

# Sabbath Recorder

Have you ever traveled to  
where snow is made?

—Job 38:22 MSG

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication  
January 2017



He orders the snow, "Blanket the earth!"...  
No one can escape the weather – it's there.

**And no one can escape from God.**

## 13 Focus on Missions

---

Three Little Churches  
by Clinton R. Brown

## 14 Women's Society

---

A Transformation Attitude  
by Katrina Goodrich

## 16 Young Adult

---

God Would Not Give Us a Test...  
by Seth Osborn

## 17 The Beacon

---

Be a Friend First!  
by Xander Post

## 18 President's Page

---

History or His Story?  
by Patti Wethington

## 19 Council on History

---

Storytellers Wanted!  
by Nicholas J. Kersten

## 20 Alliance in Ministry

---

Agape Ministry Iglesia Bautista  
del Septimo Dia  
by Pastors Joel and Judith Houts

## 21 Church Development and Pastoral Services

---

2017 Pastors Conference Info  
Hispanic Ministries Council  
Ten Commandments for Guest-Friendly  
Church Members  
by John J. Pethtel

## 23 Christian Education Council

---

New Scholarship for Pastoral Education  
by Nicholas J. Kersten

## 24 Health News

---

Memory Boosters  
by Barb Green

## 25 Church News

---

26 Obituaries  
New Members and Baptisms  
2017 Church Directory Information

5 You'll Go Out in Joy!  
Isaiah 56:8-12

6 Celebrate!  
One Hundred Years in White Cloud  
by Ed Cruzan

7 Anniversary!  
Celebrating 35 Years of Ministry  
by Theo Wilson

8 Thank You!  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger  
by Elianna Chroniger

9 Well Done!  
Over 1200 boxes  
by Courtney Mattus

10 The Lord's Prayer  
Our Father  
by Phil Lawton

15 Devotionals:  
The Grace of God  
by Andrés Jara  
New Year's Resolutions  
by Donna VanHorn

# Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

January 2017

Volume 239, No. 1

Whole No. 7,033



Patricia Cruzan  
Editor

sdsbr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Clinton R. Brown, Duane Davis,  
Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green, Casey Greene,  
Nicholas J. Kersten, Annie Lloyd, Seth Osborn,  
John J. Pethtel, Patti Wethington

*The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July and August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 172nd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published June 13, 1844.



Member of the Associated Church Press.

*The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

## 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.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Seventh Day Baptist Center  
3120 Kennedy Road,  
PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Phone: (608) 752-5055; FAX: (608) 752-7711

E-mail: [contact@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:contact@seventhdaybaptist.org)

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

Director of Communications  
Jeremiah Owen

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

cell: (818)-468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:  
[sdsbr@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdsbr@seventhdaybaptist.org)

## SDBs ONLINE

<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists>  
<http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists>  
<http://gplus.to/7thDayBaptists>  
<http://7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com/>  
<http://www.pinterest.com/7thdaybaptists/>  
<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>



I don't think the way you think.

The way you work isn't the way I work. ...

For as the sky soars high above the earth,  
so the way I work surpasses the way you work,  
and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Just as the rain and the snow descend from the skies and don't

go back until they've watered the earth,  
doing their work of making things grow and blossom,  
producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry,  
so will the words that come out of my mouth  
not come back empty-handed.

They'll do the work I sent them to do,  
they'll complete the assignment I gave them.

So you'll go out in joy,  
you'll be led into a whole and complete life.

— Isaiah 56:8-12 MSG



# Celebrate

## One Hundred Years In White Cloud

It all began at a meeting of the Church of God of Michigan in their state conference held in White Cloud, MI, September 27-30, 1917. There was a celebration at that time when the Church of God delegates voted to *"thereafter be known as Seventh Day Baptists."* Rev. D. Burdett Coon, from the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, in his October 29, 1917, *Sabbath Recorder* article, described it this way: *"It would have done your heart good to see that people stand on their feet for the adoption of the resolution."*

Well, nearly 100 years have passed since that celebration and through the providence of God, the Church is planning on celebrating its 100th anniversary in September of 2017!

Preliminary plans have been underway for some six months now as we look forward to this upcoming celebration. Webster's dictionary defines "celebrate" in several ways. The definition we most frequently think of is, *"to mark a happy occasion by engaging in some pleasurable activity."* We certainly are planning on doing this!

We are seeking to coordinate the celebration with the annual White Cloud Train Town celebration which is usually held on the last weekend of September. (The date of September 29-30 has yet to be confirmed.) In addition to the obligatory food, we are hoping to have some give-aways, conduct historical tours of the church and include some narrative vignettes.

Webster's dictionary also defines "celebrate": *"to solemnize publicly", that is, "to perform something sacred in character."* Dr. Coon, in concluding his *Sabbath Recorder* article, said, *"But with this increased joy and opportunity there is increased responsibility. Let us stay in deep humility at the foot of the Cross, trusting God for the leading of His Spirit all our doings."*

We hope to celebrate in both ways!

We invite anyone who has a favorite memory over these past 100 years to share them with us and we invite everyone to come join in this celebration. SR

— Ed Cruzan  
White Cloud SDB Church, MI

# Anniversary

## Celebrating 35 Years of Ministry

The evening of September 22, 2016, was one to remember, as brethren worldwide traveled to South Florida to celebrate Miami Seventh Day Baptist's thirty-five years of ministry. This event truly marked a special milestone for the church and its existence, as it truly has made an impact on many lives and the surrounding community. The church's theme for this year is "Fired Up! And Ready," and the program for the evening truly showed a church that is fired up and ready for anything! The service was led by our Pastor, Andrew Samuels, who has been with us for 28 of the 35 years of the church's life. The church was blessed to have the General Conference's Executive Director, Rob Appel, to extend greetings, and also the keynote speaker, Pastor Garfield Miller, who delivered a soul-stirring message.

To show how much of an impact the church has had, the South Florida SDB sister churches, West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, gave warm and sincere reflections about how the Miami church helped with their launch, and continues to be a beacon of support today. A highlight of the evening was getting the chance to hear the history of the church. Many were intrigued to hear about the sacrifices made, especially at the beginning stages with the charter members. The church has endured so many changes and challenges, but by the grace of God, the doors remain open and the membership is still strong. There were testimonies given from several members, present and past, including one of the charter members, Lorna Sukie, and one of the newest members, Cleopatra LaTouche. Each person emphasized in their testimony that they made the Miami SDB Church their home because of the huge sense of family and the warm fellowship that everyone feels when attending.

