was always broken.

But the church is not just some broken, outdated idea that needs to be set aside in order for us to move forward as Christians. No, the church is the bride of Christ — a comparison made clear in Ephesians 5. I don't know about you, but I don't think Jesus is the kind of guy to give up on His marriage. In fact, I'm pretty positive that Jesus loves the church as much today as He did back when she first began.

He's not trying to pretend she's perfect. He knows she's broken. That's okay. You see, He died to fix her. Jesus is the ultimate bridegroom, every girl's dream man, someone who will sacrifice everything — even His own life — for the sake of His bride.

My generation does seem ready to abandon the church. It would be easier to start from scratch, they say, than

to undo the centuries of hypocrisy and misconception that so often seem to be at the center of the modern church. But they're looking at it wrong.

At the center of the church is not brokenness — at the center of the church is God. And as long as God remains at the center, as long as Jesus does not abandon His bride, as long as the church as a whole keeps its focus on the One who died to save it, the church is not beyond repair. It may be broken, but it's not totaled.

That's not to say there aren't totaled pieces. In John 15:5-6, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." Jesus isn't playing around here. I believe this passage applies to branches of the church as well as to individual Christians. There are certainly congregations out there claiming to do work in Jesus' name who aren't centered around Christ, and Jesus makes it very clear that He will have nothing to do with those congregations.

But pruning and cutting off the parts that are beyond repair is one thing. Giving up on the church? That's another entirely. And that's not somewhere I'm ready to go. I believe in the church, in all her brokenness, in all her failed attempts to live up to the name of God. I hope my generation comes around. I don't want to be part of a generation who doesn't believe. I want to be part of one who recognizes what is broken, and who is ready to do God's work with all its effort to fix it. SR

The Beacon

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



*Your denomination is not defined by a style. So don't let style become a point of contention.*



## 3 Ways to Encourage Peace Between Generations in Denominations

by Ed Stetzer

**I**t takes work to have a harmonious family. That's true of your biological family and your church family. It's also true of your denominational family. The fact is, each member within a family has a tendency to find their own style and way in life. But as each individual develops their own unique identity, they should not develop a spirit of pride over the others in the family. That's a key to peace and unity in denominations.

Denominations should recognize that their uniqueness is part of a healthy diversity that can serve the family well. There should be a complementary understanding of uniqueness. Each generation can idolize its own ways to the point of conflict. (We call this "the teenage years" at home.) But maturity and unity takes effort and understanding...and it can and does come to denominations that will pursue it.

### **The Challenge**

Often in denominations, those with experience who are trying to encourage stability, are seen as out of touch. Sometimes they are out of touch, but my experience is that they often just have a different view. Those who are pushing the envelope to make an immediate impact are seen as aggressive. But often the two groups are just talking (or shouting) past each other.

### **Maintaining Unity**

So, unity takes work in the church. However, I am thinking right now about the way churches interact at the district, regional, or national denominational level. This could be a group of several to dozens of churches in a given area that share doctrine, but have unique approaches to ministry.

There are traditional-styled churches, contemporary, incarnational, non-traditional, or whatever else. Each

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feels like it is obeying God and serving their communities on mission, but they are doing it differently. It's often the same doctrine but a different church culture. So how do you maintain peace in this area? How to we keep the enemy from using their generational differences to disrupt unity.

My view is simple: peace is not a one-sided endeavor. It takes a deal of commitment from both sides to truly have unity.

Paul wrote, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). I'd like to suggest three things that can help keep the peace:

*You cannot run down those that came before you and expect to have peace with them.*

### 1. Refrain From Arrogant Attitudes

This means that young pastors have no business sending out mailers saying, "This ain't your grandma's church. Are you tired of boring, dead (Pentecostal/Baptist/Methodist/etc.) churches? Ours is smoking."

You cannot run down those that came before you and expect to have peace with them. Chances are, grandma paid for your church building, prayed for you to know Christ, sponsored your youth camps and mission trips, and told you your sermons were good when they really weren't.

There are traditional churches in your network who are reaching the lost you aren't. You don't get any extra points in heaven for being the hippest church in your denomination.

But there also has to be a sense among the traditional churches that they have a confidence in their kids and their grandkids — that they may be doing things differently, but they're doing those things for Jesus. For those in traditional churches, you should brag on the younger generations who are doing different things for Jesus. Celebrate them. I know they aren't as wise and perfect in ministry as you were when you were a young person, but cut 'em some slack.

Your traditional church functioned pretty well in its context. That's how you survived long enough to see



other churches planted...like the one on the other side of town that is going to reach the people you aren't. If we are honest about it, our predecessors weren't always excited about how we did new things. But they invested in us and trusted God was doing something new.

When both sides refrain from insensitive and off-putting statements, peace has a better chance to grow. In my own denomination, I've heard it from both sides. I'm not a young leader now, but I've been a long-term defender of them. Sometimes they say dumb and thoughtless things, not realizing that there are other people who just may have thought through some things before they came along.

Yet, I've spent most of my time helping older leaders love, value and appreciate the next generation. I want both to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit."

### 2. Respect God's Varied Ministry Callings

I was in an elevator once with two pastors, *Darrin Patrick* and *Adrian Rogers*. (For those of you who don't know those names, they are well-known pastors from very different worlds.)

*The denomination is not a battlefield for issues of style.*

Darrin was young and cool and on his way to growing an impacting church called "The Journey" in St. Louis. Dr. Rogers was...well he was Dr. Rogers. I didn't call him Adrian. So, I said, "Dr. Rogers, could I introduce you to Darrin Patrick?"

Darrin was like a kid in a candy store, meeting one of the most famous preachers in America. He didn't feel the need to say, "Our church is contemporary and yours is traditional, so mine is good and yours is bad." He didn't point out their differences and try to convince



the veteran that he needed to “get with it.” He valued his elder for who he was and what God had helped him accomplish.

But respect went both ways. Dr. Rogers didn’t say, “Young man, put on a tie.” He treated Darrin (who was wearing jeans with holes in them) like he would treat a friend and a colleague.

See, they both are in very different places serving the same Lord. And, both seemed to be genuinely thankful for one another (and I was thankful for both).

If you are going to have such divisions in your local church, that’s your business. But the denomination is not a battlefield for issues of style. Do not divide the family at that level over such things — and wise leaders in wise denominations know such things.

It is a beautiful thing when you have a mutual respect for God’s ministry calling across the generations. It is a sign of wisdom when a young leader recognizes and appreciates God’s work that came before. Nothing reflects wisdom more than for an elder leader to affirm God’s work that is yet to come.

### 3. Reinforce A Culture Of Peace

Peace is not achieved with silence. If you want a culture of peace between generations, it will need to be communicated clearly and often. Unstated goals are just wishes.

Creating a culture of unity and peace is about understanding what encourages and discourages peace, and then empowering those in high risk areas to make the right choices for the health and success of the movement.

#### ***Peace is not achieved with silence.***

Sometimes this is achieved with positive reinforcement after a good interaction. Other times, it takes a proactive approach before something bad happens.

Here is an example from personal experience in my own denomination. Several years ago, a wonderful pastor friend organized our national pastors conference. He instructed each of the speakers, “No drive-bys on your fellow pastors in our denomination.”

That struck me, so I told him how much I appreciated that, but then I said, “I just look forward to the day

when you don’t have to tell them.” You might find it interesting that the organizers of those conferences don’t have to give that same talk today.

Depending on your situation, that kind of proactive approach may still be needed. You shouldn’t have to tell a pastor or church leader to present themselves and their position in a way that engenders a peace-building conversation, but sometimes you do. And in many denominations is essential. I’ve been in Lutheran, Pentecostal, Anglican, Baptist, and other settings in the last year and this still remains a major issue — so let’s be proactive to address it.

Until you have established a culture of peace, communicate it whenever, wherever, and however it is necessary.

### Substance Over Style

In the end, it is important to remember that substance is more valuable than style. We can and should be aggressive when it comes to issues of substance. There are things you cannot be and still be considered within the boundaries of your theological tribe — it isn’t a free-for-all.

