

# Sabbath Recorder

I pray...

No answer!

I ask...

No answer!

I plead...

No answer!

Why?

Why is God silent?





### The Little Girl With No Foot

You can see the little girl in this drawing has only one foot. But your mind will give her that other foot because you know it is really there. Your imagination will also have a story about this little girl. She is out in the field of flowers where she picked those in her hand. She is taking them home to her mother. She is in her home on a nice carpeted floor. She is walking down the sidewalk taking them to her grandmother's house. She is going to give them to her friend, to a teacher, or put them in her own bedroom. You can't see where she is going. But you know she can get there because you have given her that other foot and she can walk or run. So, when you can't see God, you can't hear His voice, why do you think He is silent and ignoring you? You know He is there just like this little girl has another foot and He is going to do something – like this little girl with no foot.

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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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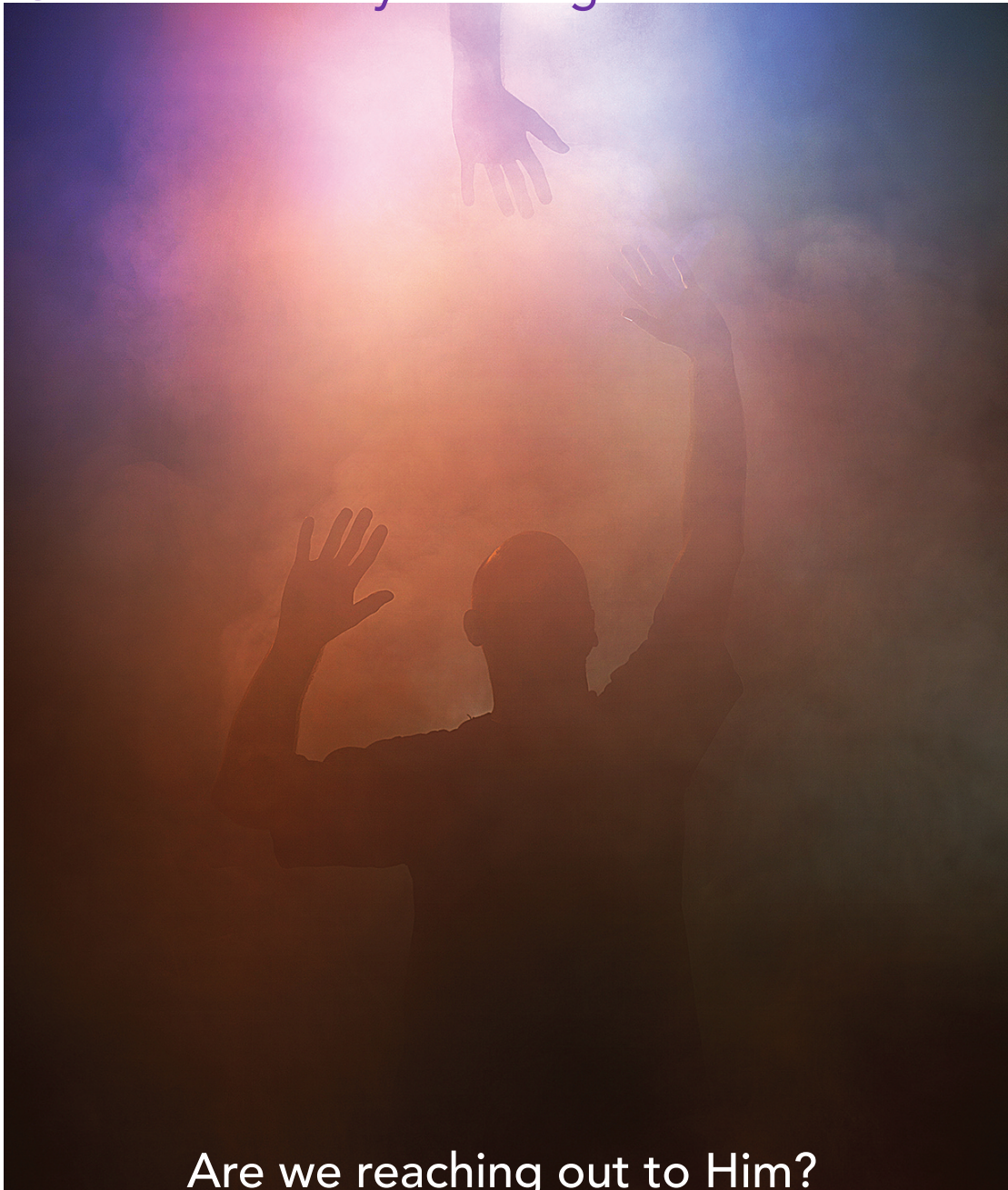
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God is constantly reaching out to each of us.



Are we reaching out to Him?

Has your spouse (or a close friend) ever given you "the silent treatment"? You know what I mean. Because that person is angry at you, or extremely frustrated with you, s/he decides to withdraw verbal communication from you. Of course we all know this is a very immature and counterproductive way to behave, but as long as there are humans there will be the silent treatment.

What about God? Does God ever give us the silent treatment? Some people say that He does. They say that, for whatever reason, sometimes God chooses to shut down His communication with us. Have you ever experienced this yourself?

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My answer to the question is a definite “No.” No, God does not give us the silent treatment. There are many reasons I believe this, but let me share with you just three of them.

First, there’s God’s written word, the Bible. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that God speaks to us through the words of Scripture. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that *“the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”* Every time we read the Bible, God is actively speaking to us. We may not feel Him speaking as we’re reading, but that’s a moot point. God’s word is God’s word, whether we feel it or not. With this in mind, the question isn’t “Is God failing to speak to me?” The question is “Am I failing to listen to God?” God is never silent. Just open His word and see for yourself.

Second, there’s God’s creation. In Psalm 19:1-4, for example, David states that *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”* Let me challenge you to do this: find a patch of God’s creation, whether it be a patch of sky, a forest, an ocean, a mountain lake, or a desert. Take a solid hour and do two things: look and listen. As you’re looking at His creation, listen to what He’s telling you about Himself, about yourself, or about something else.

The apostle Paul also looked and listened. In Romans 1:20, he said that *“since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”*

This is what theologians call “general revelation.” Wikipedia defines general revelation in this way: “In theology, general revelation, or natural revelation, refers to knowledge about God and spiritual matters, discovered through natural means, such as observation of nature (the physical universe), philosophy and reasoning.” God is never silent. Just step out into nature and see/hear for yourself.

Third, there’s an amazing gift that God has given us: eternal life. Not quite sure whether you have this life? The apostle John talks about it this way: *“This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* (1 John 5:11-13) If you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the one who died in your place, for your sins, then guess what: You have eternal life.

This begs the question, “What is eternal life?” Jesus answered this question very clearly when He was praying to His Father. He said to him, *“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”* (John 17:3) Eternal life is knowing God. This makes sense, because the Bible teaches us about a God who wants to be known by His people. In fact, God has such a deep longing to connect with His people that He sacrificed His own Son to make this connection possible. If this is true, God would never hold back His communication from us, because in order for us to know God, we must hear from God.

We believe in and worship a God who longs to connect with His people. This God would never give us the silent treatment. Instead, He is constantly speaking to us, through His word, His creation, and in other ways. God is constantly reaching out to each of us. Are we reaching out to Him? [SR](#)

by Pastor Scott Hausrath  
Seventh Day Baptist Church  
North Loup, NE

# When God Is Silent

- **He must pray in the right direction**

(i.e., to God the Father not anyone else).

*For the singular devotion of the disciple, who appeals “to [his] Father” in heaven, God will “reward” him. Pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.... This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven...” (Matthew 6:6, 9)*

- **He must pray in the right condition**

(i.e., with persistent obedience not occasional compliance).

*For the submissive lifestyle of the pious, who “does His will,” God will “listen” to him. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. (John 9:31)*

- **He must pray with the right motivation** (i.e., for divine satisfaction not personal gratification).

*For the godly desire of the selfless, who wants only what accords with “His will,” God will grant his request. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

According to what the scriptures teach,  
God answers the petitionary prayer  
of the righteous believer that  
meets three conditions:

**These three conditions** are what God requires from His people in order for Him to heed (not merely hear) their prayers. When God does not answer, it is because the individual praying has violated one or more of these conditions. Absent any violation, God will answer the prayer of His people. That was David’s confidence: *“In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.”* (Psalm 86:7), and that is God’s commitment: *“He will call upon me, and I will answer him.”* (Psalm 91:15)

What we interpret as silence on God’s part is generally a misunderstanding on our part, often a failure to realize that His schedule is different from our schedule. In other words, His not answering is really His not answering now rather than not at all. God has His own timetable which may not accord with our timetable:

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:8-9) We must not equate silence with denial. So, “when God is silent” is actually “when God seems silent.”