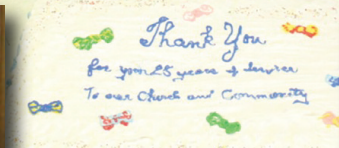
The music ministry featured prominently in the celebration, offering several renditions throughout the evening, which blessed the hearts of everyone in attendance. There was also a dance rendition from the children's ministry and a mime ministry from Tsafiq Samuels. The program closed out with the entire congregation reciting the "Anniversary Resolution and Commitment," wherein members pledged their on-going commitment to the church and its ministries. This service was definitely one to remember. Continue to lift up the Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church in prayer as we look towards 35 more years of service to our Lord. [SR](#)

— Theo Wilson  
Miami SDB Church, FL

# Thank You!

## Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger

In 1991, the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church got a new pastor. Now, 25 years later we are celebrating his ministry to our church. On September 10, 2016, the church took time to remember all of the things Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger has done for his church and community. A reception, including a slide show and photo album of memories, was put on in his honor. During this reception, a proclamation was read from Congressman Tom Reed's office recognizing Pastor Ken for all of the things he has done. Pastor John Pethtel joined the church in thanking Pastor Ken for his service to the denomination. Thank you Pastor Ken for the amount of work you have done for your church, community, and the denomination. SR



by Elianna Chroniger  
SDB Church  
Alfred Station, NY



# WELL DONE!

## A Decade of Boxes!



Ten years ago, the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh was given the opportunity to support Mark and Lera Hamilton, missionaries in Belarus, by participating in a shoebox ministry. The congregation packed shoeboxes that were sent overseas and distributed to children by the Hamilton family to spread the love of God. After two years of participating in this ministry, the Hamiltons were no longer able to distribute shoeboxes but the Shiloh Church wanted to continue to spread God's love through a similar outreach. In 2008, the congregation began packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through the Samaritan's Purse organization. This ministry sends shoeboxes all over the world to children who desperately need to know the love of the Lord. Samaritan's Purse does not just ship shoeboxes — with each shoebox, they hand out the Word of God in each child's native language and give each child the opportunity to enroll in The Greatest Journey, a dynamic, 12-lesson Bible study course guiding them through what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

During 2016, the members of the Shiloh Church collected items for the Operation Christmas Child ministry. Each month, a new item or category was the focus. In January, they collected socks and tissues. In March, they collected toothpaste and toothbrushes ... October was coloring books and crayons. They also collected boxes that members filled at home. The children's Sabbath School classes packed boxes together. This year-long collection led to a Sunday in November when they had a church-wide "packing party" when members of the congregation came together and spent a couple hours filling empty boxes with material items and most importantly, LOVE.

*continued on page 17*



# THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Every week, all around the world, Christians recite the Lord's Prayer. They do it because that is what they have always done. They do it because it is familiar. They do it because that is the prayer that Jesus commanded us to pray. But I wonder how many of them really understand what Jesus is telling us through it. Do they understand that He encapsulated His sermon on the mount into this one prayer? If they really understood what the words mean would they still pray them?*

## Our Father...

*These first  
two words  
set the stage  
for understanding  
the rest of the  
Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father. These are the first two words of the Lord's Prayer. At first glance they don't seem to mean much. They are just an address to God and yet this address brings with it some rich theology. In these two words we find hope, community, belonging, identity. In these two words is a deep understanding of who we are as a people of God and who God is for us. These first two words set the stage for understanding the rest of the Lord's Prayer.

When many of us think about God the Father we are encouraged. We think about our earthly fathers' love for us. We are reminded of family and belonging. But the truth is there is a growing number of people in this country who don't make these associations with father. For them the term father refers to a cruel man who withholds love. Unless we deal with this we can never understand why Jesus used the term father.

### God Hates You

The movie *Fight Club* typifies the nihilism of many in the late 1990s and early 2000s. It follows a man who has lost all hope in anything. It is a story of hitting rock bottom and coming out the other side. He decides that all social constructs, even religion, have failed him and thus he must accept a new one of his own creation. A journey that closely resembles Nietzsche's *Thus Spake Zarathustra*.

Why mention this? Because there is one scene (language warning) in *Fight Club* that explains exactly how many people view God. The main character is suffering

from a chemical burn and his friend, Tyler Durden, is trying to help him reach enlightenment through it. Durden exclaims that “our fathers were our models for God.” He concludes that since God hates them, they don’t need God.

## **We have to be aware of the boundaries that we may be putting up simply because of the words that we use.**

Now many of you are thinking that this isn’t true. God doesn’t hate His children. You would be right. But our earthly fathers taint how we view our heavenly father. If we had a loving father, then it becomes easy for us to accept that we have a loving heavenly father. But if we had an earthly father who beat us, or neglected us, or raped us, then it becomes very, very hard to see that connection.

### **Our Mother**

What is interesting is that for many of these Christians seeing God as mother is easier. They grew up in homes where their mothers or grandmothers were the primary care givers. They can understand love and compassion and selflessness because of their mothers. They can even point to places in scripture where God is referred to in female terms.

So should we all start calling God “Our Mother”? No. I am not saying that. There are actually very good reasons why Jesus used the term father instead of mother. But what I want you to see is that there can be issues with the language we use to describe God. We have to be aware of the boundaries that we may be putting up simply because of the words that we use. We must always be aware of these boundaries.

### **The Community of God**

Before I delve much deeper into the use of the word father, I want to back up and talk about “our.” This is such an important word. Jesus could have easily said “My” father. There are plenty of places where He refers to God as His father. But here, in this prayer, Jesus calls God “our father.” This is so important to our understanding of how we are to relate to one another.

In the most simple terms this means that each and every Christian is a brother and sister to each other. This means that the church of God — that the people of God — are a family. We are called to care for one another. We are called to help and encourage one another. This is a concept that is picked up in the epistles. In nearly every epistle the people of God are called brothers and sisters. It was not just Paul who saw this; both James and Peter use these terms.

He became like us so that we could become like Him. We have, through adoption, what Jesus had by nature.

But more than being brothers and sisters to each other, we are brothers and sisters to Jesus. He reminds us that anyone who follows Him is a brother or a sister. This is an amazing thing! Not only are we part of the family of believers, but we are also part of the family of God.

## **Jesus declares to us that God has adopted us into His family. And this is why Jesus uses the term father.**

*continued on next page...*

## The Lord's Prayer Our Father

*continued from previous page*

### **We are First Born Sons**

In the ancient near East, property and rights were transferred through the men in the family. Women could not own property. This is the central dilemma in the book of Ruth. Women were supposed to be taken care of by the men in their family. God even struck Onan dead because he refused to take care of his sister-in-law Tamar. Needless to say, this is a culture where property and blessings are passed from father to son.

It is this culture that Jesus comes into. This is the reason that Jesus was born male. Jesus referring to God as father conveys this relationship. It shows us that God will bestow upon us blessings as children. I have talked at length about how Jesus became like us so that He could save us. I have talked about how this means that we need to humble ourselves like Jesus.

### **Jesus became like us so that He could save us. He became like us so that we could become like Him.**

But there is more. He became like us so that we could become like Him. We have through adoption what Jesus had by nature. Paul calls us co-heirs with Christ. The author of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus took on our death so that we could have His eternal life. We receive the blessings of God — the very likeness of God — because we are His children. Because we are His first born sons.

This is why the first two words are so important. They remind us that God is the father of us all. They remind us we must be a community that takes care of each other. They show us that we are family. But more than that they show us that God has given us good gifts. They show us that God has blessed us. They show us that we have received everything that belongs to God. They show us that we are cared for and loved. They give us hope for our future. SR

*May you come to realize that you are part of a family.*

*May you see yourself as worthy of blessings.*

*May you understand that God is a good father.*

*And may God continue to bless you, His child.*

*Amen!*

---

*Our Father* is the first in a series about *The Lord's Prayer* written by Pastor Phil Lawton from the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ. Check out Phil's blog at [contemplatingkenosis.blogspot.com](http://contemplatingkenosis.blogspot.com)

## Three Little Churches: A Cautionary Tale



Once upon a time, I took trip to do some ministry work in an economically challenged developing world country. While there I met another man on mission named Brian Winzenried. Brian shared that he made regular visits to the land where I was visiting and the focus of his ministry was discipling life application of fundamental Biblical principles. The materials he used were organized and developed several years ago by Crown Financial Ministries to help Christians around the world free themselves from financial slavery. The curriculum included modules emphasizing topics like honesty, integrity, and stewardship: areas that have application in a believer's walk much more broadly than just the handling of money.

Brian relayed an experience he had undergone only a few months before. He told of visiting three separate congregations in the span of just a couple of weeks. With each congregation he made clear that even as a foreign visitor he had only come to provide training and would be making no donations to the local church or their leadership. Actually, he would share his testimony with the congregation at no cost, but he had been trained to receive a small fee (50¢) for each person for each day of his three-day course. This was usually received with some skepticism, since he was coming from an economically influential country, but would be charging several coins for the lessons he gave.

The first Church that he visited was a home-grown Christian ministry with little or no international support. They built their own worship facilities and supported their own mission. As with all the congregations that he visited, he offered to provide some after-session training with DVD support. The congregation would only need to provide the electrical generator and fuel to run his projector and player. The students responded

and scraped together the funds needed for a gallon of fuel and procured a generator.

The second Church he visited had their church building built by others and they built their own parsonage and classrooms. When offered the DVD lessons, they could come up with the fuel, but begged that he provide the generator. He would not relent, so they did not get the extra training.

The third Church was completely funded by external support. The facilities were all provided and even their mission work was subsidized by foreign contributors. When told they would need to arrange for the fuel and generator, the offer was politely declined. His perception of their shallow spiritual state was emphasized by the leaders of the third Church also charging him \$3.00 in order for him to sleep on the concrete roof of their worship hall the last night as their idea of hospitality.

Not only did this narrative act as a warning to me of the dangers of facilitating an unhealthy ministry environment, but it also served as a reminder that we each can expect our own faith to deepen in relationship to how much we invest in what we say we believe. As we consider these Churches, we have to evaluate which Church best reflects our attitudes towards the Body of Christ. **Am I in the 80% that gathers to receive a blessing or in the 20% that comes to be a blessing?**

Ultimately, I need to consider not "what is the easiest way for me?" but, "what does the greatest good for those to whom we are ministering?" This includes developing world churches, our local church, even our family members. The whole account is just another reminder that none of us should be approaching our relationships, our ministries, our education, our work — our life — like it is about us. <sup>[SR]</sup>



*"An exceptional future can only be built on the transformation of the mess I've made, not the elimination of it."*

— Craig D. Lounsbrough

## A TRANSFORMATION ATTITUDE

Christmas is over. The holly jolly holidays have ended. In an effort to continue the merriment and bring enthusiasm in to a new year, many people make New Year's resolutions. I am not one of those people. There have been years when I've thought about making a resolution, but I just couldn't decide what to choose to commit to doing or not doing for an entire year — or really if I'm honest, even to the end of January. So I don't make resolutions.

Many people do make resolutions, though, and they might last through the end of January or a few months and then the new shiny year wears on and the resolution is broken or forgotten until it's time to make a new one. I'm certain if I ever got around to making a resolution, I would be this sort of person.

Then there are those rare folks who make a resolution and stick to it. I typically like to classify these people as "type A" who just add it to their schedule and are good to go. But that isn't always the case. So why do they succeed where many fail or never even get started?

It's possible that the reason many of our well intentioned resolutions fail is because we view them as a way to eliminate a "mess" we've made. A way to eliminate imperfections. The word "elimination" carries a connotation that something will be quick, and perhaps not easy, but done over a shorter period of time. To me a year doesn't seem a short period of time. Though we may be thinking long term, it's easy to get discouraged when we don't see instantaneous results that are not realistic — but we hoped for subconsciously or consciously.

We are prone to the "mess-up equals give-up" circumstance. Often we view mistakes, slip-ups, or setbacks as failure. When something goes wrong in these types of personal situations we give up, because we've supposedly eliminated this mess. But it's not really gone

and when we realize the mess is still present in our lives that means we screwed up — doesn't it? From that perspective we are defeated.

Those who are successful at making resolutions might be more prone to having a transformation attitude rather than an elimination attitude. Transformation is typically associated with a process that may take time. It isn't a finished work, not every variable is known, and sometimes things may get a little bit "messy." It's okay if there are imperfections because eventually they will be ironed out in the process. Transformation reminds me of tempering iron: there is a series of heating and cooling steps that removes impurities eventually yielding a masterpiece — it takes time and repetition to get it correct.

Goals and resolutions are much like this.

Most of us (yes, even those "type A" folk) can't decide to make life changes and then just go cold turkey or automatically insert a new behavior into our life seamlessly. It takes time and practice and we might not get it every time. You don't go from running zero miles a day to running five miles a day. Sometimes sleep is more important than exercise. You can be "more organized" and have your desk cleaned off one day only to have it completely messed up by the end of the week. I've not even begun to factor in kids. Even if things are finally spotless, children in the vicinity mean five minutes later, it isn't. Sometimes things just go wrong. But if you are looking at things from a transformation viewpoint, it isn't the end of the world (or your resolution), it's merely another step in the transformation process.