*If you are going to be in a family,  
value what the family values.*

If you are going to be in a family, value what the family values. But we should be generous when it comes to style. There is more space for variations. When it comes to flexible issues that will change according to context, intentionally work in and toward peace. Denominations and networks must have common beliefs with diverse applications across ethnicity, languages, and cultures. That’s a given. What is harder for some is to see that diversity across generations.

*Do you think peace across generations prevails in your own denomination? If so, why? Are there other things that can be done to encourage peace between generations in a denomination?* SR

*Reprinted with permission; original article here [3 Ways to Encourage Peace Between Generations in Denominations], and Ed Stetzer’s blog [Ed Stetzer’s Blog].*

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/february/3-ways-to-encourage-peace-between-generations-in-denominati.html>

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*That Essential Ingredient For Church Planting & Revitalization*

by Jeanne Yurke,  
Raritan Valley SDB Church, Bridgewater, NJ

Seventh Day Baptists are beginning to understand that revitalization of established churches can go hand-in-hand with church planting. For too long it seemed that we were excited over a new group of five, while wringing our hands over an established church that had dwindled to five. Now, perhaps, we can use church planting techniques with an established church that will produce a new set of ministries with deep roots — a new church with history, so to speak. I, for one, am thrilled by such possibilities, as long as we include the essential ingredient of reconciliation.

Unlike other denominations with multiple churches in a given town or city, Seventh Day Baptists usually have one church and many miles before encountering another church. There are some places in which clusters of Seventh Day Baptist churches have emerged, allowing members from one church to become part of another. I will consider that scenario in a moment. First, however, let's consider the "few and far between" model that typically describes our congregations. When conflicts arise, whether small differences of opinion or major doctrinal challenges, the tendency is for members to do their best to hold things together. Those who most strongly disagree have these four basic options: (1) join a church of another denomination; (2) leave the established Church altogether; (3) consider the conflict not worth splintering the church over and give up one's

differently-held ideas to remain a member in good standing; or (4) start a new Seventh Day Baptist church that incorporates the differently-held ideas — if shared by some others (but not the majority of members) of the previous church. Seventh Day Baptists who are related within kinship groups typically have a built-in reason to stay together, despite conflicts, and this may prove to be a powerful people-glue. In the case where clusters of our churches exist, whether originally church plants or church splinters, there is likely to develop over the years more fluidity between congregations. For example, newlyweds might join a different church to establish themselves as a new family unit in their own church.

Some churches start out healthy and manage conflicts in ways that retain spiritual health and vitality. Unfortunately, not all conflicts are managed well, so that even in previously healthy churches some toxicity can enter and grow. For some Seventh Day Baptists "church discipline" might seem to be a thing of the past. Indeed our older church records reveal that such discipline was more common as a way of dealing with conflicts while they were yet small differences. The desired outcome for such action was to restore individual members to healthy fellowship with their spiritual siblings and to keep the church as a whole healthy and vibrant. Sadly, if small differences are allowed to fester

## Reconciliation is a one-on-one process

and become major conflicts within a congregation, it becomes increasingly difficult to cleanse a church of its toxicity. This is precisely when reconciliation is needed the most.

### What does reconciliation look like?

Is it a matter of glossing over problems in order to move forward with the least amount of discomfort? Is it one person's quickly stated, "I'm sorry," without any attempt to change the behavior that initially created problems for the church?

Authentic reconciliation involves intentionally, prayerfully, and lovingly carrying out the church covenant which in some form or fashion usually includes something about "watching over each other for good."

There are many Scripture verses about reconciliation and the importance of having God's people reconciled to one another as well as to their Creator God through Christ Jesus. Four of these verses rise to the top in terms of their wisdom and practicality. Let's keep in mind that any mandate is not for human effort to be applied, but rather for the Holy Spirit to be invited to work within us to bring about God's good purpose.

First on the short list of Scripture verses is Hebrews 12:14 (NCV): *Try to live in peace with all people, and try to live free from sin. Anyone whose life is not holy will never see the Lord.*

The next verse, Ephesians 4:32 (NCV), adds a powerful motivator: *Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.*

The third verse, Luke 17:3 (NCV), includes a cautionary note as Jesus says: *"So be careful! If another follower sins, warn him, and if he is sorry and stops sinning, forgive him."*

The final verse on this list is 1 Peter 4:8 (NCV): *Most importantly, love each other deeply, because love will cause people to forgive each other for many sins.*

### How does reconciliation take place?

Just as salvation is an intensely personal experience, so reconciliation is a one-on-one process. It begins with having the individual become reconciled with God, and then it continues as that person is reconciled with others in the church who have been in any way hurt while the person was not walking uprightly with God.

### Does reconciliation mean having 100% agreement on all matters of faith?

We should allow a certain amount of latitude in our doctrinal positions, since, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we members can reach slightly different understandings of how we are supposed to live out what we believe. It is only when our differences become disruptive that drastic measures must be taken, and we need to be intentional about seeking true reconciliation within the congregation.

### What future can we anticipate if we fail to do the work of reconciliation?

Tragically, many of our churches are like houses that are built on top of toxic waste dumps. The sinful behavior patterns of earlier members (including pastors) have never been addressed; they have merely been covered over as another generation has built on top of previous generations. We cannot grow healthy congregations from such unhealthy debris, nor can we start something new that will not be tainted by the old unless the rotten parts are first dug out and removed.

Granted, there is no perfect church or denomination, because each is made up of imperfect people. Someday, at the return of our triumphant Lord, the old will give way to a glorious new gathering in Christ Jesus! In the meantime, however, with the help of the Holy Spirit we must keep on loving, keep on forgiving, keep on warning one another to stay on the narrow path set forth by our God and Savior. SR

*Scripture quotations are from New Century Version (NCV), The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.*



— Jeremiah Owen  
Director of Communications

You walk into a room and people seem to be carrying on about their business. Your eyes make contact with someone and you begin to greet them, and they return in kind, but something is different. When they open their mouth the jumble of noises that hit your ears doesn't resonate with you as a language you even understand.

That's what social media can be like. ICYMI, Bae, tbt — it's a veritable alphabet soup of nonsense. Well, hopefully by the end of this article we can make some sense of it for you and, more specifically, some ways you can use it for your church.

#### Platforms: The Big 4

As of this writing, there are four major social media platforms. There are some others that are significant but we will be focusing on four of the largest since it's where you most likely end up dabbling.

#### Facebook

Facebook is the 800 lb. gorilla. With over 1.35 BILLION(!) users they are king of the mountain. Facebook is made up of profile pages and business pages. A profile page is a page tied to a person (for instance, yourself) and a business page is associated with, oddly enough, a business (imagine that!). Some quick pointers:

1. If you are making a page for your church or your own business DO NOT create a personal page. For starters it's against Facebook's terms of service, and secondly you lose out on all the great features that let you create ads and target users.
2. Use Facebook Groups for groups inside your church. Have a youth group? A Bible study? Facebook groups make a lot of sense for these. They let you organize events and you can control who is a part, thereby giving some level of control.
3. Make use of events. Don't create an event for each service, but do create events for special functions or special services. This will allow your parishioners to invite others to the events and provide a hub for all the pertinent details.

#### Twitter

Twitter is up next and is a place where people can get short bursts of news, encouragement or info. Think of it as the Reader's Digest version of the internet.

1. The format for Twitter is 140 characters (or less) so you will want to be brief. Precise and concise, if you will.
2. It is recommended you follow people who follow you. Twitter will use this to recommend to their friends and followers your account. The bigger the network the more reach you have, and that reach is developed by building relationships through following other accounts.
3. Hashtags are in MUCH heavier use on Twitter. For examples of current popular hashtags we advise you look at what is under the trending tab in your Twitter client. It can be a smart way to piggyback on a hot topic to gain more potential followers and also categorize your own tweets. An example would be using something like:  
*"Clayton Kershaw was the 2014 Cy Young winner. #cyyoung"* — anyone searching for #cyyoung will be able to see your tweet.

#### Instagram

Although owned by Facebook, Instagram is a completely separate social network with a completely different focus and methodology. For starters you can only post images and short 15 second video clips. Although this may sound limiting, the beauty of Instagram is in its laser-like focus. It's all about images and videos and that's about it.

