

Sabbath Recorder

Do
You
Believe?

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

April 2017



*He is not here.
He is risen!*

Believe it!

Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.
He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on
the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

– I Corinthians 15:3-4

InEveryIssue

12	President's Page
	Life on Mission by Patti Wethington
14	Young Adult
	Like Little Children by Moses Lyons
15	The Beacon
	Self-Worth by Emily France
16	Church Development
	The Day We Visited the Dying Church by John Pethtel
17	Focus on Missions
	Whose Kingdom Are We Building? by Clinton R. Brown
18	Alliance in Ministry
	Life Lessons I've Learned, Part 2 by Rob Appel
19	Council on History
	Marlboro SDB History by Diane Cruzan
20	Pastoral Relations
	Socially Acceptable Ways that Church Leaders Self-Medicare by John Pethtel
21	Pastor Profile
	Darwin Steele by John Pethtel
22	Women's Society
	SCSC Teams 2017 by Katrina Goodrich
23	Christian Education
	The "Whys" of Child Protection by Nicholas Kersten
24	Pastoral Relations
	Why Your Church May Struggle to Find Leaders by John Pethtel
26	Church News
	Marriage New Members and Baptism Obituaries

InThisIssue

Splinters 5
by Donna VanHorn

Do You Believe This? 6
by Rev. Herbert E. Saunders

**The Lord's Prayer:
Thy Kingdom Come** 10
by Phil Lawton

The Church of Chicken Little 13
by Chad Bird

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Theme: What should we know about Hell? Is Hell real? Is Hell eternal? Do we have a choice? Send your manuscript as a Word document to the Editor before May 31: sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

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WHO ARE SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS?

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

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

THE SEVENTH DAY

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

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Splinters

A few years ago I was struggling with a major crisis in my life. I found myself hanging onto whatever I could find to keep me focused on Jesus and the peace that only He could provide during that stormy time.

On one particular day during that time, I stopped by my daughter's house. Once inside, I felt a sharp pain in my hand. I looked down and was appalled to find I'd picked up a splinter. I realized it was probably the result of grasping the rustic wooden rail on her back steps.

The image that popped into my mind at that moment was of Jesus' cross. I was holding so tightly to His cross during those days that I could literally feel the splinters of the crude wood. My friends, you need to cling to the cross of Jesus so fiercely that you get splinters!

"For the message of the cross...is the power of God."

— 1 Corinthians 1:18

by Donna VanHorn
www.tunegodin.com



Do You Believe This?

By Rev. Herbert E. Saunders

In C. S. Lewis' fantasy, **The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe**, the great lion, Aslan (the representation of God and his Son who has been sacrificed by the white witch) rises to life again. The first place Aslan goes after his resurrection is to the citadel of the white witch. He then breathes on the stone statues of animals and beings the white witch has cursed and they become living beings again.

The idea of resurrection is scary! If God's Son is really alive then I will have to deal with Him. I have no choice.

A family was living in a caretaker's house in a cemetery. They were able to live there provided they did some upkeep for the cemetery. They finally found a house to purchase in the town in which they were living. They told a co-worker to tell a pastor friend that they would be moving and added, *"it's not every day someone moves out of a cemetery."*

That's true...but we know Someone who did. And because He did, we shall.

This is the message of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

George Matheson writes: *"It is not resurrection that has made Christ; it is Christ that has made resurrection."*

The biblical narrative from John eleven starts with Jesus and His disciples located in what was known as Perea. They had been to Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication, but returned to Perea to avoid some of Jesus' conflict with the Jews.

The narrative begins: *Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary and Martha, along with their brother Lazarus, were three of Jesus' closest friends besides the disciples. Bethany was on the opposite side of the Mount of Olives from the Holy City, just a couple of miles away.*

So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, *"Lord, he whom you love is ill."* When Jesus heard it, He said, *"This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

Jesus didn't immediately rush to Bethany and Lazarus' bedside — in fact He stayed in Perea two more days. Then He said to the disciples, *"Let us go to Judea again."* The disciples, not too sure this was a good idea, suggest: *"Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"* The disciples are aware of what lay ahead for Jesus if He returned to Jerusalem. But Jesus was insistent: *"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."* The disciples, confused, as they often were, by Jesus' words, said to Him, *"Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."* Jesus explained to them, rather emphatically: ***"Lazarus is dead."***

Jesus, against the warnings of His disciples, journeyed to Bethany. Martha ran to meet Him on the way. Through tear-filled eyes and with a hint of perhaps justified anger Martha said: *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

Jesus, with obvious compassion in His voice, responded: *"Your brother will rise again."*

Then Martha, in words she had perhaps repeated over and over to herself, said: *"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*

Thus begins one of the most powerful stories from the human life of Jesus. There aren't many others, including raising Jairus' daughter and raising the widow's son at Nain, that measure up to the impact of this particular event. Jesus loved Lazarus but He stayed two more days in Perea for one reason: ***"For God's glory!"***

Facing a weeping friend who couldn't understand why He didn't come immediately, Jesus said to her: ***"I AM the resurrection and the life."***

Continued on next page...



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Maxie Dunnam in his study of the “I AM” sayings of Jesus entitled **JESUS’ CLAIMS — OUR PROMISES**, writes: *“This is no promise of some obscure, future hope, but victory over death now and eternal life in the present.”*

In Jesus’ own words, *“I AM the Resurrection! — I AM the Life!”* And Jesus added: *“Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”* What a remarkable affirmation!

Billy Graham wrote: *“When we preach atonement, it is atonement planned by love, provided by love, given by love, finished by love, necessitated because of love. When we preach the resurrection of Christ, we are preaching the miracle of love.”*

Jesus then looked Martha in her tear-filled eyes and asked: **“DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?”**

Perhaps this is the ultimate question each of us as Christians has to answer: **“Do You Believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?”** This isn’t some “pie-in-the-sky” dream — it is an immediate reality.

Do You Believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?

Martha still did not understand: *“Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”*

The one coming into the world? Martha was still looking, still hoping. Jesus stood on her doorstep and she still doubted the reality of His presence — was He, or was He not, the Messiah?

As Paul Harvey always said: “Here’s the rest of the story.”

Martha returned home to tell Mary. Mary, who for reasons we don’t know, chose to remain at home. When Mary arrived she said the same thing Martha said: *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”*

Whereupon Jesus asked the grieving women where Lazarus had been buried and joined them in their grief. In one of the shortest verses in the scriptures and one that many a Sabbath School student has used as a memory verse: *“Jesus wept!”* These were His close friends — He undoubtedly spent many

a day with them as a guest in their home when He visited Jerusalem — He loved them deeply. Even though He knew exactly what was about to take place, He joined the sisters in their grief. Those in the crowd said: *“See how he loved him!”* Jesus joined Mary and Martha in a sad procession to the tomb, but without hesitation commanded: *“Take away the stone.”* Martha, who still wasn’t convinced that Jesus was who He says He was, objects: *“He’s been dead four days, the stench will be unbearable.”*

Whereupon Jesus said to her and to the disciples who accompanied him: *“Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”* At this the people removed the stone. Jesus, conscious of His surroundings and aware of all who were looking on, turned His head upward and prayed: *“Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”*

Then, without hesitation Jesus shouted: **“Lazarus, come out!”** Immediately, to the amazement of all, the dead man emerged from the tomb, still covered with the grave cloths that had been used to bury him.

Then Jesus said: *“Unbind him and let him go!”* Here Jesus was affirming that not only was Lazarus released from the tomb and the grave cloths, he was released from the prison of the evil one to live again. It is similar to Aslan, the Lion, breathing new life into the cold statues the evil white witch had at her citadel. Imagine Lazarus’ life story from that time on — *“I’m alive, and believe it or not, let me tell you how it happened.”* End of story!!

John writes that it is the Lazarus miracle that triggers the wrath of Jesus’ opponents and leads them to agree to their deadly strategy against him.

Don Shelby writes: *“When we tell ourselves ‘I can never change,’ or ‘That will never happen,’ we presume too much and believe too little. In Jesus Christ, God renders all of our final conclusions premature and all of our talk...as simply bad faith. In Christ, God opens closed doors, brings resurrection, reveals possibilities, reclaims the lost, liberates the cursed and possessed, and changes the unchangeable.”* This one miraculous act changes the way we think about God’s purpose, God’s plan, and God’s power.