While there are prayers the Lord does not answer (see above), that is not the case for the righteous believer. Isaiah writes: *“As soon as he hears, he will answer you”* (Isaiah 30:19), and God promises even greater alacrity: *“Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear”* (Isaiah 65:24).

Nevertheless, a delay may give the impression that He is not paying attention. There are, however, at least three reasons that could account for a delay, reasons to consider in any attempt to understand what God has in mind. The believer must also remember that his situation is not unique. Others have struggled with this same uncertainty:

*O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer.*  
(Psalm 22:2)

*To you I call, O LORD my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me.*  
(Psalm 28:1)

*O LORD...be not silent. Do not be far from me, O Lord.*  
(Psalm 35:22)

*Hear my prayer, O LORD...be not deaf to my weeping.*  
(Psalm 39:12)

*O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still.*  
(Psalm 83:1)

*O God, whom I praise, do not remain silent.*  
(Psalm 109:1)

Despite the struggle—and prayer can be a struggle—the believer must not abandon his confidence in the Lord’s goodness. As another psalmist wrote: *“God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me”* (Psalm 66:19-20).

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## There are at least three reasons that may account for God's apparent lack of response when we pray:

- **When God seems silent, He may be *testing* us**, not for His benefit but for ours, that we may know the strength of our commitment to Him, that it does not rely on some artificial or superficial connection to Him. David expressed his concern for God's delay in Psalm 13:

*How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I wrestle with my  
thoughts and every day have sor-  
row in my heart? How long will  
my enemy triumph over me?  
Look on me and answer, O  
LORD my God. Give light to  
my eyes, or I will sleep in  
death; my enemy will say, "I  
have overcome him," and  
my foes will rejoice when I  
fall. But I trust in your unfa-  
iling love; my heart rejoices in  
your salvation. I will sing to  
the LORD, for he has been good  
to me. (Psalm 13:1-6)*

What particular trouble David was facing is unknown. In any event, he saw it as a test of his devotion, an opportunity to express his commitment to God, and he composed this poem accordingly, presenting his experience as a way to assess his commitment, a commitment that holds firm.

- **When God seems silent, He may be *teaching* us**. There may even be an explanation that accompanies the divine response, as Paul learns:

*To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)*

Despite the impression Paul's account gives, that his three petitions were closely spaced, they might actually have occurred over an extended period. Whatever the apostle's problem was (e.g., an eye ailment), he probably suffered with it for some time and discussed the matter with God for some time as well. Therefore, this answer, when Paul finally receives it, may be a relief to him, for he now knows that his suffering has purpose.

- **When God seems silent, He may be *tempering* us, preparing us for what lies ahead**. Moreover, the delay may have nothing to do with us, as Daniel discovered:

*In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia,  
a revelation was given to Daniel....  
I looked up and there before me  
was a man dressed in linen....  
"Do not be afraid, Daniel.  
Since the first day that you  
set your mind to gain un-  
derstanding and to humble  
yourself before your God,  
your words were heard,  
and I have come in re-  
sponse to them. But the  
prince of the Persian king-  
dom resisted me twenty-one  
days. Then Michael, one of  
the chief princes, came to help  
me, because I was detained  
there with the king of Persia. Now  
I have come to explain to you what  
will happen to your people in the future,  
for the vision concerns a time yet to come."*

(Daniel 10:1, 5, 12-14)

After seventy years, the Babylonian exile was over, and God's people would soon be returning to their ancestral home. Daniel, however, would not be joining them. He would remain in Babylon and continue the work God had for him there. This may have been a disappointment for Daniel, but it was not unexpected. He had been anticipating, even praying toward this event daily for quite some time (6:10). Therefore, the angel's message, when Daniel finally receives it, may be a relief to him, for he now knows his role in God's plan. Daniel's experience also illustrates how important it is that we "*pray and not give up*" (Luke 18:1).

These three passages demonstrate how God's "silence" may actually benefit us. Whether testing, teaching, or tempering, any apparent lack of a response to our prayer on God's part does not mean that He has forgotten us or is ignoring us. Quite the contrary, despite appearances, He remains involved with our lives, using us for His purpose, which will produce for us "*an eternal glory*."  
(2 Corinthians 4:17) SR

**Any apparent lack  
of a response to our prayer  
on God's part does not mean  
that He has forgotten us  
or is ignoring us.**



# The “Kenyan Konnection” Revisited

by Steve James

Pastor, Verona SDB Church, NY

*In June of 2015, I had the privilege of being part of a missions trip to Kenya. I want to share with you God's good hand in this so that you may rejoice in what He is doing in this world; reflect on what you are doing in this world; and resolve to be a part of what God wants to do in this world through you.*

## The Past

The Kenyan SDB Conference began in 1973. The church I am blessed to pastor, the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, became involved in this work in about 2002. Two church members, Garth and Mayola Warner, visited the leaders of the Conference while on a trip to visit with friends serving in the Rift Valley region with African Inland Missions.

The Warners came back to Verona and shared their experiences with our church (as well as with our own Conference through a *Sabbath Recorder* article) and encouraged us to enter into a supportive role with the Kenyan Conference — which we did. This relationship continued for almost a decade. As Verona's pastor, I was supportive of their involvement, but never really “owned” the mission personally.

In 2009, I began to take a more “hands-on” role through entering into a relationship with Pastor Benard Moses, leader of the Kenyan Conference, through emails, phone calls and live chatting on Facebook. I sought to understand the work better through these exchanges, as well as to serve Benard as a mentor of sorts.

Ultimately this led to my being sent by the Verona church, along with the support of the SDB Missionary Society and others throughout our Conference, on a month-long missions trip to Kenya in June of 2012. This was a trip that I took by myself. I lived with Pastor Moses in his humble dwelling and served the Kenyan churches and leaders for approximately 30 days. The purpose was five-fold: to experience life as they live it; to equip the leaders; to encourage the laity; to evangelize the lost; and to establish a stronger link between their Conference and our own (and also with the Conferences of the SDB World Federation).

## A Promise

Having never been overseas, nor on a missions trip of any kind, this experience was totally brand-new to me. I wanted to be used of God for the purposes mentioned

previously. I feel that His name was hallowed, His will was done and His kingdom did “come” in a variety of ways through what took place.

It was truly a blessed, and at times stressed, four weeks. As a result, my life has been forever changed. The life of the Verona church, when it comes to missions, has been deeply affected. And the life of the Kenyan Conference has been greatly impacted.

Special relationships were formed; some foundational steps were taken to lift the hearts and hopes of both the leaders and the congregations; and a promise was made.

While some have said that four weeks was a long time — it wasn't long enough to do enough. Both the leaders, the churches, and I all realized that we were just getting started. Seeds had been planted that would need further watering, cultivation and the blessing of God in order to grow and flourish into all that God desired.

And so I promised that at some point I would come back, and I wouldn't come back alone.

## Partnership

I returned to the U.S. and was blessed to be able to share my experiences with my church, as well as with the Alfred Station SDB Church and with our Conference. Throughout this time, others personally expressed an interest in going with me the next time. This was encouraging as I knew that there was more to be done — and it was more than just one person could do.

While I maintained an ongoing and sometimes daily connection with Pastor Benard, and while our church continued their ongoing supportive role with the Kenyan Conference, I focused back in on my role as a pastor — which is my heart's passion. However, in the back of my mind was the promise I had made to the Kenyan people. I knew that at some point there would be a trip back.

During 2014, through conversations with Clint Brown, as well as with my wife and another member of our church, it was becoming obvious that God was putting together a team for a return trip. I was hearing of others who wanted to be used of God wherever He wanted to

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use them on a short-term missions trip. It was becoming clear that His plan was to work in them and through them to serve in Kenya. I was soon asked if I would lead this team.

We were a mix of unique individuals: three were in their 20s and three were in their 50s. With the exception of my wife and a young lady from our church, none of us knew each other. We were all unique in our experiences as well as in how we expressed ourselves. We came from various parts of the country: upstate New York, southern Florida, and the great state of Texas.

Yet, with all of this diversity, under the graceful and wise leadership of both Garfield Miller and Clint Brown (through the means of emails and online team video meetings), these individuals, as unique as snowflakes, were being formed by God's incredible hands into a "snowball." He was going to roll it into Kenya to squeeze refreshing drops of His goodness into many lives for His glory.