Changing your thinking to a more transformative attitude may be the thing to free you from the guilt of broken resolutions. You can actually stick to your New Year's resolution this year. A broken resolution does not happen until you give up on it. SR



# The Grace of God

As you walk on the streets you may see people struggling with different things, like gossip, pornography, alcoholism, depression, addictions, etc. The fact is that we all struggle, we all fall under the category of “sinners” and have fallen short of the glory of God. The difference is the grace of God. I am sure you have heard and read about the grace of God countless times, but it is important to read it again because His mercy is what takes you to your call in life.

This message is for those who have a call from God. If you want to do great things, and I mean big things for His kingdom, this message is for you. If you think that you already got there, that is awesome, but this little article may not be for you.

If you have a passion to serve the Lord and your goal is huge — you know what, it is possible to fulfill it. No matter what you are struggling with or if you are not “holy” enough, grace is for you. The same God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, and many others, is the same God that has got your back. That is because He doesn’t look at your weaknesses; rather, His grace embraces you and gives you the strength to do what you really want to do for Him.

Let’s look at the life of Peter — yes, the one who after 2,000 years people keep talking about. The Bible tells us that he didn’t have a glamorous job at the beginning. He was a fisherman, probably not the greatest since he was fishing all day long without success when Jesus met him for the first time. After walking with Jesus, Peter saw first-hand the miracles of God. Peter didn’t have enough faith as he was walking on the water to meet with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee. As he walked towards Him, he sank — yet, Jesus extended His hand and saved him. At the time of the crucifixion, Peter was the only disciple who denied Jesus.

In spite of Peter’s “sins” and failing over and over again, his purpose for the Kingdom did not change. Matthew 16:19 says that Jesus gave him the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. In conclusion, keep fighting the race of faith, go for what the Lord has put in your heart and don’t let your shortcomings interfere in your call. SR

Remember Philippians 1:6: *“he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”*

— Andrés Jara

*Andrés has been involved in international media ministry for more than a decade*



by Donna VanHorn

You may be one of those folks who pooh-pooh the idea of New Year’s resolutions. If it has to do with promising to exercise more often, or taking decadent desserts off the menu, then I’m totally in your corner. Seriously though, I’m guessing that deep in your heart, you have at least secret regrets about some of your thoughts or behaviors in the year just ended. We all have a list of do-over’s we work on constantly. I know my list includes times when I spoke in anger and haste and hurt someone close to me. It also includes those moments when I could have ministered in my own unique way to someone needing what only I could offer. Sadly, I wasn’t tuned in and failed to see the moment.

If we accept that we’re God’s children — an abundance of Scripture gives us that assurance — then His grace has already taken care of those do-overs. If we choose to do an instant replay of 2016, we’ll be aware of the moments when He upheld us in times of stress, or provided for us in times of need, or simply let us fly on our own to appreciate how He’s gifted us. As I look into this New Year, I appreciate that my vision isn’t perfect. There’ll be circumstances I can’t anticipate that will probably end up on **next year’s** list of do-overs. But what I do know is that by recommitting my life to Jesus Christ, as my Savior and Leader, the list will be marked “finished” even before I try to write it down next January 1.

At the moment, I’m meditating on Psalm 23. Not the part we associate with funerals. Far from that, I’m seeing and loving the assurance the Psalmist gives me about the days and years ahead. Let these verses speak to your heart and encourage you as well, as you resolve to live in and with Him this New Year. SR

*“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”*

— Psalm 23:6

---

For information about Donna’s devotional book,  
*Tune God In: Your Heart’s His Receiver*, visit her website  
at [www.tunegodin.com](http://www.tunegodin.com)

# GOD WOULD NOT GIVE US A TEST THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO PASS!

How many times have we cried out to God, asking why something has happened? I know I've done it plenty. "Why me? What did I do?" Reflecting on it, I always remember that we're all far from perfect, and that we deserve much worse than whatever comes our way in life. But it's still puzzling. If our wrongdoings are forgiven through faith and acceptance of Jesus as our savior, then why would we still face punishment for them? Does God just flip a coin every time we sin? Or could it be something more?

If we flip open our Bibles to James 1:2-4, we find this passage: *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."* That seems to be pretty clear on this issue. Instead of complaining to God when we're dealing with stress or loss or any other sort of hardship, we should be joyous. Not only does it provide us with an opportunity to strengthen our faith, but it shows that God is confident in our ability to pass through this test.

This doesn't mean that the test will be easy. Compare it to a test in school (in an ideal situation, at least): the teacher gives the students new material to learn at a steady pace, shows them how to do it, and helps if a student is struggling (though sometimes not until the student first asks for help). When the test day arrives, however, the teacher has to step back. This test is meant to assess the knowledge of the students themselves, not the teacher. Some students might have natural skill in a subject, and ace it easily. Others might have a harder time — but they've still been provided

with the opportunity to succeed. If these students spent time on their homework, worked with the teacher on things they were struggling with, and studied for the test, then they should be able to pass, and even get a high grade. On the other hand, if they did the bare minimum work, didn't try to improve, and just glanced over some notes the night before the test, probably they won't do as well.

The difference with God is that we don't need to make a caveat that this is the ideal situation — we already know it is. God wouldn't give us a test that's impossible for us to pass. But if He wants to truly test us, it can't be something we can mindlessly get through with no effort. It has to be something that actually tries our faith and, in the end, tempers it. We've been promised that our life on earth shouldn't be easy if we follow God's will. But we've also been promised great rewards for enduring. Skipping forward a few verses, James 1:12 says, *"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him."*

So take heart! Our God is a good teacher. He has provided us with what we need to get through life. The only question that remains is one of our own character. Will we work hard and put some effort into it, or will we be complacent and lazy? You can sit around and do nothing, then end up unprepared and unable to accomplish much with your faith. But if you prepare yourself, it will pay dividends. God will bless and reward you. Your faith will be strengthened. You can be confident in having done good work. The choice is yours. SR



# Be a Friend First!

I could write for hours showing my knowledge of the Bible, but it wouldn't matter to the people who don't believe in it. And I think all that knowledge and referencing Bible verses are really good, but sometimes we overlook one major detail.

When I was a freshman in high school, I was trying to spread the gospel. The first person I talked to was a guy named Joe. He became discouraged. He started to hate me and he pushed me away because I was too overpowering with what I was saying. So I decided to drop everything and become his friend. He warmed up to me and we became good friends. Later that year, he started asking questions about my faith. This time, I only answered his questions – nothing more.

I began to think about how Jesus was spreading the Gospel. He was befriending the tax collectors and widows and a ton more of different people. He was a friend, brother, and teacher to his disciples. He spent His time traveling to different places and doing the impossible. The people who listened were the people who respected and loved Him. Did the Pharisees listen or even respect Him?

I think the most important thing in spreading the Gospel is to love every single person you see. It doesn't matter what age, gender, race, or even religion. Go out there and love the people you meet. Make friends and tell them the gospel because if you don't, no one will listen if you are hating instead of loving them. [SR](#)

By Xander Post  
SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ

THE BEACON



## A Decade of Boxes!

*continued from page 9*

Each box brimmed with personal items such as soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, hair brushes and then had "WOW" items such as dolls, trucks, balls, flashlights, etc. The congregation prayed over the boxes and added a finishing touch to let the recipients know who was sending their love — a picture of the filled boxes with each person at the packing party. The Shiloh Church knows that these boxes filled with items are not just shoeboxes...they represent children. For some children this is the first time they are learning that God loves them and they are special. The shoeboxes are the catalyst to encourage these children to participate in "The Greatest Journey" and learn more about God and accept Jesus as their own personal Lord and Savior. For the Shiloh SDB Church's 10th anniversary of shoebox ministries, they achieved their church record. They filled 200 shoeboxes.

Over the last decade, the Shiloh Church has filled 1,257 shoeboxes. This means 1,257 children felt the love of God. 1,257 children received the Word of God in their native language. 1,257 children had the opportunity to participate in "The Greatest Journey" to learn to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Looking forward to the next decade, the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh encourages others to participate in this awesome ministry and also asks for prayer as these boxes continue to work in these children's lives and as more lives are reached. [SR](#)

— Courtney Mattus  
SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ



## Life on Mission:

### History or His Story?

I'm pausing for a few moments to reflect on the past year. I remember the changes that took place — some of the challenges in the family; days when work seemed to never end; some events in our church that changed our understanding of community; some moments of celebration and tears of regret; the joy of a new baby girl named Berkeley and three other grands that have more energy than I remember my kids had when they were small; my neighbors faithfully coming to check on Mema (PB's mom) — I'm smiling!

Reflection is an important process of healing, re-evaluating, learning, and processing. It helps our minds and spirits absorb some of the meanings of life situations, how well or not so well we handled the event, what we can reinforce or make better, and of course what not to allow to happen again. When all is processed and our reflections have been understood we can be reminded that it's history.

When I say the word "history" I am reminded of Matthew West's song, "History" — my thoughts are moved by what it means to be motivated and influenced not by my past, but the past that changed the world. His story... Jesus! You see, I always interpreted the words from the song, "you are history in the making" meaning "His story in the making." Whether that was Matthew's intent or not, it affected me — caused me to understand that I am being moved and changed into a story of redemption and new life in Jesus. Now I'm His Story!

On my phone Bible devotional app (application), I was reading the "I-Factor" written by Van Moody in my study time. His thoughts provided a fresh view of the history that is so important and freeing. He wrote about His Story these words:

*"I believe one of the most desperate needs among people is to gain a clear understanding of how God sees us. It will revolutionize the way we see ourselves and the way we view others. All believers accept Jesus' death on the cross as an intellectual reality, but some fail to grasp in their hearts how dramatically His sacrifice impacts our everyday lives. The crucifixion means that every sin in our past has been washed away, every wound has been healed, and every bondage has been broken. The tide of blood that flowed from Calvary has carried away everything that would make us feel guilty, ashamed, bitter and regretful; and has made possible a life of total freedom, healing wholeness, and redemption. It gives us a fresh start every single day..."*

## LIFE ON MISSION

Touching lives for Jesus

### President's Page

by Patti Wethington

SDB Church, White Cloud, MI

*Now is the time — I mean right now, this minute — to make up your mind that your past no longer matters. When it doesn't matter, it can't influence you. Until the past is rendered impotent in your mind, it will affect the way you see yourself, the way you view others and the way you think about your future. It's time for that to stop. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jn 8:32)*

The truth is Jesus... His Story and how precious a gift we've been given. When experienced, the unfolding story begins to emerge in each of us who accept His calling: how God meets us, where He intervenes, what He says through scripture that has its own personal meaning individually. How God breathes life into our talent, when He opens a door that never seemed to be in view before and, oh! what comfort when we come before Him with our aches and pains. That kind of story, from absorbing His sacrifice and allowing it to impact our everyday life. "...and the truth will make you free."

Now, I challenge you to take hold of the freedom in knowing the truth, let the story that emerges from you be realized, live your *Life on Mission*: touching lives for Jesus by simply sharing His Story and the history of Jesus in your own life. Listen to the story that comes from others, ask questions, grow with them... Share the simple experiences of God's impact on your everyday life.

My prayer this January is our memory scripture verse: "Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the good news is for Jews and Gentiles alike." SR

***“Let me tell you what I wish I’d known when I was young and dreamed of glory: you have no control who lives, who dies, who tells your story.”***

— George Washington to Alexander Hamilton  
in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s “Hamilton.”

For most of my tenure doing historic work among Seventh Day Baptists, I have tried to frame my work publicly as both a ministry of memory and of storytelling. This has been very helpful for me, because as words increase, sometimes the real heart of a thing can be obscured. I know this from personal experience as someone who has been known to “increase words” from time to time!

When most people think about history, they think about dusty books and dusty people recounting names and dates in a drroll monotone voice. But this stereotype isn’t always true! And it’s especially untrue when the person with the grasp of history isn’t just recounting facts, but telling compelling stories. Seventh Day Baptists have been blessed for generations with gifted storytellers, and the stories have become part of what we are as a people. We don’t always get to choose who tells our stories, but there might be a choice for some of our storytellers in the coming months!

Since its inception in 1844, the *Sabbath Recorder* has been a place where the stories of Seventh Day Baptists and our congregations have been told. One of the ways that this was accomplished was through original history writing which was published in the pages of the publication. Local church histories, family histories and important stories have routinely been told from these pages. These old stories are frequently referenced in our historical research here in Janesville and invaluable resources.

For this reason, we are recruiting history writers to submit short or longer form pieces which may be selected for publication on this page in the *Sabbath Recorder* each month. We are hoping that interested historians will tell the stories of important people or churches in a way that will benefit all of us, as well as documenting history for future generations which may not be documented elsewhere. Do you have a history story to tell which could benefit us to hear? This is your chance!

The stories could be about historical events from last week or the last century, but they need to clearly describe




a historical occurrence, and with the important facts and dates recorded. First person retellings are acceptable also, though we may not publish first person pieces which disparage others or other congregations! On a related note, submission of a piece does not guarantee publication.

In order for a piece to be published in our monthly column, it needs to be 650 words or less, and if photographs (which are encouraged) are included, the word count needs to be less! Longer stories will be accepted, but very long pieces are unlikely to be published because it would stretch out the story for multiple months.

Good stories have a clear beginning, middle and end! Please be sure that your story is clear, and that you have sufficiently limited your subject matter so that it can be told in the span of a month or two. The most compelling stories paint clear pictures of a situation and the participants in it, and because we believe that God is at work in us and among us, we would hope to see some indication of how you think God has worked in a particular situation or group in your church.

If you have a story you wish to submit, or if you have questions about submitting your story you can contact me here at the SDB Center, or you can email me at [nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org).

I look forward to hearing what God has done in your churches, and to see your stories told in this space in the coming months! 

# Agape Ministry Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia — Part 1

By: Pastors Joel and Judith Houts



The **Agape Ministry Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia** has asked for membership in the Conference. This is a hope to let you get to know them better.

I (Judith) first became aware of my call to serve God when I was about five years old. Joel's call became real to him in the year 2000.

The Agape Ministry, per se, began in Battle Creek, MI, in 1987 while I was attending the local SDB church. It began as an outreach program with a 24/7 prayer line and the "Helping Hands" program (food and clothing for the needy). Later on, the Ministry opened a Spanish speaking bilingual church which still stands in the city today.

In 1997, Joel and I got married and moved to Ohio. We now did God's ministry as a couple. After working with the Latino community for ten years and traveling as evangelists to several countries, we felt God wanted us to join the Pataskala SDB church. However, I had always felt the urge to return to Puerto Rico as a missionary. So Joel and I began praying about God's will in this area of our lives.

In 2011, my mother, who lived in Puerto Rico, got ill and I decided to travel to the Island to help with her care. We talked to Pastor Robert Van Horn about this decision and the possibility of us moving permanently. Pastor Robert and the church saw fit to commission us as missionaries to Puerto Rico.

And thus the work of SDBs began on this island — but sadly, due to work responsibilities, Joel had to return to the USA. I remained to help with my mother's care. On Sabbath mornings, I began teaching a Sabbath School class to a seven-year-old boy named Justin. Later, two more boys and their mother joined us. In 2012, Pastor Robert told us he and his wife Lana were coming to visit us in Puerto Rico. Joel and I organized

a small crusade in the barrio and six persons came to the Lord. We began holding services in our living room because our gazebo location outside became too small.

Immediately, the persecution from some people began. Little did I know that some of these people, who had begun coming to our church, had visited for a while in the SDA church. They never joined and had not attended for months. But that did not stop the Pastor, the Elder, and other members from visiting them at their homes and telling them that we were what the Bible talked about — "false teachers." The harassment also came from my own family. Our church was referred to as "The church of the devil." Some of my family members wanted to attend but were discouraged to do so. They saw my intent to establish a different denominational church in the area as an act of defiance.

One of my sons, in an effort to prevent Joel and me from experiencing further grief, begged us to move the church some place different because he felt my family was going to think that we were trying to compete with them. I was mocked and laughed at by my own family! My name was no longer Judith nor Judy, but "Pastorcita" in an effort to belittle my role as a Pastor. My husband's picture was removed from my sister's home and replaced. Joel and I felt alone, and at times we felt we were abandoned.

After much prayer and meditation, we felt the best way to come against Satan's attack was to bring workers from the USA to help us out. We knew of Ruth Russell, from Wisconsin, and were friends with Richard Payne when he was in Pataskala. They joined us and it was a great success! [SR](#)

**Continued Next Month!**

## SOUL CARE FOR THE LEADER AND CONGREGATION

**The 2017 SDB Pastors Conference is coming up in just a few months.  
Have you made sure that your pastor is going to be able to attend?**

This year we will be focusing on the theme of soul care for pastors and their families as well as the congregations that they serve. Pastors Conference is a time of networking, renewal, and learning with SDB pastors and their spouses from all over the USA & Canada. It is an opportunity to go deep with brothers and sisters who are serving churches or have retired from active pastoral ministry. There will be opportunities for food, learning, fellowship, and worship.

**We will be meeting from April 25-27, 2017 in Alfred Station, NY.**

April 24 and April 28 have been set aside for travel days. Those who are flying and want us to arrange transportation for them should fly in and out of the Rochester (NY) International Airport. The registration fee will be \$100\*. This will help us cover the food and programming. A registration form will be made available soon through [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) and social media.

**If you have any questions about Pastors Conference, please contact John Pethtel at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org) or 608-752-5055 ext. 1009.**

\*The registration fee may qualify for Continuing Education Funds for pastors. Find out more about Continuing Education for Pastoral Leaders at [www.seventhdaybaptist.org/continuingeducation](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org/continuingeducation).

## HISPANIC MINISTRIES COUNCIL CONTINUES ITS WORK

The newly created Hispanic Ministries Council (HMC), led by Pastor Helmer Umaña, has been working to determine the best ways for the SDB General Conference to reach out to an increasing community of Spanish-speakers in North America.

One of the greatest needs is to translate all of our current material (as well as future material) into Spanish. This is a project that will require extra funding for additional publication and translation expenses. Another area of opportunity that the HMC is working on is how to help others reach into the Hispanic culture effectively in their own communities.

Please continue to pray that our ministry to Spanish-speakers will grow in proportion to the growth that we see in our country today.

**If you are interested in supporting or helping in these ministries  
(or to join the conversation of the HMC),  
please contact Pastor Helmer Umaña  
or Director of Church Development, John Pethtel.**





## Ten Commandments for Guest-Friendly Church Members

I travel a lot and spend a lot of time in different churches. I have had a church consulting firm that did “guest” visits as part of our services. Sadly, many times I do not feel welcome as a guest when I visit churches.

The Bible is replete with admonitions of hospitality and servanthood. I just wish our church members understood that the servant-like spirit should also be manifest when we gather to worship. Guests are often uncomfortable, if not intimidated, when they visit a church. We are to be gracious and sacrificial servants to them.

In response to this need for more guest-friendly church members, I have devised the ten greatest needs, at least from my perspective. I will reticently call them “commandments” and throw in a little King James English for effect.

**1. Thou shalt pray for people in the services whom you don't recognize.** They are likely guests who feel uncomfortable and uncertain.

**2. Thou shalt smile.** You only have to do so for about an hour. Guests feel welcome when they see smiling people. You can resume your somber expressions when you get home.

**3. Thou shalt not sit on the ends of the rows.** Move to the middle so guests don't have to walk over you. You'll survive in your new precarious position.

**4. Thou shalt not fill up the back rows first.** Move to the front so guests don't have to walk in front of everyone if they get there late.

**5. Thou shalt have ushers to help seat the guests.** Ushers should have clearly-marked badges or shirts so that the guests know who can help them.