1. Start with a great image.
2. Although there are a few online services that offer the ability to schedule and post to Instagram via your browser on your desktop, Instagram is almost an entirely mobile-centric platform, so keep that in mind. Whether you take the image with your phone or copy it to your phone to post, make sure the image you are posting is relevant to what you are posting about.
3. The images and videos get cropped to a square format so keep that in mind when you are taking, framing or selecting photos.
4. Hashtags, like Twitter are important here.

#### Pinterest

According to RJMetrics' analysis, 80 percent of Pinterest users are female. Beyond this, more than 90 percent of all pins are created/shared by women. So to say this service is primarily targeted to women is an understatement. It works like a virtual "pin board" where you can pin and re-pin items you like or want to remember to come back to.

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Recently I was asked if social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) are a blessing or a curse. I think they can be both. They're like prescription drugs, since they can bless us powerfully, or harm us severely. It depends on how we use them. Wisdom and self-discipline are key.

Part of wisdom is knowing why we're doing what we're doing. About four years ago I stopped using Facebook because it had become an addiction for me. I would waste a lot of time by trying to keep up on everything my friends were doing. There's nothing wrong with being connected with others. Indeed, God created us for connection. However, I was allowing these connections to take over my life. That's when I knew I was addicted, so I pulled the plug on my FB account.

The problem was that I had never stopped to think why I was spending so much time on Facebook. My mistake was that I had been prioritizing online connections above in-person connections. This was easy to do, because so many of my friends live hundreds and thousands of miles from me.

More recently I've been learning how to set wiser priorities. I'm realizing the importance of focusing more on those connections where I am actually with people. Yes, I still want to hear what's going on with distant friends, and I still want to interact with them online, but it would be a mistake for me to focus more on these relationships than on my local relationships.

Proverbs 27:10 tells us not to go to our relative's house when disaster strikes us. It says that a neighbor nearby is better than a relative far away. The context of this passage is disaster, but the verse still brings up the notion that we have a choice to make when we're looking for connection with others. Sometimes connecting with distant friends online will take precedence over a local connection. This, however, should be the exception, not the rule.

Setting wiser priorities has enabled me to start using Facebook again, without allowing it to take over my life. This has been a wonderful lesson for me.

When it comes to utilizing social media, not only is wisdom key, but so is self-discipline. One of the biggest challenges I have regarding Facebook, for example, is to realize that there's a time to access it, and there's a time not to access it. For example, when I'm writing a sermon, lesson, article, etc., I need to focus my thoughts on that one project. Checking my FB news feed at that time is more of a distraction than a blessing. It's a very tempting thing to do, because I love hearing what's going on in my friends' lives, so I need self-discipline, to keep my thoughts focused on the task at hand.

Social media are amazing tools, and they have revolutionized our everyday lives. Let's just make sure that it's a revolution of enhancement, not a revolution of distraction. [SR](#)

## **Pinterest** *continued from page 12*

1. Have cool ideas for crafts? A great recipe? This can be great place to inspire or be inspired through what you or what others share.
2. Drive traffic to your blog by leveraging Pinterest. After you publish a blog post on your site, pin it onto your board. Make sure to include a brief summary of the article, a relevant high-quality image and a link back to the blog post itself.
3. This tip really applies to all the aforementioned social media sites: Track Pins and posts from your competitors. In your church's case it may be not so much "competitors" as it is other successful church Boards, pages or accounts. You can learn a lot by watching how others are successful.

Social media for your church doesn't have to be scary or daunting. If these tips still feel like Greek, don't worry we can help! If you need additional help please feel free to email [social@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:social@seventhdaybaptist.org) and we can help you get going. [SR](#)

### **Social Media Defined**

**ICYMI:** In Case You Missed It

**TL;DR:** Too Long; Didn't Read

**Bae:** is used as a term of endearment, often referring to your boyfriend or girlfriend.

**Tbt:** Throwback Thursday, usually related to posting old pictures or videos on a Thursday.



# Top Ten Words

## God in a Box

Sermon Series by Pastor Dusty Mackintosh, Next Step Christian Church, Thornton, CO

Sometimes our worship of God can be a difficult thing — maybe a little vague or mysterious. I have an idea to remove all of that difficulty and mystery.

### **Introducing: Yahweh in a box.**

#### **All the convenience of the Divine Yahweh in a form factor that fits in your pocket.**

*Wondering where God is? Well, here He is, in my pocket. The convenience, the comfort of knowing right where your God is at all times. No more wondering, no more seeking the Spirit by faith, make your sacrifices at your convenience and be done! Speaking of sacrifices, you can forget all that righteous living and constant love stuff, character is hard, cash deposits are easy. Every time you press this button on your Yahweh idol, you make a \$0.99 deposit to the Yahweh sacrifice fund. 80% of your donation goes straight to unblemished lambs to feed the gods hunger and so guarantee his favor on you! Who can question the beautiful artistry of this piece. Be the envy of your friends... and the friend of your god. Pick up an idol at a store near you. We will be selling these out front — it'll be the spot in the parking lot being constantly hit by lightning.*

That concludes the blasphemous part of this message! In our 10 commandment series we are now at:

### **The Second Commandment**

#### **Exodus 20:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the

*Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

This second commandment follows right on the heels of the first and is really like part two of the first commandment. If you recall, the first commandment was “no other gods.” In fact, in the Jewish tradition they number the 10 commandments differently and verses 3-6 make up one commandment. No other gods, including no idols representing me or other gods. (Makes sense.) However, they are distinct enough to be considered separately. The first deals with the **object** of our worship. Our worship, our trust for the Unknown, our time, attention and treasure are to be directed to Yahweh alone, not to other gods. The second deals with the **form or method** of our worship. So what is this idol stuff all about?

#### **Idol worship in the Ancient World**

Idol worship was the primary means of worship in the ancient world. You would make an image or likeness that represented your god out of precious materials, with great artistry. With the appropriate rituals, it was believed that the idol actually took on the divine nature itself. In a sort of sympathetic magic, what you did to and for the idol was, in actual reality, being done to the god. So as you sacrifice meat or blood or anything to this statue...you are feeding the god — which is the one thing that gods usually could not do for themselves. So you gain favor or advantage to help you deal with the Unknowns in life. You “Hedge your Bets.” (see April SR, page 12)

## No Idols

God flat out, with comprehensive repetition, outlaws this form of worship. Note that this includes, perhaps is primarily about, any representation of himself. No idols, no images, it repeats — nothing in heaven...nothing in the earth...nothing in the water... nothing, nothing, nothing. There shall be no convenient idol worship of me or of mine...for I am not to be found in those idols. God absolutely refuses any identification with these idols. It is always “they.” Whatever name you place on those idols — and archeology finds idols inscribed as Yahweh — God takes no association with them. He is not contained within them or by them.

All of those things I said in my commercial at the beginning are, I think, the rationale for idolatry. If you make the idol, you put whatever god in that box. Now you have some control over it. You come to it to worship when you want. You create rituals around its care and worship. You can see and touch it, you understand the dimensions of it. You are in some control. Idolatry is: easy, convenient, guaranteed, normal, pleasing to the eye.

## God refuses to be put in a box.

He flat out refuses. He doesn't fit. Every attempt to do so is self-deceptive and dangerous. What happens when you squeeze too much mass and/or energy in an enclosed container? Explosion. God refuses to be put in a box.

There may be some confusion introduced here because God is about to introduce some objects to be used in worship: the ark of the covenant, the tabernacle, eventually the temple. He is always clear that this is representative and each emphasizes, in its own way, the invisible God, the God of Spirit. The ark, for example, has an empty seat on top, the mercy seat. No images. But even these are like worship training wheels. They are temporary crutches. Jesus reveals this to the Samaritan woman at the well when she asks the burning worship question of her people: should we worship in the temple as the Jewish people do or on the holy mountain as the Samaritans do. Jesus answers: Not on the mountain or the temple...