### Purposes

The purpose for this return trip took shape based upon the "shape" of those who made up the team. It became apparent that God wanted to further equip the leaders and encourage the laity through the ministry of His Word — so He called Kory Langley with his gifts of pastoral teaching and leadership. God wanted to bless the Kenyan children with His Word, His joy and His love — so He called Amanda Langley, who had teaching and crafting gifts; and Caroline Snyder, whose sweet, loving heart was as big as the ocean we had to cross. It appeared that God wanted to bless the hearts of the people with the musical heart and art that He had gifted Marleigh Fiacco with. God wanted to equip and encourage the women of the churches with practical skills that would help support their families as well as their churches — so He called my wife, Debbie, to share her gift of sewing. I was to serve as the team leader, in addition to using the gifts God had given me in whatever way He saw fit.

While these were the purposes we sensed going in, God had additional purposes that we were yet to realize — purposes not only for the people we were going overseas to serve, but purposes and plans affecting each of us.

### Problems

The purposes we sensed as being from God all looked good on paper. However, when one embarks on such an undertaking, there will always be problems that take place. These are also a part of God's purpose. When an undertaking such as a missions trip involves a team — those dynamics multiply.

There were changes in some of "our" plans. The scope of ministry to the children and through music turned out to be less than what was projected due to school schedules and other factors. Amanda and Marleigh became ill for a brief



time, resulting in “nurse Caroline” serving them while Kory and I filled in on a planned children’s afternoon. Debbie had a bout of bronchitis that took her voice, resulting in Amanda helping her with the sewing times. Marleigh’s glasses were permanently lost towards the end of the trip — resulting in us guiding her as needed. Debbie badly sprained her calf muscle, hampering her mobility — resulting in us assisting her as we moved about the country.

Power outages, unusual foods, interesting encounters with the local people, and long, bumpy trips were also things we encountered. And yet — all of these “problems” were part of God’s purposes for our trip, as much as all of the praises that we experienced.

### Praises

Time of teaching and preaching, using specially-provided leadership Bibles, greatly equipped and encouraged the leaders and people. Crafts, teaching, and silly songs brought many children great joy. Special songs touched hearts. Practical sewing skills lifted spirits and brought a sense of community. Expressions of love, care and joy bathed many of the moments we had as we gathered with groups of children, with churches, and with an HIV-AIDS community of believers.

We even had a “day” to ourselves where we enjoyed a “game park” (a zoo), some local cuisine and a leaky boat-ride along the shore of Lake Victoria with hippos swimming close by.

Send contributions for missions projects to:  
Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society  
19 Hillside Ave.  
Ashaway, Rhode Island 02804

### Progress

When we left Kenya after just a little over a week of being “on the ground” serving the people, even though it was a team effort — we came away feeling like there is still more to be done.

However . . . we praise God for the fruits of His goodness that are being produced to this day! The leadership Bibles provided are being used regularly — and more of these are needed to further increase the impact of God’s Word. An orphanage ministry is being birthed through the efforts of Caroline Snyder, her husband, the Kenyan Conference leaders, and the Missionary Society. Plans to bring Benard and his wife, Dorcas, to the U.S. are underway with the hopes of having them here for Conference in Houghton and to visit the respective churches represented by our missions team. An electric sewing machine, along with many supplies and instructions for non-electric sewing projects left in Kenya, continue to be utilized by Dorcas and others as they increase their skills.

### Pray - Provide - Participate!

In closing, as the “point person” for the Kenyan Conference on behalf of the Missionary Society, as well as the “official” ambassador to you on behalf of the Kenyan Conference, I would encourage you to pray for the work of our SDB brothers and sisters there. I would encourage you to seek ways to provide for their work, whether with financial support through the Missionary Society, or with practical things such as Maxwell Leadership Bibles and sewing supplies. And I would encourage you to personally participate in serving this Conference on a short-term missions trip with the gifts God has given you! Who knows? Perhaps I will have the privilege of teaming up with you in the near future!  SR



### The 2016 MULTIPLY Church Development Conference

is open to anyone who desires to see renewal and revitalization in his church or desires to see new SDB churches in North America. We will be combining our own SDB learning cohort with the **MULTIPLY** Conference put on by **Frontline Church Planting** in Colorado Springs to learn from missional church leaders and each other during this weekend.

**Registration Website:**

**[tiny.cc/MULTIPLY2016](http://tiny.cc/MULTIPLY2016)**

**Registration deadline is September 19**

Registration is free.

Lodging is available for \$75 for 3 nights on a first come, first served basis.

Your only additional cost is travel to and from Colorado Springs.

Contact information:

John Pethtel, Director of Church Development

(cell) 304-629-9823 or [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Is it Safe to Go on Missions?

A couple weeks ago I was getting my hair cut at our downtown barbershop in Westerly, RI. I had opted for my usual barber and was having one of our normal conversations about travel, missions, and following Jesus in different cultures. Suddenly, the barber at the neighboring chair piped in, “Where are you going? Mozambique? Is that *really* safe?!?” Surprised, that he was even listening to us, I answered hastily something about it was not necessarily safe in many places that I went, but the people I am generally visiting are interested in keeping me alive and well. So I have a higher degree of confidence in my well-being than many might in those regions.

Later, I reflected on how his question demonstrates a lot of our perspectives when making decisions about doing what God calls us to do. It makes sense to me that in this world with twenty-four hour access to news and entertainment about war, disease, crime, natural disasters, and terrorism, that we become preoccupied with our safety. We are reminded all the time that this world is truly not a safe place, and has not been since Eden. Living has been a terminal condition for pretty much everyone who has come before us. Also, our default setting seems to be positioned towards self-preservation, so it is not surprising that when we consider our actions, our first inclination is to heavily load the scales of our choices away from danger.

The problem with that attitude is, as new creations in Christ Jesus, we are instructed to not worry or be concerned with the troubles of this world. We are called to have a peace that is beyond this world’s understanding. Our choices are to be skewed towards sacrifice and love for others — not the love of our own flesh. God is to be the source of our confidence. We are to be cognizant, through constant communion with Him, that He is there to guide and protect us because He loves us as a good father loves his little children.



As it turned out, this weekend our pastor pointed out that the passage of scripture in Matthew 11 regarding taking on Jesus’ yoke followed several instances in scripture of people being confused or fearful. He noted that if we are yoked with Jesus, we have Christ both guiding our direction and sharing the burden with us. Therefore, walking with Him should give us a great sense of security regardless of the road ahead or struggles we face.

**“I am more afraid of living a life where I am not being obedient to God’s call, than the danger of turning my back to Him and living in an illusion of security where I am responsible for protecting myself alone.”**

As usually happens, as soon as I left the barbershop, the response I wished I had said came to mind. Though it is probably roughly a quote from some missionary or minister that I cannot identify at this time, it really fit what I was feeling. I wanted to rewind and say to him, “I am more afraid of living a life where I am not being obedient to God’s call, than the danger of turning my back to Him and living in an illusion of security where I am responsible for protecting myself alone.” Now that I am beginning to understand who is ultimately in charge of this world, I am simply not brave enough to reject Him and try to cling to and protect this temporary life on my own. This does not mean I will never get concerned or will not find myself clinging to the life I have placed back into His hands. To quote 2 Timothy 1:12 and the Daniel Whittle hymn, “*I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*” Or at least with the Holy Spirit’s help we can strive for minds and hearts that flow in that direction. SR



# Missionary Society Elects New Board



At the annual meeting of the SDB Missionary Society members in March 2016, a new Board of Managers was elected to guide the Society in helping to spread the Gospel globally for the next year. A debt of gratitude is owed to those who served previously.

Danny Lee (above left) is now the new President, with 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents Levi Bond (top right) and Miriam Berg (bottom right). Executive Committee Members are Mark Lewis (Treasurer), Clinton Brown (Executive Director) and Kathleen Hughes (Secretary). May this Board's tenure be blessed.

New and returning Board Members gathered at the office of the Society for Vision Casting and Board meeting on April 23–24. The objective was plotting a way forward and starting towards the desired outcome.

Please keep this ministry on your prayer list and feel free to make contact with the Society's office with your ideas for the ministry.

Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society  
19 Hillside Ave.  
Ashaway, RI 02804

Phone: (401) 596-4326  
(during normal business hours)

## Expected Conduct at General Conference

*This must be read, then noted  
online or at the end of the paper form on p. 16*

We desire to maintain our witness for Christ. Part of this witness is our ability to live as a community that recognizes the responsibility to think of others. One such responsibility is a demonstration of respect for those who need a good night's sleep. We also want to spare our people from social pressures that might encourage inappropriate activity.

1. Local rules of the school and facility are binding on all who attend Conference unless changed by the Host Committee or the General Council.

2. All socializing between males and females (except husband and wife) shall be limited to public areas, or personal rooms (except during quiet hours) in which the doors are completely open.