**6. Thou shalt offer assistance to guests.** If someone looks like they don't know where to go, then they probably don't know where to go. Get out of your comfort zone and ask him if you can help.

**7. Thou shalt not gather too long in your holy huddles.** Sure, it's okay to talk to fellow members; but don't stay there so long that you are not speaking to guests.

**8. Thou shalt offer your seats to guests.** I know that this move is a great sacrifice, but that family of four can't fit in the three vacant seats next to you. Give it a try. You might actually feel good about your efforts.

**9. Thou shalt not save seats.** I know you want to have room for all of your friends and family, but do you know how a guest feels when he or she sees the vacant seats next to you occupied by three hymnals, one Bible, two coats, and an umbrella? You might as well put a “Do Not Trespass” sign on the seats.

**10. Thou shalt greet people you don't know.** Yes, it's risky. They may actually be members you don't know. And you may get caught in a 45-second conversation. You'll be okay; I promise. SR

*Used by permission from Thom Rainer. Dr. Thom Rainer is CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, is a much sought-after church consultant, and is a long-time proponent of church health.*



## A New Scholarship for Pastoral Education!

The Council on Ministry is happy to announce a new scholarship has been started by Sister Jasmine Lynch of the West Palm Beach, FL, SDB Church in honor of her husband, Pastor Alcott Lynch, aimed towards aiding pastors receive leadership and pastoral training!

In her establishment of the scholarship, Sister Lynch explained her husband's legacy and the purpose for it:

*"Pastor Alcott Lynch, charter member of the Miami and West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Churches died on November 20, 2015, and was buried on December 7, 2015. Throughout his ministry, he had a heart for recruiting and training of Pastoral students. He saw that the "harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Therefore, I think it is only fitting to establish the Alcott Lynch Scholarship in his memory for the training and education of students who would like to be Seventh Day Baptist pastors..."*

The scholarship, which can be for up to \$1,000 yearly, was officially established earlier this year. Preference for the scholarship is shown to minority students, as a means of ensuring educational opportunities for our increasingly multiethnic Conference.

Omari Rhoden, of the First SDB Church of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is the first recipient of the scholarship. We are proud to honor Pastor Alcott's memory with this new scholarship, which will aid in supporting Omari's education in the 2016-17 academic year.

We are grateful for Pastor Lynch's legacy and for Sister Lynch's generosity in establishing this new scholarship. We look forward to honoring students with it for years to come as an ongoing tribute to Pastor Lynch's service to the Kingdom of God. SR



Omari Rhoden



### Registration for Summer Institute on Sabbath Theology Is Open!

The School of Ministry will once again be holding Summer Institute classes in 2017. The class material this year will cover Sabbath Theology. The class consists of an online portion which runs from February to May, and an in-person intensive scheduled for June 4-9, 2017, at the SDB Center in Janesville, WI. These classes are for SDB pastors and leaders and are required for credentialing by the General Conference.

Tuition for the class for those not in a School of Ministry training program (Seminary Education or some SDBU classes) is \$300, not including travel costs. Tuition assistance may be available.

Those wishing to participate can register online (<https://goo.gl/forms/FcCwWXsLDqvF-fcj13>), download a paper form at the General Conference website: (<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/summer-institute-2017-registration-open/>), or contact Nick Kersten to be mailed a copy of the registration form. Registration forms are due January 25, 2017. Please contact Nick ([nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org)); or call (608) 752-5055 ext. 1006) with questions or for more information.





## Memory Boosters

Worried about fading brain power? Cognitive skills start to decline at age 27. Although some changes in thinking and memory are inevitable, the good news is that lifestyle seems to be able to blunt those effects. Here's what you can do to preserve yours:

### 1. Take the stairs

Exercise benefits your head as much as the rest of your body. Overall cardio-respiratory fitness also lowers the risk of obesity, diabetes and heart problems — all known risk factors for Alzheimer's.

### 2. Change your wallpaper

Doing routine things keeps the brain on autopilot. Novelty fires up the brain as new data creates and works new neural pathways.

### 3. Steal some zzz's by daylight

Your brain sorts, consolidates and stores memories accumulated during the day. That's why eight hours at night is so valuable. However, a six-minute nap is as valuable as a full night's sleep to short-term recall. A 90-minute nap speeds up the process that helps the brain consolidate long-term memories.

### 4. Take a mental "photograph"

To help make the memory of an incident last, take a "snapshot" of it while you're in the moment, using all your senses. Think about what you see; colors, textures, smell, taste. This can help you hang onto a happy memory longer. It can also help you remember where you parked your car.

### 5. Eat less

Decreasing daily calories helps a healthy person score 20% better on memory tests. Those eating a Mediterranean diet have the lowest risk of developing mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease.

### 6. Try a "brain-training" game or join a "brain gym"

One study shows that people over 65 who use a computerized cognitive training program for an hour a day improve memory and attention.

### 7. Spend some time online

Searching the Web is a bit like using a brain-training course.

### 8. Stop and sip a cuppa.

Green and black teas have a protective effect on memory, possibly by influencing enzymes in the brain. People who drink moderate amounts of coffee at midlife have lower odds of developing dementia in late life. Taking a coffee or tea break is a good opportunity for de-stressing.

### 10. Take the "multi" out of your tasking

People remember less well if they are multitasking while learning.

### 11. Keep your blood sugar under control

Brain functioning subtly slows as diabetics' blood sugar rises and the brain's blood vessels are damaged. This begins well before memory problems become obvious — even before there's a diabetes diagnosis.

### 12. Waggle your eyes back and forth

Scanning your eyes from side to side for 30 seconds helps unite the two hemispheres of the brain, which helps you remember better.

### 13. Eat your green vegetables

People deficient in folate and vitamin B12 have an increased risk of developing dementia. Sources of folate include romaine, spinach, asparagus, turnip greens, broccoli and cauliflower.

### 14. Don't ignore sleep apnea

People with this condition show declines in the brain tissue that stores memory.

### 15. Learn something new that's a real departure for you

If you like numbers try learning a language. If you're a gardener try painting flowers instead.

### 16. Quit smoking

Smokers develop Alzheimer's years earlier than nonsmokers.

### 17. Eat some chocolate!

Epicatechin, an ingredient in chocolate, fuels blood vessel growth and may improve memory.

### 18. Put everything in its place

Your memory needs a certain amount of familiarity to keep your life functioning smoothly. Place keys and glasses in the same place all the time.

### 19. Don't retire

A satisfying worklife offers social stimulation and decision-making opportunities and exercises problem-solving skills. Volunteer where training involves learning new material and the task involves interacting with others.