## John 4:23-24

<sup>23</sup> *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.* <sup>24</sup> *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

God refuses to be put in a box...because that would be neither in spirit nor in truth. In truth...he does not fit in that box or in that image. In spirit, he is beyond the constraints of the physical. Three dimensions do not contain him, he is meta-dimensional. He is spirit. If we are looking for the image of God...our closest place to look is within ourselves, for we are made in His image. Except...that image is obscured and damaged by our sinfulness. We have trouble discerning what is the image of God and what is the remnants of sinful nature within us. So we look to Jesus Christ, the perfect image of God in human form, and he tells us when we see Him, we see God. But we don't build statues of Jesus and bow down before them. Historically this is a big deal

kind of debate and is responsible for the first and biggest church split in history. We don't make icons or statues, even of Jesus, because *the hour has come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.* We want to be the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

## God refuses to be put in a box

### Idolatry – insidious and destructive

We have this idea of idolatry. It works two ways, according to the first two commandments. It is the elevation of any god or thing into or beside the place of Yahweh — any attempt to put God in a box. There is a huge space between these two in our Bibles, but there are no carriage returns in the original text. This is one continuous thought, a continuity of idolatry. These two work hand in hand. You can confuse the object of worship, that is destructive. You can confuse the method of worship. Usually, you end up doing both. If you construct an idol or image, even if it starts as part of your worship of Yahweh, it causes you to miss out on the love relationship with God.

### Terrifying and convicting

Two questions terrify and convict me, because these are a big deal:

**Have I ever worshiped another god?**

**Have I ever put God in a box?**

Or to make that a single question:

**Am I an idolater?**

Yes. Yes, I am. I am a wayward child; I am easily distracted; I am pulled by other gods and other options; I am tempted to chase after other things and other people...and always, I am always putting God into my nice convenient, understandable little tiny package. And so I miss out on God in spirit and in truth.

### God Solution – Endless Pursuit

There is a tremendously comforting follow-up here that starts with a little explanation as to why this idolatry business is such a big deal:

*for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me...*

Oh... that is comforting, isn't it? Our God is a jealous God... because he owns us, and he purchased us, and he loves us, and all of our worship belongs to him, so he is righteously jealous of that love and worship. What is the active result of that jealousy? “Visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation...” Ouch. That seems unfair. And this is a passage easily misunderstood. We have to see how this operates in context.

### Deuteronomy 24:16

<sup>16</sup> *Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.*

I don't think this passage means that God takes out punishment on successive generations solely because their parents

*continued on page 23*

# Woman or Wife?

*Who can find a virtuous woman?  
Proverbs 31:10 (KJV)*

The woman portrayed in Proverbs 31 can be described using numerous adjectives. She is trustworthy, caring, industrious, a leader, intelligent, kind, altruistic, wise, useful, strong, courageous, and loved and respected by her family, etc. She is in possession of many virtues and would be an excellent role model for a young woman to emulate. She seems far from the submissive, browbeaten wallflower that some errantly say the Bible encourages those of the fairer gender to be.

As an excellent example of what it means to be a Christian woman, Proverbs 31 has been the subject of many bible studies and books. You can get coffee mugs, t-shirts, Bible covers, and all kinds of other merchandise proclaiming that you are a "Proverbs 31 woman." I've seen posts on facebook and dating websites from Christian men proclaiming that they are actively seeking out a quote on quote "Proverbs 31 woman." I've been on dates where very thinly veiled questions were asked in order to determine whether I was or was not a "Proverbs 31 woman."

I do not think there is anything wrong with wanting to be like this woman. In fact, I would encourage it. She is a strong, capable person who works for the good of her family and loves God. I also think men seeking out a woman with these qualities with whom to share their life shows wisdom. Here is my problem with the whole Proverbs 31 woman movement: most people do not want a Proverbs 31 *woman*, they want a Proverbs 31 *wife*.

The distinction between woman and wife is not that huge as it pertains to this passage because the writer is speaking of a married woman, and the words seem to be used almost interchangeably. It is completely natural to view the woman described



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



through the wifely lens and use it to enrich and improve ourselves in the role of a wife. But when we narrow our focus to just "wife," we lose the complete message.

There are girls who legitimately think that once they have all these qualities described in Proverbs 31, they are ready to be a wife. The Bible study of this chapter often becomes a master's class for women who are looking for their MRS degree. Once they've done the study, they receive their t-shirt or mug and marriage will soon follow — right? Many men believe that if a

woman displays these qualities, a willingness to study them, or even just a willingness to claim these virtues, they must be the one. This is not always the case.

Putting an emphasis on the wife role that the Proverbs 31 woman plays shortchanges her and places focus somewhere other than on God. First, a wife is not the only role the author talks about. She is also a business owner and scholar and manages to balance all of this with running her household. Second, and more importantly, focusing on only the wifely aspects of this passage places the focus on becoming the "ideal wife" for your husband rather than on God where it belongs.

Just as being a good husband is more than about a focus on your wife, being a good wife is about more than a focus on your husband. The woman in this passage doesn't merely do all these things to be a good wife, she does them because she is a godly woman and seeks to please God. She isn't trying to prove her worth as a wife but trying to live as a woman of God.

By all means, study Proverbs 31. But don't do it to learn how to become a Christian wife, do it to learn how to be a Christian woman. [SR](#)

## Conference 2015 Host Committee

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“Yeah, well you’re only human...” Worry continues to rise; an outburst of rage slices through its victim; a temptation ends in defeat; the prideful excuses start rolling; fear increases; burdens of the past weigh even stronger; confusion grows thicker... “Yes, but we’re only human...” The Christian is once again determined to put an end to this issue rooted in sin; they’ll try harder, do better, read more, pray more, believe God more — they’ll get out of this thing soon.

They’ve hit failure once again, and while sharing this with another believer, they’re told, “Well, you’re only human.”

I dare say it’s time we stop giving that response — because it’s the wrong one. It offers no hope to the struggling child of God. Rather it’s an excuse that we mess up and, indirectly, that we can expect to do it again.

I’m not ignoring the truth that we **could** sin, and we may not get everything perfectly right. I am saying that we might need to correct our understanding of what it means to be **a child of God**. A child for whom Jesus paid His blood to free out of darkness and into His Kingdom. A child that **was** in bondage to sin and corruption and **now** is renewed and righteous with the very righteousness of Christ. A child that has relationship with God Himself, and whom God lives inside through the Holy Spirit, empowering to face every situation in life.

I might seem a bit rough here, but let’s be rough with dealing with sin because it has surely been rough in dealing with us. I’ve been stuck in various cycles of temptation and despair; I’ve tried so many efforts on my part; and each time just ended with more failure. The only thing that set me free was this — understanding that the door out isn’t in my effort or work, **it’s in Jesus’ work, and it’s already finished!**

By Jesus’ work, I’m a child of God. I’m dearly loved and valued by Him. I’m a prince of God, the King of the universe! I’m freed to live in His character and beauty. That garbage, and I mean **all that garbage** that I used to be stuck in, has no place in my life any longer. I’m not a slave bound to a dungeon anymore. I’m a prince freed to a Kingdom! As a prince, I not only know my King and Father, but I also have access to His riches, authority, and power, to walk in everything that He’s destined me for.

The old sinful version of you has died, right alongside Christ on the cross. Now a new you has been raised in the life and righteousness of Jesus! (Gal. 2:20) The reason you now have a problem with those things is that you’re a new person. So when temptation calls your name, don’t fight it in your effort. Thank God for His love and for who you already are by His effort! You’re already free, so walk in freedom! Yes, sometimes it may take time to break old mental patterns, but that starts today with choosing to believe and thank God for the truth—the truth of Jesus’ work for you, and who you surely are because of it.

Dear reader, if you’ve put your trust in Christ Jesus as Lord, and His work for you, you aren’t “only human,” you’re a new person — united with Jesus. With Him, you have hope in every circumstance you face. Don’t let any other viewpoint plaster over God’s viewpoint. Through the cross, you’re in Him by His effort, you stay in Him by His effort, and you live with Him by His effort. SR

# “You’re Only Human?”

by William Vallalpando

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away;  
behold, the new has come.  
All this is from God,  
who through Christ  
reconciled us to himself...”

— 2 Corinthians 5:17-18a ESV

# April was a B L U R

On April 2nd I left for a trip to Brazil. I was going down to Brazil to give a seminar to fifteen T.I.M.E. students on one weekend and then give the commencement speech to 25 graduating T.I.M.E. students the following weekend.