3. Quiet hours are from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. each night of Conference. During quiet hours no excessive noise will be permitted. No talking will be allowed in hallways, and no music (such as instrumental, vocal, or from a stereo) will be permitted except where used with personal headphones. Quiet talking will be permitted in lounges, or in personal rooms with the doors closed (same gender only and spouses).

4. A Disciplinary Council shall be established before Conference convenes.

5. The Disciplinary Council shall meet at the call of the chairman to deal with infractions of these conduct guidelines. Discussion shall be confidential and shall include input from the person(s) involved.

- A first offense of the rules will result in a written notice of warning. In the case of a youth being in violation, copies of the warning shall be delivered to both the youth and sponsor.

- A second offense of the rules will require that a violator (and sponsor, if appropriate) meet with the Disciplinary Council to work out an agreement of what type of service or restitution would be an appropriate consequence for the violation. In the case of youth offenders, the sponsor will also monitor the service of the youth.

- A third offense is punishable by a fine of \$50. In the case of a youth offender who is unable to pay, the youth's sponsor will be responsible for the fine.

- If the offense warrants, violators will be sent home at their own expense (or the sponsor's expense in the case of a youth).

6. All unmarried young people under 18 years of age will need to have their own parents, or a sponsor over 25 years of age, attend the Conference. ALL YOUNG PEOPLE will be assigned to rooms on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsors.

7. Parents or sponsors assume full responsibility for the conduct and discipline of the young people whose sponsorship they accept. Such responsibility does not extend to direct supervision when youth are engaged in a scheduled Conference activity.

***PLEASE SIGN this understanding on the online form  
or on p. 16 of the paper form in this issue.***

**2016 CONFERENCE**  
**July 31 – August 6**  
**Registration**  
**Instructions**

Houghton College  
One Willard Ave  
Houghton, NY 14744  
(585) 567-9647  
www.houghton.edu/summer-camps

**Registrar: Peggy Chroniger**  
**(607) 587-8386**  
host.committee.chair@gmail.com  
Forms to: Peggy Chroniger  
5940 Rt 21  
Alfred Station, NY 14803

- **ONLINE REGISTRATION ends June 30!** Go to [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) to register on-line. You may pay now or upon arrival. It's very helpful if you can pay early, either mailing a check or using PayPal. You may also use PayPal or credit card on campus. Just bring your sign-in information.
- **On-Campus Registration** Follow the signs to the **Campus Center**. Begins Sunday July 31, at 11 a.m. to late evening.
- **Registration Mon.-Thur.** is 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. & after the evening service to 10 p.m. **Fri.** is 9 a.m. to noon, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. & after the evening service to 10 p.m. **Sabbath Day** is 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **If you are coming just for Sabbath, Aug. 6,** please pre-register. We will ask you to register on-site with a donation, so you will be covered by Conference insurance, and we can have an accurate count.
- **About the Form** ~ One family per form ~ One form per family.  
**(1)** Please list **all names** as you want them to appear on the official name tags, last name first. Ages must be given for those under 18, as well as last school grade completed as of June 2016. First-time Conference attendees, please identify yourself. There is **no charge** for children 0-4 years. Please indicate if you plan to use the **NURSERY**. **ALL NAMES must be listed** to ensure that everyone is covered by insurance.
- **Special Requests:** e.g., if need handicapped access; willing to be in "higher tolerance" dorm; want a Townhouse.

**(2a) & (2b) FULL WEEK RATES:**

On Campus or Off Campus

**(3a) & (3b) DAILY RATES:**

On Campus or Off Campus

On-Campus packages **include** the registration fee. For daily rates, please indicate days attending.

- **Registration for all:** Everyone attending (ages 5 & up), full- or part-time, is required to pay the registration fee. It covers facilities, materials, and insurance at Conference activities.
- **Housing:** All beds are single beds. **Two children** (ages 11 and under) **are allowed to sleep on the floor** at no charge if there is a paying adult family member for each child. **There is NO air-conditioning** in any of the dorms.
- **Town Houses** (farther down the hill) feature 8 beds in four bedrooms, with 2 bathrooms, a living room and a kitchen.
- **Dorms** have 2 beds per room with shared bathrooms for each wing of dorm hall.
- **KEYS:** There will be a \$20 lost key charge.
- **Linens:** Include pillow, pillowcase, sheet set, towel, and washcloth. **Prices** for linens are the same for the **per week** and **per day** options. Please note that there is a "with blanket" and "without" option.
- There are elevators in most of the dorms and Conference buildings.
- **All unmarried young people under the age of 18**, if not attending with a parent, must have a sponsor over 25 years of age in attendance at Conference. Sponsor must be listed on the Registration form; young people will be assigned to same dorm and close to the sponsor.
- **Meals:** Meal tickets for the entire week include supper Sunday, July 31, through breakfast Sunday, Aug. 7. "Lunch & Supper" meal tickets include supper on Sunday, July 31, through supper Sabbath, August 6. **Children ages 4 & under are free.** Individual meals may be purchased in the meal line at the cafeteria. You **MUST be pre-registered** in order to eat lunch in the cafeteria on Sabbath Day.

**(4) & (5) Banquet Tickets**

Please register for Banquets so we know how many to plan for. Prices are discounted with meal tickets. **\*\*Please see page 17** for more details about the Youth Banquet. **Indicate if you prefer vegetarian or gluten-free.**

**(6) Youth Conference and Young Adult activities:**

Youth (finished 9th–12th grade) must sign up for youth events held Sunday thru Friday lunch. There is a fee per youth. **\*\*See more info on page 17.**

- (7) Off-campus Housing:** Please indicate a phone number (cell or other) where you can be reached.
- (8) Transportation:** Attendees will be picked up at the **Buffalo Airport** only & the Buffalo train and bus stations. Please indicate arrival and departure times by pre-registering by June 30. There is **NO FEE** for pick-ups from specified locations.
- **NOTE: NO RV spaces** on campus.

**(9) Personal Appliance fee:** If you bring an air-conditioner or mini-fridge to use on campus, there will be a \$25 fee per appliance for the week. Houghton College maintenance staff is required to install and remove any air-conditioners.

- **Nursery Services:** Will be in the Gillette dorm. Hours will be posted. **Parents using the nursery are asked to help for half a day** some time during the week.
- **Internet Access:** Guest wi-fi is available throughout the campus.
- **NO SMOKING** or Alcohol allowed on campus.

• **ALL ATTENDEES** should read and sign the Expected Conduct Statement on p. 13. Those registering online will mark a box indicating that they have read it and agree to abide by it.

# 2016 SDB Conference Registration — Houghton (N.Y.) College July 31 – August 6

<b>(1) NAME:</b>	LAST	FIRST	Gender	Grd	Age	1st Nursery	(Information for your name tag) SDB CHURCH (or Organization representing)	CITY/STATE if different from below	
Need more room? Use another sheet			Child's School Grade completed			Mark if your first Conference			Phone ( )
Address		E-mail							

Spec. Requests (**Higher tolerance** dorm; Townhouse; Handicapped access) \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Sponsor (All youth under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees:** Adults (Age 12 and over); Children (Ages 5-11); [Children, 4 and under, FREE—please list ALL names above]

(2a) FULL WEEK RATES ON CAMPUS *	How many?	Rate	Amount	(2b) FULL WEEK RATES OFF CAMPUS	How many?	Rate	Amount
•Adults (age 12 and up)				•Adults (age 12 and up)			
Room (bed), All Meals	x	\$365	=	Registration, All Meals	x	\$265	=
Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only	x	\$340	=	Registration, Lunch/Supper only	x	\$240	=
Room (bed), No Meals	x	\$220	=	Registration, No Meals	x	\$118	=
•Children (age 5-11)				•Children (age 5-11)			
Room (bed), All Meals	x	\$223	=	Registration, All Meals	x	\$165	=
Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only	x	\$202	=	Registration, Lunch/Supper only	x	\$135	=
Room (bed), No Meals	x	\$126	=	Registration, No Meals	x	\$56	=
<i>[For children on floor, must have one adult family member per child on floor]</i>				•Children (4 and under)			
Room (floor), All Meals	x	\$153	=	<b>TOTAL (2b)</b>			
Room (floor), Lunch/Supper only	x	\$132	=	(4) Women's _____ x \$10.00 w/meal tkt _____ x \$20.00 w/out tkt			
Room (floor), No Meals	x	\$56	=	Banquet _____ # of Vegetarian meals _____			
•Linens: (with blanket)	x	\$35	=	Banquet _____ # of Gluten-free meals _____			
(w/out blanket)	x	\$22	=	(5) Youth _____ x \$5.00 w/meal tkt _____ x \$15.00 w/out tkt			
•Children (4 and under)	x	FREE	=	Banquet _____ # of Vegetarian meals _____			
				**See page 17** _____ # of Gluten-free meals _____			
				(6) Youth/Young Adult _____ How many? _____ Rate _____ Amount _____			
				Youth Conference _____ x \$25 = (6) _____			
				Young Adult activities _____ plan to attend (no extra fee)			