### 20. Throw a party

Being around other people lowers one's risk of developing dementia, especially if they are people you enjoy. Go easy on the alcohol as long term excessive drinking is clearly linked with dementia. Binge drinking also impairs short-term memory. [SR](#)



## NEW MEMBERS

### ALFRED STATION SDB CHURCH

Alfred Station, NY  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger

Joined by testimony:

Carol Elliott  
Karen Brown  
Steve Brown

## BAPTISMS

### FT. LAUDERDALE SDB CHURCH

Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Pastor Norman Fearon

Baptized on October 1, 2016:

Leah Edwards  
Norman Fearon Jr.  
Ashley Hill  
Jalan Leslie  
Lauray Philbert  
Javar Williams

### How to contact General Council:

Email address to all of the General Council members:

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

Regular mail can be sent to:

Susie Fox, General Council Chair  
1722 Taylor Station Road, Blacklick, OH 43004.

## JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

### Youth/Adult

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

– Ephesians 6:19-20

### Junior

Ask God to give me the right words so I can explain that the good news is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

– Ephesians 6:19-20

### Primary

Ask God to give me the right words.

– Ephesians 6:19-20

## DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

### ATTENTION SDB CHURCHES!

### 2017 DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES INFORMATION

Every year we contact churches who are members of or identify with the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference USA & Canada to collect information and compile a directory of churches.

The information that is compiled in this directory is used for three primary purposes:

1. This directory is used to help assist in the communication between the SDB General Conference and its churches and the churches with each other.
2. This directory is also used as a legal document to verify which churches within the USA & Canada may be identified as Seventh Day Baptist.
3. This directory is used to determine each member church's allotment of delegates to our annual General Conference sessions.

In January, you will receive a letter and form to fill out titled "2017 Directory of Churches Information Form." This form will also be published on our website: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org).

**Please complete this form in its entirety by  
March 1, 2017.**

It may be returned by email to  
[jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org) or mail it to:

Directory  
PO Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547

If you have any questions about the directory or the General Conference, please feel free to contact the Director of Church Development, John Pethtel, at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org) or 608-752-5055, ext. 1009.

Thank you for your church's partnership with the  
SDB General Conference!

## OBITUARIES

**STEVENS** — Margaret N. Stevens, age 100, of White Cloud, MI, passed away on Friday, October 21, 2016, at Green Acres Retirement Community in Fremont.

Margaret was born on September 3, 1916, in White Cloud, MI, the only daughter of Nettie (Branch) Fowler and Jesse Fowler, who had died of injuries shortly before Margaret's birth. Margaret was justifiably proud to be a member of the extended Branch family. Her grandfather, Adelbert Branch, was one of the founders of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in White Cloud nearly 100 years ago.

After graduating from Muskegon Heights High School, where Nettie was teaching, Margaret furthered her education at Milton College, WI, Central Michigan University; and later at the Sorbonne in Paris. She retired after 33 years as an educator, principally in White Cloud, where she taught sixth grade and later high school French. She loved opportunities to escort her young students to Paris and London. After her retirement, Margaret enjoyed winters in Florida, traveling with Elder Hostel, visiting her son in Alaska, and taking painting classes — one as recently as this summer at the church. She had an extensive personal library and was generous in sharing her books with others.

Margaret was honored on her 100th birthday at an ice cream social at her church in White Cloud. So many guests came to express their good wishes that Pastor JR Shick quit counting at 200! Her warm smile, genuine appreciation, and gracious presence will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her son, Michael Mosher (Linda) of Delta Junction, AK, and granddaughter, Wendy Sue Mosher of Nampa, ID, as well as her loving church family. Pastor Shick conducted the funeral service at the Seventh Day Baptist Church on October 27, 2016, with interment at the White Cloud Cemetery.

---

**ASHCRAFT** — Richard Paul Ashcraft, 84, died peacefully in Chico, CA, on November 20, 2016.

Richard's legacy is one of grace and generosity. He lost his wife, Patricia, seven years ago and now joins her in glory. He was a hard-working husband, father, brother, uncle, and son.

After leaving the Air Force in 1959, he built a business as a heating and air conditioning contractor. He was well respected as an honest businessman and highly competent craftsman.

Richard served as deacon at the Los Angeles Seventh Day

**SPREADBOROUGH** — Katherine Colleen (Davis) Spreadborough, 81, died on November 26, 2016, at her home in Renton, WA.

Katherine was born June 12, 1935, to Elnor Ross Davis and Ada Jessie (Crosby) Davis in Wheatridge, CO. She was married to Duane L. Davis on October 11, 1954, and after his death in 1989, to Robert Dale Spreadborough on March 17, 1993.

Katherine was a member of Seventh Day Baptist churches in Denver, CO; Nortonville, KS; Lost Creek, WV; Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies; North Loup, NE; Seattle, WA; Los Angeles, CA; and Boulder, CO. In many of these churches she served in one of the most difficult roles in our denomination: as a pastor's wife. Pastors' wives are dedicated servants who often bear a heavy load (though it is a privilege to serve in that way). We owe them special gratitude and honor. In honor of Katherine, words of respect and memories have come from many places around our denomination. Katherine was also a deaconess at the Seattle Area SDB Church.

She is survived by her husband, Robert D. Spreadborough; one brother, Gary Davis; two sisters, Myrna Cox and Beverly Wells; two sons, David Davis and Eric Davis; and two grandsons, Duane Davis and Ty Davis.

A memorial service was held on December 4, 2016, at 1:30 PM at the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church in Auburn, WA.

Donations are welcome to the Katherine Davis Spreadborough Memorial supporting Summer Christian Service Corps and Church Leadership at <https://seventhdaybaptist.org/ksdmemorial>.

---

Baptist Church. He had a heart for those in need, and was often working quietly behind the scenes to help others.

Richard was a humble man of integrity who didn't like attention. He loved God with his whole heart and wanted the same for his loved ones. His children honored him in life and will strive to carry on the legacy he and Patricia left.

Richard is survived by four children: Teri, Bill, Mark, and Lynn; and seven grandchildren: Mark, Taylor, Lindsay, Brittaney, Makenna, Kyle, and Karly.

We now entrust him to His Lord and Savior and are thankful that he is at peace.



**"Though your sins are like scarlet,  
I will make them as white as snow."**

— Isaiah 1:18 NLT

Periodicals postage paid  
at Janesville, WI  
and additional offices

Coming Next Summer:  
July 23 - 29, 2017

**LIFE  
ON MISSION**

Touching lives for Jesus

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference  
Azusa Pacific University — Azusa, California

Inside this Issue:

**Let's Celebrate!**

Beginning a new series:

**The Lord's Prayer**

Information you need about:

**New Scholarship for Pastoral Education**

**Pastors Conference**

**2017 Directory of SDB Churches**