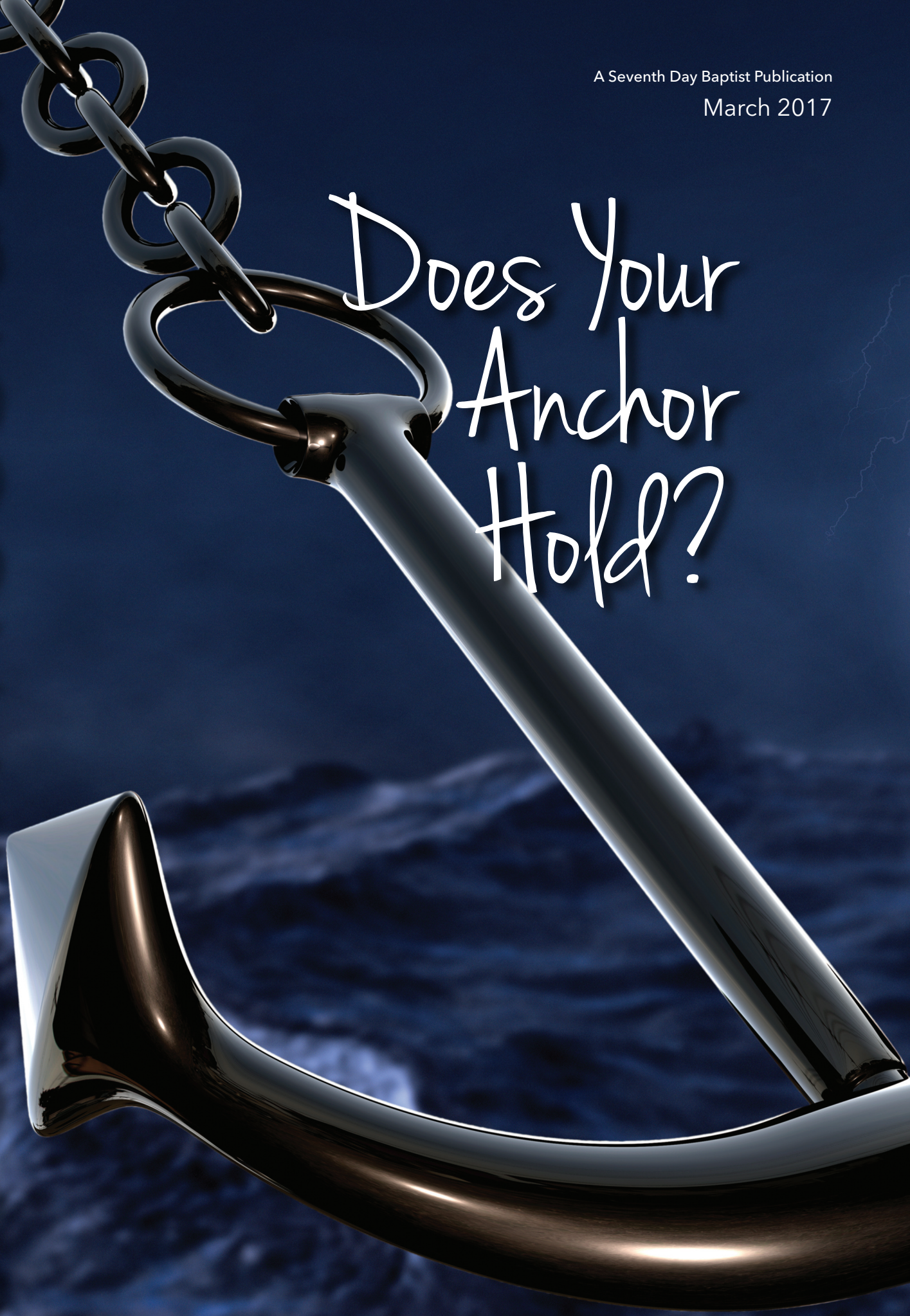


# Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

March 2017

Does Your  
Anchor  
Hold?



# In Times Like These

In times like these you need a Savior,  
In times like these you need an anchor;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One;  
This Rock is Jesus, The only One!  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

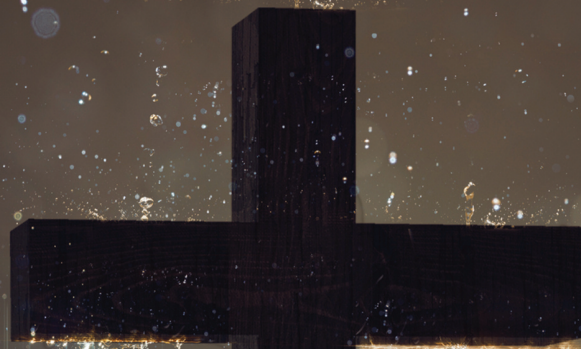
In times like these you need the Bible,  
In times like these O be not idle;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One;  
This Rock is Jesus, The only One!  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

In times like these I have a Savior,  
In times like these I have an anchor;  
I'm very sure, I'm very sure  
My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One;  
This Rock is Jesus, The only One!  
I'm very sure, I'm very sure,  
My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

— Ruth Cyae Jones  
© 1944  
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# Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

March 2017

Volume 239, No. 3

Whole No. 7,035



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*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.

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By Gordon Lawton

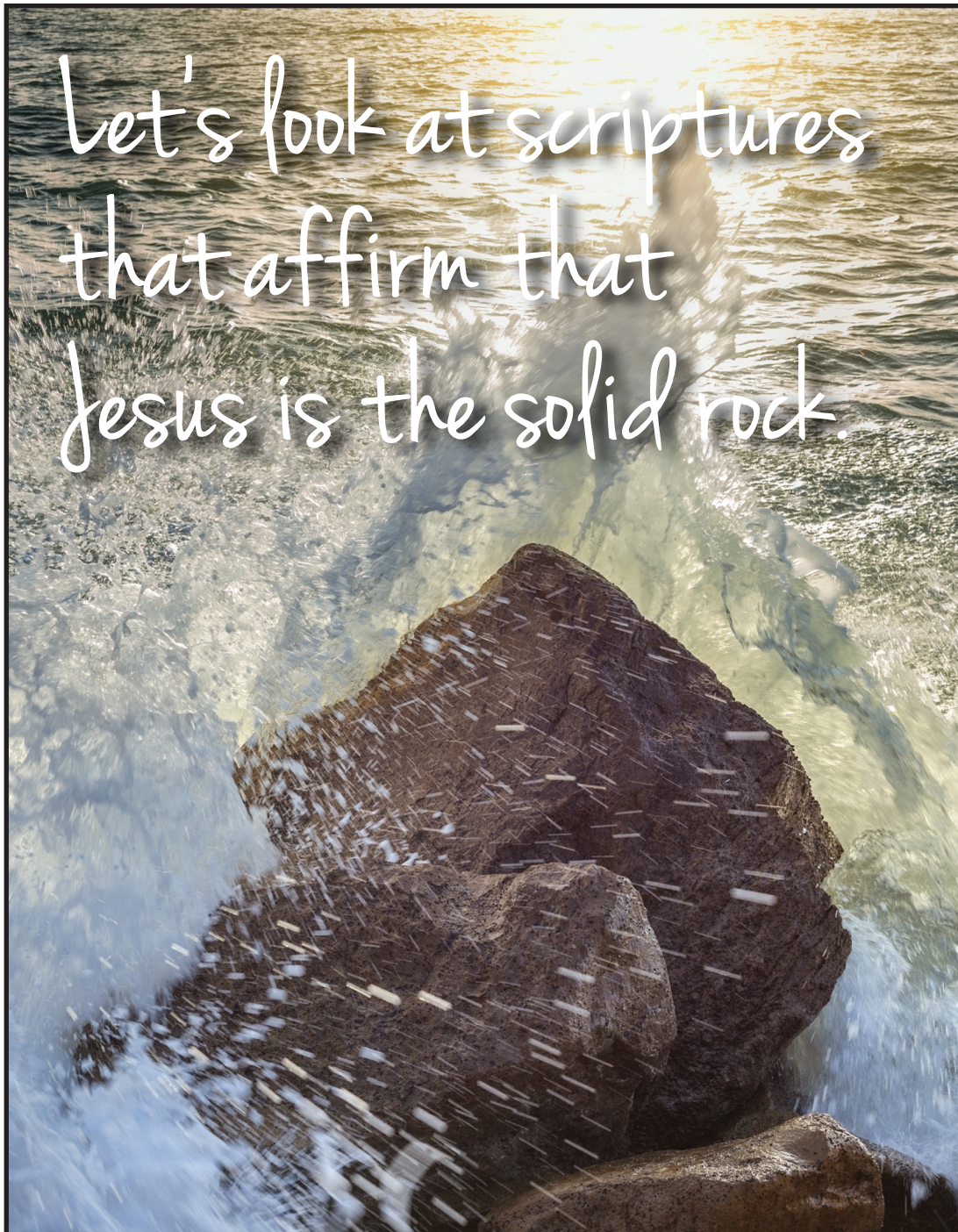
These are interesting times. Technology has multiplied so that we can now hold a computer in our hand and carry it in our pocket or purse. There is more power in these hand-held computers (we call them smart phones) than in the computer that was used by the USA to send men to the moon.

These are interesting times in which we live. Here in the USA we have been through a contentious presidential election. And now 2+ months on, there is still a din of voices for and against the results.

These are interesting times. Basic Christian values which I was taught and, which seemed in my youth to be held if not valued by the majority, are now attacked and legislated away — and I am told I am a bigot for holding those values.

Times were interesting in the 1940s when Ruth Jones wrote her hymn “In Times Like These.” The world was at war. It was a declared war in Europe and the Pacific. The USA tried to stay neutral but, responding to the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, declared war on Japan and its ally Germany. This war was still in process when this hymn was published in 1944. Whether it was released before or after D-day (June 6, 1944), it spoke of the need, in times like these, for an anchor that will hold people to Jesus the solid rock.

*Continued on next page...*



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**St Matthew writes of Jesus the Rock.**

In Matthew 16:13-20, Jesus asks the disciples who people thought he was. They had various answers. Peter, whose name in Greek is Petros, answered "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus calls him blessed and notes that this answer was given to him by the Father in Heaven. And then he adds, "you are Peter (Petros), and on this rock (petra) I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it." Jesus then gives Peter the keys to the kingdom to bind and loose on earth and this binding and loosing will have implications in Heaven. Petros is a proper name that means stone or boulder. Petra is a prime word in Greek that means a large mass of rock. Because of this difference in Greek words, the rock on which the church is built is not Peter the man, but the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. As to the binding and loosing, Peter did loose, or open the door for non-Jews (Gentiles). This is recorded in Acts 10 when he, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, goes to the home of Cornelius and presents the gospel. Their conversion is affirmed by the coming of the Holy

Spirit on them, like a second Pentecost. In Acts 11, Peter explains his actions to those who were skeptical that non-Jews could be saved. Peter answered them by saying “if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?’ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, ‘So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.’” (Acts 11:17-18)

#### **St. Peter writes of Jesus the Rock.**

In 1 Peter 2:8, Peter creates a word picture of the Church as a building with each believer being a stone built into a spiritual house, with Jesus Christ as “a chosen and precious cornerstone” (vs 6). Today a cornerstone is a valued place to put documents related to the building and its construction and intended use. Sometimes it is a time capsule. The Boulder SDB Church has the cornerstone that was used in the first building (1894) and the second building (1928) placed in the new building (1996). When it was removed from the second building, there were documents and mementoes inside. In the time that Peter wrote, a cornerstone was an integral part of the construction process. It was placed first. It was shaped so that the walls would line up with its sides. In most cases the stone was set at a 90 degree corner and the walls were measured from that corner and would be lined up along the sides of the stone. With this understanding, Peter’s words have more meaning. Jesus is the first building block of the church. We all fall in line with him and he sets our direction. He is the “chosen and precious cornerstone.” (vs 6)

#### **St. Paul writes of Jesus the Rock.**

Paul, the scholar who studied under Gamaliel, quotes Isaiah in Romans 9:33: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” This is in his argument in chapters 9-10, that the Gentiles are also saved and that salvation is by faith, not by keeping the law. Paul uses the illustration of Jesus being the foundation in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. He (Christ) is the foundation, the solid rock, the cornerstone.

So we have Matthew, Peter, and Paul all describing Jesus Christ as a stone or solid rock.

#### **Let’s look at scripture that helps us understand what our anchor should be.**

The writer to the Hebrews speaks of hope as an anchor. In chapter 6 verses 13-20, we are told of Abraham waiting for the promise of many descendants. For most of his life he did not see the promise fulfilled, but he trusted God and had hope. In verses 18 and 19 we read, “we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Because of our faith we have hope for eternal life in the presence of God.

John Newton, captain of a slave ship, heard the gospel, was saved and changed his ways, knew of this hope. In the third verse of “Amazing Grace” he states, “The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.”

In times like these we do need to hold to the solid rock of the Lord Jesus Christ. In times like these we do need to have that anchor of hope for eternity with our Lord. In times like these we need the Bible to help us learn about God and his direction for us. We do need to be sure that our “anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!”<sup>[SR]</sup>

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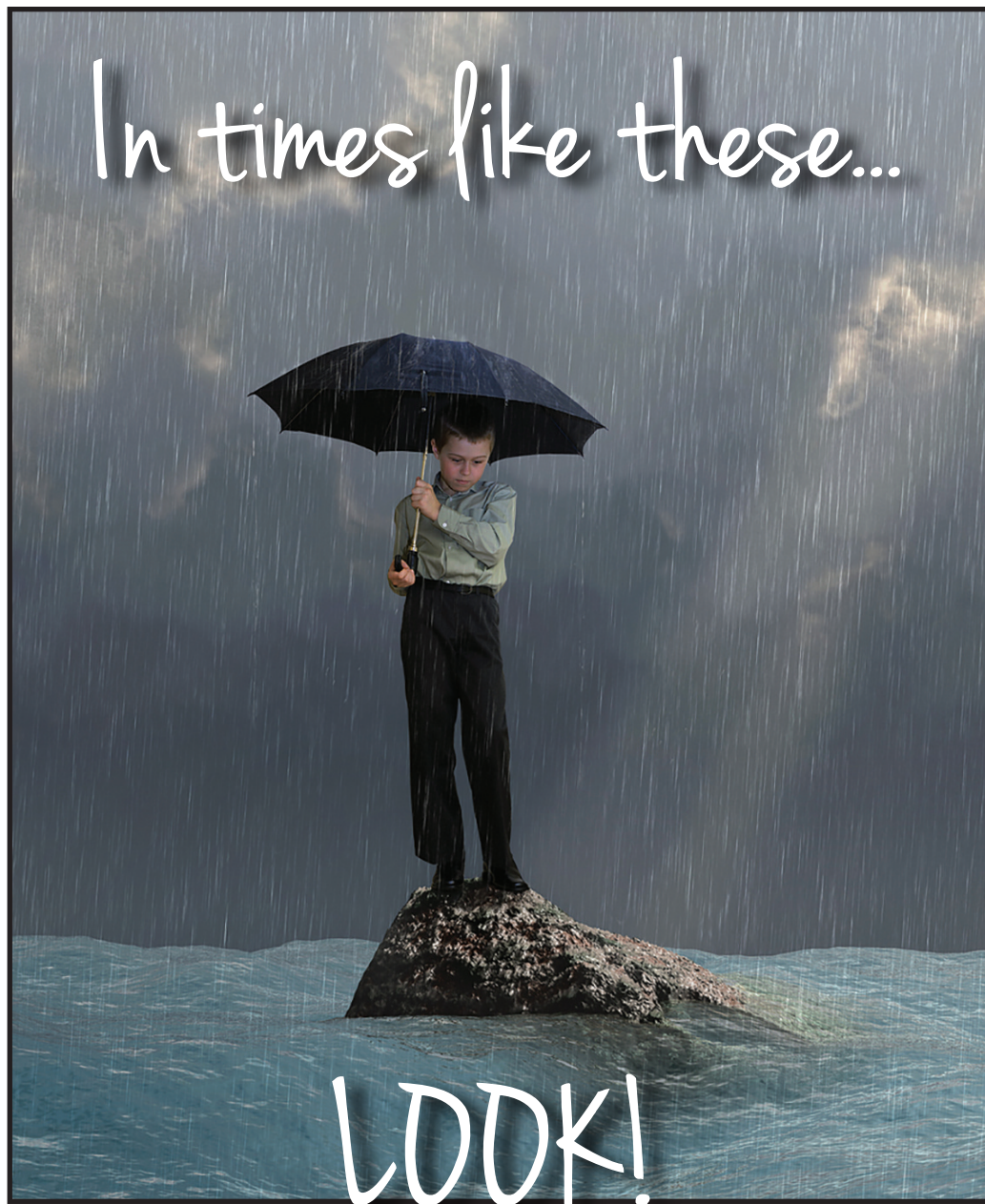
*All Bible quotes from NIV 1984*

*Newton, John, Amazing Grace, pick a hymnal. In Public Domain*

*Jones, Ruth C, In Times Like These, © 1944, Singspiration Music, renewed 1972 (#577 The Celebration Hymnal)*

*Ruth was the daughter of Edmund Jones and Hannah E. Caye Jones, and wife of George B. Jones. A self-taught pianist and organist, she worked with her husband in the evangelism field. In 1948, they founded a radio ministry in Erie, PA, broadcasting a weekly family devotional program from their home called “A Visit with the Joneses.”*

*Sources: Reynolds, p. 347; [http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/j/o/n/jones\\_rc.htm](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/j/o/n/jones_rc.htm) 1-25-17*



### *In times like these...*

No sooner is the phrase “In times like these” uttered than images, memories, and emotions begin to churn. We reflexively connect the phrase to difficult times, times when life as we know it—no matter what it has been—is becoming painfully and decidedly worse.

We could use “in times like these” to talk about normal moments, peaceful moments, exhilarating moments, exuberant moments, and triumphant moments. But we don’t. We enjoy these moments. We savor them. We take them for granted. But, we don’t talk about “times like these” when life is awesome, nor when it is normal.

Instead, we reserve the phrase for moments when there is no good path forward, when there is no obvious delight to come. In these moments, when we are at a loss for describing and incapable of responding, we pull out the phrase, dust it off, and let it dangle:

By Andrew Camenga



## ***In times like these...***

The phrase is nondescript. This nondescriptness may be why we choose to use it — we cannot or will not craft accurate language to describe the times. We intuitively feel that creating a true description of the situational chaos and the accompanying emotional abyss into which we have fallen will multiply our sense of being lost.