I led a leadership seminar in the city of Santo Antonio do Sudoeste, in the state of Paraná. This city is right on the border with Argentina. The students came from three different locations around southern Brazil — and they came to learn! They were very involved in the activities and lectures that were given the whole weekend. As usual, my good friend Pastor Jonas Sommer was my interpreter. Unfortunately, two left early because of a death in the family. This leadership seminar was an abbreviated version of the same seminar that Pastors Andrew Samuels, George Calhoun and I did in November 2011.

The week I was in and out of Santo Antonio do Sudoeste, I stayed with Pastor Jonas and his family. Jonas' wife spoiled me terribly. I told her I wanted to bring her back to the USA with me. Clarice and Jonas are such great people!

Jonas and I visited churches (or “temples” as they call them in Brazil, because the people are the church) in Cascavel, Santo Antonio do Sudoeste, Dois Vizinhos, and Cunha Porã — where I brought the message each night. In Cunha Porã they had just finished building their new temple and I had the honor to give the first sermon! I had no idea that this was happening until we got there.

I also went to two schools while in Santo Antonio do Sudoeste and spoke with students studying English. I answered questions from sixth to ninth grade students. Of course, they had to ask me in English. I was the first American that they ever met.

We also visited families in their homes and had a meal with many of them. The people in Brazil are so gracious!

On Sabbath April 18th, we travelled by car to the city of Canoinhas, in the state of Santa Catarina. That evening we were to attend the second graduation of the students graduating from the Brazilian T.I.M.E. Program. Many of these students went through the leadership seminar which I mentioned earlier held in November 2011. These 25 graduating students had requested that I be their commencement speaker. What an honor! It was an extravagant affair and the students and their families were so proud of their accomplishment. The Brazilian T.I.M.E. Program is so important! They have had over 100 students going through this process! They are training leaders in the church, developing future pastors, and educating pastors' spouses so they understand what their husbands do.

The SDB Conference of the USA and Canada helped the Brazilian Conference get this T.I.M.E. Program started about six years ago. What a good decision that was on our part! God is good all the time!

*continued on page 22*



*T.I.M.E. students at Leadership Seminar (above)  
Graduating T.I.M.E. students (below)*



# Growing Your Church Recipe

In March 2015, I visited the small Seventh Day Baptist fellowship in Indonesia. They are the only congregation in their primarily Muslim country and their group has shrunk to a handful of faithful believers after a series of deaths in their leadership and a subsequent move to a different community from where they had been meeting. They praise God for His continually sustaining them. They are convicted that Seventh Day Baptist beliefs and general practices are scripturally correct. They feel they have no choice but to be Seventh Day Baptists. They daily pray that God will draw together a congregation of believers to be a Church with them.

It is in this context that they looked to Andy Samuels, who was traveling with me, and me for advice. Since we have visited much of the SDB world, they felt we would have some insight into effective practices to raise up a congregation. They wanted us to tell them what they could do to grow their church. I wished I could give them a tract, recipe, or technique that would bring people to Jesus and make them want to be part of their congregation, but in a world with so many different people connecting in different ways, there was no simple answer for their situation. However, I could relate what I had seen in other countries that had brought some vitality to their work and a desire from those around them to want to become part of their congregation.

One example involved an SDB church in a Zambia community that had young men in their teens, unemployed, and typically involved in mischief. These youth were considered “lost” to their families and the local Church. With some funds the Zambia congregation raised and donations provided through SDB Missionary Society, the Church was able to buy soccer uniforms and shoes to field both a church team and a community team. Boys from the community were now involved in organized activity and became accessible for relationship, mentoring, and prayer. Today, some of those “lost” boys are reconnecting with their families, attending church, and actively being disciplined.



*Andy Samuels, Peter Manangkalangi,  
Clint Brown, Nani Yohana, Simon Novian*

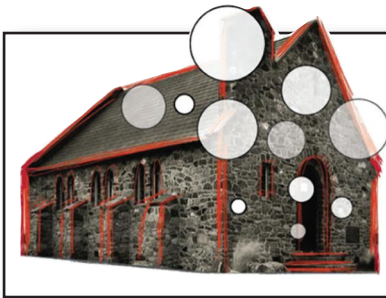
Another example is on Corn Island, Nicaragua. There a minister from the Miami SDB church has returned to her home country due to US immigration issues. When she got there, Shirley Morgan recognized that there were many struggling single mothers and children at risk in the community. She determined to open her home for fellowship with them and take songs, snacks, and encouragement to the surrounding neighborhoods. Her willingness to respond to the local need with her gifts opened doors to relationships that have turned into others wanting to actively participate in learning more and sharing the love of Jesus.

These were examples of Seventh Day Baptists recognizing a need in their community and joining God to answer that need with the means He was already arranging. I noted to them that Jesus did not spend a lot of His time convincing the Pharisees that they were doing it wrong. Instead He focused on those that were hurting. Likewise, I encouraged the Indonesian SDBs not to focus on converting believers to Sabbath keepers, but to go into their neighborhoods and see how sin was damaging the people around them, then look at their own lives, resources, and the Holy Spirit to see how God wants them to respond to that need. I was not interested in Seventh Day Baptists growing their congregation, I was interested in Seventh Day Baptists glorifying God in their communities, which I believe will in turn, grow our churches with new members whose lives are being impacted by Christ’s love expressed through us. SR



**FOCUS on Missions**

**Clinton R. Brown**  
*Executive Director*



Announcing the  
**MULTIPLY Church  
Development Conference**  
October 22-26, 2015  
Colorado Springs, CO

Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services, John Pethtel, our Church Planting Task Force, and the Council on Ministry have been working to help provide an opportunity for those who are seeking to start new SDB expressions of faith or revitalizing the ministry that God has called them to.

We are partnering with Frontline Church Planting and their annual MULTIPLY Conference to serve SDBs. Leaders and speakers from around the country will gather for this weekend to share stories, knowledge, and strategies with one another. SDBs will have their own sessions as a cohort before and after to discuss specifically SDB related challenges.

We believe that there is great traction in advancing God's Kingdom when mission-minded leaders gather to connect, reflect, and dream about what God is doing in our midst. There will be great content but we also believe that there will be great relationships built. It is our hope that by gathering leaders who dare to dream, that God can and will do something fresh among SDBs —

that He will allow His work to be done among ordinary folks like us.

The weekend will start Thursday, October 22 after dinner time, with an introductory session with just SDBs. Friday and Saturday morning, we will join with others attending the MULTIPLY Conference

where there will be a variety of topics and options of learning available, through the main sessions and breakouts, to speak to you where your ministry is currently. During the rest of Saturday and Sunday morning, we will meet together again as SDBs to worship and talk about SDB-specific challenges in our ministries and to pray for one another.

The MULTIPLY Church Development Conference is open to all SDBs who are interested in breathing new life into their local church or our family of churches. There will be no cost for registration or for lodging (although this option is limited). The only cost is your food, time, and travel to Colorado Springs (There might even be a scholarship available for travel.) More information will come as we get closer to the date. We are looking forward to seeing you or someone from your church there!

If you are interested in attending or have more questions, please don't hesitate to contact Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services, John Pethtel.




### Denman Installed as Pastor

On May 2, 2015, Glenn Denman was installed as the new pastor of the Central Washington SDB Church in Yakima, WA. Levi Bond, President of the NW Association, from the Portland Area SDB Church preached the sermon, titled "Faith through the Ages", from Hebrews 11. Previous pastor

Stan Fox led the installation service which finished with prayer and laying hands on Pastor Glenn. After the installation, family, friends, and church members enjoyed a pot luck dinner in honor of Pastor Glenn and his wife Karen.

*Glenn was saved at the 1983 Billy Graham Crusade in Tacoma, WA. He became an active member of the Ahtanum Community Church in Yakima. He was very supportive of the church going from Sunday worship to Sabbath worship in 1997 and eventually becoming a part of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference in 2007. The church became the Central WA SDB Church when it built a new facility.*

*Glenn has served the church in many ways over the years: Sabbath School teacher, Trustee, Church Chairman of the Board, and also pianist. He surrendered to the call into the ministry some years ago and has preached on many occasions and filled in for the pastor when needed. He also served as the Assistant Pastor for years. Glenn had been ordained some years ago but more recently by the CWSDB Church. He has a real commitment to Jesus Christ and a love for His Word. He has been with the church over 30 years and a great love for the people.*

*Glenn is originally from Tacoma, WA. He is married to Karen (Fox) and has a daughter and a son and three grandchildren. He also is a full-time employee of the city of Yakima, WA. as the Certified Building Official. *



## Biennial SDB Pastor's Conference 2015

The biennial SDB Pastor's Conference took place from April 21-24, 2015, and was hosted by the Boulder SDB Church and the pastors from the Mid-Continent Association of SDBs. The theme for this year's event was "Pastor as Leader." Fifty-three pastors and leaders registered with fifty-one in attendance for at least part of the time.

Worship was led each morning with music by Dustin Mackintosh and devotionals by Chris Galarneau, JoAnne Kandel, Clyde Thompson, and JR Shick. Our presenters included Andrew Samuels on "Leading in Missions," Nathan Crandall on "Leading in Prayer," Rod Henry on "Leading through Discouragement," Dustin Mackintosh on "Leading through Preaching," Matthew Olson on "Leading other Leaders," and John Pethtel on "Leading through Revitalization." On Wednesday we were blessed by our special guest presenter, Dr. Gordon MacDonald, who challenged us on leading through change and by example.

The hospitality from the Boulder SDB Church was first class. Even though there was snow on the ground at Camp Paul

Hummel, the guests really enjoyed the accommodations and the scenic views. The cooks also did an amazing job feeding us.

There were many opportunities for fellowship and informal sharing between class sessions. Many pastors were able to spend this time with God and with colleagues being refreshed, renewed, and recharged for service to our churches. We ended our time together Friday morning by praying for one another and for our churches.

If your pastor attended, thank you for allowing this experience for them. If they were not able to attend this time, don't forget to plan for 2017.

If your church might be interested in hosting our Pastors Conference, please do not hesitate to contact me. [SR](#)

—Rev. John J. Pethtel  
 Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services  
[jphtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jphtel@seventhdaybaptist.org)



### Palmiter Ordination

The First SDB Church of Genesee (Little Genesee, NY) celebrated the ordination of Pastor Kevin Palmiter to the gospel ministry on May 2, 2015 at 3:30 pm during the spring meeting of the Allegheny Association of SDBs hosted by the church in Little Genesee.

*Pastor Kevin's ordination council was held on March 28, 2015 with representatives from eight different SDB churches and the Council on Ministry in attendance. Pastor Kevin presented his Christian testimony along with papers representing his reflections on the SDB Statement of Belief and his ministry experience. Pastor Kevin answered questions for around 90 minutes to the satisfaction of the council. The ordination council voted to recommend to the First SDB Church of Genesee that Pastor Kevin be ordained to the gospel ministry. The council also voted that Pastor Kevin's beliefs were in accord with the SDB Statement of Belief.*

*The ordination service was led by Dr. Tim Bancroft (Little Genesee). Included in the service were: Dr. Rick Cudahy and Rev. Pat Bancroft (Little Genesee) giving an affirmation of the candidate; Rev. John J. Pethtel (Director of Pastoral Services) preaching the ordination sermon titled "Stewards of the Mysteries of God" based on 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Dr. Bancroft presenting a charge to the candidate; Pastor JoAnne Kandel (Little Genesee) presenting a charge to the church; and Rev. Andrew Camenga (Little Genesee) leading the consecrating prayer over Pastor Kevin. The newly ordained Rev. Palmiter gave the benediction.*

*Dinner was held at the host church's newly built community center where many friends, family and church members were in attendance to help celebrate.*

*Pastor Kevin and his wife, Patti, have been serving the First SDB Church of Genesee since May 2005. Pastor Kevin is a graduate of the Summer Institutes on Sabbath Theology, SDB History, and SDB Polity. He enjoys fishing, taking pictures of barns, and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone he meets.*

## General Council Changes

In January 2015, when John Pethtel began in his new position as Director of Church Development and Pastoral Services, he stepped down as a member (and chairman) of the General Council. The General Council has elected Susie Fox (formerly vice chair) as the new chairman and Rod Noel as the new vice chairman. Dave Davis has been assigned as the interim (Jan-Aug 2015) replacement for John until a permanent replacement is elected during General Conference meetings July 26-August 1, 2015. Dave was already attending General Council meetings as the secretary and he will continue to perform this role as well during the interim period.

In her role as chairman, Susie leads the General Council meetings and serves as the primary point of contact and communication for the General Council. As vice chairman, Rod assists the chair as needed, heads up the Disciplinary Committee during General Conference, and jointly works with the chair to produce a summary report back to the Coordinating Leadership Team and Councils following each General Council meeting.

As a group, the General Council addresses the business of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA and Canada between annual conference meetings. This includes providing coordination and oversight for the denominational executives and councils, making financial decisions regarding an integrated budget for the current



year and proposed budget for the coming year, managing completion of action items from the conference business session, providing strategic direction for the denomination, and addressing new items requiring attention.

The members of the General Council are pictured at their February 2015 meeting held at the Seventh Day Baptist church in Daytona Beach, FL. Members are (L to R in picture) Ron Ochs (ex-officio Financial Director), Rob Appel (ex-officio Executive Director), Dave Davis (interim member & secretary), Rod Noel (vice chair), Susie Fox (chair), Dannette Montague, and Dale Thorngate. The next scheduled meeting is May 29-31, 2015 at the First Hopkinton SDB church in Ashaway, RI and will include joint sessions with the Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) on Friday May 29th.

The General Council can be reached at [sdbgeneral-council@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbgeneral-council@seventhdaybaptist.org) and encourages your feedback, questions, or suggestions. SR

## April was a BLUR

*Continued from page 18*

From Brazil I travelled directly to Pastors Conference in Boulder, CO. Dr. Gordon MacDonald was our featured speaker. He was great, but so were our pastors that led a session! I have to shout out, "What a great bunch of Pastors we have!!!" I am so impressed with all of our Pastors; but this group of young ones, they are dynamite! Let's not pour any water on their enthusiastic fire and their willingness to serve.

From Pastors Conference I went to my home in California. My granddaughter turned two on the 26th of April. I visited three campuses while out there with the idea in mind that we will have the 2017 General Conference sessions out there. You heard it here first!



*Dr. Gordon MacDonald was our featured speaker at Pastors Conference*

On May 5th, at 12:03 AM, I arrived back in Janesville. Thirty-three days after I left! April was a great month. A lot was accomplished! But what a blur! SR

## God in a Box

*Continued from page 16*

rejected Him. I think it understands the powerful tendency of sin to echo generation after generation. We know how this operates, even in chemical ways with things like alcohol and drug abuse — my uncle was born with fetal alcohol syndrome and struggled with addiction his whole life. In a particularly profound way, idolatry passes from one generation to another. You worship the god and gods of your fathers, that is how this thing worked. God, as a Father, is not content that you should be trapped in generational idolatry, but administers punishment, as any good father would do, to correct self-destructive and damaging behavior. This is made absolutely clear in the follow-up contrast statement.

### Exodus 20:6

*<sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

Or “thousands of generations...” The math here is hard. If he shows wrath or punishment to three generations...but love to a thousand generations, then all you need is one generation that loves God to every 997 ones that hate God. Certainly the love of God trumps the judgment, right? Since 1000 generations are somewhere on the order of 20,000 years, we should still be riding off the love of all the Biblical greats back to Abraham and Noah...even the garden of Eden, maybe?

### Math is hard.

It should be clear that the overriding prerogative here is God’s desire to show *hesed*, love. (Loving-kindness or, my favorite translation, covenant love and faithfulness). That is his whole desire. So the generation judgment to 3 or 4 generations is God’s refusal to give up on us. He will draw us back however he can, even if that means wrath and punishment. I will take God’s corrective wrath over the hell of life without Him all day every day. His goal always was, always has been, always will be to teach us true worship, worship of him and him alone, in spirit and truth — so that He might show us love, even to a thousand generations. Why is this comforting?

### I am an idolater... but God will teach me true worship.

I turn to other gods...**God will destroy all other gods.** He can and will rip them off the throne of my life. Please do. I put God in a box, for my convenience, for my comfort, so that I can feel like I understand everything...**God will break out of my box.** He will surprise me; he will leave me questioning; and he will strike me again and again with awe. How great is my God? Greater. How big is my God? Bigger. How much does he love me? More.

### Application – God, break out of my box

If the purpose of the 10 commandments is to show me the course of righteousness, what does breaking this commandment say about my relationship with God...and how do I grow?

### Why do I turn to idolatry? Why do I put God in a box?

I put God in a box because his thoughts are not my thoughts; his ways are not my ways; as the heavens are higher than the earth, his ways are higher...and his thoughts are higher...and that is terrifying. I fear what I don’t control and don’t understand. So I prefer my God and gods small enough for me to

control and understand. But...I want to know the real God, not the one I make up. I want to hear and see God as He reveals himself to be...not as I imagine. I want to love and worship the Creator of the Universe...in spirit and in truth, the kind of worshiper he is seeking out. That He might find me, and delight in me, and say “I found one, a worshiper in spirit and in truth.” And that he might show love to me and mine for a thousand generations, for 20,000 years...for eternity. So we might pray this terrifying prayer:

**God tear down my idols.**

**Break out of my box.**

**Teach me to worship you and you alone in Spirit and in truth.**

**Show me more of how and what you really are.**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| E<br>N<br>D | <b>Youth/Adult</b><br>Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.<br><p style="text-align: right;">– 1 Corinthians 16:13-14</p> |
|             | <b>Junior</b><br>Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.<br><p style="text-align: right;">– 1 Corinthians 16:13-14</p>      |
|             | <b>Primary</b><br>Stand firm in the faith.<br><p style="text-align: right;">– 1 Corinthians 16:13</p>   |

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Online at SDB Website: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

Phone: (608) 752-5055

## Youth Sabbath in Shiloh

Youth Sabbath in Shiloh has traditionally been a high point in our church calendar and February 28, 2015, was no exception. There was something for everyone — contemporary music for the young at heart, proud moments for parents and grandparents, and chuckles and lessons for everyone else. Praise choruses were led throughout by Tyler and Bethany Chroniger, and Julia and Joshua Coleman.

A number of clever readings were delivered, including Psalm 100 (“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord”); “Who Is God?” (Creator, everywhere, needed by all); “Before There Was Anything Else...There Was God” (always has been and always will be); “Sharing Your Faith” (Be bold; your story is powerful); “What a GoPro Camera Can Teach Us About Trusting God” (submerged in trouble but remaining in the Case); “The Bible Is Like Dark Chocolate” (You can’t get too much of it); “What Your Phone Can Teach You About Words” (Put a password in your mouth); and “What Language Do You Speak?” (James 3 passage on the use of the tongue). These selections were read by Amy Hemple, Alex Hitchner, Julie Schmidt, Meghan Glaspey, Joshua Coleman, Mackenzie Sloan, Holly Probasco, and Suzanne Glaspey, respectively.

Chance Schmidt then introduced five young men — Frankie Mazza, Liam Probasco, Brandon Glaspey, Jonah Bond and Joshua Coleman — who shared the “5-Finger Prayer Plan”: The Thumb reminds us to pray not only for those closest to us but also our enemies; Pointer represents teachers and healers; Tall finger stands for those in authority over us; Weak fourth finger (according to piano teachers) reminds us of those who are in need; and Pinkie represents those who need our help.

The children’s message, delivered by Cindy DuBois, followed the cell phone theme, i.e., we can call on God in emergencies, but can also talk to Him at other times. The offering was led by a multi-tasking mom, Suzanne Glaspey, as she called upon the ushers, invited the congregation to give, played the offertory on the piano, and delivered the blessing on the offering.



What Shiloh Youth Program would be complete without a “Probasco Production,” written and directed by our jack-of-all-trades Conference President, Bill Probasco? “Dr. NewHeart Will See You Now” featured Liam Probasco as Disney Therapist NewHeart with the following scenes enacted on a “couch”:

**Scene 1:** “Silence is Golden” Anger Management — Darth Vader (Chance Schmidt)

**Scene 2:** “Princess Support Group” — Cinderella (Mackenzie Sloan), Snow White (Meghan Glaspey) and Belle (Sadie Davis) bemoaning such catastrophes as a lost slipper, hiding by day, and a “beastly” prince. Conclusion: “Happily Ever After begins with me.”

**Scene 3:** “I Am Somebody” Self-Esteem Class — Star Wars clones Josh Coleman, Brandon Glaspey, Frankie Mazza, Jonah Bond and Luke Coleman declaring, “I can be different,” yet donning identical masks, blue jeans, T-shirts and ties.

**Scene 4:** “The Cure for Wicked Ways” with Holly Probasco as the Wicked Queen who is much too evil to ever be forgiven. Dr. NewHeart, of course, counsels her on the message of forgiveness, which she eventually accepts and feels “Snow White,” even though the message in the mirror indicates she is not even in the top five of “fairest in the land.”

For over 275 years the Shiloh SDB Church has praised God not only for the children and youth He has given us, but also those adults who have guided them. This year’s production was made possible through the efforts of the following adults: Tyler Chroniger, Bethany Chroniger, Julia Coleman, Suzanne Glaspey, Bill and Val Probasco, and Julie Schmidt.

— Donna S. Bond, Correspondent



## OBITUARIES

**BENTLEY** — W. Robert Bentley passed into eternal life on January 13, 2015, at the Eddy Heritage House in Troy, NY

William Robert Bentley was born in Berlin, NY, on February 15, 1922, to the late Eva Satterlee Bentley and Arlie Caleb Bentley. Robert, "Bob," lived almost all his life on the farm which had been in his family since 1769. He was a dairy farmer and served as president of the United Dairy Cooperative. He was town supervisor and a volunteer fireman for the town he loved, Berlin, NY. As a county legislator in the early 1960s, he cast the deciding vote to build Hudson Valley Community College. In 1963, Robert received an environmental award for establishing the first Greenbelt in Rensselaer County. Trout Unlimited was granted permission to improve trout habitat in the Little Hoosick River.

Bob enjoyed reading biographies and was a longtime member of the Berlin Historical Society. He traveled to many countries and states with his family. His wife, Eleanor Garner Bentley, predeceased him.

In 2009, with his daughter, Ann Randall, "Randi," Bob donated Bentley Cavern to the Northeastern Caving Society.

Bob will be missed by his daughter, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Berlin, NY, on July 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM. Robert was a lifetime member and had served as treasurer of that church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Berlin Fire Department, the Berlin 4th of July Parade Committee or to the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Berlin.

## NEW MEMBERS

### ALFRED STATION SDB CHURCH

Alfred Station, NY  
Rev. Kenneth Chroniger

Joined after baptism  
Abigail Noel

### MIAMI SDB CHURCH

Miami, FL  
Andrew Samuels, pastor

Joined after testimony  
Daphney Ross  
Lydia Forbes  
Lorraine Thompson

**REED** — Mary Ellen Reed passed away Friday, October 10, 2014, at her home under the care of her family, Hospice of Jefferson Co., NY, and her dedicated care givers.

Mary Ellen Reed was born January 10, 1923, daughter of Hannah and Dechois Greene of Adams Center, NY. Her siblings, Evelyn (Dot) Avery and Gerald Greene preceded her in death.

Mary Ellen attended school in Adams Center and was known for her musical talent. Mary Ellen started playing piano and organ at the age of 8. In high school she played for weddings and over 100 ceremonies of different denominations. Mary Ellen attended the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY. She participated in the Crane Chorus and the Phoenix Club.

She married Chauncey M. Reed on September 9, 1942. They lived in Adams Center where they owned and operated a dairy farm until Chauncey's retirement in 1979. Chauncey died in 1989. Chauncey and Mary Ellen also owned a home in Englewood, FL and spent retirement winters there.

Mary Ellen gave piano lessons and, through the years, she was, organist at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Adams Center, the Rotonda Community Church, Rotonda, FL, and the Adams Village Baptist Church in Adams. She retired in 2010 after 77 years of music ministry.

Mary Ellen is survived by her children, Connie (Carl) Snow, W. Lafayette, IN, Merrick (Pam) Reed, Dan (Joanne) Reed, Alan Reed and Mason Reed all of Adams Center. She has 10 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

The funeral service was, October 16 at the Adams Baptist Church, with Rev. Toby Schilling and Rev. Bud Masters officiating. Burial in the Union Cemetery, Adams Center, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Union Cemetery, PO Box 212, Adams Center, NY., 13606, South Jefferson Historical Assoc., 29 E. Church St., Adams NY., 13605 or the Adams Village Baptist Church, 24 E. Church St., Adams, NY, 13605.

## SEEKING CAMP DIRECTOR

Rancho Ybarra, a Christian camp and conference center located in the Angeles National Forest just outside of Los Angeles is seeking a full-time camp director to manage the camp which is open year round.

For more details please contact:

Rocky Peterson  
(818) 353-2423

## My 30-hour (stead)fast!

Many youth groups have participated in 30-hour fasts. It is a way of experiencing hunger like some underprivileged individuals do, as well as exploring the spiritual benefits of fasting as mentioned in the Bible. I, however, got to experience a 30-hour steadfast this past May. My son Liam recently "crossed over" into Boy Scouts. His first camping trip was to Gettysburg, PA, during the first weekend of May. Also scheduled that same weekend were the Alleghany Association meetings in Little Genesee, NY. So, after seeing my son off to bed in his tent at 11 PM Friday night somewhere near Gettysburg, I drove two hours north before finally settling for the night (or was that settling for the morning?). Awake by 6:30 AM to get ready for the day, I was off again Sabbath morning, driving the remaining three hours in time to reach Little Genesee before Morning Worship. I was honored to bring the message to the Association, well-represented by at least five different churches. Following a wonderful lunch (both food and fellowship!), I shared with congregants what is planned for Conference in July. Upon finishing my Conference presentation, I was back on the road for five more hours in time to meet my son's troop

as they were eating dessert (a well-timed arrival!). The Scouts finally headed for their tents that night around 11:30 PM. I managed to sleep...in my sleeping bag...in a tent...on the ground, for almost four hours. So, between midnight Friday night and 6 AM Sunday morning, I managed to physically and mentally fatigue myself. But you know what? I realized I hadn't "spiritually" fatigued myself. I shared in a wonderful worship service with the good folks at Little Genesee. There was awesome fellowship; a chance to reconnect with old friends; opportunity to meet new ones; share about conference activities; and just feel at peace with God and my fellow SDBs. The long rides gave me an opportunity to enjoy backroads and wonderful scenery. To my surprise, the Boy Scouts, on Sunday morning, worked on their "a Scout is reverent" motto and held a short church service which Liam helped lead. I was reminded, in my exhausted state, the words of 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." Being at our weakest, or most exhausted, is the perfect opportunity to realize: when we can't stand up, God's steadfast strength stands out! [SR](#)



### Open Ministry Position: Assistant Pastor

First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton  
Ashaway, Rhode Island

Part-time position, salary is \$1000/month,  
15 flexible hours per week

Come and join a growing Seventh Day Baptist Church! We need an energetic minister to respond to God's call. Bring your gifts and talents to expand our ministry in the community. God is moving here and people are responding. These are exciting times for our church!

#### Responsibilities:

- Primarily Youth Ministry with some Adult Programs
- Christian Education, Discipleship, Sabbath School, Bible Studies
- Youth events, Youth Missions, Youth Group Meetings
- Assist Senior Pastor with other pastoral work including preaching, teaching, visitation, etc. in accordance with time allowed and spiritual gifts

#### Requirements:

- High School Diploma
- Some College Education
- Bible College, Theological training, Seminary preferred (may be done while serving here)
- Gifts in Leadership, Administration, Teaching would be ideal
- Experience in youth ministry and/or education would be helpful
- Musical ability is always helpful

#### Submit Resume and cover letter by 6/30/15

Reply by mail to: PO Box 438, Ashaway, RI 02804

Reply by email to: [Ashawaysdb@yahoo.com](mailto:Ashawaysdb@yahoo.com)

For more details and information, contact Pastor Dave Stall at [pastordavestall@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavestall@gmail.com) or (401) 377-2123  
[www.hopkintonsdb.org](http://www.hopkintonsdb.org)

# Conference Highlights

Wondering what to expect this year at Conference? Here are some highlights of what you can expect:

## STEADFAST EDUCATION:

**"Debt and Saving & Investing" Seminars** — a two-part seminar discussing the dangers of debt as well as sound saving and investing using Biblical principles.

**"Walk Chosen" Seminar** — the Women's Board invites you to experience a mini-retreat at conference. God loves you exactly how you are! Participate and come away with materials to run one at your own church!

**Seminar on "Making Our Churches Safe Places for the Victims of Sexual Abuse"** — a panel discussion involving counseling professionals and survivors of abuse to provide guidance for churches looking to minister better to those dealing with the aftermath of abuse.

**Prayers & Squares Ministry** — learn about how to organize a prayer quilt ministry in your church!

## STEADFAST MISSIONS:

**Mark Hamilton**, of Younglife Belarus & the Baltic States, will be sharing his experiences with international missions on Tuesday evening. Living in Communist Belarus, Mark's communications were monitored by the government who would eventually have him expelled from the country. Mark will also be sharing during Wednesday's seminar sessions about cross-cultural and foreign language missions.

**Rev. Dave Bailey** had a vision for national missions and founded Ranch Hope 52 years ago to minister to at-risk boys in South Jersey. Today, Ranch Hope houses nearly 90 boys who otherwise would be in juvenile detention, jail, or worse. Rev. Bailey is a near legend in Southern New Jersey, and combines humor with a strong message everyone will enjoy.

## STEADFAST ENDURANCE:

**Gospel Feet 5k RUN/WALK** is scheduled for Friday morning and will benefit churches in Zambia. Prizes will be awarded!

## STEADFAST ENTERTAINMENT:

**The Women's SDB Basketball game!** Calling all female pastors, pastor wives, Sabbath School teachers and lay leaders! Before the Youth vs. Pastors basketball game Wednesday night, we will have a WSDB basketball game between our lady leaders, present versus future!

**Bible Quizzing** — churches and/or associations are encouraged to field a team of 5-6 players who know their Bible! You'll be quizzed on the book of Philippians (KJV). The "main event" will be Thursday night.

**Get ready for Church Family Feud!** 100 SDBs have been surveyed, so come out Thursday night for the final round and see who comes out on top!

**Church softball** — we will have preliminary games early in the week, followed by a "championship game" Thursday afternoon. Can your church, or sister churches, field a team worthy of playing on our SDB Field of Dreams? Play Ball!

## STEADFAST EXPERIENCES:

**Come see "Joseph" at Sight & Sound of Lancaster.**

Tickets are available for the Friday afternoon showing on a first-come, first-served basis. All tickets must be paid for by **June 30th** to hold your seat!

**Tour-on-your-own-schedule for Ephrata Cloister!**

Discounted tickets will be available at registration.



July 26 - August 1, 2015  
SDB General Conference Sessions

Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, PA



# The 3rd annual Gospel Feet 5K

Join us on July 31st at 7:00 am on a course that runs through the beautiful Lancaster Bible College campus. The race theme is "ties" — come to the race wearing your best half-windsor, bow ties, and scarves to support professional training.



Looking to run race for a good cause? The 3rd annual Gospel Feet 5K will support the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society ([www.sdbmissions.org](http://www.sdbmissions.org)) and its goal to train pastors and leaders in Zambia. Fundraising of only \$150 will support training for one Zambian Pastor for one term. The overall fundraising goal for the project is \$20,000 — imagine the impact this will have in Africa!



Prizes will be handed out for the best fund raisers, race times, and much more!

Register for the General Conference 5K walk/run, register for the 1K event, or just make a donation to help provide desperately needed disciple making training for Zambia SDB leaders.

Register online:

[www.active.com](http://www.active.com) (Seventh Day Baptist Gospel Feet 5K & 1K 7:00am)

[www.sdbmissions.org](http://www.sdbmissions.org)