Jesus said: ***“I AM the resurrection and the life.”*** He proved it by raising Lazarus from death — the climactic miracle of our Lord’s earthly ministry. Then as if to add an exclamation point to the reality that He is the **“I AM”** — He rose from death to life himself!

Frederick Beuechner affirms that the Bible simply *“proclaims the resurrection as a fact. Christ is risen!”*

Martin Luther: *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? This is so true that even Satan cannot deny it. Christ’s resurrection and victory over sin, death, and hell is greater than all heaven and earth. You can never imagine his resurrection and victory so great but that in actuality it is far, far greater.”*

Jesus Christ defeated this horrible enemy, death, totally and permanently.

Calvin Miller in *THE BOOK OF JESUS* writes: *“The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the epicenter of Christianity. During his three-year ministry, Jesus raised at least three people from the dead. But these resurrections really amount to little more than resuscitations. Jesus’ resurrection stands for this truth: death, which could not hold Jesus in the grave, will also not hold those who believe in him.”*

Case closed!! All the rest is glorious hope for an eternal future for all of us. We believe in the Resurrection. We believe that Jesus is ***“the Resurrection and the Life.”***

Alfred Lord Tennyson expressed his belief in the resurrection in his poem, *“Crossing the Bar.”* He gave specific instructions that it was to appear in every book of his poems that should ever be published, and always at the end of the book. He wanted all who read his works to see this assertion of faith in the face of death.

The most famous clock in the world is London’s Big Ben. It stands by the Houses of Parliament and towers above Westminster Abbey, a familiar landmark. The chimes play the tune of the hymn: *“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth.”*

We believe in the resurrection — in the one who is ***“the Resurrection and the Life.”***

Christ is the promise of our resurrection and our new life!!

Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki in her book, *Bearing Our Sorrows*, writes: *“The edges of God are tragedy; the depths of God are joy, beauty, resurrection, life. Resurrection answers crucifixion; life answers death.”*

Jesus — God — the **“I AM”** is the ***“Way, the Truth and the Life.”*** Jesus — God — the **“I AM”** is ***“the Light of the World.”*** Jesus — God — the **“I AM”** is the ***“Good Shepherd.”*** Jesus — God — the **“I AM”** is the ***“Bread of Life.”*** Jesus — God — the **“I AM”** is the ***“Messiah.”*** Jesus — God — the **“I AM”** is the ***“Resurrection and the Life.”***

He is who He says He is. There is no other **WAY**. No one else knows the **TRUTH**. We can depend upon Him for **LIFE**, abundant, full, free and eternal.

Why? Because we believe that He is the **RESURRECTION** and the **LIFE** for us. This earthly life is not “all there is!” We have an eternity awaiting. What it means for us is what Paul affirms in his letter to the Corinthians: *“So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.”*

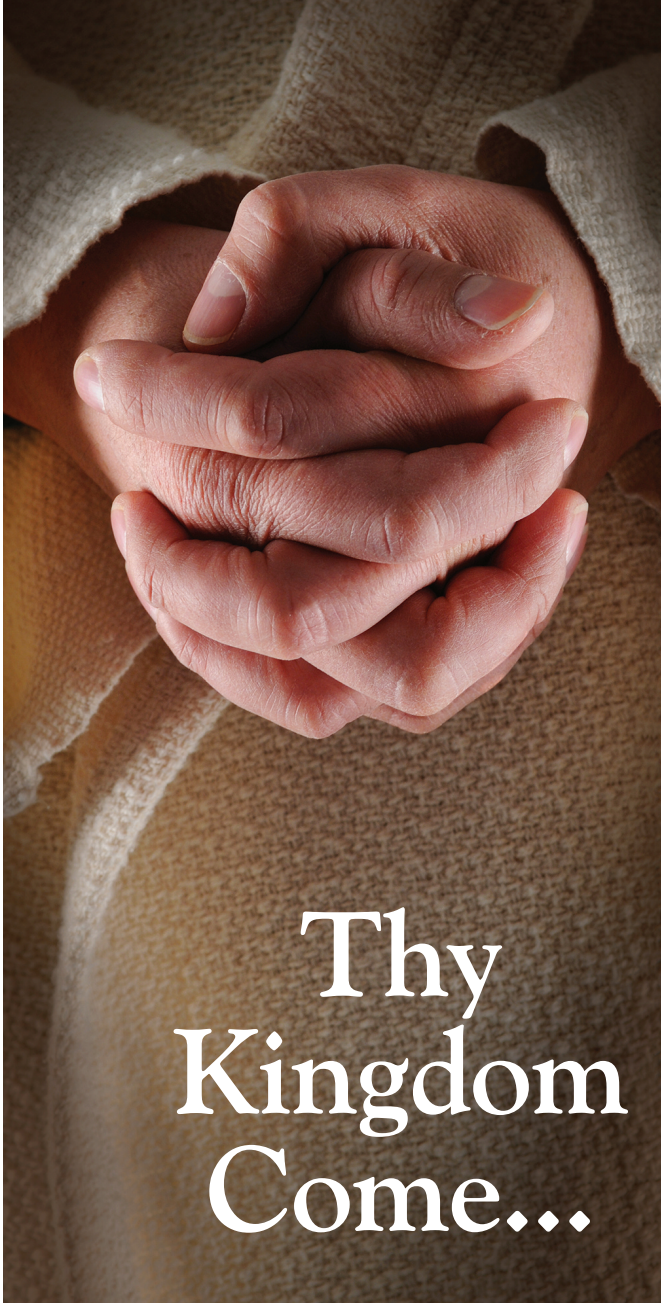
Christ is the promise of our resurrection and our new life!!

Maxie Dunnam writes: *“Hope’ for the Christian is not hoping in the normal sense of that word: it is not wishful thinking. It is the very substance of faith which gives us our greatest certainty...In the resurrection, the power of God prevails. In that event, God said, ‘No more! Never! Never again will you be separated from me.’... Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we are not victims, either of circumstances or of death. We are victors.”*

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! [\[SR\]](#)

Do You Believe This?

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Thy
Kingdom
Come...

*If I asked you to point to
the Kingdom of God,
you could not find it on a map.*

*...the Kingdom of Heaven
is something very different than
all other kingdoms.*

When I think about kingdoms I get images of knights and kings and wizards. For some, you might think about our neighbor across the pond. Our earthly understanding of kingdom is geopolitical. It must be in a physical location and it must have some form of political power. The United Kingdom can be pinpointed to a specific geographical location. The kingdom of Arthur, though legend, can be characterized by a certain form of politics.

Yet if I asked you to point to the Kingdom of God you could not find it on a map. If I said what are the politics of the Kingdom of Heaven, you might be able to tell me about ideals – but not any treaties that the Kingdom of God has with North Korea. The Kingdom of God does not have a seat at the UN. It does not have a navy nor an air force. No, the Kingdom of Heaven is something very different than all other kingdoms.

Like all the other phrases in this series, we spend very little time actually trying to understand what it means. We simply say it and assume that it means the same thing to me as it does to you. The problem with this is that we have not truly looked at what God, through the Bible, has to say about it. We are not the first group that thought we knew what God wanted in a kingdom.

Give Us a King

In the early years of the nation of Israel there is no king. For 40 years they wander the desert with God as their guide. When they enter the promised land it is under the leadership of Joshua, but he is not their king. When they set up their nation there was no king. Each of the twelve tribes was given land. The book of Judges shows us that the People of God continually did what was right in their own eyes. The people would fall away and God would raise up a judge to free the people from oppression.

Judge after judge take over leading the people. By the time of Samuel this position is more a spiritual than political one. Samuel appoints his sons as judges over Israel, but they are wicked and “pervert justice.” So the people come to Samuel and ask for a king like everyone else has. At first Samuel is against the idea. He feels that the people have rejected him. But God reminds Samuel that it is God, not Samuel, who the people have rejected. God tells Samuel that this has been the pattern of Israel for generations. God then tells Samuel to give the people a warning of what life under a king would look like.

The next several verses in 1 Samuel 8 sound like something we would all understand. The king will take from them. He will take their young men and women and use them for his purposes. He will take a tenth of everything they have and in return they will work for him. In short, he will be a king like all the others. I find verse 18 the most telling:

Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.