So, we speak the nondescript phrase, and we pause. We let the phrase dangle.

Initially, as it dangles, as the saying remains incomplete, we refuse to fill that ellipsis. Our next steps are unclear, painful, and dreaded. We become convinced that times like these must be received, as Charles Dickens almost said in the opening paragraph of the *Tale of Two Cities*, “...for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”

“Times like these” are the moments of superlative agony, stress, and uncertainty. They are the worst. They are the moments that bring with them an unyielding confidence that the ellipsis in the phrase might be filled in ways that are more terrible than we can imagine.

This unyielding confidence that things can get worse is not new. Consider the time when God was preparing Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Exodus clearly states that God had heard the groaning of the Israelites, had seen their oppression, and was aware of their suffering. They needed a savior, and God came down to deliver them (3:8). He chose Moses to be His agent. Everything was set for the Israelites to say, “In times like these we see our savior,” and to experience salvation in the form of deliverance from slavery.

Yet, the first real response to God’s rescue plan is “In times like these, Pharaoh can get really mean. Go Away!” Moses’ initial visit to Pharaoh did not bring deliverance. Pharaoh called them lazy and instructed the overseers to enforce new and harsh production quotas. Already miserable circumstances became dramatically worse. The Israelites gave up. They asked God to judge Moses. Moses nearly gave up. He told God, “you have certainly not rescued them!” (5:23).

Confidence in God gave way to a despondent certainty:

### ***In times like these, we should give up.***

It is not just Moses and the Israelites who demonstrate this despondent certainty. Consider Jesus’ hand-picked follower, Peter. He declared that Jesus was “the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” He had heard many times that Jesus would be arrested, tried, and killed. Yet, when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter’s response screamed, “In times like these, the leaders can kill me. Jesus who?” When confronted that night, Peter could not confirm his identity as a follower of Jesus. Denial followed denial, and Peter fled, weeping and bitter.

Confidence in Jesus gave way to a despondent certainty:

### ***In times like these, we should run and hide.***

With Peter and with Israel, the “in times like these” moments went from bad to worse. For many God-fearing individuals in Scripture, the human circumstances we like to measure never got better. Hebrews lists the experiences of some who were faithful to God: they were tortured, killed, mocked, scourged, and imprisoned. Yet, in almost the same breath, Hebrews declares that these followers gained approval and, along with us, would be made perfect (11:39-40).

For them, confidence in the work of God never gave way. Their response?

### ***In times like these, we see what God has promised.***

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God intervened in the lives of Peter, Moses, and the Israelites to show them that horrible times are not the defining source of reality. He gave them another chance to respond well to times like these. God sent Moses back to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh did yield. Moses instructed the people to get ready, and they did escape. Jesus helped Peter understand that his denials did not create a permanent break; Jesus had a place for Peter.

For those who trust Him, Jesus gave instruction for how to respond to times like these. As He described a terrible time coming for Jerusalem, He forecast a coming time of distress which will include not just those in Jerusalem, but also the nations on the earth:

*“And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth nations will be in distress, anxious over the roaring of the sea and the surging waves. People will be fainting from fear and from the expectation of what is coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken”* (21:25-26, NET).

He described life falling apart at the seams: everything is broken and people are panicking.

This prediction of tremendously uncertain times included words of comfort and hope for those who know and follow Jesus as the Son of Man: *“Then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory”* (21:27).

Jesus reminded the disciples that He is in control. There will be a day when everyone on Earth will see

the Son of Man and recognize His power and glory. That will be a day of rejoicing — at least for those who have aligned their lives with the Son.

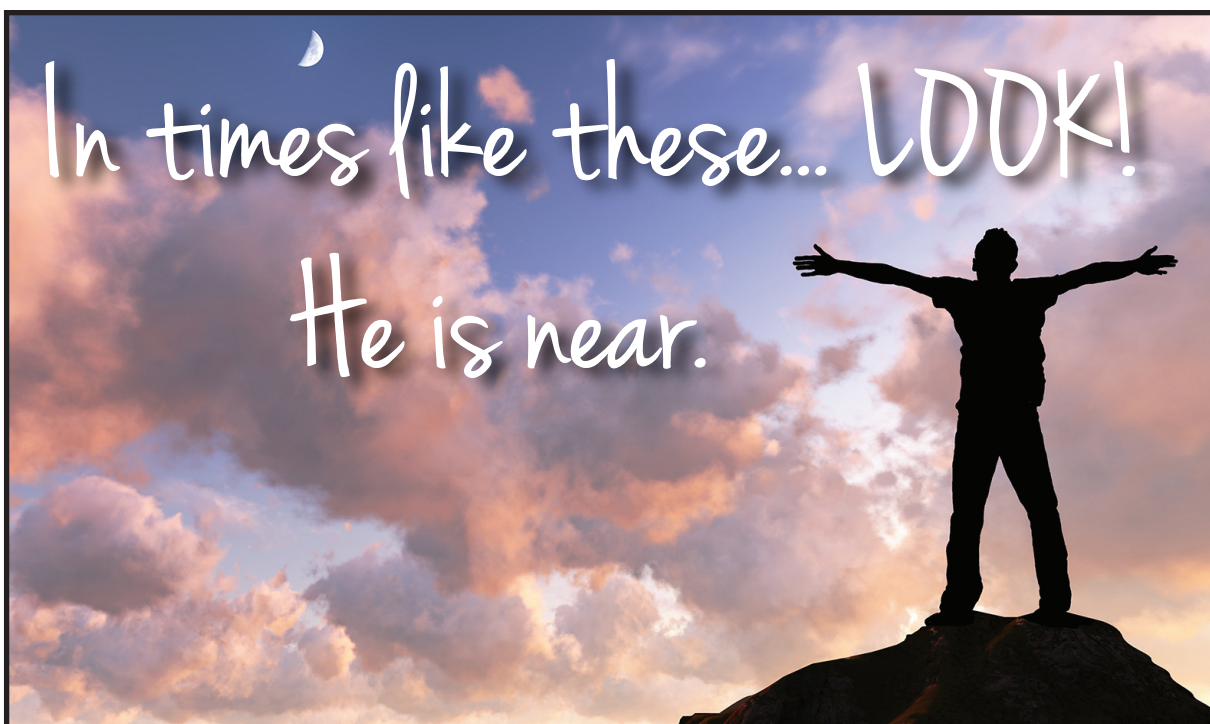
But, the next words of Jesus are crucial for us to hear: *“When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”* (21:28).

Note the timing. Jesus says His disciples are to raise their heads when these things begin to happen. In other words, before we see the Son of Man is coming, when the world is falling apart at the seams, we are to stand up and raise our heads. Why? Because it is easier to see what is happening when your head is up and your eyes are open.

In times like these, followers of Jesus should stand up, look around, and expect to see His kingdom. We can expect to see His kingdom more rapidly, more easily, in times like these, and we should be actively looking for it.

There are times I want to give up, duck, and run for cover. Events can catch me by surprise, push me past my capacity to absorb, and drive my imagination to see awful scenarios. In times like these, I want to run away, close my eyes, hide from people, and complain to God. Sometimes, I do.

But, when I catch myself and recognize what is happening, I remember this call from Jesus: *“stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”* By the grace of God, in these times, I can stand up, open my eyes, and watch for His Kingdom. SR



# Times Like These

What are “Times Like These”? We’ve all heard the sayings — the same sentiments worded slightly differently along the two general themes: self-reliance and depending on God. “In times like these, we need to band together!” “In times like these, you have to rely on God’s strength!” “It’s times like these that make us stronger!” “Its times like these that better teach us how to trust Jesus!” But what are “Times Like These”?

I had a hard time sitting down to write this. I wrestled with the topic, thinking, “What could I possibly have to share that people haven’t heard yet — especially when I can’t even define exactly what those times are when we most need God?” I admit that I have led a blessed life. I’m married to a man who both understands me and loves Jesus. I have happy and healthy kids. My parents are retired and enjoying their lives. My job as a teacher (while difficult and exhausting at times) is rewarding and fun. We live in a politically divided climate, which I certainly have my own opinions about. Bills keep coming that can sometimes be difficult to pay. But still my life plodded on, seemingly untouched by all those disturbances about us. “Times Like These” seem to be something I can’t quite identify with, let alone write about.

And then, in the midst of my struggles with this question, a very dear friend died suddenly...unexpectedly...and I was immediately thrown into the middle of a “Time Like This.” The rug was torn out from under me. All of a sudden, I was dealing with a level of grief that I hadn’t known for decades.

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# I had hit a "Time Like This"

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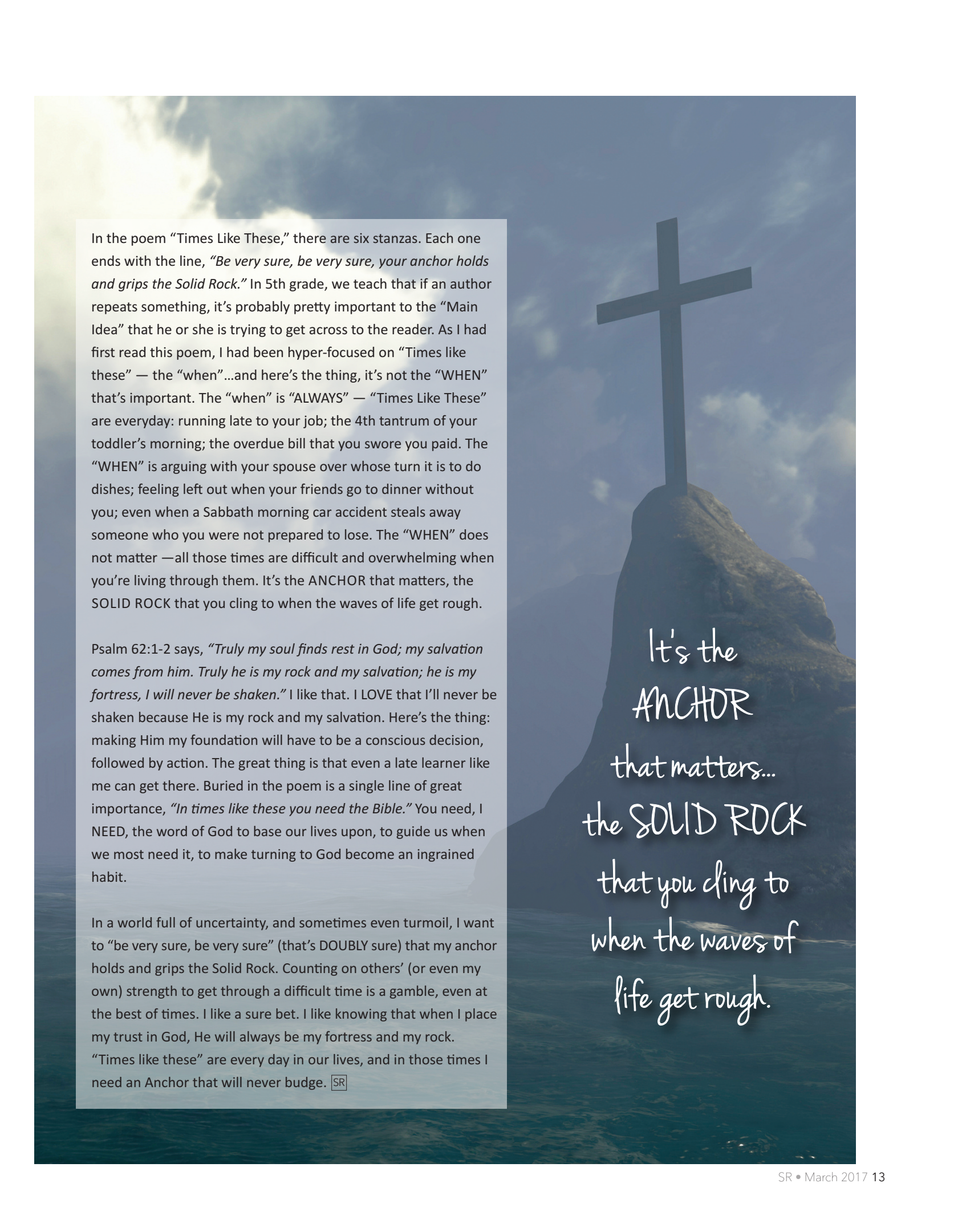
A person who had, for 30 years, been a constant in the ever-changing fabric of my life, had been a steady anchor in the middle of my whirlwind, a sounding board when I needed one, and who I had seen grow into an amazing woman of God, was abruptly torn away. My world had been rocked, my sure foundation was suddenly shaky...but I still had to get up the next morning and assure my husband and kids that I was doing better, while I held the tears back. I had to wake up on Monday and get everyone dressed and fed, then face a classroom of 11-year-olds who didn't want to be awake, let alone learn about the American Revolution and subtracting fractions. I still had to make it on time to my son's speech therapy, pay our bills, and do all the stuff that I had done so effortlessly a week before — but it wasn't easy anymore. In short, I had hit a "Time Like This" and I wasn't making it through intact.

People called and friends hugged me. They said all the things they were supposed to say, but it just made me more sad, or angry. The calm pond of my life suddenly had ripples in it...terrible waves that I couldn't seem to swim above...and I remembered this poem:

*"In times like these, you need a Savior,  
In times like these, you need an anchor;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!"*

I had read that poem over and over while thinking about how to write this, trying to understand if it held something deeper for me. Now, as I reread it for the umpteenth time, I began to get it. I DID have anchors in that serene little pond of a life, several very strong anchors! I had a steady anchor of a husband, a man of legendary and predictable calm. I had parents who define stability as surely as the house they've lived in for 40 years. I had an unflappable brother who stares chaos down. I had lifelong friendships with a few women who had seen me through decades of change, and still stuck around. All these PEOPLE were my rocks — I had surrounded my hurricane of energy with people who loved me and anchored me to everyday life. And that was my mistake— they were my anchors, not God!

Listen — I get it! I'm a reasonably bright, well-educated 42-year-old...how is this something I had not understood before? I've read the same books all of you have, heard similar sermons, delivered the same testimonies in SCSC over 20 years ago...but this wasn't something I'd ever had to personally figure out! For better or worse, I am a person who learns best experientially. I have to make lots of mistakes to understand something. I was recovering from the discovery of having made a 40-year mistake — relying on my friends and family for my stability in the storms of life. These are all lovely, wonderful, well-meaning, God-fearing people — but humans nonetheless, with all the fragility that God designed us to have. I had to find a new anchor, one that could weather every storm while I clung to it for dear life.



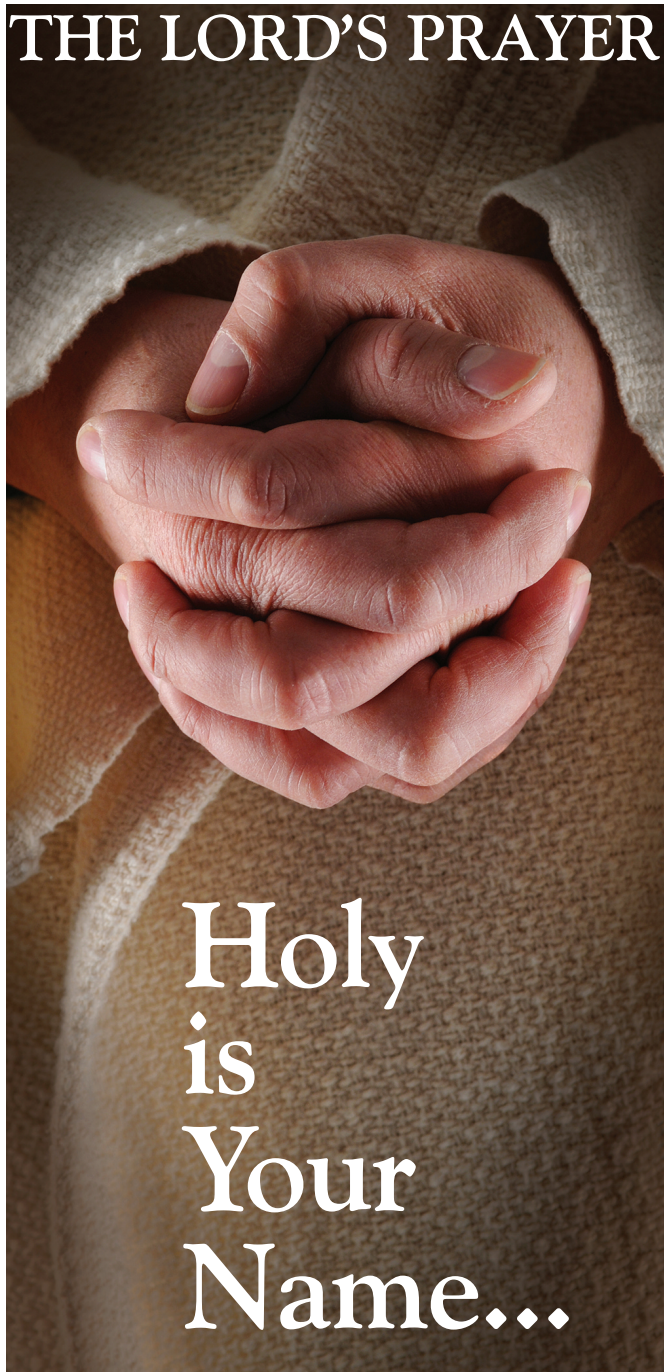
In the poem “Times Like These,” there are six stanzas. Each one ends with the line, *“Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.”* In 5th grade, we teach that if an author repeats something, it’s probably pretty important to the “Main Idea” that he or she is trying to get across to the reader. As I had first read this poem, I had been hyper-focused on “Times like these” — the “when” ...and here’s the thing, it’s not the “WHEN” that’s important. The “when” is “ALWAYS” — “Times Like These” are everyday: running late to your job; the 4th tantrum of your toddler’s morning; the overdue bill that you swore you paid. The “WHEN” is arguing with your spouse over whose turn it is to do dishes; feeling left out when your friends go to dinner without you; even when a Sabbath morning car accident steals away someone who you were not prepared to lose. The “WHEN” does not matter — all those times are difficult and overwhelming when you’re living through them. It’s the ANCHOR that matters, the SOLID ROCK that you cling to when the waves of life get rough.

Psalm 62:1-2 says, *“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”* I like that. I LOVE that I’ll never be shaken because He is my rock and my salvation. Here’s the thing: making Him my foundation will have to be a conscious decision, followed by action. The great thing is that even a late learner like me can get there. Buried in the poem is a single line of great importance, *“In times like these you need the Bible.”* You need, I NEED, the word of God to base our lives upon, to guide us when we most need it, to make turning to God become an ingrained habit.

In a world full of uncertainty, and sometimes even turmoil, I want to “be very sure, be very sure” (that’s DOUBLY sure) that my anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock. Counting on others’ (or even my own) strength to get through a difficult time is a gamble, even at the best of times. I like a sure bet. I like knowing that when I place my trust in God, He will always be my fortress and my rock. “Times like these” are every day in our lives, and in those times I need an Anchor that will never budge. SR

It's the  
ANCHOR  
that matters...  
the SOLID ROCK  
that you cling to  
when the waves of  
life get rough.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER



Holy  
is  
Your  
Name...

*Most commentaries on the Lord's Prayer spend little time on this phrase.*

*Of course the name of God is holy.*

I didn't sleep well last night. I woke up this morning to the news that one of my friends had died in automobile accident. I was crushed. Not just because a friend was gone, but because it just seemed like one more thing. Lately it seems like the world is falling apart. The news is never joyful. My Facebook feed constantly reminds me that humans have more care for animals than they do for each other. My job is full of conflict.

It seems that everywhere I turn I cannot escape the pain and the sin in this world. So this morning when I heard the news I cried. I cried in bed. I took a shower and cried there. I got out of the shower and I cried. And I realized one thing. This world is shifting and untrustworthy. But I serve a God who is holy. I serve a God whose very name is a rock. And this morning I clung to that rock.

Most commentaries on the Lord's Prayer spend little time on this phrase. They quickly gloss over it as a given. Of course the name of God is holy. Some may note that this was a phrase used in a time before Jesus to talk about the nature of God. They may say that calling God holy is defining who God is — but they will spend far less time on this than they will on other parts of the prayer.

I have chosen to devote an entire section of this series to this phrase. If I am honest I felt like I put myself in a corner. I wasn't sure what I was going to write about. I regretted not doing what everyone else had done. I could have just included this in the section on Heaven, but I didn't. Now I am glad I didn't

## More Than Just Sinless

Sometimes when we think of the word *holy*, we think that it means that God is sinless. It is true that God is sinless. It is true *holy* means this, but it means so much more. We live in a world that is consumed by sin. We live in a world full of evil. We are so saturated by evil that we devote entire courses at college and seminary to debating and solving "The Problem of Evil." All those classes do is help us feel better about evil. They don't really answer the question of why it exists. They may point us to the hope of a future without evil, but on days like today that is little solace.

Holiness is something beyond us. We are not holy. For some this is what they mean when they say God is holy. They mean that God is so different from us that we cannot explain it. Most of my life I was satisfied with this answer. But often that otherness is hard to handle. It means that we just have to accept the things that happen. When the world falls down around us, we are told that God has a plan. When we question, we are told that we cannot understand God — because God is so different from us. God is holy and we are not.

**It is here that we learn a crucial truth. We are not God.  
We cannot ever think to comprehend all that it takes to be God.  
We cannot do God's job. God is holy and we are not.**

I never liked that answer. I'm not saying it is wrong. I just don't like it. But today I came to another realization. God's holiness is a balm for suffering. It soothes our souls. The Bible never really gives us an answer for why evil exists. It doesn't need to. That's not the point of the Bible. It talks about what God is going to do. But again, a future hope is little solace on a day of grief.

## The Man Who Questioned God

I really like the story of Job. I used to like it because I always related to Job. (I think I have always had a persecution complex.) Here is a man who suffers greatly and for no reason – at least not a reason that he is ever given. He is blameless. His friends try to give him reasons for his suffering. They are all valid reasons for suffering, just not for Job's suffering. It gets to the point where Job starts to think that God owes him an explanation. Job demands that God come down and explain Himself. So God does.

God gets snarky. God starts by telling Job, "Brace yourself like a man." God then asks Job a flurry of questions. Each and every question points to the might and power and wisdom of God. Job's response? Silence. Faced with the sheer awesomeness that is God, Job can do nothing but be silent. He cannot answer God's questions so God does not answer his. It is here that we learn a crucial truth. We are not God. We cannot ever think to comprehend all that it takes to be God. We cannot do God's job. God is holy and we are not.

But Phil, you say, didn't you just deny that answer. Yes I did. And no I didn't. What I have a problem with is people pushing aside suffering with that answer. It is hollow. We have a tendency to tell people this when we don't want to deal with their suffering. This is wrong and evil. Lament is crucial to scripture. There is a whole book on it. But that doesn't negate the truth of God. And when we fully understand that truth we find healing.

## Oh My God

While in the shower this morning, God reminded me of a song by *Jars of Clay*. The song has a simple title: "Oh My God." The message of the song is powerful. The song plays on the phrase, that for so many, means taking the name of God in vain. It rethinks what it truly means to say that God's name is holy. "Oh my God" is repeated over and over again in the song. The bridge of the song is a list of types of people. This list includes liars, fools, whores, racial haters, and saviors. What does this list have in common? Every

single person on the list cries out the name of God. The song goes from there to talk about how the suffering and evil of this world can be overwhelming. One line in particular stands out. "If the world was as it should be, maybe I could get some sleep." This song is a cry. It is a cry for help. It is a cry for mercy. And it is a realization that this cry is common to humanity. This song reminds us that every single one of us needs God. We need God so badly that even when we claim to not know Him, we cry out His name.

## God's Name is Comfort

This world can be hard and full of pain. There are days when cold winds remind us of our scars. There are times when we want to shout at God and demand an answer for all the evil in the world. We may never know the reason for everything that we suffer. Evil is an ever-present part of this creation. It will shake us. It will hurt us. It may even kill us. But we serve a holy God whose name can bring us relief.

## The holiness of God is precious...

**It was the holiness of God  
that defeated death.**

**It is that holiness which  
lets us be called the  
sons and daughters of God.**

What I realized this morning is that the holiness of God is precious. It means that God is not like this world around me. It means that I don't have to have all the answers. It means that I serve a God who is greater than my suffering. It was the holiness of God that paved the way to the cross. It was the holiness of God that defeated death. It is that holiness which lets us be called the sons and daughters of God. God's name is holy and that holiness is comfort. <sup>SR</sup>

*May you come to love the name of God.  
May you realize that the holiness of God is precious.  
May you cry out God's name in distress.  
And may God hear your cry.*

*Amen!*

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Third in a series by Assistant 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)

## Life on Mission:

### Reflection of God

I serve an incredible God. This year is going by so quickly and I feel like there are so many things left unsaid. I want to take a minute in March for a quick reflection on my thankfulness and once again to share how amazing I see my God in this.

But first let me say goodbye to a dear sister, Stephanie Sholtz. Oh my word! When bad things happen how do we maintain our composure and find hope? Stephanie showed her love for God in so many ways — with JOY and confidence. She freely gave of her talents and loved without measure. I am so very sorry for the loss to this world — and yet I know that God is supreme, all knowing, all sustaining, and His plan was met in the short time Stephanie shared her life this side of Heaven. We will be together again — of this I am sure!!!

This past week I have been in transition at work and many of my friends and co-workers stop for a visit or just to share an interest in my future plans. I believe God uses this time to allow me to foster good will, share my purpose, and learn a bit more about my work friends. There is a certain Respiratory Therapist (RT) that I call “Bro” because he looks like my brother who lives in Ohio. He often passes me in the hallway but seldom do we touch on deeper matters than how work is going, what’s busy about the workday, and if he’s seen my son who also works as an RT at this facility. He’s always been the nicest gentleman and has coached nurses in clinical certifications for NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation) and ACLS (Advance Cardiac Life Support). Today was a different story and he stopped to see how I was doing personally and we shared on a completely different level.

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#### *A reflection of a God alive, invested, available, all-knowing. His timing is perfect.*

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I was interested to learn that he attends the church where my son and his family attend. He’s been an elder there for many years — I finally understand where the kindness comes from! He listened to my story about following my calling, walking on a journey to understand what it really means to be living a “Life on Mission.” I was able to explain the role I’ve been called to and the passion I share to see God’s purpose unfold in our churches around community mission and being prepared to “touch lives for Jesus.” His genuine interest led him to share his personal life scripture with me. Romans 15:13 *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* He prayed that scripture over me as a gift to share what he has found in knowing God as our ultimate “hope” and that when we rely on God’s gifts



## LIFE ON MISSION

Touching lives for Jesus

### President’s Page

by Patti Wethington

SDB Church, White Cloud, MI

there is Joy and Peace. In grasping the hope of Jesus, a spiritual power is supplied by none other than the Holy Spirit. Power that makes a difference in our lives! Wow! That was an exchange that I will not forget. This was a connection at a deeper level to reveal God’s presence, protection, and personal interest in my life.

My work “Bro” sent me a text later that evening to thank me for sharing with him. He reinforced the scripture and give me encouragement. How thoughtful! I sent a follow-up text and shared my life verses from Ephesians 3: 14-21, emphasizing vs. 20. *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..”* I thanked him for his thoughts, prayers, and kindness. Then I moved my focus to getting with the tasks at hand and recoiling after a long day of work. A bit later in the evening, when I was relaxing and working through my Bible study, I reviewed my material from a program I’ve been following to read the Bible through in 365 days. I was studying day #213 and have been reading in 2 Chronicles, Romans, a bit of Psalms and Proverbs. To my amazement, God had planned to demonstrate yet one more time that His timing is perfect in all things. Today’s study included Roman 15:13. God’s timing is amazing. When I shared my experience with “Bro” on Monday, he too had been struck in wonder at God’s timing — in his personal Bible application, his verse of the day for Friday was none other than Ephesians 3:20.

How can this be that a God of the universe has the time to anticipate, plan, and execute timing such as this — to cross our paths with spiritual connection and scriptural selections of personal meaning, and put it in a scheduled printing on this date? Once again this experience confirms the hope and confidence that comes in knowing and sharing a loving God who cares about this kind of detail in our life. This is no coincidence but a reflection of a God alive, invested, available, all knowing. His timing is perfect. [SR](#)



# Searching



A remarkable trait among humans across the globe is a searching, curious nature. While the questions they ask vary as greatly as the people who ask them, there is always one common question that haunts every individual: “Why are we here?...What is the purpose of life?” Sadly, there are many who go through their entire lives searching and never finding the answer because of where they tried to find it. There are people who think that the purpose of life is to find your own purpose — to find whatever makes you happy and do that for as long as you can. They think they will find the answer if they just look into themselves deep enough. However, the problem with this idea is that people are rarely satisfied, and they will never find the answer inside themselves. You never find the instructions to a device inside the machine itself; you have to consult with the inventor. So when circumstances go awry (as they often do) this sense of purpose dissipates. Some people look for meaning in things. They think that the meaning of life is to be wealthy and successful and to have everything that they could ever want. They think that this will bring them satisfaction or happiness. I have seen bumper stickers that say things like “He who dies with the most toys wins.” This is a tragic philosophy to uphold because it will always end in emptiness — and so far away from the reason why we are here. I have always wondered, what do they think they will “win”? What sort of good comes out of focusing all of your energy on obtaining things that you can’t keep? Jim Elliot once said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” These words are very true, but how many people have this idea backwards? They give what they cannot lose (their eternity in heaven) to gain what they cannot keep (possessions). So many people waste their entire lives collecting things that they won’t be able to take with them when they die.

Every person on this planet has an infinite chasm in his soul that can only be filled by the infinite God of the universe. So many people are trying to fill the holes in their hearts with things — but as they try to fill their hearts, all they feel is the physical thing bouncing off the sides of infinity that can only be filled by God. God is knocking at everyone’s heart’s door asking to be let

in, but so many people cannot hear over the television or white noise of their own busyness. We are in a world of so many distractions that make us comfortable. We don’t think about how uncomfortable we are with the creeping suspicion that we are missing the most important thing of all — the one thing that can save us — that person is God. We find our purpose in the almighty creator of the world. Without God, there is no meaning in life. If there were no God, then our lives, and the very concept of life itself would be nothing more than a messy collage of violence and chaos.

Thank God this is not the world that we live in. We find our purpose in God, the only answer to the question that so many ask. God understands us perfectly. This is an incredible mystery to ponder. The Lord of the entire universe wants to have a relationship with you, and already understands things about you that you haven’t even learned yet. Even the hairs on your head are numbered. Everything about who you are was planned, even those things that you might regard as flaws. Every intricate strand of your DNA was put together lovingly by the same One who made the stars. God purposefully placed the empty space in all of our hearts that can only be filled by Him so that we would seek Him. Our purpose in life is to know Him. God created us with the intention that we would have a relationship with Him. The Creator wants to have a relationship with the created. God loves us when we feel like He is not even listening. We can know God, and our purpose in life is to follow Him. And because we know this, we cannot keep it to ourselves! There are still so many people who are searching and thirsting for the truth about why we are here. We, as Christians, are called to spread the news about what Christ did for us. This is our calling — to help others who are searching, find. We are each called to do this in very unique ways. Maybe we are meant to travel the world and preach the gospel; or maybe we are simply meant to live in a way that preaches the gospel. When those who are searching see us, and see the inexplicable love that we have, and the peace that passes all reasonable understanding, they will wonder, “What is the reason for their joy?” We will be able to answer “Jesus.”<sup>SR</sup>



# Life Lessons I've Learned (Part 1)

**T**hirteen years ago this month the Transition Team, selected by the General Council, asked me to interview for the position of the Executive Director of the SDB Conference of USA & Canada. I couldn't believe that they would want to talk to me — why me? I was involved in the Golf Industry for the past 20 years! What could I bring to the table? And I know that there were others out there who thought just like I did.

Now I have been in this job for the past twelve and a half years. So, what have I learned? Please allow me to share:

**1. You don't know what you don't know.**

You cannot speak on something you don't know about. I had to learn the real culture of Seventh Day Baptists. If I didn't, how could I speak into it?

**2. Don't let little things get to you.**

Does it really matter who said to do something first? You might get the acclaim you were seeking and lose the teamwork you were building. Don't sweat the small stuff because little things don't matter.

**3. Patience is a virtue!**

I don't know where all of my patience came from when I started this job (Yes, I really do know where it came from but wasn't expecting it). Even my wife commented on how patient I had become, especially when something happened that I had every right to go berserk about. (I believe this is the first time I ever used the word "berserk" in an article). Patience has paid off in so many circumstances.

**4. Working hard doesn't always mean working smart.**

Just because you might work 12-16 hours a day does not mean you're being effective. You can be more effective by working and serving smarter. Then you have more time for other ministry areas.

**5. Taking care of you first is a must!**

I know there might be those out there who would say you are not serving correctly if you take care of yourself first. But that is not the case! You cannot help others in their role if you are sick, tired, and worn out. In taking care of you first, you are then in a position to help others in the best possible way. If you are out of the picture, due to issues you could have avoided, how are you any help to others?

**6. There's no "one-size-fits-all" approach to ministry and churches.**

Our churches are ALL different. I stress the word "all" because it is true. And this is a good thing! We are not cookie-cutter churches and therefore our ministry and service approach cannot be cookie-cutter either. Just because it worked in one church doesn't mean it will work in all.

I think this is why the M.O.R.E. Program, started by my good friend the Rev. Rod Henry, was so successful! Each church had to discover its own culture, its own path, its own journey. John Pethtel and Nick Kersten are working on a re-vamping of the M.O.R.E. Program. Nick visited with Rod and they are in the process of rolling out this great program again. You might want to get your church on the early list.

**7. No one is perfect.**

This especially holds true for people we put on pedestals. No matter how great or enlightened they are, they're still human. Everyone makes mistakes and nobody is perfect.

**8. We're good at going slowly and need to learn about going fast.**

The CLT (Coordinating Leadership Team) talks about this from time to time. It is true for so many of us Type-As who are always trying to jam one more thing into our already jam-packed day (myself included). It's why practices like yoga, mindfulness, and meditation are so important — they help us practice "slow" and connect us to our true selves.

**9. Don't say you're lucky when you should be saying you are blessed!**

I hear far too many Christians today claiming that they are lucky. Next I will be hearing them say they believe in karma! We believe in the one true God who has blessed us in so many ways! We are BLESSED, not lucky. Act like it!

**10. Don't take yourself too seriously.**

You have to be able to laugh at yourself.

Enough said. [SR](#)

# Stop Praying for Me

I recently returned from having the opportunity to visit with some Seventh Day Baptist brothers and sisters in the Cayman Islands. This was late January, so I was not too disappointed that I needed to visit them while the temperatures were plummeting in Rhode Island. The Caymanians were gracious and made Levi Bond and me feel as honored relatives coming for a visit.

They inquired as to the mission of our visit and we told them that the Jamaican SDB Conference had brought their work to the attention of the Missionary Society. They petitioned that we endeavor to find others to come and help in the work of building a God-glorifying ministry on Grand Cayman. They got that two "men went to spy on" Cayman and hoped that we would return with a favorable report.

While we worshiped with them, the songs they selected kept coming back to bending our knees and surrendering our wills to God's. I relayed to them some experiences I had in my travels where God used different means to redirect my course to better serve His will and glory. It was then that I shared that though I am appreciative of the intent of the prayers for my safe travels and praise God for His watch care over me as I journey, it is His will that I ask for them to make the primary focus of their petitions.

I recounted when I was in a van in Uganda and we ran out of gas on our way to church. Because we did not get to the place we wanted to go, there was opportunity to witness at the place in the countryside. As a result of our desires being thwarted, there is now a congregation building a new SDB chapel for worship near the spot where we rolled to a stop. I also told them about the time **my plans** to go to India were upset and I was forced to spend that time in South Korea. There in Seoul, I met an Indian who in turn went back to a region in India near Myanmar and started organizing Seventh Day Baptist churches.

As Jesus modeled for us, there is no problem with letting God know the desires of our hearts. It is well and good for my brethren, who love me and want me to return to my family, to pray for that end. However, our Christ also, even when He knew the path He was taking would be horrific, ultimately placed God's best plan for His life over the desire for self-preservation.

*And he withdrew a little and he fell upon his face and he prayed and he said, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass by me, however not as I will, but as you will."*

— Matthew 26:39

Together let us seek contentment in knowing that our Father is the wise and all-knowing God of the universe. We should be glad for the times our desires are satisfied, and glad for the times they are not. SR



Levi Bond and Clint Brown with Cayman group in current facilities.



Levi Bond trying coconut water.



First Meeting place of the Cayman Islands group

# We Are Not Doomed



In the course of my college career I took a psychology class called Motivation and Emotion. The goal of the course was fairly self-explanatory — learn about emotion and motivation and how they work together. I can't recall exactly what spurred the discussion — if there had been a recent crisis or if it was brought up in the flow of course material — but my professor started lecturing about evil in the present world and how it affects a person's outlook on life. This was several years ago and things were different at that time, but I believe what she said is no less relevant today.

She said something like this, "Many people say that the world is more evil than ever and is going in a downhill spiral. Don't allow them to dictate the future to you. There are many ways in which the world is a better place than it was even 30 years ago." She then gave a brief summary about why she held this view. To say this is not a popular worldview is an understatement, particularly coming from a credible Christian source. Hearing that the world is spinning out of control, irredeemable as it gets ever closer to its demise, is routine. The crux is that the view is not incorrect. The world will end.

While my professor's words have stuck with me, I find myself immersed in skepticism. We are more informed about the evil of the world and it affects us on a more personal level. Rather than succumbing to ignorance, we are now forced to acknowledge the evil around us. All you need to do is look at news headlines or glance

at your Facebook feed to be up-to-date on the terrible happenings around the globe. So how is it that an intelligent, educated, Christian woman can stand up in front of a room full of young adults — who've had a front row seat to the depravities that have been committed in the world — and say, "It's okay, the world isn't irredeemably evil and you should stop looking at it that way?"

Evil doesn't change — it is still bent on destruction and death just as it was 30 years ago — just as it was thousands of years ago. People have been foretelling the end since that time, but no one apart from God knows when. It could be in this lifetime or not. But when we think about it, I believe we consider it a certainty in our lifetime and that paralyzes us. We aren't God but we act like we know that tomorrow is the day the world ends. This doom and gloom outlook contributes to the subculture of anxiety and depression becoming so prevalent. Evil wants us to wear the mantle of paralyzed depression because then we will forget something important.

We forget that there is good in the world. There is redemption and there is hope; we forget to have faith. My professor could say what she did because she had not forgotten faith. Many of her students had, so she reminded us. She reminded us that good things are happening in the world and hope isn't just another four-letter word.

So, how do we reverse the tide of doom that paralyzes us? I don't think we need to start preaching the wealth and prosperity gospel; nor do we need to stop discussing the end times. We do need to change our focus from the detrimental doom forecasting. When we think and talk about evil, we need to include God and His plan in the conversation. Evil doesn't get the win in the end. If we can remember that fact, it no longer matters if the world ends tomorrow. We can have faith that in spite of whatever evil or darkness falls around us, there is hope. Evil's fate is not our own. We are not doomed. SR

## WANTED WOMEN:

If you know an SDB woman whose lifelong service to the denomination and her church community deserves recognition, submit her as a candidate for the Robe of Achievement. Applications due March 31, 2017. More information and applications can be found on our webpage @ [www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)



Women's Society

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

This past January, 35 young adults traveled to Milton, WI, and braved the below-zero temperatures for our Young Adult Retreat. We started on Thursday night with some get-to-know-you games and ended the retreat by breaking off into groups where we were able to pray and talk through questions about what we discussed during the weekend. Our theme this year was "Salt of the Earth." Pastor Steve Osborn preached about what it means to be the salt in the stew that is our world. He explained that God calls us salt for a reason: if something is missing salt, you notice it. Salt doesn't do anything sitting in the shaker. As young adults, we are at a really great age when we have great opportunities to meet so many different people. This retreat encouraged us to get out of the shaker and salt up the world around us! We are the salt of the earth! SR



# Salt of the Earth

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."*

—Matthew 5:13 (NIV)



by Karissa Bornemann  
Milton SDB church, WI

Young Adult

# A Short History of the Washington, DC, SDB Church

*The substance of this article was taken from a pamphlet circulated by the church on the occasion of the dedication of their new building on October 15, 2016. It has been lightly edited for clarity and to fit into the space permitted.*

The founding pastor of the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church was Harold E. Snide, who served from October 13, 1945, to September 13, 1947. Pastor Snide was leading an independent group of Sabbath-keepers before being encouraged by Pastor Leon Maltby to look into the Seventh Day Baptist denomination. The church became the Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church of Washington. Services were held at the Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church located at 900 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

On November 9, 1948, the Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church of Washington was incorporated and eight years later, on January 8, 1956, a resolution was adopted by the Directors to rename the church the Washington SDB Church.

It should be mentioned that in the early 1900s, there was another Sabbath-keeping church located at 10th and V Streets NW, Washington DC. This church would later become affiliated with the SDB denomination and have ties to the Washington SDB church. In a local newspaper, when the congregation moved to join SDBs, Elder Sheafe of the People's Church explained why he joined the SDB denomination. He said the (Colored) People's Church "wanted to affiliate with another body of Sabbath keepers." He further explained that they were "established longer than any other, with origins stretching back to the 17th century." Their doctrines, he said, "...are simple; the Bible and the Bible only is the rule of faith and practice."<sup>1</sup>

An interesting period in Washington SDB history is the ordination of its first female minister, Rev. Elizabeth Fitz Randolph. It was said that she was "of superior intellect and highly educated." She was equally passionate about attending "to the lonely, homeless, and disadvantaged people of all ages, classes, and races."<sup>2</sup> "She was a 'Promoter of Evangelism' who helped to organize and develop two churches: one of which was the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church (1954-1962); and the other, the Colored People's Seventh Day Independent Church at 10th and V Streets."<sup>3</sup>

Rev. Randolph's accomplishments in her ministry and in compassionate care were many. Some families followed her to

the Seventh Day Baptist Church when she became the pastor. One such family was the Crichlow family. Lillian W. Crichlow remained a committed member of the WSDB church until her death at 93 years old. Her son Luther W. Crichlow was a pastor in SDB churches.

In 1963, the Washington Project committee of the South Eastern Association churches (later to include the churches in southern New Jersey) was formed. This committee promoted the idea of a strong SDB witness in the nation's capital and initiated fund raising. By the summer of 1966, Rev. Delmer E. Van Horn became the pastor and director of the project. In May 1967, worship services were moved to the National Memorial Baptist church at 16th and Columbia Road, NW. On February 10, 1968, a special business meeting was held for the purpose of allowing the Board to purchase property at 4700 16th Street NW. The congregation gave a unanimous vote of approval. After inspecting the property, the following motion was made by Miss Rua Van Horn, seconded by Grover Brissey, and passed by the congregation as a whole: "I move that the WSDB church purchase the property at 4700 16th Street NW, DC, at the lowest price obtainable, but, in the event not any more than \$55,000, etc."

It should be noted that in 1968, there were already 28 churches on 16th Street from the district line with Maryland to the White House at the bottom of 16th Street, none of which were Sabbath-keeping churches.

The founding members continued with new projects. One project, they said, was to enable them to "seek revitalization of our personal lives so that we may become Christ-centered and more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, etc." The listed goal of the project was "to lead people to Christ and then continue to help and share with them as they grow in the Christ-centered life."

Our goal has not changed much. The current mission statement of the congregation is: "Having been called and commissioned by the Lord through the Holy Spirit, we will strive to reach the world with the Gospel and equip the saints for the ministry." SR

<sup>1</sup> From "Lewis C. Sheafe: Apostle to Black America," by Douglas Morgan, Review and Herald Press, p425-426.

<sup>2</sup> Sabbath Recorder v206, i2, p31 (February 1984)

<sup>3</sup> "Personality Profile: Rev. Elizabeth Fitz Randolph," by Albert N. Rogers, Sabbath Recorder v202, i6, p9 (June 1980.)





**Testimonial:**

*"MULTIPLY was a gathering of leaders who are pushing into new territory while attempting to encourage other pioneers with shared tools, experiences, prayer, testimony, and vision. I believe this is the kind of wineskin that God will use to shape our church in for years to come."*

— 2016 MULTIPLY Church Development Conference Attender


From October 19 to 21, the third annual MULTIPLY Church Development Conference will take place in Colorado Springs, CO. Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services, John Pethtel and the Council on Ministry have been working to help provide an opportunity for those who are seeking to start new SDB expressions of faith or revitalizing their ministry to have a place to learn and connect.

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

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

The weekend will start Thursday, October 19, at dinner time, with an introductory panel session with some of the speakers. Friday morning, we will join with others attending the MULTIPLY Conference. There will be a variety of topics and options of learning available through the main sessions and breakouts to speak to you regarding where your ministry currently is. On Sabbath, we will meet together again as SDBs to worship and talk about SDB-specific challenges in our ministries and to pray for one another.

The MULTIPLY Church Development Conference is open to all who are interested in breathing new life into their local church or our family of churches. There will be no cost for registration or food (on Friday and Saturday). The only cost for you is lodging (\$100 unless you make your own arrangements) and your travel. (There might be scholarships available.) More information will come as we get closer to the date. We are looking forward to seeing you or a team from your church there!

If you are interested in attending or have more questions, please don't hesitate to contact Director of Church Development, John Pethtel. ([jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org)) 



## Study Leave Could Provide a Spark for Your Pastor

The pressure on a pastor's time often does not allow for vision, planning, and preparation. Pastors need the opportunity to retreat from the day-to-day constraints on their time in order to see their ministries from the big picture. The SDB General Conference wants to provide an opportunity to encourage serving pastors to take a study leave each year in order to do long-range planning, spiritual retreat, and introspection.

Some study leave possibilities could be:

- Sermon planning for the year
- Long-range planning for the church.
- Personal spiritual retreat
- Study at a theological library.

If you have questions about or desire to have a Study Leave, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services.

# Health News

Barb Green, Parish Nurse  
Milton, WI



*A goal for 2017 is to make our church families more knowledgeable about mental health issues so that we can all understand and support those who experience mental illness within and outside the church. There will be an article about a different mental illness each month this year. It seemed appropriate to start out with one definition of some actions that mentally healthy people exhibit. Don't be concerned if you don't measure up to all of them. No one does. They are suggestions for you to ponder as you think about your own mental health.*

## 18 Things Mentally Strong People Do

1. They move on. They don't waste time feeling sorry for themselves.
2. They keep control. They don't give away their power.
3. They embrace change. They welcome challenges.
4. They stay happy. They don't complain. They don't waste energy on things they can't control.
5. They are kind, fair, and unafraid to speak up. They don't worry about pleasing other people.
6. They are willing to take calculated risks. They weigh the risks and benefits before taking action.
7. They invest their energy in the present. They don't dwell on the past.
8. They accept full responsibility for their past behavior. They don't make the same mistake over and over.
9. They celebrate other people's success. They don't resent that success.
10. They are willing to fail. They don't give up after failing. They see every failure as a chance to improve.
11. They enjoy their time alone. They don't fear being alone.
12. They are prepared to work and succeed on their own merits. They don't feel the world owes them anything.
13. They have staying power. They don't expect immediate results.
14. They evaluate their core beliefs — and modify as needed.
15. They expend their mental energy wisely. They don't spend time on unproductive thoughts.
16. They think productively. They replace negative thoughts with productive thoughts.
17. They tolerate discomfort. They accept their feelings without being controlled by them.
18. They reflect on their progress every day. They take time to consider what they've achieved and where they are going. [SR](#)

Rhodes 2013

## Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Missionary Society Office, 8A Church St., Ashaway, RI, on Sunday, March 19, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.
- To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 2017, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

— Kathy Hughes, Secretary

## NEW MEMBERS

### ALFRED STATION SDB CHURCH

Alfred Station, NY

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger

Joined by baptism

Betty Haynes

Amber Trudell

Joined by testimony

Tim Ray



## OBITUARIES

**BOND – Lettie Lorraine McKinney Bond went to be with her Lord on December 14, 2016 at the age of 91.**

Lettie was born October 23, 1925, to Jesse and Grace McKinney. She graduated as the class salutatorian in 1943 from Unitas High School in West Milford, WV, where she met fellow classmate, Leland W. Bond. Leland and Lettie married on April 12, 1946, after he returned from serving in the Navy during World War II. As an adult student in her 30s, she attended and graduated from Salem College with an Associate Degree in Business. She worked as a retail clerk and as an employee in a sewing factory prior to and during her marriage. However, her primary vocations were that of mother, wife, and active church member over the years.

She was a longtime member of the Lost Creek, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she was active in teaching children, working with the Ladies Aid, singing in the choir, cooking for church dinners, and serving ministerial and college students in her home. She cared for her husband's parents and her great-aunt for several years. She helped at Camp Joy as a cook and clean-up crew. After Leland's retirement, they participated in the "Senior Saints," working on construction projects for Seventh Day Baptist churches and camps throughout the country. She was a volunteer for the local hospice unit in Bradenton, FL. They sold their WV home and entered their full-time ministry with SDB fellowships in Okeechobee, St. Pete and Bradenton, FL. They settled in Bradenton and helped the wonderful congregation become an official church. She led music, taught children, prepared meals, and was strong support for Leland. Following their second retirement they moved to Pennsylvania, where they attended the Bell SDB Church. Their home became the stopping place for family, friends and neighbors.

Surviving are her daughters, Laura (Joel) Sutton of Les Cayes, Haiti, and Linda (Donald) Graffius of New Enterprise, PA; her brother, Glenn McKinney of Spokane, WA; 6 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; an aunt and uncle who raised her, Iva and Glenn Bell; 2 sisters, Virchia M. Hollen Cunningham and Wanda M. Swiger; and a brother, James A. McKinney.

**BRUCE – Doris Bruce (known by most people as "Dolly") passed away peacefully on September 16, 2016.**

Doris Joyce Paddison was born June 11, 1929, in Portland, OR. Dolly's father, Fred, and brother, David, died when she was a child. She attended school in Portland: Woodlawn Elementary; Jefferson and Girls' Polytechnical High Schools. She also attended a private boarding school for a short period of time.

Dolly wanted to become a teacher, but chose to marry and become a homemaker. She married Herbert Lourance Bruce on December 25, 1948. She met him through her stepfather, Floyd. Herb was his nephew. That made Floyd, Dolly, and Herb's children's uncle and grandfather. Dolly

also step sister. Herb and Dolly had a family: Kathy, Deborah, and Robert. Dolly and Herb built their home on the same property as her childhood home.

Dolly enjoyed arts and crafts, bird watching, camping, hiking, fishing, walking, collecting salt and pepper shakers, and baking. She was an extraordinary bread maker. She was also a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader. She and Herb loved to roller skate. Dolly would wake up in the middle of the night to write songs that God gave her. She published three books of hymns. Dolly also sold Tupperware successfully and received many awards to help the family out in hard times. She brought her children up to believe, love, worship and pray to God.

After being diagnosed with cancer, Dolly had three prayer requests, all answered. She wanted to stay in her home. She didn't want to suffer. And she wanted to see her youngest granddaughter, Tracy, have a baby.

Dolly is loved by her three children and their spouses; five grandchildren and their spouses; and eight great-grandchildren.

Dolly was a longtime member and deaconess of the Portland Area Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was the oldest member of the church and was called their church matriarch. By her words she was the last remaining founding member of/in the church and still active in the church. She was secure in her faith and eager to meet her Creator.

A memorial service was held on September 24, 2016, at the church, following the worship and communion service. Her pastor, Jerry Vaught, conducted the memorial service assisted by Levi Bond.

**SHOLTZ – Stephanie Dawn Sholtz, 42, of Rochester, MN, passed away in an automobile accident January 28, 2017, in rural Dodge Center, Minnesota.**

Stephanie Dawn Sholtz was born on March 19, 1974, the daughter of Louis and Nina (Skaggs) Sholtz in Oneida, NY.

Stephanie had worked for Advance Correctional Health Care, Blue Stem Counseling Center, and Willowmere Counseling Services. Stephanie devoted her life to helping others, both professionally and personally, as a friend and counselor. Stephanie's deep skill in listening with discernment, wisdom, love, and humor was relied on by many. She will be profoundly missed.

Stephanie is survived by her parents, Nina (Joseph) Karhnaak and Louis (Ellie) Sholtz; sisters, Leticia (Walter) Wicks and Deborah (Dennis) Rod; brothers, Matthew (Lori) Karhnaak, Timothy (Kayla) Karhnaak, James Welch; maternal grandfather, Victor W. Skaggs; seven nieces and nephews, Christopher (Jen) Wicks, Nathan Wicks, Jake Wicks, Kate Wicks, Jessica Rod, Cassandra Rod and Nicodemus Rod; aunts, uncle, cousins and many friends.

The memorial service was held Sunday, February 5, 2017, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, 203 East Main Street, Dodge Center. Rev. William Shobe officiated. The family prefers memorials to the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society.

## Other Language Evangelism



The evangelizing of the Spanish-speaking population in the United States is not an easy task. In some places the Spanish-speaking people are more or less confined to certain specific areas. But there are thousands scattered all over the cities and in the country, and it is not easy to reach each family where they are. Unless our English-speaking brothers and sisters begin to be willing to help us it might not be possible to reach them all.

Some might ask just how they can cooperate in order to bring the gospel to their neighbors who don't speak the same language. There are many good ways to do it. One way is to work toward understanding and learning the culture and language of your neighbors. By practicing hospitality and generosity to them and their families. By showing them what the gospel believed looks like lived out. Our society has always been multicultural and that is not changing any time soon. Our world is also becoming multi-lingual soon.

Another good way to evangelize Spanish-speaking neighbors is with literature. In some of our English churches that I have visited, I have seen much literature, but none in foreign languages. Should not each church provide literature in as many languages as are spoken in its city or country, if such literature is available? This means that our General Conference and churches need to consider publishing our materials and having the gospel readily available not only in English but also French and Spanish (and possibly others).

We desire to work towards making this opportunity to share the gospel in other languages available to all of our churches by translating our materials into French and Spanish for those in the US and Canada who need to hear about the gospel and Seventh Day Baptists. If you want to learn more, please talk to one of the Directors about what you can do to help us.

*Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo el que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna.*

*Juan 3:16*



The SDB General Conference has been providing Long Term Disability Insurance for pastors who work at least 30 hours per week at their church for years (this is regardless of salary).

If your pastor(s) meets the 30 hours per week threshold stated above, please feel free to contact the SDB Center to receive more information and enroll. If your pastor is currently being covered by this insurance, we need to have current information about the income you as a church provide for your pastor.

The income that is covered by this insurance **INCLUDES** cash salary, housing allowance and/or the declared rental value of the parsonage, utility allowances, and any income that is diverted to a medical savings account or medical reimbursement plan which has been instituted by the church. **NOT INCLUDED** are retirement contributions by the church, medical insurance premiums paid by the church, contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA) paid by the church, income from sources other than the SDB Church, and business reimbursements such as mileage/auto/travel expenses or office expenses. Any claim will be based on your information which we pass on to the insurance company.

Please contact the SDB Center with any questions or for more information.

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Church Development & Pastoral Services

by John J. Pethtel  
Director



Truly my soul finds rest in God;  
my salvation comes from him.  
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

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