

Sabbath Recorder



Rejoice is a word of action!

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication
December 2017

Rejoice

feel or show great joy or delight

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again — rejoice!

— Philippians 4:4 NLT

Mary

*I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true...
Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.*

— Luke 1:38, 46 NLT

Joseph

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

— Matthew 1:24 NLT

Angels

*Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others — the armies of heaven — praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

— Luke 2:13-14 NLT

Shepherds

*Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15
After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about
this child... they went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.*

— Luke 2:17 NLT

Wise Men

*When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother,
Mary, and they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

— Matthew 2:10-11 NLT

Simeon

*He took the child in his arms and praised God. He said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined
to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will
oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. and a sword will pierce your
very soul."*

— Luke 2:34-35 NLT

Anna

She began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone...

— Luke 2:38 NLT

In Every Issue

- 16 Alliance in Ministry**
Are You and Your Church In?
by Rob Appel
- 17 Focus on Missions**
A Walk With Jesus in Cana
by Clinton R. Brown
- 18 Women's Society**
A Foster Home?
by Katrina Goodrich
- 19 Council on History**
Miracle of the Bell that Rings Again!
by Ida Gay McRoberts
- 20 Church News**
A Week in the Life of the Church Bus
by Steven Moncrief
- 21 Church News**
Home Field Mission Opportunity
in Florida
by John Camenga
- 22 Health News**
Anxiety
by Barb Green
- 23 Church Announcements**
- 24 Obituaries**
Births
- 25 SCSC Information**
- 26 SDB Churches Seeking Pastors**
Conference Sessions Display Policy
- 27 President's Page**
SAA Visit and Choir Directors
by David Stall

In This Issue

- 5 Mary Rejoicing**
by Sarina Villalpando
- 6 Joseph, the Birth Coach**
by Gabriel Graffius
- 8 Let Your Rejoicing Be Evident to All**
by Pastor Robert Babcock
- 9 Rejoice Like a Shepherd**
by Willy Villalpando
- 10 Magi Mystify!**
by Julia Coleman
- 12 The Pulse of a Healthy Church: Bad Witnessing 101**
by Rev. Carl Greene
- 14 The Lord's Prayer: Lead Us Not Into Temptation**
by Pastor Philip Lawton

About The Authors

Robert Babcock received his BA from Mankato University, Mankato, MN, and his Masters from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. "Our first 10 years in Houston, TX, were wonderful, the next 16 years in Santa Barbara, CA, were great and our last 15 years here in Marlboro, NJ, have just been the icing on the cake." Pastor Bob has discovered that what a former pastor said is true, "Marlboro is the best kept secret of the SDB denomination."

Julia Coleman was born in Kingston, Jamaica, to Naval and Joyce Harley and has been a Seventh Day Baptist all her life. Married to Dennis Coleman, Jr., they have two wonderful, anointed, Jesus-loving children: Joshua and Luke. Julia lives in Abington, PA, and worships and fellowships at Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, Shiloh, NJ – "our family in Christ whom we love dearly."

Gabriel Graffius lives in Colonia, NJ, with his wife, Adrienne. Gabe is an analytical chemist and the associate pastor at Raritan Valley SDB church, NJ. He also serves as the chair of the Council on Ministry.

Carl Greene of the Hebron SDB Church, PA, is a husband, dad, and pastor. He is especially passionate about communicating the Gospel through increasingly healthy churches.

Philip Lawton recently celebrated his first anniversary with an amazing wife. He is currently working at Shiloh SDB Church, NJ, as the Assistant Pastor and attending North Park Theological Seminary online.

Willy Villalpando is an active member of Maranatha Community Church in Colton, CA. His passion for children's ministry has led him to become the Cubbies leader in Maranatha's AWANA program and a Child Development Instructional Assistant for the local school district.

Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

December 2017

Volume 239, No. 12

Whole No. 7,042



Patricia Cruzan
Editor

sbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Clinton R. Brown, Katrina Goodrich,
Barb Green, Nicholas J. Kersten, John J. Pethtel,
Xander Post, David Stall, Sarina Villalpando

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 email your manuscript as a Word document to the Editor at sbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org.

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

SDB Website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (818)-468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:

sbsr@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>

Mary Rejoicing

A long, long, very long time ago, an angel named Gabriel appeared to a young Jewish woman named Mary. He told Mary that she was going to have a son, who would be the Son of God. Young Mary was confused about this news but she had faith in God.

Mary was given an assignment that was unique. She was to give birth to the child who would be the Son of God. During the birth, Mary faced a number of challenges to her faith but she continued to rejoice in the gifts God was giving her.

Mary, out of nowhere, was given a new future – a future she didn't expect! She was being given a child, the Son of God. We may not know if this is where Mary wanted to be – if this is what she wanted – but she continued to serve God. In the end, she rejoiced over the new baby in her arms and she forever stood by Him. Mary didn't have to follow through, but she loved her child.

Mary teaches us the good lesson that sometimes we are thrown an obstacle, an obstacle that we never expected. We have a choice to fight that obstacle or see our way through God's plan for that obstacle and make it part of our life. This is what Mary did. She took action. She didn't expect to have a child anytime soon, but she rejoiced about the child through the action of carrying and loving Him.

Rejoicing is the act of being happy and thankful at the same time. But rejoicing isn't anything without showing it. [SR](#)

by Sarina Villalpando
Maranatha Community Church in Colton, CA

Young Adult page

*Mary was given an assignment
that was unique.*



I am particularly empathetic and amazed by Joseph's birth coaching at the time of Jesus' birth. It actually began as Joseph's preparations for his wedding were interrupted by a pregnant bride!

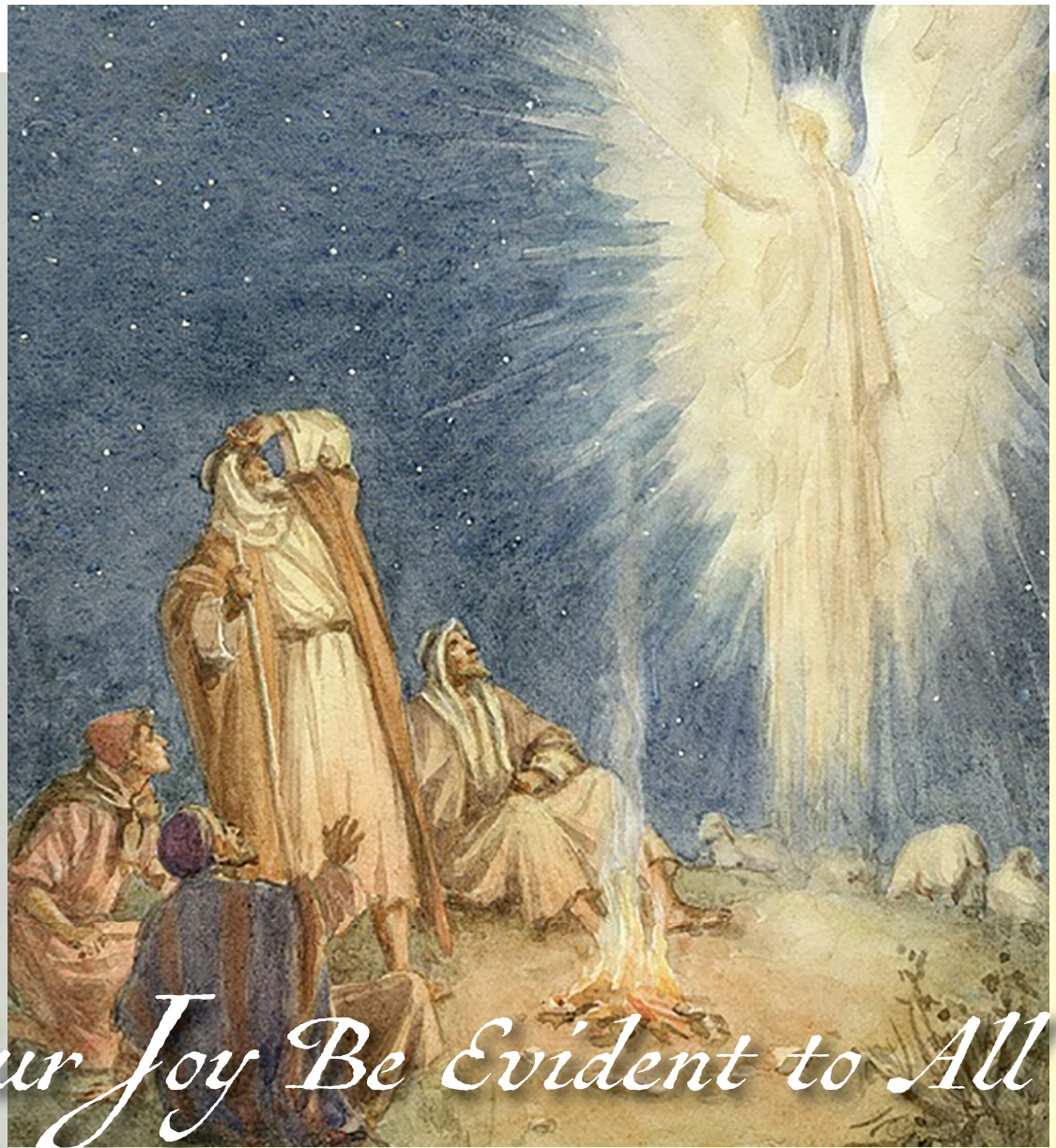
Joseph, The Birth Coach

by Gabriel Graffius

My wife and I are currently anticipating the birth of our first child. I've quickly learned that the activities and emotions surrounding childbirth are a unique time in a person's life. A woman deals with the emotional roller coaster of attempting to conceive, endures the incredible and uncomfortable physical changes to her body, receives the congratulatory hugs and gifts at the baby shower, goes through a painful labor, and is finally overwhelmed by the joy and love she feels as she holds her newborn baby for the first time. A man has a more indirect role on the sidelines. At times I even feel that I am no more than a spectator during the pregnancy, but in the prenatal classes I was encouraged to take on the more active role of "birth coach." In sports, the coach doesn't just show up on game day to cheer on the team – he works diligently with the team the entire season to teach skills, strategy, encouragement, and set the game plan. Similarly, a birth coach acts as a comforter, interior decorator, furniture builder, masseuse, "ambulance" driver, breathing instructor, and even an amateur nurse. Though playing different roles, an expectant mother and father can both be active.

I am particularly empathetic and amazed by Joseph's birth coaching at the time of Jesus' birth. It actually began as Joseph's preparations for his wedding were interrupted by a pregnant bride! But Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and resolved to take Mary to be his wife (Matthew 1:24-25). He went from preparing a marriage home and career to preparing for his new family. This, too, was interrupted by Caesar's census. As I now know multiple routes to drive to the hospital, I cannot imagine the stress of taking his pregnant wife on the long, multi-day journey to Bethlehem – and then arranging a place to stay and (presumably) a midwife upon arrival. Even after the joy and awe of Jesus' birth, the disruptions to setting up his family's new life continued (Matthew 2:13-23). Joseph went above and beyond his role as Mary's birth coach!

Christmas is a time during which many celebrate Advent. In it we find the significance of Christ's birth and the anticipation of His return. We can rejoice in action during the birth pains (Mark 13:8) of the "already, but not yet" Kingdom of Heaven. We begin with preparation, by the process of sanctification to prepare our mind, soul, and body to do the work of God's kingdom. The preparation should then focus outward to the whole team – your family and neighbors – like Joseph for Mary. Finally, we must seek and act on God's will in all of our actions just as Joseph was guided from Bethlehem to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-14) before returning to Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23) with his new family. My hope is that we will use the inspiration of Joseph to transition from mere game day fans to birth coaches for Christ's return. [SR](#)



Let Your Joy Be Evident to All

Luke 2:8-20

Perhaps one of the most glorious aspects of the birth of Christ is that He came into this world, not by a prestigious, upper class lady but by a lowly, modest, commonplace woman. It was not a glamorous, pretentious entrance into this world, but a simple birth in a stable. Add to that, the announcement of “the good tidings of great joy” was not proclaimed by the angel of the Lord to the aristocracy of the land but to common country shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night. The scripture tells us that the shepherds did three things: in faith, they went with haste and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. Then they made it widely known what was told them concerning this child. Lastly, the scripture says that they returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

The theme in this *Sabbath Recorder* is “Rejoicing in Action.” It seems only right that we consider the reactions

of some of the first people who were privileged to hear of the birth of the Savior of the world. We can see that they didn’t just revel in the fact they were chosen to be the recipients of the Good News. They went and saw for themselves. Rejoicing and praising God they then shared with others what they had been told. What a perfect example of what should be the response of every believer — not only rejoicing in the knowledge that our Savior has come but also making it widely known.

At Christmas time the easy part for Christians is the glorifying and praising God that the Savior has come for all mankind. However, that is only half of the equation, isn’t it? If our faith is genuine, how can we not then go into all the world and preach this gospel to every creature?^{SR}

by Pastor Bob Babcock

It's your average Wednesday evening. You are walking around when a group of creatures appears in front of you and says, "Don't be afraid, I have good news for you that will bring joy to so many people." Well, if you're anything like me you turn around and run (quickly) in the other direction! But I guess that's one reason why I wasn't one of the shepherds on the night Jesus was born.

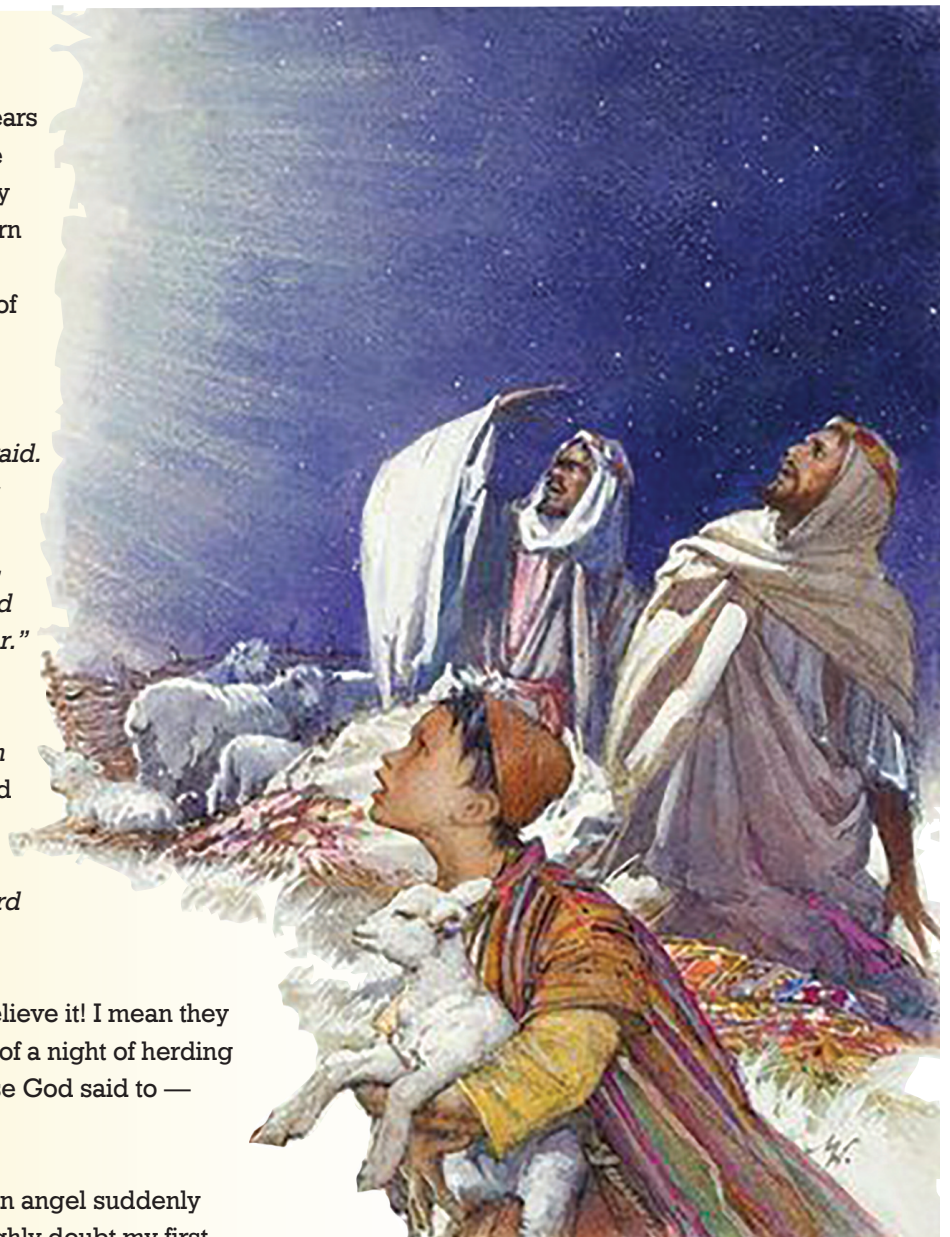
What they did really astounds me — an angel appeared before them and said, "*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*" (Luke 2:10-12) Then a group of heavenly hosts burst into song singing, "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*" (Luke 2:14) And what did the shepherds do? They, without question, responded with, "*Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.*" (Luke 2:15b).

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!?! I seriously can't believe it! I mean they were in the middle of their work, in the middle of a night of herding sheep, when a creature told them to go because God said to — and they went!

I'm an assistant in preschool right now, and if an angel suddenly appeared in front me and told me to leave, I highly doubt my first instinct would be to actually go! But that is what they did. They left immediately to find the baby waiting for them in the manger. But then the story gets even better — the shepherds did not merely stare in awe at what they had found. They rejoiced! How? They rejoiced in action! Luke 2:17-18 tells us "*When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*" They didn't choose to rejoice in silence. They went and told everyone about the incredible news they had received!


We need to be like the shepherds. Rejoice! You are a part of God's chosen people — now **REJOICE IN ACTION!** Mark 16:15 says, "*He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'*" Before Jesus could speak to them, the shepherds were already doing what Jesus commanded us all to do! See why I said what they did was so incredible?

So now it's your turn! How are you going to "**Rejoice in Action**"? SR



Rejoice Like a Shepherd

By Willy Villalpando



“And I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He [her offspring] will crush your head, and you will strike [bruise] His heel.”

—Genesis 1:15

“But when the time had fully come, GOD sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”

—Galatians 4:4

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews?’ We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

—Matthew 2:1-2

Magi Mystify!

by Julia Coleman

There was no grand public announcement of His birth: no newspaper headlines, no scandalous tabloid, no internet, no worldwide web, no text messaging, no social media, no TV, nor any present-day mode of communication. There was One Speaker, One Voice, One Message that was transmitting on a frequency higher than earth could pick up far above the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem life – a star-beacon unassumingly shining on the place where the King of the Jews was born. This was no ordinary account. Nothing should, would, or could stop the coming of the Initiated WORD sent by and from the Father. What was spoken by His Prophet as far back as creation was in rapid activation, succession, and revelation. It was time for action! The Father knew it. All of Heaven understood it. The Holy Anointed One humbled Himself to be conceived in a confined space among the vastness of His created universe.

Magis were non-Jews and had been part of Biblical history for centuries: wise men who held high respect and demand. Their role in society was to be translators of omens, interpreters of

mysteries, astrologers, influencers of government, businessmen, and prominent men in the courts of kings. They came bearing gifts to kings. In the time of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar gathered men vanquished from wars who would be the wisest, learned, and knowledgeable in the things of the kingdom, times or seasons. Daniel was, of sorts, a “magi” of his time when he was given the meaning of the king’s dream. Joseph, with Pharaoh, was another time in Bible history we see this occurring. In Solomon’s time, the Queen of Sheba came bearing gifts galore. She was astounded at the wisdom of Solomon, declaring, “Praise be to the LORD your GOD, who has delighted in you and heard your wisdom!” The common thread in these accounts was these “Hebrew magi” spoke on behalf of the LORD in the midst of idol worshippers. It was the classic battle of “if GOD is GOD, then worship Him.”