\*(On-campus rates incl. registration) **TOTAL (2a)** \_\_\_\_\_

All attendees **MUST** be registered or listed!  
Please read the "Expected Conduct" statement on page 13  
and sign the statement at the bottom of the next page.  
**Register on-line at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)**

**(3a) PER DAY RATE ON CAMPUS \***

**How many? # days Rate Amount**

•Adults (age 12 and up)  
 Room (bed), All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Room (bed), No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$34 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 •Children (age 5-11)  
 Room (bed), All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$33 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Room (bed), Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Room (bed), No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$18 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room (floor), All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$23 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Please note/follow 'full-week' rule]  
 Room (floor), Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Room (floor), No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 •Children (4 and under) \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X FREE = \_\_\_\_\_  
 •Linens: (with blanket) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (w/out blanket) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*(On-campus rates incl. registration) **TOTAL (3a)** \_\_\_\_\_

(7) If housing off-campus, Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(8) Transportation assistance needed between Buffalo, (air) \_\_\_\_\_ (train) \_\_\_\_\_ (bus) \_\_\_\_\_  
 N.Y., and the campus.  
 Arrive: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ Train # \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Carrier) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Depart: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ Train # \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ (a.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pick-up needs (No charge): One way: # persons = \_\_\_\_\_ Round trip: # persons = \_\_\_\_\_

(9) Personal appliance use: (\$25 each) A/C: \_\_\_\_\_ Fridge: \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL (9)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Conduct document on p. 13**

I/we, the undersigned, have read and do understand the "Expected Conduct at General Conference."

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent of \_\_\_\_\_, I further agree that my child is legally responsible to the undersigned sponsor, and that said sponsor may also make any necessary decisions regarding medical services.

**(3b) PER DAY RATE OFF CAMPUS**

**How many? # days Rate Amount**

•Adults (age 12 and up)  
 Registration, All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$37 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Registration, Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$33 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Registration, No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$16 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 •Children (age 5-11)  
 Registration, All Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$23 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Registration, Lunch/Supper only \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 [Circle days: M T W Th F Sa]  
 Registration, No Meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 •Children (4 and under) \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL (3b)** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTALS**

**Regis., Housing, Meals, etc =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Less amount prepaid =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Balance Due =** \_\_\_\_\_

Checks to: "SDB Host Committee"

Send form to: **Peggy Chroniger**

**5940 Rt 21**

**Alfred Station NY 14803**

**(host.committee.chair@gmail.com)**

Peggy Chroniger (607) 587-8386





## All You Need to Know about YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT Activities at General Conference

In response to a recommendation from the Christian Education Council and by action of General Conference last year, this year there will be no Youth or Young Adult Pre-Cons. Instead, we are introducing one new ministry for youth and supporting young adult ministries at this year's General Conference.


**For the Young Adults (those who have graduated high school and are aged 18-29)** we will have activities organized by the Young Adults and their activity coordinator. There will be Bible Studies and worship times specifically for Young Adults, as well as a Young Adult Banquet and the continuing of the Coffee House, which has been sponsored by the Young Adults for the past several years. By Conference action, we are working with the individuals elected to take responsibility for these activities and we are confident they will be a blessing for the Young Adults who choose to attend this year's General Conference. In order to have an accurate sense of who is planning to participate, we ask Young Adults registering who plan to attend to note that in the designated place on the registration form or online. Beyond this single change, Young Adults should register normally for Conference, including their desired sleeping and meal arrangements.

There are several changes for Youth at Conference this year. **For students who are at least 15 and have completed 9th grade, we are starting a new youth leadership conference called *Leaders Without Limits*.** This new Youth Conference will run concurrently with the General Conference sessions at the same site, but will provide specific leadership training for our youth. This portion of the program was recommended by the Youth Interest Committee at last year's Conference. In addition to the leadership training program, the Youth will also have a devoted Bible Study, worship times, a banquet (see below), and their own evening recreational events (also below). The Director for *Leaders Without Limits* this year is Pastor Steve Osborn of the Boulder, CO, SDB Church. It

will include staff from around the country as well as guest speakers from the ministries from the Conference. We are looking forward to a time of learning, worshipping, training, and fun for the youth this year at Houghton!

**There is a registration fee of \$25 associated with *Leaders Without Limits*, so be sure to register your students on the Conference registration form in this issue of the *Recorder* or online!** It is important for parents and sponsors to note that *Leaders Without Limits* **IS** the Youth program at Conference this year—no other programming is available for your youth! **If you choose not to register your high school-aged students for *Leaders Without Limits*, you will be choosing for your students NOT TO PARTICIPATE in the Youth activities, Youth Bible Study and the Youth Banquet!** Parents of students in this age group who are sending their students to *Leaders Without Limits* should register their students as usual, including Conference registration, meals and the Youth Banquet. In terms of housing, a special Youth Conference floor is available and will be staffed with the Youth Conference staff. Sponsors should plan to stay in the same building as the Youth Conference, though not on the same floor. Parents who wish for their students to reside with them and not with the rest of Youth Conference are advised to note this along with their registration.

**For our students who have completed 7th and 8th grade,** they will have their own Bible study and classes throughout the day, and will participate in the Youth activities in the evening, as well as being able to participate in the Youth Banquet. Parents of students in this age group who want their students to participate in the Youth Banquet should be sure to register for the appropriate ticket!

If you have questions about these changes or how to register, please contact Nick Kersten at (608)752-5055 or email him at [nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org). 



**The Global  
Refugee Crisis  
and Us:  
Sifting Through  
The Issues  
to Honor  
Our King**

*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."*

— Matthew 2:13-15 (ESV)

*"The first story we have about the baby Jesus is that He was driven to a foreign nation by a murderous king."*

— David Platt

There is no shortage of trouble in our sin-scarred world. In our times (as in all times), sin has run rampant, bringing with it the death and destruction which is its primary calling card. But our times are different in the amount of information about this scale and scope of the groans of our world (Romans 8:22). We no longer need to wait for trouble to invade our small circle of family and friends to be affected by it. We are assaulted daily with new information about evil happening elsewhere in the broader world. We, too, groan inwardly as we wait for the redemption of ourselves and this world. Depending on your constitution, giftings and experiences, different kinds of evils may strike you differently. But all of us are buffeted daily by news of disasters, wars and famine.

It is difficult in the face of such widespread pain and suffering to be moved by anything anymore. Becoming calloused to the disasters and struggles surrounding us is a common coping strategy. Others ignore any news of the broader world, choosing



to focus only on the trouble which is directly in front of them. Still others despair, and give up their hope altogether. But none of these responses are the ones which the Scriptures call us to as followers of Christ. The call of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is to move to the places where pain and destruction are most prevalent with the message of hope and forgiveness that is in Jesus — only He can undo the damage of sin in us and in our world.

When it comes to places where we could choose to minister, there is no shortage of options. Anywhere we take the hope, mercy, grace and forgiveness of Christ is a worthy place for our lives to be spent in service. But in case you were short on ministry locations, I would like to suggest one to each of you: to aid in the global refugee crisis which is currently tearing at our world.

The simplest definition of a refugee is someone who has been forced to flee the country of his birth to escape war, natural disaster, or imminent persecution. These are people who have been ravaged by disaster or have had the sin of the world explode in their neighborhoods, putting their lives in danger. In response to the dangerous conditions, they uproot themselves and cast their fates to the wind, hoping that they land in a place that will be safe.

Though the news is reporting most frequently on the horrific refugee crisis which is impacting Syria [nearly half the nation, 11.6 million people, have fled their homes since the civil war began in March 2011], the truth is that caring for refugees has become a world issue. Nearly 60 million people are currently refugees, and half that number are children. To put that number in perspective, if refugees were gathered into a single nation, they would be the 24th largest nation on earth, and a nation bigger (by population) than Canada and Australia put together. The scope of this crisis is very, very large.

Refugees overwhelmingly flee from nations where Christianity is not prominent and may be openly persecuted. To say that differently: refugees are fleeing from nations where it would have been difficult or impossible for them to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are fleeing to locations where the Gospel is much, much easier to hear — if anyone

will go to them and preach. But in order to hear, someone must go. In order for them to live long enough to survive to hear it, they need a loving care response from the people of God in the form of water, food, clothes and shelter.