Did you catch that? God says, “your king” whom “you have chosen” for “yourselves.” God is telling them that they will make their bed and then have to lie in it. If you know anything about the kings of Israel you know that many of them were not good for the people. It is the wickedness of the kings that leads the people astray. It is this same wickedness that causes God to send Israel into exile. The kings become a burden to Israel, not a boon.

I know what some of you are thinking. “Phil,” you say, “what about all the good kings? What about David and Solomon and the Temple?” There were good things done by the kings of Israel — that is true — but let’s look at the greatest king. Let’s look at the king that is used as the paragon of a good king. Let’s look at David.

The Greatest King

David is chosen by God when he is young. In fact the story of his anointing is a great one. He is the youngest son of eight. You can read the whole story in 1 Samuel 16. David is the king that God chose. The king before him, Saul, was chosen by the people. Saul was the kind of king that God warned about, but David was a good king, right? Sort of.

It is true that David is a worthy king. He does many things that are good for Israel, but he is also human. David is not perfect. Most know of the story of David and Bathsheba. If you don’t you can read it in 2 Samuel 11. I want to point out that David gets himself into this mess because he is not doing what he is supposed to:

Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.

David, unlike all the other kings, stays in Jerusalem. This is a great lesson on the dangers of idleness. I know in my own life I get in the most trouble when I don’t have anything to do. But that is not the point. The point is that David commits adultery, tries to cover it up, and then commits murder. Not really the model of purity and goodness is he?

David — adulterer, murderer, thief, and liar — this is the best king that Israel ever had. This is the best example of human kingdoms we have. Even the mythical kingdom of Arthur is full of problems. The place of knights in shining armor is also the place where Lancelot had an affair with Guinevere. No kingdom created by man — real or mythical — is truly a place of peace and justice.

The Kingdom of God

So what about the Kingdom of Heaven? Often when people look at this question they go to the Gospels. After all, Jesus talks about the Kingdom of Heaven a lot. But I want to start with the Old Testament. We can start to see what the Kingdom of God looks like in the prophets. Perhaps the best place to see this is in Micah.

Most know Micah 6:8. But what you might find interesting is that this comes after an indictment by God against Israel. This is the center of a chapter about how Israel steals from the poor and does not take care of those most in need. What we can gain from Micah 6:8 is that the Kingdom of God is a place where people do justice, love mercy, and walk with God. In a kingdom like that no one would be in need.

But Micah isn’t the only prophet who speaks of this. We have Amos 5, Ezekiel 22, and Isaiah 10 — just to name a few. Time and again, God disciplines His people for enacting evil laws and not caring for those who have nothing. Yet this is not the only thing in the Old Testament.

If we go to Isaiah 61 we read what God’s kingdom looks like. It is a place where prisoners are set free. It is a place where those who mourn are comforted; where people will be given twice what they need. This is the exact chapter that Jesus reads in the synagogue to inaugurate His ministry. Jesus declares that this is the kingdom that He came to bring. The Beatitudes in Matthew are part of this; in fact the whole Sermon on the Mount is about God’s Kingdom. The Kingdom of Heaven is a place of justice, peace, and mercy.

Prayer with Intent

The whole point of this series is to get us to think about what we pray and why. So often we go through this prayer with little thought. My hope is that this has made you realize that need for the Kingdom of God. When you pray, “Thy Kingdom Come,” I want you to mean it. This should be a cry from your heart. It should be a hope that we cling to. In a world where justice often seems so far off, this phrase should bring peace. Yet to truly live in the Kingdom of God we must submit to the King of that Kingdom. But that is a story for next time. [SR](#)

*May you not be satisfied with the kingdoms of this world.
May you come to find the Kingdom of God as an oasis in the desert.
May you earnestly pray. And may God’s kingdom come.
Amen!*

Fourth in a series by Assistant Pastor Phil Lawton at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ.
Check out Phil’s blog at contemplatingkenosis.blogspot.com

Life on Mission: Conference Speakers

As you are reading this it will be April and I'm sitting here writing with March winds blowing at 60 miles an hour! The refreshing showers of April are now upon us cleansing the winter snow away. Those of us living in more extreme seasons welcome the warmth, refreshing sunshine and, of course, Spring. With that said, I am also feeling time pressing on to the approaching summer General Conference. I'd like to share a couple things in the next issues of the *Sabbath Recorder* about what to expect and experience during our week together.

As I've shared in previous writings, I have been praying for God's divine leading and intervention in all that is planned and prepared for the coming summer gathering. One of the experiences will be with Dustin Willis, the writer of *Life on Mission* (co-authored by Aaron Coe). I met Dustin at a conference in Colorado and he agreed to share his story and personal mission experience with us at our event. I continue



to follow his life story as he serves in ministry and have read his books *Life on Mission* and *Life in Community*. I have ordered his newest book released, *The Simplest Way to Change the World: Biblical Hospitality as a Way of Life* (co-authored with Brandon Clements). I challenge you to do the same.

Dustin's desire is to see everyday people join together in the history-sweeping mission of God. Currently, he serves with the North American Mission Board and speaks across North America. Dustin earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Clemson University and his master's degree from Liberty Theological Seminary. Dustin is a regular contributor at sendnetwork.com. Dustin lives in metro Atlanta with his wife, Renie, and their two children, Jack and Piper. He is one really great reason to come to California and join together in learning and fellowship.

Another plan for Conference includes a friend of mine in Michigan, Emily Klotz. Emily directs a dynamic women's ministry that has evolved through prayer and intercession. She coaches and counsel's women's needs, lives within a

LIFE ON MISSION

Touching lives for Jesus

President's Page

by Patti Wethington
SDB Church, White Cloud, MI

rich and powerful prayer life, and speaks words of inspiration into the lives of those who connect with her ministry. She is passionate about helping people know who they are in Christ, know His love for them, and live the abundant, victorious life that Jesus has planned for each of them! She desires to help people grow strongly rooted in the Word of God, and that they also learn to fly freely in the gifts and purpose God has for their lives. To accomplish this, Emily functions in apostolic and prophetic gifts. Her highest goal is to bring glory to God and bear fruit for his Kingdom.



Emily lives in Cadillac, Michigan with her husband, Dan, and two teenage children, Analyne and Levi. Together, they pastor Res Life Church — Cadillac, and have been in ministry for 18 years. Emily will be speaking at our Women's Banquet afternoon retreat session and spending several days on campus joining together in our ministry events.

Please pray together with me as these preparations are made that God's presence will be felt in all that is planned. Pray that the message and purpose in this challenge to live our *Life on Mission* to touch lives for Jesus can be manifest in our daily lives — and that lives will be changed.

Philemon 1:6 "...and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ." SR

The Church of Chicken Little

by Chad Bird

Here's what will happen. Maybe you've already been through it. Or maybe you're living through it right now. I don't know what will trigger it — I'm no prophet — but I do know, sooner or later, something will.

The company you've poured your heart and soul into goes belly up. Your spouse slips off her wedding ring, puts it on the counter, and slams the door forever behind her. The tests show that the tumor is, in fact, malignant. The details will vary. But in that moment, and in the days and weeks — maybe even years — that follow, you're convinced that the sky is falling. Your life is basically over. Draw the curtains, turn out the lights, the party's over.

I've been there. As have many of you. It hurts. It scares the hell out of you.

And it's highly deceiving. As bad as it gets, as much pain as it inflicts, it is not the end of the world. In fact, it's not even close. It just feels that way. But if you're not careful — as I was not careful — you'll become so overwhelmed with all the bad stuff going on, you'll spend so much time staring up at the sky that you're convinced is about to fall, that you'll forget you've still got work to do, people to take care of, vocations to fulfill.

Your world has changed, to be sure, but it is not over.

The same applies to the church, perhaps even more so.

On a recurring basis, Christians spot news headlines that signal yet one more moral collapse in society, the growing paganization of the cultures in which we live, the spread of antipathy toward the faith. And then — Lord, have mercy — it hits social media. Facebook becomes an online pity-party or preaching-party, lamenting the end of society as we know it. Twitter explodes with 140-or-less character doomsday-sounding predictions. And in pulpits across the land, pastors have plenty of fodder for their Sunday morning sermons.