The LORD prophesied years before Jesus’ coming that the wealth (gold, spices, cedars, incense oils, ornaments) of the temple would be captured and taken by a foreign king. King Nebuchadnezzar did this, decimating and desecrating the tabernacle. Isaiah 60, a Messianic prophecy, states the LORD speaking of Sheba (representing all nations other than Israel) coming, bearing gold and incense, and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. Additionally, foreign kings would rebuild the walls of the city (Isaiah 60:10) and their kings would serve the city. The tables have turned, the cries of the people of “how long” was about to end. We know the sceptre of David would be restored to the Righteous King and the city of David rebuilt through the Messiah.

The Magi in Matthew 2 rightly sought the presence of King Herod as this was their custom. Their question gave Herod and all of Jerusalem indigestion instantly and ruined their appetites. These wise men initially sought an earthly king of the Jews evidenced in their approach to King Herod. Herod deceptively requests

the Magi bring back word where the King of the Jews lay so he could come and worship Him. They return to following the star which had led them there in the first place. Lesson here: keep your focus on what started the search. They locate the King, the Child with his mother Mary as the star rests above where He lay. As the Magi from the east bring gifts to the King, the fulfillment of GOD’s prophecy unfolds before our eyes. Jesus Christ, Y’Shua Ha’Mashiach, greater than Solomon, Daniel, Joseph, Abraham AND the Magi from the east have come! Upon seeing Jesus Christ, they bow down to worship Him. Seeing Jesus, they forsook their earthly pursuit. Something happened to them. Something changed their lives! The LORD used their mission to direct the flow of His Purpose.

“Less Talk” demands full recognition of the LORDship, the Greatness of the Messiah, and the Full Restoration of the Kingdom of GOD through His Death, Burial, and Resurrection! “Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD.” Philippians 2:11. Body of Christ, get excited! Our LORD is greater, our LORD is superior, and all things must submit to Him. Therefore, “More Action!” The Father knows His Son is greater. At the mount of transfiguration, James, Peter, and John accompany Jesus to pray. They experience a vision of Moses and Elijah with Jesus. This was the time of Sukkot, Feast of Tabernacles for the Jews. Peter excitedly suggests making three tabernacles but GOD the Father would not have it. He immediately intervenes stating, “This is my Beloved Son. Hear Him!” Peter brought Jesus down to the level of Moses and Elijah, stating we should hear them as well. The Father says to hear Jesus, His Son, and Him ONLY! Let all the others speaking be drowned in the background by the immense Vastness of Our Great GOD and KING Christ Jesus! Let the speaking be Him Only and we will engage in MORE ACTION! Be Blessed! SR

The Pulse of a Healthy Church, Part 3

Rev. Carl Greene

Hebron SDB Church, PA

Bad Witnessing 101

Let's consider the potential link between pitching and evangelism.

I was one of the most feared pitchers in my Little League Division. Batters would come to the plate with white knuckled twitches as they held their bat and sweat flowed from their brows. I could throw the ball fast and hard. I also had lousy ball control. I could not get many batters out, but man, they feared me!

Realizing that this might not maintain my spot in the pitching rotation, I studied pitching. I learned about split finger fastballs, knuckleballs, curve balls — though interestingly enough, not much about my patented bean ball. I practiced hard to develop multiple pitches — if I had an exclusive pitch the batters would figure me out. At the same time, I wanted to develop a cluster of pitches I was exceptional at.

Let's consider the potential link between pitching and evangelism. As defined by Intervarsity, "Evangelism is communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ, and inviting response. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God offers the forgiveness of sins, the gift of new life, and begins the healing of the world." Now think about how we present that Good News. We can use all sorts of techniques: proclamation of sin and judgment, appeals to intellectual reasoning, storytelling with illustrations, testimonies from our own life, interactive questions, public invitations to profess faith...and the list goes on.

There are lots of potential links between pitching and evangelism: practice, technique, skill, reading the batter, knowing the context, working as a team, etc. But here is a very important clarification. Evangelism is not baseball. Again, evangelism is not baseball. Every technique of evangelism is terrible without the authority of Jesus Christ. Every technique.

Matthew 9:35-38 presents a clear picture of Jesus using a variety of techniques to share the Good News in different contexts. He is bringing the same message of the gospel,

but presenting it through different means. Yet, it is far from only about technique — there is a critical prerequisite. When Jesus sends out the twelve disciples in 10:1 to follow His example, He "gave them authority." For the disciples to follow Jesus' methods of evangelism, they need to be working under His authority, not their own slick plans.

Working under Jesus' example and authority leads us to: 1) See the harvest, 2) Pray for the harvest, and 3) Labor in the harvest.

See the harvest. Jesus directly tells the disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few..." Jesus is telling them to see the harvest, take notice of what is there and respond to it. But Jesus does a whole lot more than encouraging the disciples to see the harvest; He sets an example of what seeing the harvest looks like. In fact, Jesus' example of seeing the harvest provides insights for us. The context of the harvest matters.

Let's think about context with a peanut butter illustration. I love peanut butter. I put it on celery, carrots, toast, ice cream, spoons — you name the food, and peanut butter is a worthy addition. I also put peanut butter on mousetraps. Once again, very effective on mousetraps, but not quite the same as on top of my bowl of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. It is the same exact peanut butter, but the different context requires special attention.

Notice the example that Jesus sets of seeing the context of harvest in verses 35-36. Jesus brings the Good News by: 1) teaching in their synagogues, 2) proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and 3) healing every disease and every affliction. Let's think about each of these contexts.

Teaching in the synagogues. The synagogue is where practicing Jews gathered for singing, prayer, scripture reading, and a Homily, or sermon. Does this sound somewhat similar to a modern-day church worship service?

Here is a very important clarification. Evangelism is not baseball.

Important principle here: Be careful what you pray for!

This was a structured setting for worship and teaching. This was a setting that Jesus readily used to bring the Good News.

This has direct application for us. We often see evangelism as only reaching outside the four walls of the church. As David Fox advocated at General Conference this past year, the modern-day church must not overlook her mission to present the gospel in compelling ways within the four walls of the church building. Jesus sets the example of utilizing the unique context of structured worship to bring the Good News — we need to intentionally do the same. It is a terrible miss if we assume the gospel is somehow wrapped into our services — we must purposefully seek the harvest within the context of the church.

Proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. Jesus also brought the Good News to unstructured, unorganized groups of people. Jesus went to people who were not within the organization of the synagogue. We have the clear example of Jesus repeatedly proclaiming in all sorts of places — wherever a crowd would tend to assemble. Jesus brought the same message of the Good News — yet it appears as though it was not a cookie cutter presentation. Same message, different style of presentation.

This is once again a tremendous example for us. While the church must purposefully teach within the four walls, she must also press outward and proclaim beyond the comfort zone. What are opportunities to share the Good News within the community? What are ways to assemble groups outside the church building? Could it be a backyard barbecue, a concert, etc.? It is imperative that you and I consider ways to intentionally proclaim the gospel — and not just within the comfortable walls of the church building. This also requires honesty. We label all sorts of things as outreach into the community. The labels make us feel good, but often are not truly evangelism. How much gospel proclamation of the kingdom is my church truly doing in the community?

Healing every disease and every affliction. Jesus was about meeting physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Jesus was all about meeting individuals where they were in life. Jesus establishes a tremendous example of connecting His ministry to the needs of individuals. Perhaps there is something for us to take in here. Part of bringing the message of the Good News is practicing the Good News with hurting individuals around us. People with emotional and spiritual wounds are around us at work, at our kids' soccer games, in the grocery store — do we slow down enough to bring the Good News to individuals God has placed in our life?

Pray for the harvest. Jesus does not stop at advocating the disciples to see the harvest, but to take the next step and

pray: “therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Jesus does not tell the disciples to jump in with their own strength — He tells them to pray for the Lord to send laborers, and not just any laborers.

In verse 36, Jesus demonstrates the compassion needed in laborers of the harvest. The compassion flows from seeing that the crowds “were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” When we are told that Jesus had “compassion,” that literally means that His “heart went out to them.” This concern was due to the condition of the sheep — not because He thought they simply made stupid choices repeatedly. In fact, rather than blaming the crowd for their emotional and spiritual condition, He placed the blame on the religious community. These people were lost because they were without a shepherd — the believers were not doing their job to draw the lost into the kingdom.

This prayer should therefore be something of a confession for us. When we ask God to send laborers into the harvest, it is in part a confession that we have not been doing our job. It is not simply because we minister to a “stiff-necked generation.” The problem is also us. We need to confess our need for God to send us — that we will be under Christ’s authority.

Again, do not miss this. Notice who this prayer is for. It is for you and me. It is through prayer that our vision of harvest is more fully Christ-like. It is when God shapes our hearts with His compassion that we see His harvest. It is through prayer that we confess how we have not labored under His authority in the past. Prayer is also where we are prepared to labor in that harvest.

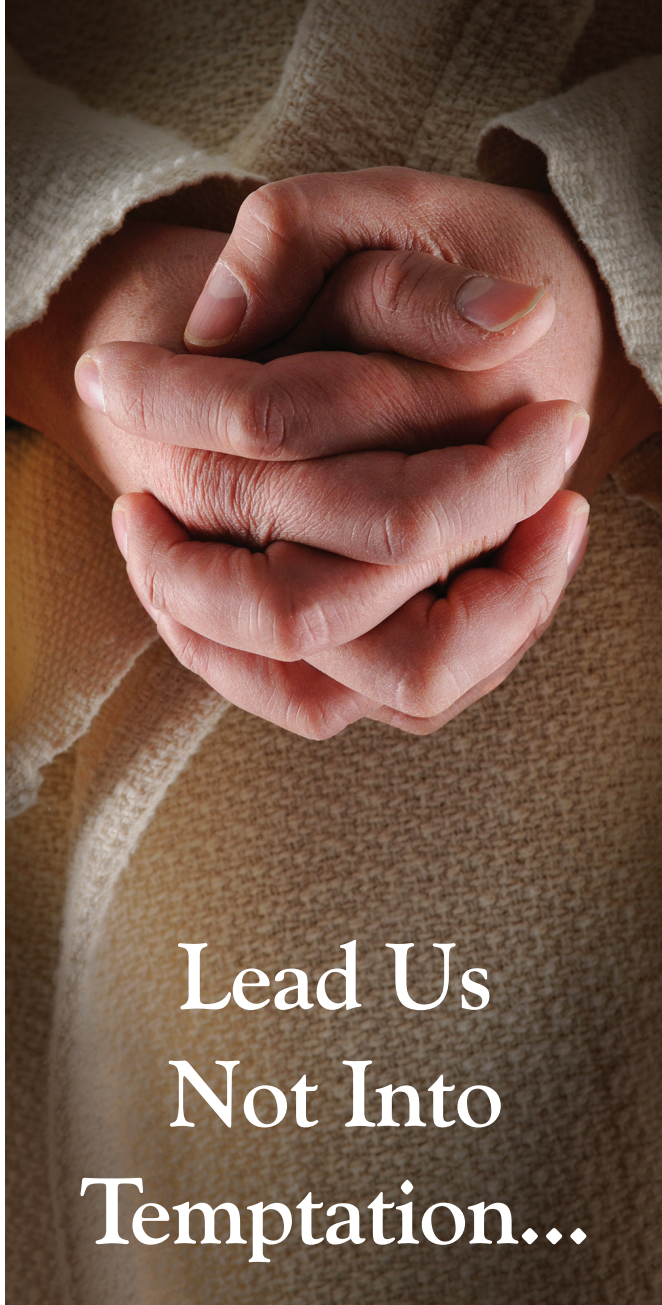
Labor in the harvest. Matthew 10:1 — “And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority...” The first thing that takes place after Jesus calls the disciples to pray for laborers in the harvest, is Jesus sending the disciples out as laborers. Important principle here: Be careful what you pray for!

Jesus has moved the disciples through an important series of steps. First, He calls them to see the harvest — noticing the unique context of each setting. Second, He calls them to pray for the harvest, specifically for the laborers to be prepared and sent. Finally, He sends the twelve disciples out as the laborers — distinctly under His authority.

Here are two questions to ponder. How do we prepare to labor in this caring harvest of the Kingdom? How do you and I intentionally grow into the role of harvest laborers?

We will find answers to those questions by looking at Leviticus 19 next time. Because, who, after all, does not love the Book of Leviticus? [SR](#)

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Lead Us
Not Into
Temptation...

This is what we pray
before we are tempted,
not after.

9th in a series by Assistant Pastor Philip Lawton

Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ

Check out Phil's blog at contemplatingkenosis.blogspot.com

What is your biggest temptation? It might be those cupcakes that a coworker brought into work. It might be speeding. For some it will be a bottle of alcohol, for others heroin or meth. The answer to that question for over half of men would be porn. What I want you to see is that there are temptations all around us. Everyday. We cannot escape temptation. Yet for most, this is a petition to God for escape from a life of temptation. But that is not really what Jesus is teaching us.

If you look through many commentaries on this petition of the Lord's Prayer you will find a discussion of two things. They will either conclude that this is a petition to be free of all temptation and trials (while also acknowledging that this is impossible). Or they will conclude that this is teaching us to pray that God will deliver us from temptation once we are already in it.

The first conclusion will reference James 1:12-15 and the second 1 Corinthians 10:13. Neither of these is what Jesus is teaching us here. To understand what Jesus is teaching us, we do need to look at these interpretations. But first, everybody's favorite class: Greek!

Temptation or Trial

What muddies this whole discussion is that Greek uses the same word for trials and temptations. There are actually two words in this discussion: **πειρασμός** (n) and **πειράζω** (v). However, each carries both meanings. Only **πειρασμός** is used in the Lord's Prayer. This petition could read, "lead us not into trials." This of course brings all kinds of problems. Especially when we realize that some trials come from God.

James tells us that very thing. God will test (**πειρασμός**) us. But God cannot tempt (**πειράζω**) us with evil. This does not mean that we will not be put through trials. God may put us into situations where we will have to rely on Him. Just ask Abraham or Joseph. What James does tell us is that these trials are from God, but the temptation is not. More on that later.

I wanted to bury my head in the sand
or pull myself into my shell
and pretend that temptation didn't exist.

But what do we do with the Lord's Prayer? Couldn't Jesus just as easily be teaching us to ask God to not lead us into trials? This seems very unlikely since those very trials often come from God. Why would God teach us to ask Him to not do something that He will do?

One more insight from James. He does not stop by simply saying that God does not tempt us. He tells us that **temptation is a result of our own desires**. The difference between trials and temptations is us. What makes something a trial and not a temptation is not

the circumstance. Abraham was tempted to disobey God and not take Isaac to be sacrificed. Yet we don't say that God tempted Abraham to disobey. We say He tested Abraham. It's not a question of the circumstance, it's a question of ourselves. Do we let ourselves be pulled into that temptation or do we stand up to the test and endure?

Turtles, Ostriches, and Communes

When I was younger, I remember coming home from Conference and wanting to start a Seventh Day Baptist commune. For those of you unfamiliar with SDB General Conference, it is a week-long conference every summer where Seventh Day Baptists get together to do the business of the conference. As a kid, this meant that I got a week to spend time around other Christian youth. In essence it was a youth retreat with the same friends every year.

I loved how close to God I felt at Conference and I dreaded the inevitable fall after. I thought that if I could bottle that experience it would be easy to be a Christian. I thought that I would never be tempted to sin again. There are two things wrong with this. First, this is simply a false assumption. No matter how great the mountaintop experience, we will always come down. We cannot escape temptation forever. Second, we are called to actually **be in the world**. If we seclude ourselves, we may find it easier to live a holy life, but then what good are we on the mission of God to the world?

**Jesus doesn't say deliver us from temptation.
He says lead us not into temptation.**

As I think back on this experience I realize that I was a lot like a turtle or an ostrich. I wanted to just hide from temptation. I wanted to bury my head in the sand or pull myself into my shell and pretend that temptation didn't exist. But doing that wouldn't really change anything. Ignoring something doesn't make it go away.

This is exactly how many of us see this petition. We are asking God to remove all temptation from our lives. If this is the case, then we are saying that Jesus asked us to pray for something that can never be. Jesus wouldn't do that. Temptation is part of life. There is a day coming when it won't be, but that is not what Jesus is saying here.

Not Yet Delivered

If this is not a petition to never be tempted, maybe it is a petition to be delivered from temptation. This is a Biblical idea. Paul tells us that God will always provide us a way out of temptation. I often cling to this promise. It can sustain us in the midst of great temptation, but this is not what Jesus is saying in the Lord's Prayer.

Jesus doesn't say deliver us from temptation. He says lead us not into temptation. These are two very different things. Deliverance means that we are already in temptation. This means that we have already succumbed and we need a way to get out. Why would

Jesus teach us to expect to sin? This is like asking God to keep us from taking a cookie when our hands are already in the jar. Why not just ask God to keep us from the jar?

**Resistance is not stopping ourselves
once our hands are in the cookie jar.
Resistance is never putting our hands
in the cookie jar to begin with.**

So often in our lives we are reactionary. We don't think ahead. Something happens to us — then we pray. It is only when something goes wrong that we turn to God. This petition is proactive, not reactive. It is asking God to keep us from walking into temptation.

Temptation is Everywhere

Remember that question I asked you at the beginning? I did that because I wanted you to see that temptation is everywhere. It is not as if temptation comes up every once in a while. We are faced with temptation every day. Every day we have a choice to follow God or not; to believe or not; to obey or not.

We think temptation is occasional because we occasionally fall into it. (Or at least we think that we occasionally fall into it.) The reality is that we cannot escape temptation. It is with us wherever we go. Some things we are tempted with are easy to resist. You can put black tar heroine in front of me and I won't pick it up — but if you change that to Mountain Dew, I am doomed.

Jesus is teaching us to ask God to help us not fall into temptation. He is teaching us that we are tempted every day. He is teaching us that only through God do we have the power to resist. Resistance is not stopping ourselves once our hands are in the cookie jar. Resistance is never putting our hands in the cookie jar to begin with.

This is a petition to not be lead *into* temptation. Temptation is like the *swamp of sadness* in "The NeverEnding Story" — or the *Dead Marshes* in "Lord of the Rings." Once you step into it you are doomed to never leave.

"Lead us not into temptation" means that we don't even set foot inside temptation. It means that we acknowledge the temptation around us every day. It means that we seek God's direction in where we should go. It means that we cling to our faith during trials. "Lead us not into temptation" is what we pray before we are tempted, not after. [\[SR\]](#)

*May you realize the temptations all around you.
May you pray for help before you are tempted.
May your trials never become temptations.
And may God lead you in the path of righteousness.
Amen!*

Our mission is to equip our churches to actively advance God's Kingdom.

Are You and Your Church In?

Part One

For over 300 years in North America, Seventh Day Baptists have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to use their gifts and resources to share His gospel. Today, we continue to advance His mission in a unique way. **There are benefits of having a Conference of churches!**

1. We can reach further and do more when we have a larger pot of spiritual gifts, experiences, perspectives, and resources for Kingdom work and when we are part of a family larger than just our local congregation. Through this there are shared aspects of SDB life that all of our churches experience. Pooling our experience yields a broader array of choices and options when we're looking to do something new or do something better.
2. Our churches can connect, identify, and participate with the international community in the global mission through our shared channels of communication. There is a strong identity component — we are “part of something bigger” when we work together.
3. Our Churches can learn more if we have the “iron” of the larger body to speak into our lives and sharpen our beliefs through contact with believers that hold the same fundamental tenets, but may have approached others from a different background or perspective.
4. There's a family/relational component in our churches — our churches, at least at their best, work and relate as a family. Those relationships can be deep and lasting, above and beyond “the work” we cooperate to do together.

Several years ago we had a monthly mailer that went out called the “**Leadline.**” The name was changed to “**Vision 2020**” in 2005 and was dropped about ten years ago.

In the **Leadline/Vision 2020** there was a listing of the SDB churches and their contributions, year-to-date, to the work of the entire Conference of Churches. This was very enlightening to see where the support came from for the work of the whole. I state this history to inform you that as of this

date **we have 32 member churches that have not supported the work of the Conference in 2017.** This does not mean that the Conference does not provide services to these churches who have not contributed. But it does show that there has been a communication glitch somewhere in the last 10 years.

So please let me communicate some of the benefits that your local church enjoys from the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. *(There will be more detail in next month's issue)*

- Permission to use our trademarked logos and names
- Established procedures and practices to use as guidelines for the operation of your local church
- Your news and events shared through our media channels
- Local church listing on *seventhdaybaptist.org* and annual Directory of Churches
- FREE subscription to *The Sabbath Recorder*
- Help with credentialing of pastors recognized by your local church
- Help with pastoral search
- Ability to create custodial accounts with Memorial Fund
- Scholarship opportunities for students
- Resources, experience, and programs for your church to accomplish its mission
- SDBU: Training for lay leaders and pastors
- Seminary Education Program for those who desire further training
- *The Helping Hand in Bible Study*
- Mobilization of teams for short-term mission trips
- Partnering with other like-minded churches to plant new churches
- Regular Pastors Conference
- Annual MULTIPLY Church Development Conference for church planters and revitalizers
- Doing things together that your local church could not do independently SR

A Walk with Jesus in Cana

I have heard and experienced that it is challenging to hold unforgiveness, hatred, or generally bad feelings towards someone if you are praying for him. I had an experience in Lebanon that I believe gave me some insight into caring for others like Jesus does.

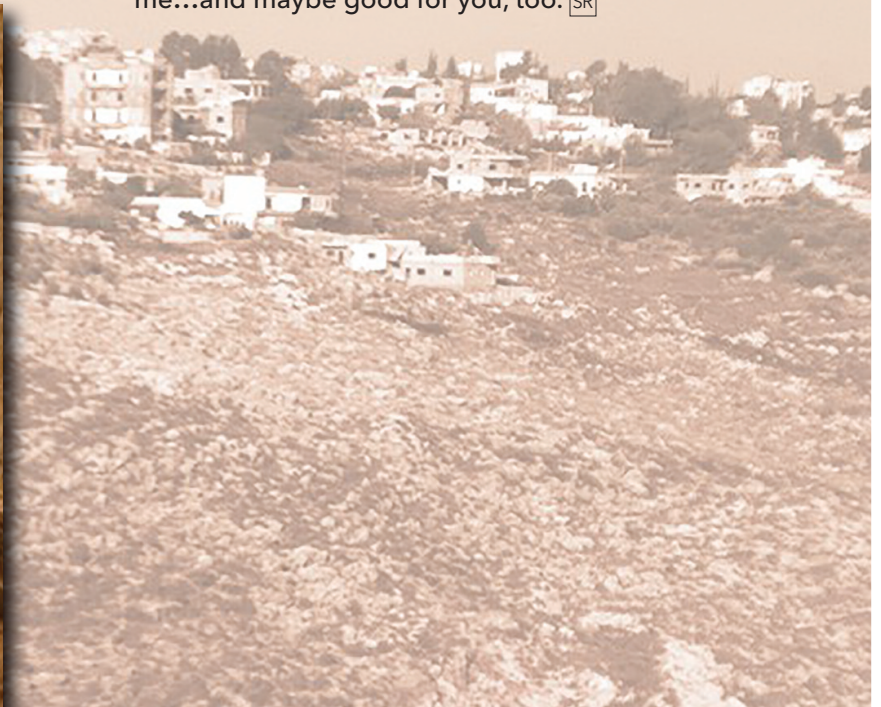
In October 2017, I was traveling with Gabriel Bejjani, pastor of the Riverside SDB Church in California, along with his kind wife, Hayatt. We visited with Seventh Day Baptists in Poland, then made our way to encourage and assess the Kingdom work going on in Lebanon. We stayed and visited with relatives of Hayatt and Gabe. We saw some of the northern region, and met with SDBs and other Christians in Beirut. At one point we went to see a ministry partner in the far south, near the border of Israel. From that former Muslim's home, we could see Israel and the city of Qana, Lebanon, on our side of the current political boundary.

Tradition of many Lebanese Christians holds that this is the original location of the first miracles of Jesus performed in the John 2:1-11 account of the Cana wedding. Here He participated in a celebration feast and on the third day turned water into high quality wine. Our friend led us to the site tourists are shown which includes a gift shop, a small cave, and some carvings in the stone of the hillside that are reminiscent of crusader era iconic artwork. Quietly, he also took us to a site on the other side of the village at the back of an orchard where there were some broken

ancient stone water pots, the possible remains of a well, and what appeared to be the outlines of some ruined walls and ancient collapsed masonry. This was all very interesting and this secret site seemed to have more credence than the location designated for Christian pilgrimages. However, this was not the most memorable part of the Qana visit for me.

As we went through the main narrow winding road of the modern village of Qana, my imagination went with vivid clarity to Cana of two thousand years ago. I could "see" Jesus walking the dusty main street lined with first century shops and homes. He was heading over to some relatives' home for a celebration, but along the way He encountered some children on His path. He smiled at the small boy and played a mini-tug-o-war with a stick; and the small girl who seemed to know Him, He lifted and swung around for a moment. What struck me in the scene was I knew that Jesus LOVED those kids. AND that He would be quietly interceding on their behalf with the Father about their current lives and their futures.

I do not know if this is the actual location or if a scene like this really played out with Jesus and some children as He was going to the wedding feast. I am pretty sure it does not matter. What I think matters is that it stirs me deeply each time I think of it and it reminds me to pray for those around me and try to think of them with the love that Jesus has for them. I think that is good for me...and maybe good for you, too. SR



by Clinton R. Brown
Executive Director

FOCUS on Missions



A Foster Home?

Once upon a time, not too long ago, I became the member of a foster home for an adorable puppy. Fostering a puppy was not on any list I had or something I had been wanting. It was very much an unexpected event. Not necessarily an unwelcome one — even at 3 am when the poor little guy, who hadn't slept a wink to this point, was barking and in distress for a reason I couldn't fathom in my sleep-deprived state. My experience is not on par with those who choose to foster human children. However it has been interesting and has me thinking about foster homes, families, and kids.

Technically speaking, Mary and Joseph were a foster family for Jesus. I realize the situation was a little bit different from every other fostering situation because Mary actually gave birth to Jesus. But if you take a moment to think about it, Jesus wasn't biologically hers. Jesus was given to Mary and Joseph by God through the Holy Spirit, for a short period of time — to care for and nurture him until the time came that he could care for himself and begin his kingdom work. I've heard this idea of Jesus being a foster child before, but it had not really struck me what that meant until now.



I believe that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for Jesus as though he were their natural-born son. I think Jesus knew that he did not ultimately belong to them. He must've had an idea of it by age 12 when he referred to the Temple as "his father's house." (Luke 2) Even if Jesus hadn't been aware of who his father actually was up to this point, that still leaves 12 years, when as a child, he probably had heard about his less than ideal appearance on the earthly scene. I doubt that the people around Mary and Joseph understood much about immaculate conception — in that culture, conception out of wedlock was very looked down upon. Was Jesus ever alienated by his peers for his birth circumstance? There is no real way to know, but perhaps it makes Jesus' concern for widows, orphans, children, outcasts, and oppressed become more about embracing his humanity than merely a holy crusade.

I experienced providing a foster home for a puppy for two weeks. It seriously challenged my thoughts and perceptions, as well as giving me a fraction of an insight into what fostering really is like. It's taxing emotionally and physically for both parties. I feel like as a parent you worry about everything. How is the child adjusting? How is the case worker, or the eventual parents, going to critique how you are taking care of the child? Imagine being Mary and Joseph — they didn't have to merely answer to a case worker but to God himself. Yikes! Being a foster family is difficult (and sometimes it's dirty and imperfect and exhausting), so kudos to all those families who open your homes and care for foster children. You are amazing!

Not everyone can provide a foster home, but that doesn't mean that there isn't anything you can do to serve the oppressed in your little area of the world. There are many opportunities, particularly right now with the holidays approaching. There are many programs to get involved in. This holiday season consider celebrating Jesus' birth with an activity that honors His care of the oppressed. Serve at a soup kitchen, donate to or organize a clothing drive, pick up one of those little trees with the name of a person with a Christmas gift wish.

There are so many ways to get involved so pick one — just one — and participate. SR



Miracle of the Bell that Rings Again!

by Ida Gay McRoberts



“What’s the story about that rusty old bell in the middle of the front lawn at the church? It sure is ugly. I notice it driving by all the time.”

We may become accustomed to seeing things to the point of no longer seeing what things look like to other people. In a way, they become invisible. That comment helped me see how that bell at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Albion looked. Although we moved it from the middle of the lawn to a concrete block by the ramp, we were at a standstill since we couldn’t agree on the next step.

It is an old bell, aged more than rusted. And it had not always sat in the lawn. As the church prepared to celebrate 175 years (officially this coming year but with a party this past July), one member delved into the history of the bell. The SDB Church of Albion was formally organized in 1843 after the arrival the prior year of pioneer families who celebrated the Sabbath. But the meeting house wasn’t built or dedicated until 1861. We learned that the bell tower was not part of that structure until after 1881. The church body decided to purchase a bell and voted that Samuel Burdick be a committee to prepare a place for the bell. Note that often one person served as a committee in the early records — perhaps implying chairing the committee with others not named, or perhaps simply because one person could get the job done. Samuel Burdick was a carpenter.

The bell the church purchased had been forged in 1881 at Blymyer Manufacturing Company out of the Cincinnati Bell Foundry. It was a specific church bell size and weighed 336 pounds. It probably arrived by train and was brought from Edgerton to Albion with a farm wagon and team of horses or oxen. It was placed in the bell tower where it could be rung by a rope going around a large wooden wheel and dropping from the belfry to an upper room along a column. It was rung to call people to Sabbath

School, worship, and special holidays or celebrations. It was rung for Christmas Eve services, for weddings, and for Vacation Bible School sessions. Over the years, children growing up in the church were privileged to be bell ringers — or try to — as the rope was thick and the bell heavy! For some, it took a jump to apply all their weight to ring the bell, sometimes lifting them off the floor in the process.

Through the years, the wheel deteriorated and was replaced more than once, each time leaving it silent for a length of time before anything was done. After the last time, when the church roof was being replaced in the 1990’s, some in the congregation, believing it was a safety factor, thought to take advantage of the roofers’ equipment to bring the bell down from the tower. In the process, we learned how safe it would have been to stay in place — Mr. Burdick’s expertise was seen in the difficulty removing it — but it would have remained silent anyway.

With no plans about what to do next, it was set on the lawn. We were unsure of its age or its material. The estimate by a professional restorer seemed high. Ideas of options for an enclosure were debated. It remained silent and became “invisible” to the congregation — until preparations for the July anniversary celebration began. With patriotic bunting banners strung across the ramp railing behind it, a member unaware of the history inquired about it. He became “a committee of one” to paint it with black and gold paint. Another member looked closer into a way to ring it, and with the painter agreeing to the idea, he attached a lever to be pulled by a rope secured to the railing.

As service time approached on the day of the anniversary celebration, with the sanctuary packed, the bell was rung. There was a smile on the face of the one who had painted it. Others who knew how long it had been silent also had smiles or happy tears for that proud moment. It has been rung every week since that day.

I’d like to think of it as a miracle bell, for on that day and on many Sabbaths since, the bell has rung. Our attendance is more on many Sabbaths than prior weeks. We celebrated our cloud of witnesses who passed through our church in its 175 years, but recognize there are still believers among us today making a difference for the Church. On that day two people acted as “committees of one” to accomplish something for this church. More can be done. Glory to God, for His presence was and is still felt in this church each Sabbath day, and for God’s Church until He calls us home. SR

A Week in the Life of the Church Bus

by Steven Moncrief
SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ



It was the week of October 9th and I knew that something was up. I had been sitting in my normal spot where I wait for long periods of time for someone to take me for a drive. Over the past several years I have been a part of the Shiloh SDB Church family. I have been used for several youth outings; have been to one Conference; made several trips to Lancaster, PA; and even taken youth to Snow Camp in New York. That was a cold trip! But this summer has been even more active for me. I have taken groups of adults to Lancaster on day trips and to Allentown, PA, for a ride on a mule-drawn barge. I even took the youth to Johnson City, TN, on a missions trip this summer. I am proud to be a part of this church. They take good care of me and I try my best to take good care of them.

Back to the week of the 9th. Someone started cleaning me up inside and out — cleaning my windows, washing and waxing me, and checking me all over. I knew something was up. Sure enough the following Monday, October 16, I came to life again at 7:00 in the morning. Away we went to the church and there to meet me was a group of 15 adults. This time when they came aboard they brought lots of luggage. Wow! I thought we must be in for quite a trip. And yes, I was in for a busy week.

We left Shiloh and traveled to Pigeon Forge, TN, arriving on Tuesday. There we visited the Bush Baked Bean Factory Museum and Restaurant. That evening we went to the Dixie Stampede Dinner Show. On Wednesday we went to Dollywood. In the park were several gospel groups singing throughout the day and we saw many different crafters. Thursday, we went to the Old Mill for breakfast: this is a beautiful old building with great food. Then we traveled over the mountains to Granite Falls, NC, to see Florence Dickinson. She is a 90-year-old member of the Shiloh Church that now lives with her daughter, Fay. After spending a couple hours visiting with her we headed for home.

We arrived home on Friday about 4:30 pm. I could hear the group saying what a good time they had and talking about the great food. I even heard them say that two of the ladies went zip lining. (Hey, will someone call Dolly and have her beef up the Zipline so I can get in on that? I can't fit into the church building but next time we have a service outside, Cathy, Miriam, and I can have special music together and sing "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah.") I have to take their word for the food because my diet consists of only Diesel fuel, but it all sounded good to me. If I ate what they had it would have been "Heart Attack City" for me.

The Lord took good care of us during our 1398-mile 5-day trip. He provided perfect weather each day. Everyone was talking about Monday when we had a tire blow out near Harpers Ferry. The Lord provided the help that we needed when the jack wouldn't lift me up. A tractor-trailer had a flat tire just across the street from us and the man that was repairing his tire helped us. He even was going back to his place of business about 30 miles away and we followed him so we could get a new tire. It was only about 3 blocks out of our way. And yes, even a Bus knows that God is good all the time!

But my week didn't stop here. When I arrived home to the Church with my group of adults, I found a group of youth waiting to hop on board and head to New York for a youth retreat. I didn't even get time to rest — my engine kept running, they switched drivers, and off I went for another 653 miles of serving the Lord. Eight states in one week. I saw the people reading the words "Seventh Day Baptist" on my sides as we drove along. How much more fun could a church bus have in one week? I hope we can do it again. And yes, Mr. President, even though the people I was carrying were doing a lot of *Talking*, I purred like a kitten and was all *Action!*^[SR]

Home Field Mission Opportunity in Florida

by John Camenga
Edgewater/Oak Hill SDB



In 1999, members of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church started a weekly Bible study in the home of Norman and Linda McCall some thirty miles from the historic meeting place in Daytona. In 2008, this Bible study blossomed into a church that has now been recognized as a full member of the General Conference.

This small congregation sees an expanding ministry. It is preparing a location for that ministry in a highly visible location on US Highway 1 in the center of the small town of Oak Hill. They are constructing the “meeting house” as funds allow, avoiding debt that might hamper their future ministry.

Led by Pastor Keith McCall, the worship is informal, the fellowship rich, and the future limited only by our ability to hear and respond to God’s calling.

This congregation has a weekly attendance of 20 to 30. Most of the members come to Seventh Day Baptists from other church backgrounds. The members demonstrate the enthusiasm of people with “something new and important to share.”

This church expects growth to come primarily from the community – new believers and believers just now discovering the blessings of Sabbath observance. However, this infant congregation would welcome a transfusion of Seventh Day Baptists from other areas.

- We need people who can come and participate.
- We need people with experience as Sabbath School teachers, church officers, musicians, and prayer warriors.
- We need those with “portable” skills to come for employment.
- We need vibrant retirees to enjoy “snow bird” or year-round residence.

We offer a location away from the problems of urban overdevelopment, yet near enough to visit theme parks, and the natural wonders Florida offers. We offer a place to remain comfortable in a Seventh Day Baptist congregation while enjoying the warm, relaxed and low-tax benefits that Florida offers. New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater are just north of our building location. Titusville and Kennedy Space Center are just to the south.

You can contact us through: oakhillsDB@gmail.com 



Barb Green, Parish Nurse
Milton, WI



Anxiety

Anxiety, a natural response to stress and danger, becomes pathological when excessive and uncontrollable. Anxiety disorders share common features of excessive fear and irrational anxiety that lead to changes in behavior and certain physical disturbances including panic attacks. The long-term effects of undiagnosed and undertreated anxiety result in psychosocial and occupational dysfunctions, drug and alcohol abuse, overeating, and increased risk of suicide. They are one of the major contributors to disability, costing over \$42 billion annually.

The body's stress response is designed to be acute and limited to a short period of time. When stress becomes chronic, it disturbs physical and mental health. Stress elevates blood pressure and heart rate, increases blood sugar levels, and diminishes inflammatory and immune responses. Other symptoms include pounding heartbeat, sweating palms, dizziness, headaches, stomach upsets, tunnel vision, and shaking. Psychologically, people report feeling a state of apprehension or uneasiness along with complaints of depression and crying spells.

People with unhealthy lifestyles, poor coping skills, and environmental stressors including emotional, physical or sexual abuse, are more prone to anxiety disorders. Anxiety may be a learned behavior or have a genetic risk factor.

In the past 30-50 years, we have experienced a great deal of environmental and social disorder. It is difficult to adjust to the increased pace of modern society and rapid technological change. Faced with a barrage of differing world-views and moral standards, Biblical standards such as the Ten Commandments or the Golden Rule seem outdated. Researchers have found that religion and faith play a significant role in health and response to illness. It is likely changing societal factors and lack of spirituality play a role in anxiety today.

There is no single treatment that can relieve anxiety. Approach to treatment should always start with supportive listening and education about anxiety and fear. Patients need to know that anxiety is treatable, manageable, and

in some cases, curable. Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) has been shown to be as effective as medication and is a commonly used therapy in treating anxiety. It involves multiple sessions with mental health professionals trained in CBT techniques. Faith-based CBT replaces negative ideas through the use of Biblical scripture or concepts that recognize God as Creator, one who is interested in the well-being of humans. Some use scripture as a guide for therapy and as a model for living. Other psychological therapies are available.

Anxiety medications have increased in the past decade. The selection of a specific drug is based on symptoms and the existence of other diseases. Medications, although effective, need to be prescribed with caution and accompanied by other interventions. It sometimes takes time to find the right one to help a specific person. Taking medication does not show a lack of faith or character. It is one more way that God helps His people.

A healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet, exercise, and stress-coping mechanisms is important for reduction of stress. Massage therapy, relaxation techniques, music and art therapy may be helpful. For Christians, practicing thankfulness, choosing to do what is right, worshipping, meditating on scripture, and praying help decrease anxiety.

Christians believe God's Word brings healing and offers wisdom for dealing with anxiety. The word "peace" comes from the Hebrew word "shalom" meaning soundness, health, prosperity, and general well-being. It is the peace that results from a spirit, soul, and body completely at rest because of perfect trust in God. One of the blessings of salvation is redemption. God wipes away our past and encourages us to remember the miraculous ways we have experienced Him and His presence. He is the healer of hearts and the lifter of heads. Those who want to experience the peace of God's presence are encouraged to spend time getting to know Him well. He wants to be our resource — nothing can love the soul or soothe the mind better than the Creator.

Adapted from Anxiety: Etiology, Treatments and Christian Perspectives; Journal of Christian Nursing; April-June 2014



**Leland E Davis
(1920-2017):
Pastor,
Missionary,
Faithful Servant**

DAVIS – Pastor Leland Eugene Davis passed away August 25, 2017, in Anderson, IN. Leland was born September 22, 1920, on a farm outside of Jackson Center, OH, the son of Willis D. and Lula F. Clay Davis. Leland’s parents weren’t active in church, even though Leland was descended, as were quite a few other present-day American SDBs, from noteworthy Colonial Seventh Day Baptists: William Davis (1664-1745), John Maxson (1638-1720), Joseph Clarke (1618-1694), and John Crandall (1612-1676).

Leland’s earliest spiritual mentoring was from his paternal grandmother, Icy Dora Davis, who lived with the family, was active in the Jackson Center SDB Church all her life, and taught him to pray. SDB Deacon Curtis Groves, and daughter, Pauline Groves, took him to church, were Christian examples, and taught him from the Bible. His earliest church memory was of SDB Deacon J. D. Jones, leading the church in singing. As a teenager, he hand-pumped the church organ for the organist. In 1935, his SDB pastor, William L. Davis, led him to turn to Christ and baptized him in the nearby river at Port Jefferson. He joined the Jackson Center SDB Church and was subsequently licensed to preach. Leland was valedictorian of the Jackson Center High School class of 1938. His dad died by drowning in 1940. Over the years, Leland worked on his family farm, which had a herd of Jersey cows, and then on a neighbor’s farm, where he was graciously allowed several acres to grow his own tomatoes in order to earn money to start college.

During the World War II era, in 1942, Leland enlisted in the Navy Reserve, earned a good conduct medal, and was honorably discharged in December 1945 at the close of the war. He attended Salem College in West Virginia the fall semester 1942 where he met his future wife. He transferred to Bethany College WV, which had a Navy Chaplaincy program and where he obtained a B. A. degree early in 1945. He married Gertrude Belle Dickinson at the Shiloh SDB Church in NJ March 4, 1945. She became his life-long partner in Christian service until her death from colon cancer in 2002. The Navy sent him to Yale University Divinity School from March 1945 until December 1945, war’s end. He enrolled at Faith Theological Seminary in 1946, graduating in early 1949. At Faith, a conservative Presbyterian institution, he was taught the truths of the infallible Word of God and the doctrines of grace. During these seminary years he had time to assist the pastor of the nearby Shiloh SDB Church, his wife’s home church, served as a summer assistant pastor in Battle Creek, MI, under Pastor

Alton Wheeler, and as an SDB church planter in Indianapolis. In June of 1949, the Davis family moved to Colorado where Leland served as pastor of the Boulder SDB Church. He was ordained there later in 1949. Camp Paul Hummel became a vital part of the church’s ministry. In 1954 the family moved to Battle Creek, MI, where Leland again served the SDB church. The church grew in membership and Camp Holston was expanded during his seven-year pastorate.

In 1961, Leland and Gertrude Davis answered the Lord’s call to serve as missionaries in British Guiana. After receiving mission training in Meadville, PA, and Hartford, CT, the Davis family began work in Georgetown in January 1962 and continued missionary work through Guyana’s independence in 1966. A church was established in Kitty (Georgetown), and village churches in the East Coast Demerara, Essequibo Coast and Pomeroon River were visited regularly. A multi-ethnic work was encouraged, and today Guyana SDBs have East Indian as well as Amerindian and African Guyanese pastors. The Leroy Bass family continued the work, serving diligently for two terms in Guyana. Since the 1970’s the work has continued without missionaries and new churches have been planted. This is evident particularly in the Pomeroon River area among the Amerindians who, unlike the African Guyanese and East Indian Guyanese, have not tended to move to other countries. Seventh Day Baptist Churches in North America (Toronto, New York, Washington, D. C., Florida, etc.) have been beneficiaries of the Guyanese diaspora.

On returning from Guyana, the Davises served urban SDB churches in Schenectady (1966-1969), Los Angeles (1969-1976), and Washington, D. C. (1976-1986). In retirement Leland Davis was involved in an SDB church plant in Lake Elsinore, CA, and served as pastor there twice during retirement (1987-1991 and 1994-1997), becoming Pastor Emeritus in 1997. On a positive note, his last three churches (Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Lake Elsinore) were multi-ethnic congregations. In addition, Leland Davis’ oldest son, Dr. Ken Davis, has continued to emphasize multi-ethnic church planting as Director of Project Jerusalem, as a professor at Baptist Bible Seminary in Pennsylvania, and has held church-planting classes at SDB Conference and at Allegheny Association.

Pastor Davis left California in 2009 to live with his sons’ families in Indiana and Pennsylvania. Although he suffered from progressive cognitive impairment in his later years, he continued, until the end of his earthly life, to love singing the great hymns of the faith, reading his Bible, and reciting very familiar King James Bible passages. God was gracious and merciful to him in that, although he lived the last year of his life at Monticello House Alzheimer’s Living in Anderson, IN, he never had to be hospitalized from the day he was born on the family farm in Ohio until the day he went to be with the Lord.

Leland was preceded in death by his wife and parents, as well as five siblings (Loyal, Luella, Ralph, Patty, and Myra Lee). Still living are sons Ken Davis and Ron Davis and daughter Mary Sue Still, and their spouses, as well as 17 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren

Submitted by Ron Davis, utilizing Leland Davis’ diary written for his children, and genealogy pages Leland wrote at the request of his daughter, Mary Sue Still.

OBITUARIES

GESKE – The last chapter of a truly great love story was told when Roselyn M “Rosie” Geske was called to be with her late husband, Neil “Bud” Geske, on September 23, 2017, surrounded by family.

Roselyn was born July 28, 1938, in Edgerton, WI, to Claire and Rose (Hayes) Reiersen. She met the love of her life and future husband, Neil, while playing baritone in the band at Edgerton High School. They were married September 2, 1956. Rosie was a member and deaconess at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She retired from the Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville where she was a faithful and conscientious worker in the mailroom for many years.

She first volunteered for and then worked for Hospice-Care (now Agrace Hospice) also in Janesville. She was the organist at the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church in Albion for many years as well as for the Milton United Methodist Church in Milton and the Congregational Church in Edgerton.

Rosie was very proud of her 100+ pound weight loss. She was so excited about this loss that she taught the Diet Workshop class that helped her lose the weight. Her crowning achievement as a teacher for this class was when she placed the 25 pound loss pin on her own mother, Rose. Her love of helping people was demonstrated by her card-sending campaigns and her knitting hats for our soldiers. She also loved music, family and feeding the chipmunks at their home.

Rosie is survived by her sister Donna Lane of Frederick, MD, and brother Greg (Mona) Reiersen of Edgerton, WI, children, Kathy “Gus” Geske of Janesville, Mike (Wanda) Geske of Janesville, Jayne (Douglas) Lubke of Edgerton, WI, Maureen (George) Diaz of Front Royal, VA; Jeff (Denise Ellis) of Battle Creek, MI, and Kory (Jacqueline) Geske of Milton, WI, as well as numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Friday, September 29, 2017, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Milton. Pastor Nathan Crandall officiated. Rosie was laid to rest alongside her beloved husband of 60 years at Rock River Cemetery, Milton, WI.

DOOLEY – Michael John Dooley, age 64, Elkhorn, WI, died on Sabbath, May 6, 2017, at home surrounded by his family after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Michael was born in Janesville, WI, on August 18, 1952, the son of John and Leota Siverly Dooley. He was a 1971 graduate of Milton High School, Milton, WI. He was married to Shirley Vaught on April 29, 1972, in Albion, WI. He was able to return home from his last hospital stay on their 45th wedding anniversary.

He worked at Nunn-Bush Shoe Factory before enlisting in the U.S. Navy, where he served in Vietnam. After his honorable discharge, he worked at Dana Spicer Axle Division in Edgerton until they closed. Michael moved his family to Montana, where he worked as a maintenance supervisor at the Gallatin County Nursing Home in Bozeman, MT. Moving back to Wisconsin, he was employed by Willowfield Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center, Delavan; Getzen Musical Instruments, Elkhorn; Webpress, Elkhorn; and Quadgraphics (Brown Printing) in Woodstock, IL; until he retired.

Michael was an active member of the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he volunteered on many projects and committees. His heart remained strong for the church, in that anything he saw that needed taken care of, he would find a way to do it, despite the long drive or later, his pain.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; three children: Tonia (Jeff) Eppers of Whitewater, WI; Lisa (Mel) Bjurstrom of Burlington, WI, and Nathan Dooley of Elkhorn, IN; four grandchildren: Samantha and Natalie LaBreche of Whitewater, WI, and Logan and Brady Bjurstrom of Burlington, WI; a special “adopted daughter,” Jody Burge of Waterford, WI; and two brothers, Spencer (Linda) Mitchell of Janesville, WI, and Gary (Lina) Mitchell of Texas. For Michael, family coming first included his extended family by marriage, always as supportive as the best brother and uncle that he could be. He was preceded in death by his parents and parents-in-law.

Funeral Services were held May 12, 2017, at the Apfel Ehlert Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Edgerton, WI, with Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells officiating. Burial is in Evergreen Cemetery, Albion, WI. Memorials may be made to Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

JEREMIAH OWEN

Director of Communications
jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org
cell: (818) 468-9077

REV. JOHN J. PETHTEL

Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services
jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org
cell: (304) 629-9823

REV. NICHOLAS J. KERSTEN

Director of Education & History
nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org
office: (608) 752-5055
cell: (608) 201-4850

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CENTER

3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678,
Janesville, WI 53547-1678
Phone: (608) 752-5055

TO ORDER SDB PUBLICATIONS:

Online at
SDB Website:
www.seventhday-baptist.org

Phone:
(608) 752-5055

BIRTH

KERSTEN – a son, Taliesin Joshua Kersten, was born to Nicholas and Brittany (Schumitsch) Kersten and proud siblings, Sophia, Zoey and Caedmon, on September 13, 2017.



For access to the library of current and past issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*, go to your App Store and download the **FREE SDB LINK** app.



2018 DATES AND INFORMATION

- January 8, 2018 DEADLINE for Student Applications
- January 25, 2018 DEADLINE for Church Applications
- June 12th – 17 Project Director Training – Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, NY
- June 13th – 21 SCSC On-Site Training – Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, NY
- June 21 – July 26 On-site Projects
- July 26-29 SCSC Evaluation
- July 29-August 4 SDB General Conference in Kenosha, WI

Information and Forms can be found at:

www.seventhdaybaptist.org/ministries/womens-board-scsc

SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE USA & CANADA CONFERENCE SESSIONS DISPLAYS POLICY

Displays are an extension of the ministries of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. The displays are used to inform, celebrate, and support the Conference and its mission.

Display space is limited at every conference session based upon size and location of the venue used. Therefore, priority will be given based upon the following categories of display, with Category 1 being the highest priority:

- **Category 1:** This category includes displays related to the councils, allied societies, or other ministries of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be no charge for these displays.
- **Category 2:** This category includes member churches of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be a fee of \$50 for a display in this category.
- **Category 3:** This category includes churches and groups identifying as Seventh Day Baptist. There will be a fee of \$100 for a display in this category.
- **Category 4:** This category includes vendors or other ministries that support or encourage the mission of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be a fee of \$150 for a display in this category.

Additional Charges: If the display is selling products, there shall be an extra \$25 charge. If the display needs electricity, there shall be an extra \$25 charge. Displays in Category 1 are exempt from these charges.

There shall be no guaranteed location for any display.

Internet and electricity may or may not be available for displays and availability shall be on a priority and then first come, first served basis.


1. Application for a display must be submitted no later than May 15 of each year, or the Monday following the 15th if it falls on a weekend. Acceptance of your display will not be confirmed until after May 15.
2. A separate request must be submitted for each display table.
3. Tables will be at least six feet long. You will be responsible for providing a tablecloth and skirt for your display. (These are required.) One chair can be provided per display upon request.
4. Nothing may be attached permanently to any walls or to the display table. Storage may only be provided underneath the display table.
5. No audio equipment or sound amplification of any kind is permitted. Videos without sound may be shown as long as the monitor/television rests on the display table.
6. We prefer and recommend electronic distribution of information instead of printed matter. Use of QR codes, web addresses, or SDB LINK is recommended.

If you must ship materials for your display, you must contact the Executive Director to obtain the proper address. You will be responsible for the costs of shipping your display.

No display may be set up at the venue prior to the opening Sunday of the conference sessions. All displays must be removed from the venue by 10 am on the closing Sunday of the conference sessions.

All displays that have items for purchase shall remove or cover the items from 6 pm Friday until 6 pm Saturday.

All displays must be approved by the General Council and/or Executive Director.

Waivers to this policy may be requested from the General Council and/or Executive Director. 

FIRST HOPKINTON SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking an assistant pastor.

We are looking for someone who is called, equipped, and ready to serve our thriving church! Our greatest areas of need are help with teaching, discipleship, visitation, and pastoral care. The assistant pastor should also share in preaching on occasion and leading other events/ministries in accordance with gifts and abilities.

We are open to applicants from age 20 to 100. (Billy Graham is welcome to apply.) We would be happy to consider more experienced pastors who want to join our spiritual leadership team, as well as younger or less experienced ministers.

Salary and benefits provided by this generous congregation will be dependent on the situation.

**Please direct your interest, questions, and resumes to
Senior Pastor Dave Stall at: pastordavestall@gmail.com
or (401) 377-2123 (church office).**

Check us out online at: www.hopkintonsdb.org.

COVENANT SDB FELLOWSHIP, a Seventh Day Baptist gathering, meeting in Hungry Horse, Montana, is seeking a pastor or entrepreneurial Bible leader to help catalyze this congregation.

Covenant SDB Fellowship is a small gathering of active Christ-centered Bible believers who are seeking to love the people of Hungry Horse and the Flathead Valley and share with them the love of Christ by training them to become Sabbath-honoring and Gospel-sharing ambassadors of Christ.

Ideal requirements:

- Biblically knowledgeable (Bible College or Seminary preferred)
- Previous pastoral ministry experience preferred
- Previous experience in starting a church or ministry preferred
- Ability to be bi-vocational or raise support to pursue this ministry
- Spiritual giftings in evangelism and/or administration helpful
- Willingness to live in a rural area required
- Ability to work with others and equip them to serve to their potential

Please send a resume including your ministry experience and a cover letter explaining why you believe you are a fit for this position to: PO Box 190278, Hungry Horse, MT 59919

Hungry Horse, MT, is located near the Flathead Valley, in the gateway to Glacier National Park. Big Sky country provides the beauty that reveals the wonders of God's creation and provides the opportunity to spend time with God.

MIDDLE ISLAND SDB CHURCH OF NEW MILTON, WV is seeking a pastor.

Middle Island SDB Church is a small gathering of believers from various communities who come together on Sabbath in rural Doddridge County in West Virginia. Our current weekly attendance averages around 11. We have a desire to serve the Lord and to serve others as well. We are praying for a minister who has a similar desire.

Ideal Requirements:

- Biblically knowledgeable (formal training preferred)
- Previous pastoral ministry experience preferred, not required
- Ability to be bi-vocational

If you feel a calling to serve God in this church, please send a resume including your ministry experience and educational background, along with a cover letter to:

**Middle Island SDB Church
5915 WV Rt 18 S, New Milton, WV 26411**

LESS TALK MORE ACTION

Rev. David Stall, Conference President

pastordavestall@gmail.com

South Atlantic Association Visit

I was invited to attend the South Atlantic Association to share about the Conference theme and program. It was great to join in with some inspired worship and catch up with LOTS of old and new friends from our SDB community. As with every visit on this “tour” during my term as president, I looked for people who are taking action in their faith. I saw my friend, Pastor Keith McCall, and was reminded of their church building project in Edgewater, FL. They are working away, paying as they go. That’s a great story of faith in action. However, the story that moved me to tears was one that Pastor Keith shared on Sabbath afternoon. Just before the loss of his beloved wife earlier this year, God spoke through her with a vision of Keith working/serving at a camp in FL. She saw him there, without her, working peacefully in nature — at a camp. Keith understands that vision as God’s direction to help with establishing, maintaining, and serving in the SDB camp facility/program in FL in the future. Even in the midst of grief, and without all of the details, Pastor Keith has committed to working with his church, association, and the camp crew down there to assist in whatever ways God calls him to! He knows God has spoken, and he intends to follow through with ACTION. Praise God!



Music that praises God IS Rejoicing in Action! Music is a GIFT from God!

You will be blessed greatly by this gift through our 3 choir groups at Conference this summer. Think of it as Christmas in July! I hope you will come to WI and participate by singing with a choir group and/or rejoicing while you listen. Meet our talented choir directors:



Lisa Moore – Director, “New York City Area” Conference Choir

Lisa lives in Brooklyn, NY, where she serves the NYC SDB church as music ministry chair, Sabbath School teacher, assistant moderator, and missions advocate. From a musical family, Lisa has ministered for over 37 years as a singer, praise team member, worship leader, and director. At her former church, she directed a 100-voice mass choir and led them for two years at Shea Stadium’s pre-game festivities. Lisa received a BBA in Management Information Systems and studied piano and music theory at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music.



Randy Miller – Director, Men’s Conference Choir and Sabbath Combined Choir

Randy spent his early years in the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, RI. Today, he is a volunteer music/worship leader at First Hopkinton SDB in Ashaway, RI. On Friday nights, Randy leads in music and prayer at a vespers service. He has served as Director of a Westerly/Hopkinton area Community Church Choir and Orchestra for the last 6 years. He excels in directing as well as writing/arranging music and parts for these groups. Randy has a theater degree with a music minor from Bethel University. He resides in Westerly, RI, with his wife, JoAnne and daughter, Cassie.



Jessica Pradetto – Director, Women’s Conference Choir

Jessica was raised in the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, PA. During her college years, she attended the Salem, WV, SDB Church where she sang with the praise band. After receiving her degree in music education, she moved to Riverside, CA. She attends the SDB church there with her husband, Jon. Jessica sings with the praise band and choir in Riverside and recently stepped into the role of choir director. While still early in her musical career, Jessica is thrilled to be called to the wonderful job of making music!

9/30 All. Assoc. Toronto	10/6 Berlin NY	10/7 C.NY Assoc. Verona, NY	11/11 S.A. Assoc. Atlanta, GA		12/23 Boulder CO	12/30 North Loup NE	2/24 Edgewater FL	3/3 Daytona Beach, FL	5/4 E. Assoc. Shiloh, NJ	7/29 Conference Kenosha, WI
--------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Periodicals postage paid
at Janesville, WI
and additional offices

He came into the very world he created,
but the world didn't recognize him. He
came to his own people, and even they
rejected him.

But to all who believed him and accepted
him, he gave the right to become children
of God. They are reborn — not with a
physical birth resulting from human pas-
sion or plan, but a birth that comes from
God.

So the Word became human and made
his home among us. He was full of
unfailing love and faithfulness. And we
have seen his glory, the glory of the
Father's one and only Son.

—John 1:10-14 NLT



Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
July 29 — August 4, 2018
Carthage College in Kenosha, WI

**LESS TALK
MORE ACTION**