Sadly, in America's highly charged political environment, refugees have become a partisan talking point. America's politicians have reduced a humanitarian crisis affecting nearly 60 million people into an argument about 10,000 people who might want to enter our country. Such rhetoric would cause us to miss the ways we can help millions of immigrants who want nothing more than to return to their homes in safety.

**To be clear: no person, made in God's image with the requisite dignity and value that goes along with that, should be reduced to a partisan talking point.**

We must not miss the clear call of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation to carry the good news and to take care of the sojourners (refugees), orphans and widows in order to defend a secular political philosophy (see Deuteronomy 27:19). If we care more about our national partisan politics than the unsaved people from the nations, we should repent and turn away from our self-centeredness.

On December 17, I participated in a planning meeting for the GC2 Summit, which focused on a unified evangelical Christian response to the refugee crisis. More than 150 church leaders from diverse theological traditions came together to affirm the Bible's clear teaching on the issue of treating refugees with kindness and dignity — and to plan a summit for a broad audience on January 20. The statement on the importance of refugees drafted by the planning committee, as well as videos from the speakers at the GC2 Summit, can be found at the website: [www.gc2summit.com](http://www.gc2summit.com).

If you or your church would like more information about the global refugee crisis, you can contact me. For more information from two of the main Christian agencies ministering in this crisis go to: World Relief (<http://refugeecrisis.worldrelief.org>) and World Vision (<http://www.worldvision.org/our-impact/syrian-refugees>). May God give you the heart to serve the nations with his Gospel. <sup>[SR]</sup>



People can change, miracles happen, and sometimes old dogs learn new tricks. Change is all around; sometimes for the good and sometimes for the not so good. Typically change doesn't spontaneously happen — there needs to be catalyst. A catalyst is a person or event that causes a change. Popular theological theory indicates that Jesus is the transformer of culture. He changes lives, expectations, everything he comes into contact with — the ultimate catalyst.

SCSC is an organization used as a catalyst by God. It changes people: the students involved and the people who come into contact with them on project and after project. I've had the privilege of serving this organization as a student in SCSC, a project director (PD), and most recently as a member of the Women's Board. Even before my participation in the program, I was involved with SCSC. My church hosted many SCSC teams. As a child, my life was impacted by the work of SCSC and I saw numerous others impacted as well. There is no question in my mind that SCSC is an important ministry.

The program has undergone many changes over its 50-year existence. But the nature of the program has remained the same: carrying out the great commission, raising up leaders, and serving SDB churches. Recently, I've been thinking about how important raising people is. Children have extremely impressionable and moldable minds. Once they grow up, their ways of thinking and behaving become more static. If we can reach out to younger generations the seeds of change have more time to grow and develop. SCSC does this by working with young adults who continue to fertilize these seeds as well as planting them in younger children. But SCSC is not only for the young — it is also reaching older generations and making an impact there.

Last month's article talked about the SCSC missions track project to Jamaica. This month the rest of the SCSC teams have been decided and released. It is my pleasure to announce them here:

#### **Ashaway, RI**

*PD: Beth Brown*

Randi Gammons, Texarkana, AR (1st year)

Dustin Tio, New Auburn, WI (1st year)

#### **Bay Area, CA**

*PDs: Becky and Lindsay Crouch*

Moses Lyons, Toronto, Ontario (1st year)

Bethany Rihn, New Auburn, WI (2nd year)

#### **Colton, CA**

*PD: Pastor George Lawson*

Casey Greene, Berlin, NY (1st year)

Jonathan Lyons, Toronto, Ontario (3rd year)

#### **Jamaica**

*PD: Pastor Garfield Miller*

Jennifer Brown, Texarkana, AR (4th year)

Elisabeth Lawson, Colton, CA (2nd year),

Josiah Lynch, Toronto, Ontario (3rd year)

Michaela Osborn, Boulder, CO (2nd year)

#### **Mid-Continent Association**

*PD: Linda Harris*

Brandon Gumness, New Auburn, WI (2nd year)

Sarina Villalpando, Colton, CA (1st year)

#### **New Auburn, WI**

*PD: Steve Shackelton*

Caleb Gammons, Texarkana, AR (4th year)

Conor Green, Milton, WI (1st year)

#### **Shiloh, NJ**

*PD: Philip Lawton*

Jacqueline Murray, Toronto, Ontario (1st year)

Willy Villalpando, Colton, CA (4th year)

As SCSC continues to prepare the program for this summer, we covet your prayers and support so that SCSC will continue to be a catalyst in lives, no matter the generation, this summer and beyond. [SR](#)

### **CRAFTS NEEDED**

**Bring your crafts to the Women's Board display at conference this year  
to be sold to help offset the monetary costs of SCSC**



Women's Society

Katrina Goodrich  
[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)

# God's Purpose


Everyone on the planet has a purpose. No matter where they live, what they've done, or what they believe. God has purpose for everyone — including those who resist Him. God's love and grace is so powerful that we can work a meaning into anyone, no matter the circumstances.

2 Timothy 1:9 says, *"He has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time."* This is a very powerful verse to me because it explains that God's very own grace and purpose was given to us before time ever existed.

However, for some people it is difficult to grasp the idea of purpose. Our lives can be so crazy and demanding that we often forget the purpose behind them. We can become so distracted by everything going on in life that we do not realize that God always has greater purpose. In Romans 8:28 Paul writes, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,*

*who have been called according to his purpose."* Hard times can make it difficult to see God's purpose, but we have to remember that God holds purpose behind every situation, even the worst ones. Even in the most mundane moments, God can express powerful meaning.

We can express God's purpose everywhere we go. Whether it be in school, at work, or in church. We don't necessarily need to show God's purpose through what we do — we can show His purpose simply through spreading acts of love and kindness. Psalm 40:9 states, *"I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord."* This verse expresses the idea that spreading God's word and sharing His purpose to people is a God-honoring action. God is delighted when we spread His message.

So life isn't really about my purpose or your purpose: it's all about God's purpose. God intends us to go about life praising Him and expressing His purpose through everything we do. I encourage you to share God's love, convey His purpose to everyone, and praise Him through all of life's journeys. 

by Annie Lloyd  
Alfred Station SDB Church, NY

THE BEACON



## CORRECTION:

My most sincere apology goes to Bethany Crandall from the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Bethany wrote the article which appeared in the March *Beacon*.

— the Editor

WHAT'S HAPPENING  
AT CONFERENCE  
FOR YOUTH???  
see Page 17

Hey Friends!

Sorry there is no Young Adult article this month. The last few weeks have been really packed — so I did not have time to write one. But, come back next month for another awesome article written by a fellow Seventh Day Baptist Young Adult!

If you are interested in writing an article, send me a message on Facebook or an email to [wwill002@ucr.edu](mailto:wwill002@ucr.edu) and we'll get you set up!  
GOD BLESS AND HAVE A GREAT MONTH!

— Willy Villalpando

Young Adult

## Sending Workers into the Vineyard

SDB Boulder has committed in our vision to be a “sending church” that equips and sends out pastors, missionaries, evangelists, church planters, etc. into the world to contribute to the larger mission of the Kingdom of God. Recently one of our members, Tom Muniz, completed his training and began working as a home missionary with Child Evangelism Fellowship. Here is what Tom has to say about his new ministry:

“The Bible is replete with stories that characterize the heart of God for children as in the case of Christ’s indignation toward His disciples for rebuking parents that were bringing their children to Him for a blessing in Mark 10:13-16. Church history and tradition speak of the impact of young converts such as: ‘Polycarp, the courageous early church martyr, was converted at nine years old. Modern ministers of the faith like Spurgeon began to awaken spiritually at twelve’ (Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations). With foundations such as these one might think that Christian churches in America would be overflowing with children’s ministries, or that our nation would abound in discipleship and missionary training for young people. Sadly, nothing could be further from the truth. According to Barna Research, *6 in 10 of young people between the ages of 16-29 will leave the church to explore faith and spirituality on their own* (“You Lost Me Interview”).

It is into this backdrop God has called me to serve as a home missionary with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). For more than 70 years, CEF has answered the call of God to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living. Last year, nearly 20 million young people heard the Good News thanks to the work of CEF around the world in 194 countries. I want to be a part of this work locally. I want to bring the light of Christ to young people here in Colorado today, and share the hope of a life inspired as they bear the cross of Christ and share His love as Apostles tomorrow.”

If you would like to partner with Tom as he answers God’s call as a full-time staff member with Child Evangelism Fellowship and as a local coordinator here in Colorado, you may e-mail him at [muchfruitmsg@gmail.com](mailto:muchfruitmsg@gmail.com) or call him directly at 303-906-3730.

### Works Cited

Tan, P. L. (1996). *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (p. 233). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.

“You Lost Me Interview.” Interview by Sean Cannell. You Tube. Think International, 27 Feb. 2012. Web. 22 Jan. 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnPcS1tGzszs>.