I get the concern. I really do. But if we're not careful, we'll become engrossed with all the bad news. We'll end up sounding more like the Church of Chicken Little than the Church of Jesus Christ. We'll give the impression that our central message is not "Christ crucified" but "The sky is falling." We'll forget that we've still got people to take care of, vocations to fulfill, plenty of work to do.

And that work, that mission, is not to save our culture from moral collapse, not to raise up law-abiding citizens, and especially not to spend all day, every day, whining and complaining about the loss of the good ole days.

The mission of the church is to bring sinners into communion with the life-giving, sin-forgiving, salvation-imparting flesh and blood of Jesus Christ.

Until the sky really does fall, and the Lord comes again, that's the work God has given the church to do.

Let's do it. SR



As we grow up, we realize and learn certain things about ourselves and our surroundings — certain things such as what we like and dislike, our favorite foods and colors, and what type of person we choose to be. We start to form our own opinions about life and other matters in the world. However, as children, we usually just focus on what's right in front of us. What are we going to eat when we are hungry? How can we cure this boredom? How fast can I do my chores so that I'll still have time to go out and play?

There's a sense of innocence we see in that as adults. We look at kids who have those mindsets as if they've seen nothing yet and that is true in a sense. They have yet to deal with any real consequence outside of detention time, but there is something we can learn from that type of thinking. Mark 10:13-15 talks about when the disciples rebuked the parents of those who brought their children so that they could touch Jesus. At that moment Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."*

That scripture is known by many people but it is often taken out of context or not fully understood. Jesus is not telling you to act like a child in the way that you never grow up or take responsibilities because the Bible also speaks about putting away childish things in 1 Corinthians 13:11. Instead, it is saying that we should focus on what is most important — and that is Jesus Christ. When we mature, we also inherit something dangerous — independence. Independence is good in one way and one way only. Be independent of the world and dependent on God. That doesn't mean exclude yourself from all of your friends and distance yourself from any social activities. But who do you run to when you have a problem? Who is on your mind first when trouble comes? Your solution shouldn't be to just watch TV to get your mind off of it. Neither should it be to jump onto social media and tweet about it or post something on Facebook. Your solution should be and always is Jesus Christ.

When children are in trouble they know who to run to. They don't consult their friends or think about if this problem is too big or too small to go to their parents about it. The same should be for us as God's children. We shouldn't focus on what surrounds us or what is the easiest to go to — because it's Jesus. It's so easy for children to call their mommy or daddy when they're in any need at all — but once we grow up we feel it to be too childish to call out to our Father above. Just as quickly as a mother would run to the aid of her child, Jesus will be there for you. Let's not focus on what we feel is the most mature or the most responsible thing to do when we are in trouble. Let us just call out to our Almighty Father first and foremost when we need help. [SR](#)



Self-Worth



Self-worth is defined as “the sense of one’s own value or worth as a person.” Not to get this confused with self-esteem. Self-esteem is based on measurements of external actions rather than based on one’s worth as a person. Everyone has a different sense of self-worth. Many people value themselves highly, and others, not so much.

All my life, I’ve struggled with not feeling “worth it.” I’ve never been the girl that guys like or desire. I’ve always been too loud, or not curvy enough, or not pretty enough. I remember lying awake every night hating myself because I knew I could never live up to the standard of the “perfect woman.” Because of my insecurities, I was depressed at age 9 and only began to “cure” my depression at age 14. During my depression, I would feed into the lies that the enemy would tell me: “You’re repulsive. You mean nothing to your family or your ‘friends’. Why are you continuing to live? You’re just taking up space. You’re worthless.” I believed all of it for almost six years. I would cry myself to sleep every night, begging God to kill me in my sleep. There’s nothing pretty about that. Suicide shouldn’t be romanticized (but that’s a topic for a different day). I attempted suicide twice: once when I was 12, and then when I was 14. I felt that God couldn’t use me because I had ruined the body He gave me. I self-harmed from age 9 to age 15. It was a daily task that I was addicted to. All of this was because I had believed lies. I truly believed that I was worthless — but in fact, I wasn’t and I’m not. Regardless of all my mistakes, doubts, and fears, God still loved me. He called me daughter. I had never felt that kind of love until I felt God’s presence at three in the morning in my bathtub, while I was bleeding the hatred I had for myself out of my body in crimson ribbons.

It took hitting rock bottom for me to realize that my worth doesn’t come from how I look, or how I dress, or how others view me. It doesn’t come from the world.

It comes from the Father — my Heavenly Father. He loves me and made me perfectly imperfect. Despite all my flaws, He’s using me to further His Kingdom. Every day is a struggle for me to remember it, but in God’s eyes, I’m worth it. So worth it that His son died for me. Not just for me, though.

You ARE priceless. You ARE beautiful. You ARE strong. You ARE important. You ARE worth it. You’re worth more than the number on the scale, than the names you’re called, than the pictures they ask you for, than your bra size, than your scars and cuts, than your eating disorder, than your insecurities, than all your struggles. God spent an eternity making you perfectly imperfect and designed you for a purpose: a purpose only you can fulfill. Psalm 139:13-15 says, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.” There’s a quote that says, “God made the whole universe, looked at it, and thought it needed you” — and that’s 100% true!

Life is so short. Spending it trying to find your worth in temporary things will only shorten it. Your worth comes from God. You are strong enough to power through your insecurities and come out stronger in Christ. Keeping your eyes on the Lord at your darkest points will shine so much light on them — maybe you will forget that they are even there. Find your worth and solace in God. I promise — you won’t be disappointed. [SR](#)



The Day We Visited the Dying Church

It was about six or seven years ago. Our family sometimes visits other churches. We went to a service at a church that was very different than our church. Both of our children were under the age of ten.

Our children were used to being the center of attention — with someone spending time caring for them, listening to them, and teaching them the Bible in a way that they could understand.

The church we visited had been around for over 100 years. You could tell that at one time the church was very vibrant with many young families. By the time we visited, though, there were very few people our age. The facility was dated. The music was very traditional. The message was boring for my kids... and for me.

As we were walking out of the church together after the service, my son, Xavier, tugged on my sleeve to get my attention. Then he quietly said what everyone else in the family was thinking, “Dad, this church is never going to grow.”

The sad thing is my son was right. The church was dying. Rather than make some intentional changes to reach the next generations of families in the community, they were preserving the past. I am assuming it's another example of people placing a higher value on personal preferences and comfort than on reaching people for Jesus.

What's encouraging to me is that I see many churches unwilling to go there. The churches who make the transition successfully share some common traits.



- **They value having an outward focus.** It's an intentional part of their ministry strategy.
- **They value a clearly defined discipleship process.** With that, they acknowledge keeping people busy is not the goal.
- **They value strong, healthy leadership.** That includes the pastor, lay leadership team and staff leadership team.
- **They value a bold, clear vision for the future.** At the same time, they have a clear action plan to see that vision accomplished.
- **They value simple systems and structures.** Complexity always stalls progress. If you want to preserve the past, try to create systems and structures where everyone has a voice and a vote.

My son is now thirteen. Because of that, he's a bit busy these days and not available to sit through your services. You can't hire him, but I do have a solution to help your church get moving toward a pathway to growth and health. We'd love to serve your church.

Our new church revitalization process is just now beginning to take root in four pilot churches — but we would love to know if you would be interested in learning more. Please contact the Director of Church Development for more information. [SR](#)



Whose Kingdom Are We Building?

This is the heart of the question we were contemplating with our SDB brethren in the Cayman Islands as they shared their vision for a permanent Seventh Day Baptist presence on Grand Cayman. The challenge is that those in the group there are primarily Jamaican visiting workers on temporary visas. They typically can stay for a few years then have to leave the country for a year to “reset” their status, and then can apply to come back and work. This means the leadership has to pass the baton as members are regularly forced to step away because of immigration issues.

Their experience has been that the work goes slowly building their community of believers because they spend a good amount of attention on transition efforts. They also feel they are working with a disadvantage since they would expect the Cayman natives to be unreceptive to their ministry work because they hold the social position of foreign temporary workers in their society. They feel one way to overcome some of that stigma for their congregation is to call a pastor or missionary from a respected industrialized nation, like the USA or Canada, to bring credibility to their faith and practices.

The first problem we identified was the lack of capable ministers willing to leave their careers and congregations to go for an extended amount of time and try to draw and disciple Caymanians to become leaders of an SDB church in the islands. The existing members confessed that they were all motivated to come to the Caymans primarily for economic advantage — not as a ministry calling. This was understandable. Then we realized that we had not been talking about what God wanted for this congregation, but what we wanted. We were interested in His timing and provision for our plans to have a permanent home for SDBs coming over to work from Jamaica.



Now some of the congregation members began to sense that maybe God’s plan for their work is to identify the needs they can best address from their current abilities. They felt it was possible they might need to be focusing on reaching others in the community who are on temporary visas that do not have a church family ministering to them, because they also are “outsiders.”

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”

— Matthew 25:35

I think each of us, from time to time, needs to stop and evaluate why we are doing what we are doing. Whether it is in our local churches, jobs, studies, hobbies, or relationships, we need to regularly assess whose kingdom we are building. I can be carrying out “successful” ministry in whatever I am doing and portray the appearance of righteous activity, but still be feathering my own nest instead of basing my actions on the love of Jesus flowing through me, to those around me, and back to Him. We can be doing seemingly good things, but they still may not be God things.

I was glad for the hospitality that I received from our Jamaican SDBs in the Caymans. But I was more pleased to know they were willing and truly looking for God’s desire for their ministry and open to the possibility that He was asking more of them for His glory in the Cayman Islands. Please, join me in prayer that His will be done and that they recognize the provision for the work He has prepared them to do with Him. [SR](#)

Life Lessons I've Learned (Part 2)

Last month I wrote the top ten things I learned while in my current position. I've been in this job now for the past twelve and a half years. So, what have I learned? Please check out 11-22.

11. We are in this world, but not a part of it.

Too many of our churches are starting to behave in ways that reflect this world, the society they are in, and the culture around them. This disturbs me.

Rather than reflect a God that doesn't change and is compassionate, we are acting like our politicians, talking trash to people we love, forgetting to forgive but rather planning on how we are going to retaliate, posting pictures on social media that show us in situations that we wouldn't want our mothers to see. This has got to stop! We are to reflect Christ!

12. Don't compare yourself or try to be someone else.

I came into this job not knowing what it entailed, or even why God would put me here. After all, I am not a pastor, and except K.D. Hurley (a man I admired a lot) there had been a string of them in this position. There's always someone out there who is smarter, who has better relationships, who has more influence. Comparing yourself or trying to be someone else is a game you'll never win. As Oscar Wilde said, "Be yourself; everyone else is taken."

13. If you're passionate, you'll prioritize.

I am watching our younger Directors taking on more and more ministry opportunities. Benjamin Franklin once said, "If you want something done, ask a busy man." This is absolutely true! These passionate Directors are making things happen! Maybe too fast for some of you, but things are getting done!

14. When is something really an issue?

People like to talk. People like to vent. Sometimes people just need someone to really listen to them. They are not looking for a fix. They don't want you to solve their problem. They just want you to listen and care — and then you need to let it go. If it is a real issue you should deal with, they will let you know.

15. Overall, people are good and want to do the right thing, I think.

For the most part, the world is a good place, and the people in it are just as good. But every once in a

while some comment, accusation, or assumption will come your way, usually out of the blue, and it will cause you to lose your step or take your breath away. I am not sure why we want to see people in positions of authority knocked down, but we sure have our cameras ready to capture their fall. Why someone would deliberately tell stories or fabricate lies in order to push their agenda is beyond me.

16. A good sense of humor can diffuse a tense situation.

Laughter is the best medicine. I've learned that in tense situations, a quick funny comment can diffuse an anxious situation. I grew up making people laugh and my brothers and sister all have a keen sense of humor. So it is not surprising that so do my wife and kids. Laughter is healthy. More than just brightening up your day, sharing a good laugh can actually improve your health. The sound of laughter draws people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. Laughter can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression; strengthen your immune system; and diminish pain.

17. I can't change the world.

But I can affect the people I come in contact with, and overall I can work to raise great leaders in this denomination.

18. I learned to have a thicker skin.

That's probably one of the biggest lessons. It isn't always easy though.

20. I have learned how to give grace.

This is also very hard to do especially when what you really want to do is chastise the individual for being rude.

21. Time and timing.

I've learned it's not a question of "having" the time, it's a question of "making" the time. Everyone's life is busy, but we make time for our priorities.

22. TRUST!

It is something that we need more in this Conference of churches! We need it in our church and in our denomination. We claim to have trust in our pastors and leaders, but our actions say differently. This prevalent sub-culture has lasted the test of time, so that it seems it is a part of us. It is a murky part of us and we need to get rid of this junk. SR



MARLBORO SDB HISTORY

In the spring of 1811
Our history had its start.
Once members of the Shiloh Church,
our forefathers chose to part.

Their reason was the distance;
Too far for horse and man.
And so with Shiloh's blessing,
They made good on their plan.

They met in homes until the day
their labors were complete.
The little church built "in the barrens"
was just 20 x 30 feet.

Twenty-six names were written down
to form that church, most humble;
names like Crosby, Bennett, Wood,
Davis, Ayars and Campbell.

12 ½ cents was charged each year
per man to pay the bills.
Women paid just half that much,
their duty to fulfill.

Sister Patience Ayars was hired
to sweep the church and clean.
She earned a whopping \$2.00 per year
but her work was overseen

by the ladies of the church, who found
that she skipped a week, one time.
They docked her a dollar from her wage
for her neglectful crime.

At the next business meeting she countered with
an offer much better than theirs.
She would clean the church for a year for free,
and that's all we know of Sister Ayars.

In 1837 the church was moved to this place,
"two miles nearer Shiloh."
Overflowing with 135 members,
that building they were soon to outgrow.

The church's first name, what it was for a time
(and I'm sorry, there's just no way to make it rhyme)
was "The Second Seventh Day Baptist Church
in the Western Division of the State of New Jersey."

But after the church was moved
and the marl was discovered nearby,
it seemed the name of Marlboro
would more aptly apply.

The present church building was dedicated
in the spring of 1861.
They had met in the basement for 7 years
and were glad when it was done.

Many deeds and names are noted
in the church minutes since the start.
It's easy to see the members had
a warm spot in their heart

for this church, the Marlboro SDB.
Yes, those souls who were so fervent,
when reaching their final home surely heard,
"Thou good and faithful servant."

We've had 33 pastors in 200 years,
from Jacob Ayars to Babcock.
And although we've had a blessed past,
we wouldn't turn back the clock.

We thank the ones who went before,
and from the past we learn.
But now the present and the future
are our main concern.

God has blessed us since our beginning.
We ask his blessing on our tomorrow,
and for at least 206 more years
to serve the Lord at Marlboro. ^{SR}

— Diane Cruzan

Diane originally wrote the poem for a church event a few years ago, but has updated it for publication this month.

Socially Acceptable Ways that



Church Leaders Self-Medicate

Let me guess. You're so busy caring for others (people in your church, your kids, your family, your friends) that you haven't really taken great care of yourself lately, have you?

Welcome to leadership. Especially church leadership. You run hard. You work long hours. And you're so busy caring for others you forgot to care for yourself.

When I ask church leaders how they're doing personally, they usually admit they don't take great care of themselves. And when you don't take great care of yourself, guess what you end up doing in almost every single case. You end up self-medicating.

Every leader has a choice between self-care and self-medication, and subconsciously, many choose the "polite" version of self-medication. Do you? And how would you know if you did?

What is Self-Medication?

A health care professional describes it as what people do to cope with the stress, anxiety, and difficulty in life. When stress and life overwhelm you, you will either choose to respond to it in a healthy way (self-care) or an unhealthy way (self-medication). When you think of self-medication, don't just think of pills or alcohol. As we'll see below, there are some very "socially-acceptable" ways even for Christians to self-medicate. But the results are still numbing. The choice is yours. But the first reality is this: Self-care is so much healthier than self-medicating. The second reality is just as important: If you don't intentionally choose self-care as a leader, you'll end up self-medicating.

1. *Overeating.*

Being overweight or even obese is almost normal in some Christian circles. As someone who is self-conscious about my weight (and who does not understand how anyone can be a natural bean pole), I empathize. I also know I often eat when I'm not hungry, but when I'm upset or just bored. Food is the drug of choice for many Christian leaders.

2. *Working More*

Again, working too many hours is socially acceptable, even rewardable in some circles. But all work and no play doesn't just make you dull, it makes you disobedient. It's ironic, but the way some leaders cope with the stress associated with work is by working more. It numbs the pain.

3. *Gossip*

It's just a theory, but I think when we feel bad about ourselves, sometimes we say bad things about other people. Often church leaders who have failed to care for themselves end up with enough toxin inside that they want to take down others. In many churches, prayer requests are thinly disguised gossip sessions. And too often Christians would rather talk about someone and their terrible misfortunes than help them. That's just sinful.

4. *Spending*

Whether it's retail therapy at the mall, ordering more online, or the constant climb into a bigger house, a better car, the latest tech or the latest trend — Christians can easily numb their pain by endlessly accumulating things that end up in a landfill site one day.

5. *Under-the-Radar Substance Abuse*

Whether it's a drink every day when you get home or an overuse or misuse of your legitimate prescription, Christian leaders can fall into the classic pattern of turning to a substance rather than turning to God for relief.

So if you don't want to end up self-medicating, what do you do?

Ten Healthy Options for Self-Care

The best thing you can do as a leader is take good care of yourself. When you carve out time to take care of yourself, you'll always be in a better position to take care of others. There's nothing truly new in these ten options, but when you do them they have a staggeringly positive impact on your personal health and well-being, spiritual and otherwise.

1. *Daily time with God.*

Whatever method you use, time with God matters. Your personal walk with God is often a casualty of ministry.

2. *Exercise*

Being out of shape physically means you will never be in top shape mentally or emotionally.

3. *A better diet*

You are what you eat. Taking some time to think about what you eat regularly might pay dividends.

4. *Proper sleep*

If I don't get six hours semi-regularly, I feel it. Sadly, sometimes others do too. I really think sleep is one of the most-underrated leadership secret weapons there is.

5. *Intentional time off in your calendar*

You can schedule time off and downtime in the same way



you schedule meetings. Time for thinking, praying, planning, and dreaming daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly is good.

6. Healthy friendships

Ministry can be draining. When was the last time you hung out with a friend you didn't need to "minister to?" Who makes you laugh until you cry? Go hang out with them — regular doses of life-giving relationships can make such a difference.

7. Margin

I am kindest when I have the most margin. This is true in terms of my calendar, but also true of finances. How can you be generous with your heart, time, money, and attitude if you have nothing left to give?

8. Hobbies

Reading, sports, and helping others are some of the things I enjoy most these days. Spend some time on things you enjoy.

9. Family Time

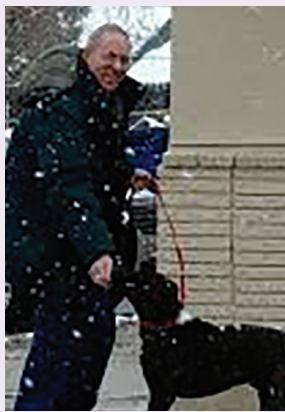
I get recharged by my family. Intentionally carve out time for them so that they don't get the last parts of your day and week.

10. Coaching and counseling.

For many years I've had coaches and counselors who have helped me get through road bumps and life issues. Invaluable. Yes, I pay them money, but it's an investment in my family, my church, and my life. I'm different and better for it.

Better Than The Alternative

Eventually leaders who don't care for themselves but still avoid self-medication end up burning out. If you are leading one of our churches and need to talk to someone about how to work towards self-care, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services. [SR](#)



Darwin Steele

Darwin Steele began serving as the Lead Pastor of SpringsLife Church in Colorado Springs, CO, in January 2016. He previously served as Associate Pastor of the Boulder SDB Church where he was ordained to the gospel ministry. He graduated from Liberty University twice with a Bachelor's and Master's degree. He has been married to his wife, Cheryl, for 23 years. They have a dog, Triton.

I had the opportunity to ask Pastor Darwin a few questions and capture his responses so that you can know him a little better.

Q: What is something you are excited about at church and with SDBs?

A: SDBs bring a history of family to the body of Christ. That history is now meeting the exciting world of local missions/evangelism. SpringsLife Church is such an example where the local church mirrors the eclectic mix of history meeting change that exemplifies the 21st Century.

Q: What is the most important thing about ministering in the 21st Century?

A: Accepting change; we can no longer do business as usual.

Q: What is your favorite book (not the Bible)?

A: The Essential Works of Andrew Murray published by Barbour Press.

Q: Who would you love to spend dinner with (dead or alive, not Jesus, not your wife)?

A: My Great Grandfather, Darwin Andrews.

Q: What do you love most about being a pastor?

A: I love the people. I cherish their stories and their journeys.

Q: Who are some mentors/role models in your life?

A: Dwayne Bartley, Southern Baptist Pastor – Calgary, Canada; Dave Early, Pastor of Grace City Church, Las Vegas, NV; Pastor Steve Osborn; Pastor Rod Henry.

Every so often we will feature some information on one of our currently serving pastors to help you get to know them a little better. [SR](#)

2017 SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPS — TEAMS AND PROJECTS

We are incredibly blessed as a denomination to have an established program like Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC). It's been equipping young adults for leadership for over 50 years and has made a transformative difference in the lives of its participants and those who come into contact with them. This isn't the sort of program that many have an opportunity to be a part of. Yes, it has many similar qualities to a mission trip but there is a different focus.

The focus of a mission trip is on being a servant who shows the love of God to people, typically through tangible means. You go and build houses, wells, or work in a shelter, or run a VBS. These are all worthwhile endeavors that serve as a Christian maturing field. They contribute to the kingdom and have turned lives toward Christ — and yes these are things that we do in SCSC.

SCSC focuses on servant leadership. Now it may seem like there is little distinction between servant and servant leadership. The distinction is important to understand why SCSC is a unique opportunity. On the surface SCSC is a 3 or 4 week mission trip — but there is so much more to it than that. The program's focus isn't on the project and what the students accomplish while in the "mission field." Though it is an integral and important part of the program, it's more long-term than that. The goal is to raise up future leaders and give them knowledge and experience being a leader — a servant leader. It is long term.

I look at this program and see three parts: 1) Equip, 2) Send, 3) Sustain & Grow. First, students are given knowledge and experience through pre-training assignments and training (just ask a student about practicum time: if you were afraid of handling a group of kids, you won't be after your turn). It's okay if you don't think you're the "leader" type because that is what training is all about: equipping students with the ability to lead. Not everyone in SCSC is the next Billy Graham or Kirk Cameron— that's ok. It doesn't mean you aren't a leader. Second, the students go on project and put what they've learned at training into practice. They have the opportunity to test their leadership while serving in a short-term mission environment. Third, we have the biggest piece of the program: sustain and grow. Students are expected to take what they've learned and use it beyond the summer in their lives. The lessons of servant leadership they learned in SCSC should sustain and build a foundation so that they can continue to grow.

Think about SCSC this summer and pray for the students and projects and the long-term goal of this program. Here is a handy list of the students and their projects for this summer so that you can provide your support and prayer.

2017 SUMMER CHRISTIAN SERVICE CORPS TEAMS AND PROJECTS

ASHAWAY, Rhode Island

Project Director—Beth Brown
Randi Gammons, Texarkana, Arkansas
Victoria Richards, Blue Mountain District, Jamaica

BAY AREA, California

Project Directors—Lindsay Crouch and Rebecca Crouch
Caleb Gammons, Texarkana, Arkansas
Bethany Rihn, Boulder, Colorado

SHILOH, New Jersey

Project Director—Pastor Phil Lawton
Michaela Osborn, Boulder Colorado
Jevaughnie Martin, Blue Mountain District, Jamaica

TEXARKANA, Arkansas

Project Director—Kory Langley
Sarina Villalpando, San Bernardino, California
Dustin Tio, New Auburn, Wisconsin

Fundraiser for The Women's Board in Memory of Stephanie Sholtz

The ladies of the Benevolent Society of the Shiloh SDB church will be hosting an **online Pampered Chef Party** to benefit the Women's Board. This event will be April 18 to May 1. We are inviting all on our "friends list" to the Facebook Event. Please invite your friends to participate, too!

Watch for the invitation on Facebook. OR you can go online to [Pampered Chef.com](http://PamperedChef.com) and search Carol Scull and the Shiloh Ladies page for a link to the page to shop and order. Please be sure to have your items shipped to your home!

Thank you so much for supporting this fundraiser in honor of Steph.



Women's Society

by Katrina Goodrich
www.sdbwomen.org

The “Whys” of Child Protection

In the December issue of the *Recorder*, I suggested that it was a good and necessary thing for local member churches of our General Conference to implement child protection policies to guide and direct their ministry to our youngest participants. That column introduced a broad topic, and in response, individuals from local churches began contacting us for more information. We are glad for those contacts and hope they continue! But we realize that some may not yet be persuaded that such a policy is necessary. There are many reasons why child protection policies are a necessary part of the life and ministry of our churches today. I would like to briefly lay out four.

Who doesn't want the children in their church to be protected from those who would harm them?

The first reason to adopt, implement, and review a child protection policy is common sense. Who doesn't want the children in their church to be protected from those who would harm them? Does anyone want the church to be used as an access point where predators can harm kids? A child protection policy helps your church to be clear about your commitment to protecting kids, and to give clear “to-do” steps to make sure you are doing what you can to protect them.

The second reason to have a child protection policy is because the Bible says we need to protect our children. When the General Conference passed our Child Protection Resolution two years ago, we noted that Jesus warned about causing “little ones” to stumble or sin (Matthew 18:5-6). While our kids don't sin if someone abuses them — they didn't do anything wrong — the brokenness abuse can cause can lead to difficulties down the road for those survivors. Furthermore, our kids are entrusted to us by God and are made in His image. While they grow, God asks both parents and His people to guard them and protect them as they raise them up in the ways of the Lord. A child protection policy insures we are clear about our Biblical responsibilities to our kids.

The Bible says we need to protect our children.

The third reason to have a child protection policy is because it is a good way to honor and obey the civic authorities. Though we own no king but Jesus Christ, we are subject to legal authorities. The legal authorities of our nations (USA & Canada) have indicated, both through the courts and through legislation, that we have a legal responsibility to protect our children when they are with us. We have a responsibility to God to honor these authorities. If we do not, we stand to come under punishment from the legal authorities and the courts. A child protection policy demonstrates our submission to the legal authorities and is a means of protecting our churches from adverse legal action in this respect.

The fourth and final reason to have a child protection policy is because it aids our witness to Jesus Christ. In our cultural conditions, a failure to protect our kids subjects the name of Jesus Christ to scorn and derision. Furthermore, it communicates either a lack of diligence or a lack of care about a prevalent and damaging social issue, and may even communicate that we do not believe Jesus cares about those who are victims of abuse. In addition, it signals to new families who visit our churches that we do not care about them or their children. Furthermore, a child protection policy provides safety for recovering abusers who are trying to reform their lives by providing clear boundaries. A child protection policy communicates to a watching world that we are committed to families, to the victims of abuse, and to those recovering from the sin of abuse.

Local churches are advised to immediately contact their insurance providers if they are looking to take first steps towards the creation of a child protection policy. The General Conference does not produce policies for local churches and does not protect or insure local churches in the event of an incident. If you have additional questions about creating a policy after contacting your insurance company, please contact us! [SR](#)





Why Your Church May Struggle to Find Leaders

There's a big difference between a volunteer and a leader. A volunteer in your church will move stuff around. A leader will move stuff forward. Both are important, but leaders will provide exponential growth.

A lot of churches are not very good at engaging, inspiring and working with volunteers. But we're even worse when it comes to developing leaders. It seems like we always need people to do stuff, but we really struggle with attracting high-level leaders to lead stuff.

Here are three reasons you may struggle to involve more leaders in your church:

1. Leaders aren't recruited from a sign-up table.

If you need a bunch of people to sign up for a work day or a

volunteer opportunity, there's a good chance you will see some activity from a really passionate message and a solid call to action. When the stakes are low, you can get people to go to the sign-up table.

But you can't recruit leaders this way. Leaders don't sign up at tables along with everyone else. They respond to personal invitations. If you want to engage leaders, you need to identify them and personally invite them into the process.

2. You have to work hard to create a culture of leadership.

Your church has a culture. And if you don't have a culture of leadership, leaders won't thrive there. You may have a culture where the pastors do everything, or where people are not trusted with decisions. If that is the case, you have got to work hard to create a new and better culture — one where innovation and risk are valued. That is the kind of culture that is attractive to a leader. Creating a culture where leadership can thrive takes time and work. You have to create a leadership development path and bring it front and center.

3. You have to be willing to let leaders make messes.

Leaders don't want to be told how to do everything. They want the freedom to lead. That's a defining and fundamental characteristic of this kind of person. So if you want leaders to lead ministry, you need to put people in charge. Support them, guide them and champion the vision...but let them lead. [SR](#)

SDB CHURCHES SEEKING A PASTOR

The 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, but 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**



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.



Looking for the Metro?

How to Get into Los Angeles from LAX using FlyAway Bus

LAX FlyAway Bus (1-866-435-9529)

Exit your terminal and cross to the center median. **Look above your head for the sign reading “FlyAway, Buses and Long Distance Vans” — it will be Green.** Board the blue FlyAway bus bound for **Union Station in downtown LA.** The one-way fare is \$9.75. They do not collect the fare until you reach Union Station. Children up to 5 ride for free. The bus runs every half hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The trip to Union Station takes 30-50 minutes, depending on traffic.

You will arrive at Bay 9 at the Patsaouras Transit Plaza, just behind Union Station. You will stop at the Kiosk as you exit the bus and pay for your ride on the Flyaway. Walk down the stairs or ramp into the domed atrium. We are looking for the **Gold Line**; that is the train that will take you all the way to the end of the tracks and our destination: Azusa Pacific University. To reach the Gold Line, walk straight into the tunnel until you reach Tracks 1 and 2. Once you locate the Gold Line you need to stop at the Kiosk at the bottom of the stairs to your right. **You must purchase a “Tap” card for \$1.00 and a one-way fare for \$1.75 to ride the train.** The “Tap” card is reusable and you can load additional fares for any train/Metro travel you wish to do while in CA. As you go up the stairs tap your “Tap” card on the pedestal station and go to the top of the stairs and await the train heading towards **Pasadena, Altadena,** and the final destination of Azusa Pacific/Citrus College. The ride will take about 45 minutes.

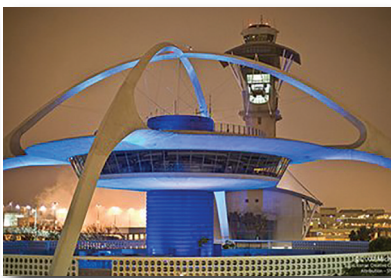
Union Station is still one of the premiere train stations in the country, servicing three separate railway systems: Metro Rail, Metrolink, and Amtrak.

Union Station is an attraction in itself — a cavernous, ornate Art Deco masterwork that’ll make you wish it were the 1940’s and you were about to blow town on a sleeper train to Chicago.

Take the train to the end and disembark. The Campus is approximately ¼ mile walk from the train station.

Looking forward to seeing you at Conference 2017! 

LAX via Metro Rail



Arriving to Los Angeles from LAX via Metro Rail

Departing from Los Angeles LAX via Metro Rail

LAX — Los Angeles International Airport

There are three LAX transportation options to get to and from the airport into the city:

CHEAP: all Metro Rail \$1.50, \$3.00 or \$4.50

REASONABLE: FlyAway Bus and Metro Rail \$9.75

TRAFFIC JAM-PRONE EXPENSIVE: cab \$45 and up.

How to Get into Los Angeles using Metro Rail and then on to Azusa Pacific University and Conference 2017!

Getting into town from LAX via Metro Rail is very inexpensive, but it does require a ride on a shuttle bus and changing to one train.

- *Metro Rail does not run 24 hours. The last train that will get you into downtown L.A. leaves Aviation/LAX Station at 12:03 am on weekdays. On Friday and Saturday nights, there are late night trains that run till 2:12am. The first train of the day from Aviation/LAX Station is at 3:59am.*

OBITUARIES

GREENE – Clare Louis Greene, 99 of Dodge Center, MN, passed away November 27, 2016, at Wellington Assisted Living Facility in Dodge Center, MN.

Clare was born May 31, 1917, the son of Mack and Ethel Greene in New Auburn, WI. In 1931, Clare's family moved to Dodge Center, where he met and married Ardith (Bond) Greene in 1940. They had five loving children: Bruce (Carla) Greene, Valencia, CA; Barbara Simonsen, St. Paul, MN; Linda Greene, deceased; Kathryn Green Therneau, Rochester, MN; and Larry (Del) Greene, Dodge Center. After Ardith passed away in 1986, he met and married Jessie (Christoffersen) Northway Greene in 1989. Jessie passed away in 1999.

Clare was a life-long member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Dodge Center. After serving his country as a Marine during World War II, he learned to be a respected automotive mechanic and machinist. He enjoyed hunting and taught many of his grandchildren how to fish.

Clare is survived by four children, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wives, Ardith and Jessie; his daughter, Linda; his brothers, Wallace and Lester; and his granddaughter, Cynthia.

A celebration of Clare's life was held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Dodge Center, MN, near the time when his 100th birthday would have occurred. His remains were interred in Riverside Cemetery.

MARRIAGE

LOVELACE — McNEME

Michael Lovelace and Leana McNeme were united in marriage on May 13, 2016, at Canyon Community Church in Coram, Montana. Pastor Luis D. Lovelace officiated.

NEW MEMBERS

EDGEWATER SDB CHURCH

Edgewater, FL
Keith McCall, Pastor

Joined by testimony
Larry and Linda McDonald
Pastor John Camenga

BAPTISM

HEBRON SDB CHURCH

Hebron, PA
Rev. Carl P. Greene, Pastor

Baptized:
Joel Caldwell

PAYNE – Jacqueline Lucille (Wells) Payne, 90, of Dodge Center, MN, passed away on February 1, 2017, at the Owatonna Hospital in Owatonna, MI.

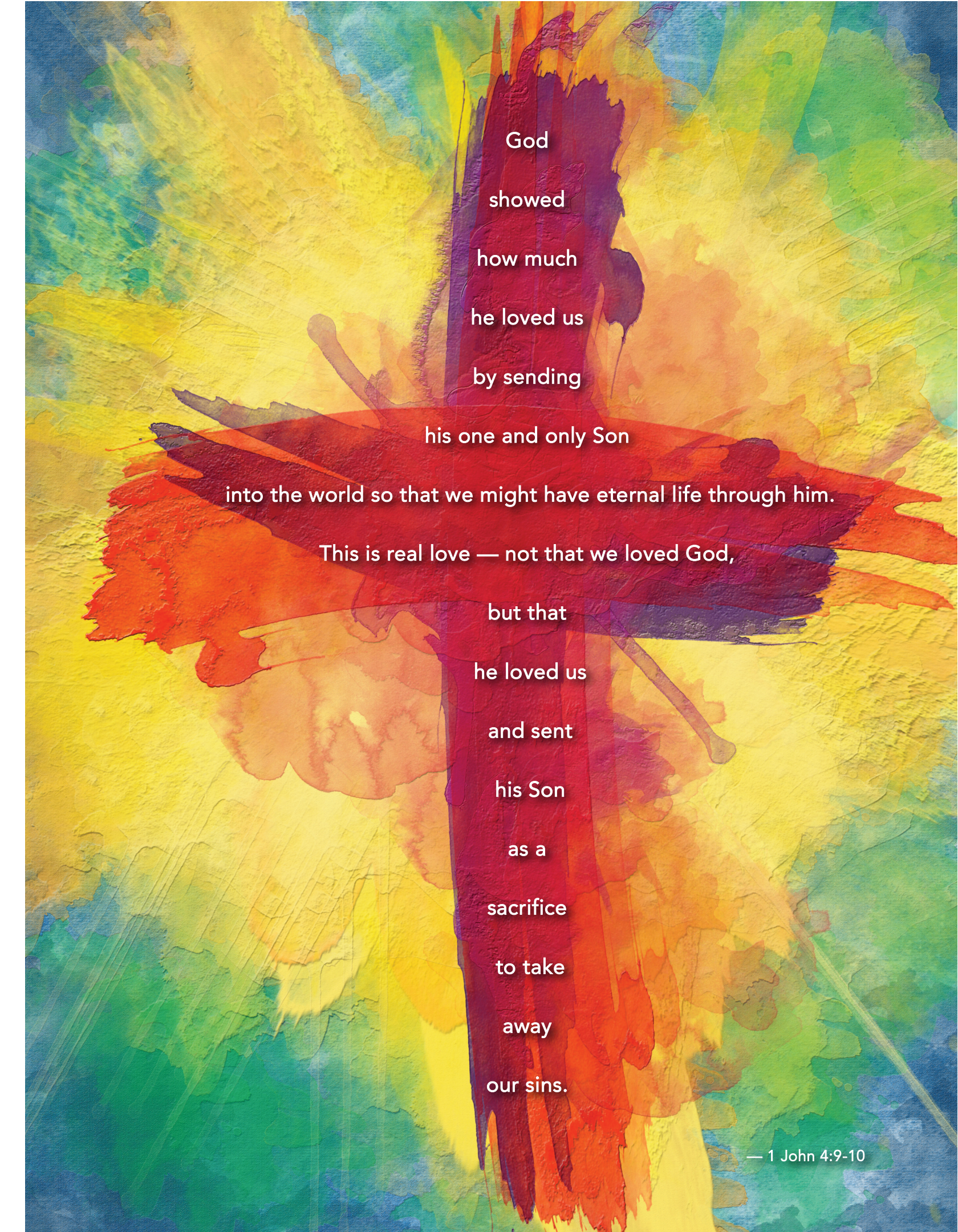
Jacqueline was born on August 1, 1926, the daughter of Harry and Doris (King) Wells in Battle Creek, MI. She attended public school in Battle Creek. After her parents' divorce at age 7, she lived with foster families, including Dr. and Mrs. Welcome B. Lewis, parents of Madelene Parrish and Arabeth Deland. Judy Parrish, Madelene's daughter, wrote, "Jackie has always been a part of my family."

Jackie completed studies at Argubrights Business College, studied at Salem College and worked several years for an insurance company and a law firm before going to the mission field in Jamaica from 1954 to 1958. She worked as a teacher and secretarial assistant to the head of the mission, served as treasurer on the Jamaican Board of Christian Education, assisted with accounting at Crandall High School and assisted in starting an Intermediate Christian Endeavor group in the Kingston Church.

In 1958, she moved to Riverside, CA, and worked for Rev. Alton L. Wheeler of the Riverside Church Federation. She also worked for a law firm before taking the position of secretary of the athletic department at the University of California, Riverside. She retired after 25 years with the University and married Donald Payne on January 17, 1988, in Riverside. Donald and Jackie alternated homes seasonally until Donald passed away on July 31, 1990. Jackie continued traveling between homes until she became a resident of Heritage Estates in Dodge Center in 2012.

In 2009 she was awarded the Robe of Achievement by the Women's Society of the General Conference. She served as a deaconess, choir member, Sabbath School teacher, camp counselor, Women's Society chair and secretary, Vacation Bible School worker, Pastors' Conference and SCSC hostess, and church officer. She served the denomination with the Missionary Society, the Women's Board, and as secretary to many interest committees at General Conference. In addition, she served her communities in many volunteer capacities. She spent most of her life focused on serving God.

Jacqueline is survived by her stepchildren: Dave (Jan) Payne, Charles City, IA; Miriam (Bill) Shook, Fort Myers, FL; Conrad Larson, Fargo ND; Doug (Karen) Payne, Claremont, MN; Elise (Alan) Walker, Amery WI; Madelyn (Richard) Neher, Dodge Center, MN; Roger Payne, Dodge Center, MN; and Janelle (Glenn) Weaver, Norfolk, VA; 25 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband; stepdaughter, Phyllis Larson; three grandsons; parents; stepmother, Lenna Morgan Wells; and stepfather, Henry Coney.



God
showed
how much
he loved us
by sending
his one and only Son
into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

This is real love — not that we loved God,

but that
he loved us

and sent

his Son

as a

sacrifice

to take

away

our sins.

What is it about splinters?

More Life Lessons

Need a pastor? Struggle to find leaders?

SCSC Teams 2017

More about "Child Protection"

Kingdom & Attitude Building

Are you a "Chicken Little"

How to catch a train to Azusa!

Important Travel Information to Conference on page 25

Coming This Summer:

July 23 - 29, 2017

**LIFE
ON MISSION**

Touching lives for Jesus

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

Azusa Pacific University — Azusa, California