## God's Sabbath— Day of Rest and Gladness



*In the very beginning when God created the earth, He crowned the week with the Seventh day, blessed it, and made it holy. No law was known yet. God wrote with His own finger in stone to remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. It was the only commandment that included a reason: to acknowledge that the Everlasting God is Creator.*

*Was it meaningless for Jesus in His short ministry to spend all that time teaching so often how to do well on the Sabbath? He reminded people that the Sabbath was made for man and that He is Lord of the Sabbath.*

*We seem to be able to accept the symbol of communion because Jesus said to remember our Lord's death until He comes. Yet why do we still want to resist that He really meant the earlier “Remember”?*

*Satan's tactics are still working. God placed the tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden to be seen, but not tasted. Satan made Eve doubt that God really meant that. What a disastrous event!*

*The Sabbath continues as a symbol of God's creative power. Sadly, He knew we would forget to the point of bowing to evolution and atheism.*

*That's why God told us to “remember” the only commandment that does. It's His day! He deserves it! We honor Him; we love Him; it gives us joy. The Sabbath is the weekly symbol, a time uniquely blessed by God to remind us of His awesome creative capacity to accomplish what He promised and of His eternal rest. He is the Almighty. Let us worship Him. SR*

— Evelyn Gibson  
Riverside CA SDB Church

# Seventh Day Baptists are important to the religious liberty movement!

by J. Brent Walker  
Executive Director  
Baptist Joint Committee for  
Religious Liberty



Religious liberty is important to Seventh Day Baptists, first of all, because you are Baptists. Ever since the early 17th century, we Baptists have championed religious freedom for others as much as for ourselves. From John Smyth in Holland, to Thomas Helwys in England, to Roger Williams in New England, we Baptists have stood firmly to declare that matters of the spirit should be of no concern of the magistrate. While we render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and are good citizens, we know our allegiance to God is paramount. During the colonial era, Isaac Backus and John Leland lobbied for spelled-out protections for the exercise of religion and against religious establishments in the Bill of Rights — to use Roger William's words, that "hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world."

For the past 80 years, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has carried forth that effort to defend and extend religious liberty — not just for Baptists but for all children of God. Serving 15 Baptist bodies, including the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, the Baptist Joint Committee files briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court, keeps a watchful eye on Congress, advises the administrations as they come and go, and provides education resources highlighting the importance of religious liberty, including through social media.

Seventh Day Baptists also are concerned about religious liberty, because you are Seventh Day Baptists. With your roots in England but, on this side of the Atlantic, from Stephen Mumford at Newport, RI, in 1672, you have carried forward a banner of religious liberty along with first-day Baptists. Seventh Day Baptists, perhaps, are greater beneficiaries of the fight for religious liberty than some other Baptists. Your relatively small size in number makes the counter-majoritarian protections in the First Amendment all the more important to you. And, as a result of your special sabbatarian concerns, Seventh Day Baptists rarely take

religious liberty for granted. You know what it is like to be out of step with a culture that sometimes accommodates first-day worshippers, but which plans almost everything under the sun on Saturday.

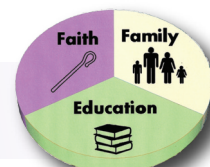
We at the Baptist Joint Committee have been privileged to enjoy your partnership since 1963. We have considered it a great honor to work alongside great Seventh Day Baptists like Senator Jennings Randolph, Leon Maltby, Duane Hurley, Leon Lawton, Ken Chroniger, Dale Thorngate, Kevin Butler, Rob Appel, Nick Kersten and many others.

In addition to spearheading general religious liberty protections — landmark legislation such as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Equal Access Act — the Baptist Joint Committee has supported matters of special interest to Seventh Day Baptists. These include: advocacy for the Workplace Religious Freedom Act to strengthen protections in Title VII for religious accommodation in the workplace; the fight along with attorney Gerald Grimaud against insensitive Sabbath scheduling of college athletics; advice to Cheri Appel concerning Sabbath issues that arose in the public school system where she worked; and recently filing a brief in the U.S. Supreme Court supporting heightened protection for religious expression in the workplace, resulting in a 8-1 victory, in *Abercrombie & Fitch v. EEOC* (2015).

In sum, both the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference and the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty are integral partners in the struggle for religious freedom. Your joining with millions of Baptists from 14 other participating Baptist bodies dramatically heightens your influence in something that benefits all of us: the enjoyment of God-given freedom for which Christ has set us free, as protected from governmental meddling by constitutional boundaries.<sup>SR</sup>

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger  
Alfred Station SDB Church, NY

## President's Page



## OBITUARIES

**BOND** — Leland Warren Bond went to be with His Lord on April 2, 2016 at the age of 90 in Martinsburg, PA. Surviving are his high school sweetheart, Lettie; daughters, Laura (Joel) Sutton of Les Cayes, Haiti, and Linda (Donald) Graffius of New Enterprise, PA; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, and 4 brothers: Richard, Thomas, Robert, and Ernest.

He was born May 1, 1925, to Orville B. and Lucille D. Bond and grew up on a farm near Lost Creek, WV. He attended Unidis High School. Immediately following graduation he served his country during WWII as a quartermaster on a LCI 975, landing craft, in the South Pacific. On his return from the war, he married Lettie McKinney on April 12, 1946. They would have been married 70 years this year. He obtained a BS at Salem College, Salem, WV, and an MS in Agricultural Education from West Virginia University.

He was a vocational agriculture teacher in Weston, WV, for 5 years and a sales representative for Lederle Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company, for 28 yrs.

He was a lifelong member of the Lost Creek, WV, Seventh Day Baptist church, where he was an ordained deacon and served the church in many capacities. He served as President of the Clarksburg Christian Business Men from 1960 to 74. In 1968-69, he served as President of the Seventh Day Baptist

General Conference, USA and Canada. His theme was "Sensitive in His Service."

Following his retirement from the business world in 1983, he and Lettie sold their WV home and traveled across the U.S. in a camper assisting churches that might need extra help. They settled in Florida where he served as pastor for fellowships including Okeechobee, St. Pete, and Bradenton. While pastoring, he studied and graduated from the TIME program. He was ordained as a minister by the Lost Creek SDB Church in 1988. During his pastorate in Bradenton, FL, he served as a chaplain for Hospice and President of the Board of Manatee Religious Services. He was a member of the Senior Saints, working on construction projects for Seventh Day Baptist churches and camps. He said the years he spent as a pastor were the happiest years of his life. He regularly attended the Bell SDB Church in Salemville, PA, following his second retirement.

Services were held at the German SDB Church on April 5 and the Lost Creek SDB Church on April 6. He was buried in the Lost Creek Cemetery.

He was concerned about the retired pastors and their wives who faithfully served the denomination with very little compensation. Memorial gifts may be made to the Pastor's Retirement Program, c/o Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

**SMITH** — Glenna Murl Smith, affectionately called mummy or Aunt Glen, was born on December 29, 1937, as the second child of Clarence Smith and Edith Williams in Jamaica. Her mother, Edith Williams, died in 1942 when she was only five years old. She was raised by her grandparents, Joseph and Clementina Williams. She attended the Spalding Primary School in Jamaica up to age 12, after which she entered the working world doing odd jobs.

In 1987, she and her two younger children migrated to Brooklyn, NY. There she became a certified Nurse's Aide and then a Mental Hygiene Therapy Aide for the state of New York. She retired in December 2006. Missing her first love, "Printing," and vowing to become certified in printing even if she never used it, (due to rise of computer) she went back to school for her G.E.D. Then off to printing school she went, where she received her certification in printing.

After retiring, she went to live with her youngest son, Leroy, and his family in Albany and spent most of her time traveling within the USA, UK, and Jamaica.

In her travels, Sister Glenna frequently visited her daughter, Sis. Lauren Kinlocke-Philibert in Florida and attended the SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale. Since then, the Seventh Day Baptist church of Fort Lauderdale family became her extended family. After her son's death in 2012, which shattered her heart, she moved to Sunrise, FL, to live with her daughter, Lauren, and her family. She became a member of the SDB church of Fort

Lauderdale in 2014. She was faithful in attendance. She was an active participant in our Sabbath School adult class.

In 2014 she was diagnosed with endometrial cancer after surviving breast cancer in 2009. Despite the sad news, Sister Glenna taught all who knew her how to trust the Lord in the face of adversity. Over the past months, many witnessed her going through her illness with grace, peace, and faith in her Lord. Although treatment for cancer was brutal she endured it all. She never complained and kept saying, "If it is the will of the Lord so let it be." On December 5, 2015, Sister Glenna lost the battle to cancer but she never lost her praise.

Glenna/aunt Glen/mom leaves behind 2 sons, (Lennox and Lauray); one daughter (Lauren); daughters-in-law, Iroy and Debbi; son-in-law Adolphe; 10 grandchildren (Adrienne, Latasha, Lauray Jr., Deandra, Lauray, Hannah, Sarah, Lauryan, Joshua and Lamar); 2 great-grandchildren (Nevaeh and SyEir), 2 Sisters (Udalin and Faye), 3 brothers (Evan, Lloyd, and Stern), a host of nieces, nephews, uncle, aunts, other relatives and friends.

A celebration of Sister Glenna Murl Smith's life was held on December 27, 2015, at the SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale in North Lauderdale, FL. Pastor Norman Fearon and Pastor Andrew Samuels officiated at the service. Mom, Aunt Glen, has gone ahead to await the meeting day when the dead in Christ shall rise to be with our Lord and Savior. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine on her.



## OBITUARY

**BURDICK** — Rev. C. Rex Burdick, beloved husband, father, and pastor, went to the home Jesus had prepared for him on February 29, 2016.

Born October 28, 1922, in Boulder, CO, Pastor Burdick was the son of Carroll and Isabel Smith Burdick. He was baptized and joined the DeRuyter, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church at age 11 and felt the call to the ministry early in his life. He graduated from DeRuyter, NY, High School in 1940; from Salem College, Salem, WV, with a BA Degree in 1945; from Faith Seminary in Elkins Park, PA, with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1949 and a Master of Sacred Theology in 1951; from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, with a Master of Education in 1962.

He was ordained to the Christian Ministry in 1948 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Marlboro, NJ. He was a member and Pastor *Emeritus* of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, Verona, NY, at the time of his death.

On September 2, 1944, he married Bette Lippincott in Battle Creek, MI. Bette went to be with the Lord on May 10, 1968.

On August 3, 1969, Rex married Joyce Sholtz in Verona, NY. When he retired in 1985, after 40 years of ministry, he and Joyce moved to Sherrill, NY, and were active in the Verona Seventh Day Baptist church. Attending the SDB annual conference was a highlight for them almost every year. They enjoyed traveling and were able to visit their scattered family and each of the states including Alaska and Hawaii. They were also blessed with a trip to the Holy Land and Greece with a small group of Seventh Day Baptists.

Pastor Rex served SDB Churches in Independence, NY; Marlboro NJ; Salem, WV; Verona, NY; Riverside, CA; and Berlin, NY. He was active in the youth camping program

throughout his ministry. Along with pastoring Seventh Day Baptist Churches, he also served the Denomination in the following positions: President of the General Conference 1963-64, serving on Commission for three years. He was Editor of the *Helping Hand* 1990-1992. He served on the Council on Ministry, the Committee on Faith and Order, and the American Tract Society.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Bette; infant daughter, Susan; four brothers and two sisters-in-law: Wendell and Virginia Burdick, Richard Burdick, Willard Burdick, Eugene and Elsie Burdick; one son-in-law, Brian Orr; and one sister-in-law and her husband, Muriel and Paul Osborn.

He is survived by his loving wife, Joyce; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Douglas Burdick of Winter Haven, FL, Norman (Vicki) Burdick of Riverside, CA; three daughters and one son-in-law, Carole Orr of Riverside, CA, Martha (Wesley) Greene of Wooster, OH, and Pam Burdick of Hoosick Falls, NY; our special family friend Ann Sweener; nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren; two brothers and three sisters-in-law, Wayne (Arline) Burdick of Colorado Springs, CO; Gordon (Nita) Burdick of Lake Wales, FL; and Glenice Burdick of DeRuyter, NY; two brothers-in-law and their wives, Robert (Barbara) Sholtz of El Cerrito, CA, and Louis (Elly) Sholtz of Oneida, NY, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Pastor Rex's life was held on March 4 at the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church and burial was in the DeRuyter Rural Cemetery in DeRuyter, NY.

Praise God, along with his family, for Rex's life as a man of God and his living example of faith, service and love for the Lord.

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## OBITUARY

**WHEELER** — Xenia Lee (Fitz Randolph) Wheeler, 87, formerly of Ashaway and Westerly, RI, and beloved wife of the Rev. Edgar F. Wheeler, died peacefully on Feb. 12, 2016, of natural causes at the home of her daughter, Helen, in Mesa, AZ.

Mrs. Wheeler was born the second of seven children, February 28, 1928, to the late Ashby and Ruth Content (Bond) Fitz Randolph in Salem, WV. She was delivered by her mother's Aunt Xenia, one of the earliest woman doctors in the United States.

She grew up in Jarvisville, WV, within walking distance of the one-room school she first attended at age five, taught by her father. She graduated from Bristol, WV, High School in 1945 and attended Salem College.

Since childhood, Xenia Lee was pleased to share her time, talents, and compassion with others. At age ten, during her father's prolonged illness, she assumed many of the house-keeping and child-rearing duties so that her mother could attend to Ashby. Later she spent extended periods of time living with aunts and uncles who needed help when a new baby arrived or someone was ill. By the time she married Edgar on August 10, 1945, in Middle Island, WV, Xenia Lee was well prepared to mother eleven children as well as assume the duties of a pastor's wife and helpmate.

Xenia Lee loved teaching children about Jesus, encouraging Bible memorization, and organizing dramatic skits for them to enact. She enjoyed inviting guests home for dinner after Sabbath worship. Her homemade rolls were legendary.

Daily journaling was a ritual she maintained for most of her life — those journals are peppered with lists of people for whom she prayed, sometimes for years. She was a dedicated letter, and later email, writer who worked to maintain relationships and foster family connections — some blood connections, others not, but each important. Most of her correspondence included praise and thanksgiving for God's care and mercy.

Second to her Savior, Edgar had first place in her heart and priorities. She was always his encourager and the admirer of all his art and writing. However, she was a serious competitor when they played games, which they did most days in later years.

Her family and friends will miss her sweet spirit, her ready smile, her joyful laugh, but most of all her unconditional love and presence. It is their comfort, though, that she is in the presence and care of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She is survived by her husband of over 70 years, Edgar Francis Wheeler; eleven children: Annita Marie Parmelee (Asahel) of Savannah, GA; Robert Edgar Wheeler (Dawn) of North Platte, NE; Ruth Frances Thorpe (Walter) of Westerly, RI; Dr. Richard Lee Wheeler (Michele), of Pinnacle, NC; Helen Faith Brannon (Kenneth) of Mesa, AZ; Leon Ashby Wheeler (Susan) of Alburg, VT; William Raymond Wheeler (Jennifer) of Elizabeth, CO; Dr. Catherine Jeanne Wheeler of Mesa, AZ; Noelle Fontaine Wheeler of Tempe AZ; Esther Hope Palmer (Tony) of Williston, VT; and Ernest Paul Wheeler (Cathy) of Pinnacle, NC. Also, three siblings, Ashby Bond Fitz Randolph, Clarksburg, WV, Elsie Mae Lewis Bottoms, Wellsville, NY, and Cleo Elizabeth Boyd, New Enterprise, PA; 35 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. She was pre-deceased by two great-grandsons, Jack Josiah Wheeler and Joseph William Brannon; and three siblings, Edna Ruth Richards, Alois Edmund Fitz Randolph, and Rex Main Fitz Randolph.

Funeral services were held February 27, 2016, at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, RI, with Rev. David Stall officiating. Burial followed in the First Hopkinton Cemetery, Ashaway. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, 19 Hillside Ave., Ashaway, RI 02804.

## NEW MEMBERS

### TEXARKANA SDB CHURCH

Texarkana, AR  
Pastor Dan Richards

Joined by Baptism  
Jessica Runnels  
John Runnels

Received by Testimony  
Carolyn Lewis

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## MAY Memory Verse Family

### Youth/Adult

For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.

— Matthew 12:50 NASB

### Junior

For whoever does the will of My Father...is My brother and sister and mother.

— Matthew 12:50 NASB

### Primary

...Do the will of My Father...

— Matthew 12:50 NASB

## So Blessed by You, Mom

A mother who always cares,

A mother who's always there.

A mother who always prays,

A mother who always stays.

When things get rough,

When life gets tough,

When all is just too much to bear,

God's Word she shares.

God's light she shines.

So blessed God made this mother mine.

— Author Unknown



Periodicals postage paid  
at Janesville, WI  
and additional offices



## Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

July 31- August 6

at  
Houghton College  
Houghton, NY

**Conference Registration Forms Inside!**

pages 13-16

**All You Need to Know about Youth & Young Adult  
Activities at General Conference 2016!**

See page 17

***Register your youth for the NEW PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES***