

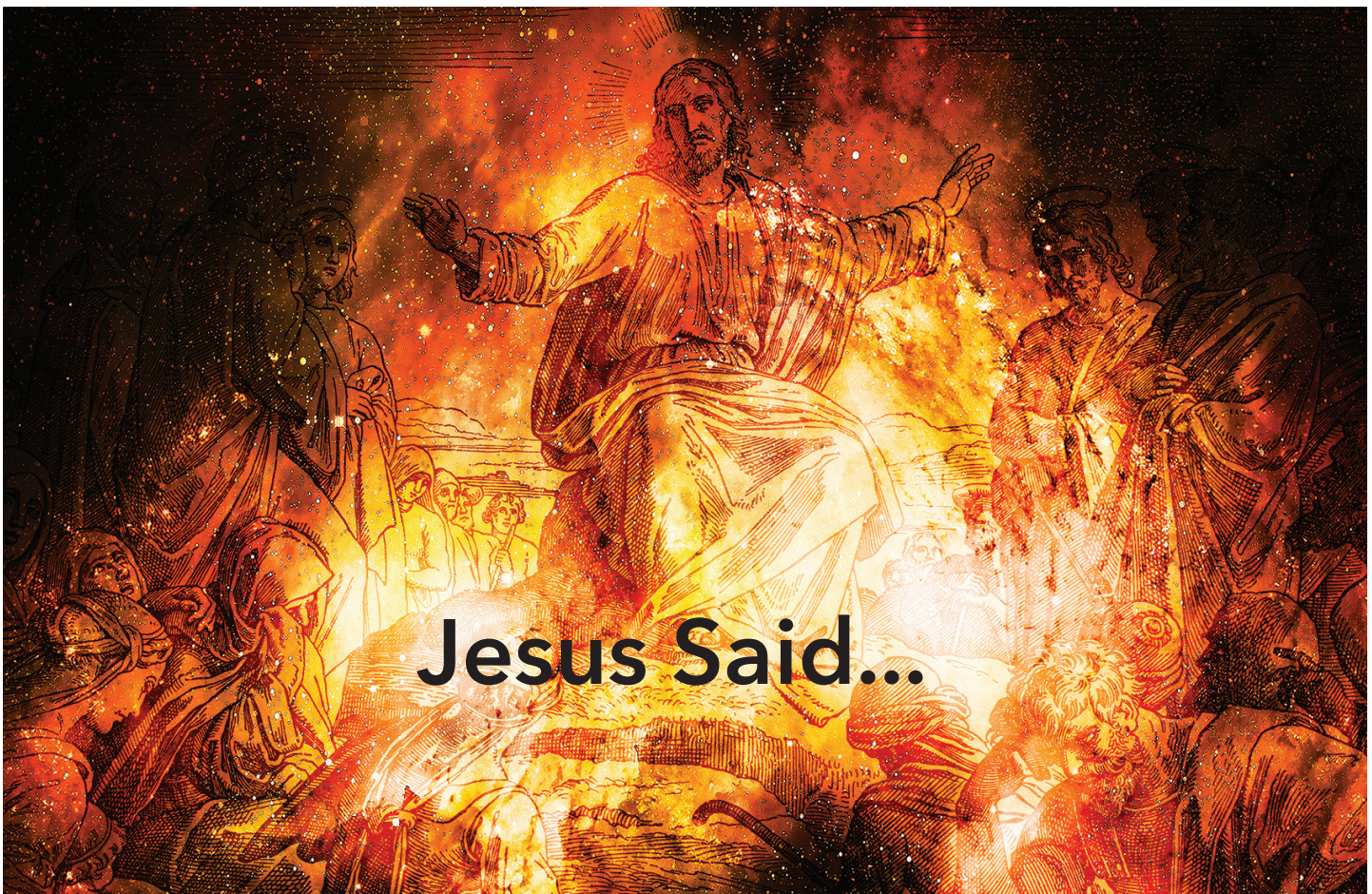
Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

July/August 2017



Jesus thought Hell was real – why do we downplay it so much?



I will show you the one to fear. Fear the one who has the power to kill you and also to throw you into hell. Yes, this is the one you should fear.

– Luke 12:5 (NCV)

But I tell you, if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be judged. If you say bad things to a brother or sister, you will be judged by the council. And if you call someone a fool, you will be in danger of the fire of hell.

– Matthew 5:22 (NCV)

Enter through the narrow gate. The gate is wide and the road is wide that leads to hell, and many people enter through that gate.

– Matthew 7:13 (NCV)

Don't be afraid of people, who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. The only one you should fear is the one who can destroy the soul and the body in hell.

– Matthew 10:28 (NCV)

⁴⁰Just as the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all who cause sin and all who do evil. ⁴²The angels will throw them into the blazing furnace, where the people will cry and grind their teeth with pain. ⁴³Then the good people will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

– Matthew 13:40-43 (NCV)

⁴⁹It will be this way at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the evil people from the good people. ⁵⁰The angels will throw the evil people into the blazing furnace, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain."

– Matthew 13:49-50 (NCV)

If your hand or your foot gets in the way of God, chop it off and throw it away. You're better off maimed or lame and alive than the proud owners of two hands and two feet, godless in a furnace of eternal fire. And if your eye distracts you from God, pull it out and throw it away. You're better off one-eyed and alive than exercising your twenty-twenty vision from inside the fire of hell.

– Matthew 18:8 (MSG)

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Authors**Wanted**

Theme: Here is your chance to say something you have always wanted to say – a testimony; a praise; a complaint (be kind!); a favorite Scripture and why; something you dream about for SDBs, your church, yourself! Tell us what you think in 300 words or less!

Deadline: August 31, 2017

Send your manuscript as a Word document to:
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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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Well, ... "HELL!"

by Pastor Darwin W. Steele

Many years ago, I had a difficult discussion with a friend that involved the reality of "hell" as a place and as a condition. His point was that hell was here and now – after all, the atrocities of the Vietnam War could not have happened if hell did not exist right here and right now. He did not believe that there was a coming eternity – but then, he was not a Christian either. Nowadays, one can easily get caught in the "annihilationism" debates or fall into the "universalism" camp (even some Evangelicals slip here). Yet hell remains a real and possible future for people who have not yet joined the Kingdom of God.


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What do we know about hell? Is it just a cuss word? The Gospels certainly do not show this; Matthew 25:30 mentions eternal darkness, verse 41 is everlasting destruction (fire), 3:12 says it is an “unquenchable fire” and 23:33 says it is a “fiery furnace.” That’s just in Matthew. Jesus certainly thought hell was real, so why do we downplay it so much? Are we, too, slipping into the universalist camp because it pains us to talk about an eternal punishment? I hope not. I have heard hell described as the logical consequence of love as dispensed in Godly justice when the Love of God has been violated by denial of Godly sovereignty. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 mentions this, “dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 NASB) This speaks to justice – the word for “retribution” is “ekdikēsis” meaning a vindication, retribution, or justice served. If Scripture is so sure that hell is real, then we need to understand and deal with it, like any other part of the Word of God. Failure to do so leaves us vulnerable to those who preach a universal salvation for all.

Hell is the “second death” as Revelation 21: 8 shows: “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (NASB) Millard J. Erickson writes, “The second death is an endless period of punishment and of separation from the presence of God, the finalization of the lost state of the individual who is spiritually dead at the time of physical death.”¹ But why choose hell over the chance to spend eternity with the Lord? C.S. Lewis wrote so many years ago in *The Problem with Pain*: “There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.” Then he also said this, “The doors of hell are locked from

the inside!”² Thus, it appears that hell is a place, true. It is a condition, true. It is also a choice. The choice made in the pride of one’s mind to say, “I have no need of God.” Thus, punishment is sure and eternal for the one who denies God.

Now we know why we should care. Our whole purpose is to place that choice openly and visibly in front of those we carry the Gospel to – choose eternity with or without God. This choice will either free the individual into the servanthood of Christ or trap him forever in a condition of the absence of God. Yet hell still presents a problem in apologetics for Christians – how can a loving God send anyone to hell? Douglas Groothuis says this: “Even if his (Jesus’) teachings on hell bother us (as in fact, they do bother many Christians to some extent), his words should be heeded as well grounded, if he is, indeed, who the Bible claims he was (is).³ We do know that Christ is who He said He was. Thus, we should care because God does. He does not want anyone to be separated from Him. Even in Ezekiel’s time the cry rang out strongly for those who had departed from God: “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’” (Ezekiel 33:11 NASB) That cry lingers on today – ringing even more loudly as the day of His return and His judgement draws ever nearer. Do not hesitate, ring that cry loudly and winsomely from our pulpits; make sure it is heard and understood. Eternity awaits, the choice is sure: with the Lord or in hell...What have YOU chosen? 

¹ Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology Third Edition*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI. 2013. (pg.1074)

² http://www.azquotes.com/author/8805-C_S_Lewis/tag/hell

³ Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics; A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*, IVP Academic, Downers Grove, IL. 2011. (pg.656-658)



When Christians Live In Hell

by Daniel Lovelace

Hell. It's a very real and significant place that the Word speaks about, our culture laughs about, preachers preach about, and many people don't really think about. We, the Church, even have all kinds of ideas and opinions about hell. For the sake of focus, I'll set my definition of hell as basically being a place which is separated from God, and cut off from His life and goodness. I want to make the case that to some degree, I believe that it's common for Christians to live in another type of hell.

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Now what do I mean when I say that Christians might live in hell? I mean that to the degree that believers come to a place of not resting in the work of Christ is the degree that they pull themselves away from receiving and living from the goodness and graciousness of God towards them.

I had grown up my whole life in the church, and had seen it done and heard it explained as early as I can remember. Yet even so, it was only a little over a year ago that I realized how little I really understood and valued the sacrament of our Lord's Supper, Communion. I decided to take 31 days to have communion personally in my devotional time, and each time study a passage that dealt with an aspect of Communion. I quickly ran out of the traditional passages to read on the topic, but gradually I realized something. Everything in our life relates to what Christ has done for us to reconcile us to God. As such, Communion — a remembrance of what Jesus has done — ties into every aspect of our lives, and thus all areas of Scripture. Communion is a celebration of the Gospel, that without Christ, we are cut off from the life, righteousness, and blessing of God. Within Christ, we are fully brought into those things, once and for all!

So coming back to hell. I believe that many Christians — looking to my own life experience first — commonly fall away from resting in the Truth of Communion. We fall away from looking to Jesus as our final Source of right standing with the Father, as our final Source of life, of victory over sin, of blessing, of wisdom, etc. We so easily place our focus on how well we've performed that week, what others think of us, how much we see God working through us, or whatever else. And in taking our focus off Jesus in a thing, our minds, hearts and lives sink into "hell" in that thing. We alienate ourselves from the goodness of God because in our heart we have made something other than Jesus to become the method of payment for it. Yet we will still understand that however good that payment may be, it is always still lacking.

"For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.'"

— Galatians 3:10

What is it in your life or heart where you see "hell"? Where do you recognize that you are separated from, and need the work of God's favor toward you or another? Further, how do you plan to remedy that? Is it through striving to bring yourself to a better place of earning and more receiving? If so, you will likely stay in that failing cycle — not because it isn't paid for, but because you're relying on the wrong payment.

The way out is in resting in the Truth of the Gospel. Know that in our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, our payment is made. Jesus is the Savior from separation from God — yes, for eternity — and in our lives today. [SR](#)

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

— Romans 10:4

Have you loved recently? I don't mean the loves we usually think of: loving God, loving our family, loving a romantic interest... I mean the kind of love that's hard. Not that those types are always easy, but this kind of love is even harder. This is the hardest love of all of them. It can only be done by deliberate choice: loving those who hate you.

In Luke 10, starting in verse 30, Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan. I know, I know. We have all heard this one before. Just bear with me for a bit. A man is attacked by robbers and of the three men who saw him, only one helped. Neither the priest nor the Levite showed any mercy – though they were men of God, they walked by and left this poor man for dead. No, it was the Samaritan who helped him. The Samaritans and the Jews were hostile towards each other. You could easily (and rightfully) call them enemies. But Jesus says that this is the man who was a neighbor – this is the man who showed love and in doing so obeyed God's will.

I know this story has become hackneyed through many, many years of Christian teachings. I wouldn't be surprised if some of you rolled your eyes when you saw that this was the topic of my article. As someone who was raised in the church from birth, I understand all too well how many times you can hear this story in Sabbath School, VBS, AWANA, and other child-focused ministries. I mean, that's the easy stuff! We've had this drilled into our heads over and over again. Love everyone, even your enemies. Why do we need to focus on something we already know forwards and backwards?

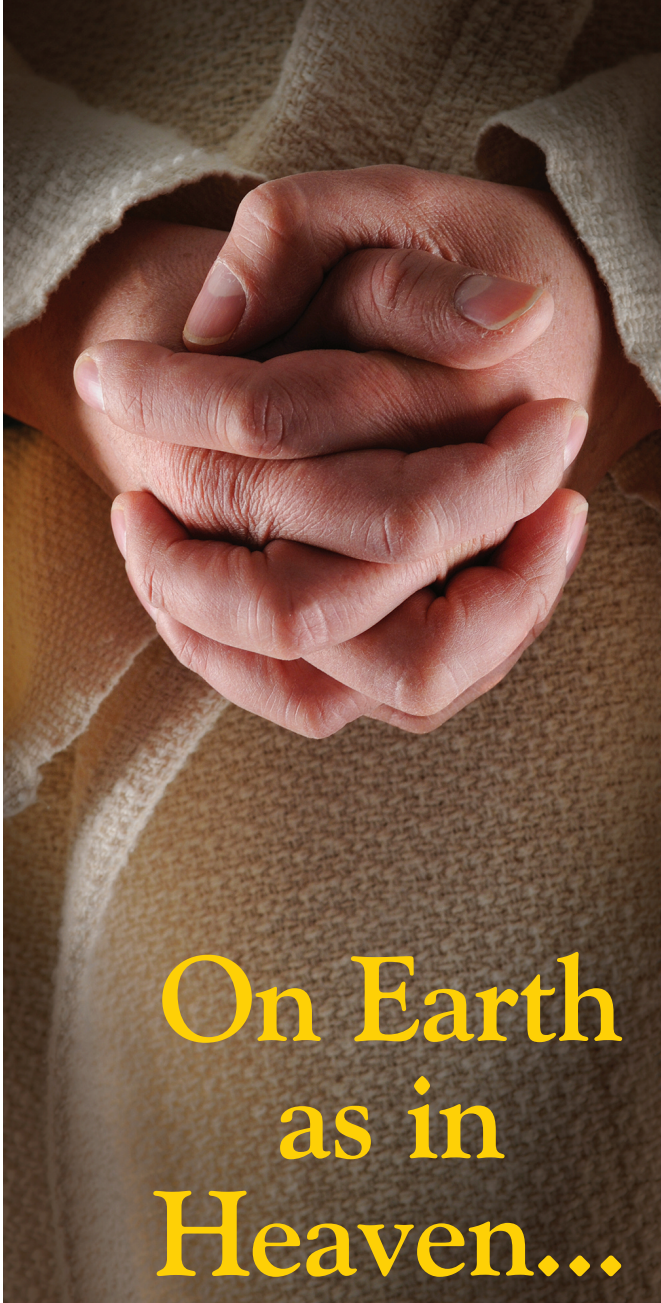
My answer to that is simply to examine yourself. Think about your recent thoughts and behavior. Are you behaving as Jesus instructed? It could even be something as small as a heated argument



on Facebook. Have you been treating the people on the other side as your neighbors? Or have you slung hateful words at them? Made accusations with no evidence? Tried to keep them out of your life as much as possible? It's not a small task to love those who seem to be against you; it goes against our very nature. But that's why it's so important to revisit the Biblical teachings we already know. Just because something is a basic teaching doesn't mean it's easy. This story is taught to children because it's one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity. But this means it's a lesson we should constantly have with us instead of one we neglect. We shouldn't disregard the things we teach children – they are still things that God wants us to know and live out.

From what I've seen of our current society, this is a teaching we need to resurrect. We need to treat people with love. No matter what their political beliefs, their appearance, their religion... Our job is to love. Even if we don't feel like it, or if they don't reciprocate, or if we're nervous around them. That's not to say we should trust everyone with anything, but we should still find ways to show love. If a Samaritan can help a man in need despite a deep-rooted hatred for his people, who are we to reject Jesus' command to do likewise? [SR](#)

THE LORD'S PRAYER



On Earth
as in
Heaven...

*If you think the purpose
of being a Christian is
to someday get away
from this creation
then you really don't
understand God.*

Sixth 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

The last two entries in this series have been about the Kingdom and Will of God. You read about what the Kingdom of God looks like and you read that to truly live in that Kingdom you need to submit to the Will of God. This month's entry is one that many commentaries lump in with Will. But I think that is a mistake.

There is a problem with the view of many Christians today...you are under the impression that the world we live in will be destroyed. You think that when judgment day happens Jesus is going to come and blow up the earth and some incorporeal part of you is going to live with Him in Heaven with halos and wings and golden gates. I could say that this comes from the writings of Plato, but that would mean little to most of you. I think a more relatable reality is that we have believed all those movies with Kirk Cameron. I hate to tell you, but that's just not what I see in Scripture.

But what about all those passages about fire and destruction? you ask. What about 2 Peter 3? Or Isaiah 24? Well first, the passage in Isaiah 24 talks about people being left – so it can't be a complete destruction. As for the passage in 2 Peter...did we forget 1 Peter 1:7 where it tells us that fire refines gold? Or that 2 Peter 3 mentions the flood (in which the righteous were left ON THE EARTH)? Or that Peter talks about being holy so that we can survive?

Klingon Ethics

I love Star Trek. I love everything about it – but what I really love are Klingons. For those that don't know, Klingons are a race of warrior aliens. Their whole society is centered around honor. They are to die in glorious battle. To die an old man is to be shamed. When they go into battle they are known for saying, "Today is a good day to die." This focus on death means that they live a rather debauched life. They cavort. They drink. They break furniture. They are kind of like space Vikings. I would not be surprised if they said, "Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die."

Western culture is Klingon. We look around at the world today and we see people indulging. We see a society that doesn't really think there is an afterlife. This means that they put an emphasis on the things in the present. This may lead them to do some things that are in line with Christianity (care for the earth and poor), but for the most part it leads them to reject much of religion. They have earth without heaven.

*Redemption is not just for people because
God created more than just people.*

Many Christians have created a heaven without earth because of this. I get it. People like to make pendulum swings. We take a few verses about fire and combine them with our Platonic interpretation of what Biblical writers meant when they said "soul" and we decide that the earth is not worth saving. The problem, as I said earlier, is this just isn't in Scripture.

Created Good

Let's "roll back the rock to the dawn of time." When God created the earth, how was it created? Did God create the earth and say "You know what, this thing is evil."? Did God get done, take a rest, and then decide to rebuild? No. God created the earth, surveyed all that was made, and said, "It is good."

I know that sin has messed things up, but why are some of us so determined to throw out what God created and declared good? Don't you think that if God was just going to wipe things clean and start from scratch it would have happened already? Do you really think that you are so special that God wants you and not the rest of His creation? What did you do to make you so special? You certainly didn't earn it. So why would God pick you to save and not the rest of creation?

Ok, I think I am slowly getting into a debate on election and that is not the point. Let me just say that God loves all creation. God wants to save the WHOLE earth. Redemption is not just for people because God created more than just people.

God Dwells with His People

I keep saying that I don't see Heaven without earth in Scripture. What I do see is Heaven on earth. This is a theme that runs throughout the entirety of Scripture. Before I go further I will say that we don't see this come to perfection until Revelation.

In the very first book of the Bible we see that God is present with Adam and Even in the garden. So present that it says He walks in the cool of the day. Now those paying attention will note that this happens right after they disobey. Heaven was on earth, but it was not yet perfected.

The birth of Jesus is the tangible manifestation of God on earth...God dwells with people. Heaven on earth.

From Genesis we move to Exodus. Israel built the Tabernacle so that God could dwell among His people. God was a cloud by day and a fire by night. When God moved they moved. When God stayed they stayed. Heaven was on earth.

In the books of Kings and Chronicles, we see Solomon dedicate the Temple for YHWH. This Temple is dedicated so that all the world can come and worship God. It is the place where God meets people. Heaven was on earth.

The birth of Jesus is the tangible manifestation of God on earth. God comes, eats, breathes, and walks with people. God comes and heals. God comes and dies. God comes and is raised. God dwells with people. Heaven on earth.

When Jesus ascends He tells the disciples about the Holy Spirit. This is the presence of YHWH living in believers. It comes on

them like tongues of flames at Pentecost. God now dwells in His followers. Heaven on earth.

In Revelation we read that Jesus will come again. He will bring with Him justice and judgment. All will be put right. We read in Revelation 21 that Heaven will come to earth. Jerusalem will come out of Heaven and meet earth. God will finally be fully among His people. All the earth will be able to worship God. Heaven will truly be on earth.

Will and Kingdom Manifested

What does all this have to do with the Lord's Prayer? Everything, really! Jesus is showing us that the Church is to make the Will and Kingdom of God manifest on earth. Jesus is the embodiment of this. Jesus came and brought the Kingdom. Jesus came and did the Will of the Father. These were the last two entries in this series. Here Jesus makes it clear. For the Kingdom to truly come, for the Will to truly be done, it must be on earth as it is in Heaven.

If you want to live in the Kingdom then you have to do the Will of the Father. And the Father's Will is that earth look like Heaven. Now. Here. Today.

Throughout Scripture we see that Heaven is on earth. This is not perfect. That is the reason for the Church. That is the purpose of the Church. The Church is to bring the Kingdom. The Church is to do the Will. Not so Jesus will come back sooner and we are all taken away from the earth...the Church does this because God's Kingdom — God's Will — has always been on earth. God does not want to wipe the slate clean. God is not in the business of destruction and terror. God is in the business of redemption.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer we are not hoping to fly away to glory. We are hoping to see the kingdom of Heaven here on earth. The Church brings the light of Heaven to earth. The Church shows people that God dwells among His people. When God came to earth, He got right into the mess of things. He walked in the filth. He didn't run from it. The Church should do the same.

If you think the purpose of being a Christian is to someday get away from this creation then you really don't understand God. We aren't supposed to run from problems. We aren't supposed to just do what we want because God gave us dominion. We are stewards and good stewards act like the master. If you want to live in the Kingdom then you have to do the Will of the Father. The Father's Will is that earth look like Heaven. Now. Here. Today. [\[SR\]](#)

May you realize the desire of God for the earth. May you come to see that the Will and Kingdom of God are not just about Heaven. May you come to do the Will of the Father for all creation. And may God continue to dwell among His people. Amen!



An Open Letter from the SDB General Council

L to R: Dale Thorngate, Rod Noel, Susie Fox (chair), Ralph Mackintosh, Rob Appel (ex-officio), Andy Samuels. Not pictured Ron Ochs (ex-officio).

The General Council met May 19-21, 2017, hosted by the SDB Church in Pataskala, OH. We meet every 2-3 months to look at progress, concerns, budgets, decisions, and future direction across the SDB General Conference (USA & Canada).

Part of our focus is to look forward at where we want to be 3-5 years from now and what we need to do to get there. It was exciting to see the five-year plan from the CLT at our joint March meeting. We have asked the Directors and Councils to work out interim steps, goals, and timelines (some are already started) to use as our game plan. In our ever-changing world, our Directors and Councils are proactively finding new ways to share the timeless Gospel message. At times it's easy to criticize, but let's support and keep these people in our prayers!

Here is a list of some exciting things happening across the SDB denomination you may not be aware of:

- New and improved CALLED is now SDBU Pastoral Training and Lay Leadership certification
- Church revitalization teams are formed and meeting at 4 churches
- Successful Pastors Conference was held with 48 in attendance
- Together we completed 28 of 31 action items from last year's Conference business session
- Online forms are now on seventhdaybaptist.org to submit calendar events and church info
- Assistance is provided to several churches on their local church websites
- 3 new groups applied for church membership in our General Conference
- SCSCers from Jamaica will join us this year as they consider their own SCSC program

We are not without concerns. Many of our pastors and their families continue to have difficulties as they faithfully serve our local churches. Some churches are without (and looking for) pastoral leadership. We still have to tell new contacts the nearest SDB church is four or more hours away! So, three messages to take away: 1) it is exciting to see God at work through Seventh Day Baptists, 2) our Directors and Councils are doing a great job working together, and 3) keep our Pastors and their families in your prayers.

We hope to see many of you at General Conference in just a few more weeks! SR


No One is Outside the Mission

Our SDB leaders in the Cameroon have been working tirelessly over the last few years to bring the Gospel to the needy in their rural communities with medicine, food stuffs, clothing, shoes, and the Word of God. Though the material help is greatly appreciated, it is taking time for the message of salvation to penetrate the hearts of even the most desperate in the villages. The seeming lack of change among the people has apparently led to a little bit of discouragement.

One of the leaders lamented to me that he felt many of the people there are just so uncivilized. So much so that the Gospel just was not able to gain a foothold in their backward hearts and minds. I understood his perspective, but was mildly amused at his assumption. I had done some genealogy research on my own family tree and subsequently missions and historical research on the Viking ancestors that I had come across. I remarked to him that my own family tree had roots that marauded and pillaged for their livelihood. My northern lands forefathers had been renowned as blood-thirsty savages and unscrupulous killers with no respect for the ways of God's Kingdom. These uncivilized people, however, were conquered by the love of Christ. They took back Christian slaves and wives with their other plunder who carried within them the Gospel message. Eventually, this message converted those northern nations for a time to some of the most Christ-centered cultures in Europe.

The idea that our God came with the power of salvation for only one people or another is not reflected in the Scriptures and diminishes the vision of what our objective should be and who our God is. The prophet Isaiah gave some insight to the bigger plans of God when he wrote to the Jewish people about the coming Messiah: [the LORD] says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6) Just as the disciples were instructed to go into all the world, so we see that the Old Testament prophet had been enlightened to Jesus' global objective.

Over and over throughout the Bible, God proclaims His desire for "the knowledge of His glory to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). That is everywhere, giving opportunity for all in every nation if they would only reach for Him. This includes you, me, a street worker in Germany, a gun-runner in South Sudan, a Malaysian child smuggler, and even that person in your life that it just seems the message of God's love was not meant to be received. Maybe they hurt you or maybe they are just so profane or annoying that you could not imagine God wanting them. However, on the righteous scale from God's perspective, all of our righteousness without Him is like soiled rags.

All of us need Christ, and none of us are outside God's mission to be reached. Our job is not to evaluate the merit of any people or person in regard to who should receive the love of God. We are commanded to carry His love to all people and persons. One day we can stand together and know we were part of the reason we are with peoples of every tribe, nation, and tongue giving praise to our God. I look forward to that day! 



Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

— Psalm 117

by Clinton R. Brown
Executive Director

FOCUS on Missions



SR • July/August 2017 13

Life on Mission



How do you live a *Life on Mission*? This is the question I've been contemplating throughout the year along with many others in response to our 2017 General Conference theme. I suspect that there are as many correct answers to this as there are people on the planet. Everyone's life on mission looks just a little bit different in application — but the core of this missional life is sharing the love of Christ with the world (the Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20).

It's easy to get stuck in the personal application of the Great Commission if your mind works the way mine does. When I'm thinking about what it means for me personally to live on mission I tend to think I have to find one big cause to dedicate my time to (like starving children in Africa). If you have that calling — that's great! I don't know where my "big" calling lies or if I even have one. Just thinking about it can be intimidating. That intimidation leads to avoidance, and so on. For the past year I've been focusing on simplifying the *how* portion of living life on mission to two things I can do every day regardless of where I am, who I'm interacting with, and what the big picture might be.

1. Smile

"Attitude is like a cold — contagious. Make sure yours is worth catching."

This motivational poster or some variation of it has shown up in just about every elementary school I've ever stepped foot into — as well as countless other places — because attitude is important. Smiles, too, are contagious and an important foundation for attitude, yours and others'. Smiles can be used in a variety of ways to reassure, comfort, communicate worth, approve, and in general convey happiness. A simple smile can have a lot of power. I don't think we need to walk around with a perpetual goofy grin on our faces but we can be in-

tentional about gifting a smile to those whom we come in contact with.

It may seem silly, but sometimes a simple smile is the only positive affirmation people may have that day. Next time you're out and about, take a look at the faces of the people around you. I would say a majority of the people I've seen walk around scowling, or looking unhappy, or they have a sort of pleasant smile on their face (but it's just what they put on when they leave their house in the morning — meaningless). When I'm walking around like this I tend to make eye contact with lots of the people passing by because I'm paying attention to the people around me. For those brief seconds of contact, I make sure I smile at them — no matter who it is. Honestly, most people on the receiving end of this look shocked that some stranger would smile at them. Most of them seem to have a moment of doubt, then when they realize you are truly smiling at them, their entire countenance can change and they smile back. If this works on strangers, imagine what it would do with people who you actually have meaningful contact with, who know you aren't "just a happy person."

It has been my experience that, as silly as it seems, a smile can make a huge difference!

2. Listen

Listening seems like a no-brainer. It's surprising how many people will talk to you, trusting you with intimate details of their life, simply because you listen to them. I've heard a lot of life stories that just sort of spilled out unintentionally because I provided a listening ear. It opens an avenue of opportunity — much like smiling.

Smiling and listening are not where my life on mission ends — but beginning each day making a conscious decision to do both of these things is a start. SR



Life on Mission:

Things To Know About California



The Conference Year is quickly coming to an end. All that was dreamed and prayed over is being finalized and the finishing touches in place. I'm thankful for your prayers and support that kept me on track and encouraged me — and oh, I'm so excited for this year's gathering. You all know this is my home state and I was born in Long Beach, California. I'm looking forward to joining everyone at Azusa for our events, for sharing, for spending time together, and to see how God will bless us while we are there together.

Several things to know about California: It's about 2,092 miles from east coast to west coast. I know that we do not find ourselves in California for General Conference too often. When we do, I know that many of you enjoy the opportunity to explore a few of the sights, entertainment, and the variety of outdoor experiences. One of my favorite places to go is Huntington Pier in Huntington Beach, CA. There is enough beach for everyone and often there are surfing competitions, beach volleyball events, or some other activities including an ideal place to fly kites. If you ever shop at a Hollister clothing store, they always have a live cam of Huntington Pier on a big screen in their store. It makes me home sick!!!

A few fun facts about California: its nickname is the "Golden State" after the 1849 gold rush; there are a lot of people in California — around 39 million (ranked #1) and to be more specific 13 million in LA; it has the highest and lowest points in the contiguous USA with Mt. Whitney at 14,494 ft. and Death Valley at 282 ft. below sea level, the tallest trees on earth (the tallest at 379 ft.), the most national parks in one state, the hottest place on earth (in Death Valley — recorded at 134 degrees in 1913), and it is known as the fruit basket of America. California accounts for about half of fruit acreage in the USA. It is the largest producer of grapes, strawberries, peaches, nectarines, kiwifruit, prunes, plums, dates, avocados, lemons, tangerines, garlic, and onions. Yum, my favorite ... peaches!!! California is ranked first in the USA in the production of total milk, butter, ice cream, nonfat dry milk, and whey protein concentrate. California is also known as the "Land of Innovation and Inventions" ...Apple computer, Barbie doll, theme park

LIFE ON MISSION

Touching lives for Jesus

President's Page

by Patti Wethington
SDB Church, White Cloud, MI

(Disneyland), Frisbee, blue jeans and Fortune cookies are only a few of many things invented in California. There's so much more to tell about California — finally, I'll mention that the world's first McDonald's restaurant opened in San Bernardino, CA. So to sum things up, there will be traffic (drive defensively), the weather should be warm and beaches inviting (bring sunscreen), there's plenty of healthy food (must try avocados), most importantly, ice cream at mealtime and a few discussions about the difference between McD's and In and Out. So excited to share all this with you. Check out more facts online at <http://californiafacts.facts.co/funcaliforniafactsabout/californiafacts.php>

Like everywhere we go there are people, stories, history and fun facts. I share all this with you because it's my home, I love California and there are many times I miss my home state with all its diversity. God called PB and me to serve in Michigan where my ministry continues. Whether here or there, I know that there are people in need of the saving knowledge and relationship with Jesus all around us. We are commissioned to *touch lives for Jesus*. Whether we live in a Mecca or a lazy country town, we need to be ready, prepared, and willing to share our knowledge of Jesus and *Live on Mission* as commanded.

I hope to see you in California. If you are unable to attend, please take time to connect to the events broadcast via the internet. I will be praying for you as I trust you will continue to pray for all that is planned at Azusa Pacific College this July. Let me also say that I'm grateful for the outstanding host committee, headed up by Norm and Vicki Burdick, supporting and preparing things in CA.

Don't forget to register, too.

Thank you for entrusting me with the planning of this conference. Hope to see you in Cali!!!!

From my heart to yours,
Patti

Soul Care

Pastor's Conference 2017

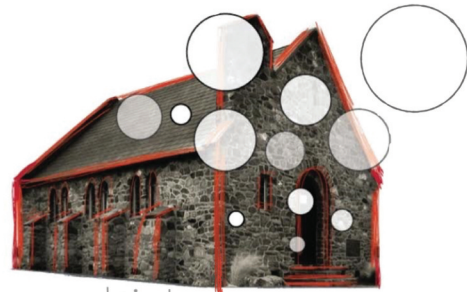


Join Us!
April 25th-27th 2017
Alfred Station New York

Fifty SDB pastors and spouses gathered together in Alfred Station, NY, to fellowship and study with one another from April 25 to 27, 2017. The theme for the week was "Soul Care." They learned about ways to better take care of themselves and their congregations when they are troubled or wearied. Speakers included John Pethtel, Nate Crandall, Darwin Steele, Steve Osborn, Tim Smothers, Rod Noel, and Owen Lynch.

Area pastors were invited to join us on Wednesday when Brian Croft, founder of *Practical Shepherding*, put on a workshop discussing the pastor's soul, family, ministry, and journey.

There will be a Pastors Conference in 2018 and 2019 at dates and locations yet to be determined. If your pastor attended this year, ask him about his experience and make plans to help him attend next year. If your pastor was unable to attend this year, start making plans to help him attend next year. It is good for his soul! SR



multiply
CONFERENCE colorado springs
OCTOBER 19-21, 2017
revitalization - renewal - development - growth - planting

The 3rd annual MULTIPLY Church Development Conference (October 19-21, 2017) is open to all who desire to see renewal and revitalization in their church or desire to see new SDB churches in North America.

This conference will be combining our own SDB learning cohort with the MULTIPLY Conference, put on by Frontline Church Planting in Colorado Springs, to learn from missional church leaders and each other during this extended weekend.

Registration deadline is September 24, 2017, and the conference fee is \$100. This fee includes registration, meals for Friday and Saturday, and lodging on a first come, first served basis. Transportation arrangements will be provided to the Colorado Springs airport (COS).

For more information, visit seventhdaybaptist.org/MULTIPLY.



The Church Revitalization Task Force (Carl Greene, JR Shick, Patti Wethington, and Frank Mazza) has been working diligently over the past year to provide an assessment process to use to help a church diagnose the state of its health.

This process is currently being implemented in four pilot churches — but we are looking to include your church soon.

When we assess our personal health, one of the key indicators is our pulse rate. Is it too high? Too low? Is our heart still beating?

We want to help you take the pulse of your church's health.

Introducing **PULSE**
a church health assessment process!

PULSE is a **PROCESS** to help your church assess its health... and **ACTIVELY** advance God's Kingdom.

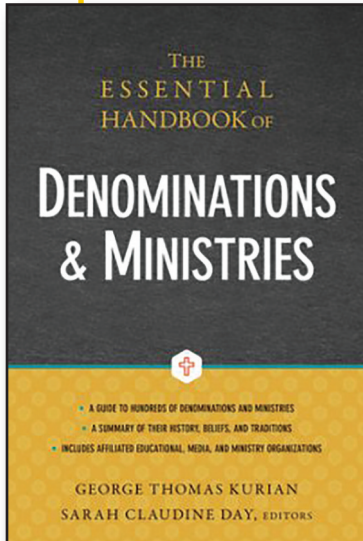
For more information, visit seventhdaybaptist.org/pulse or contact the Director of Church Development.



Church Development & Pastoral Services

by John J. Pethtel
Director

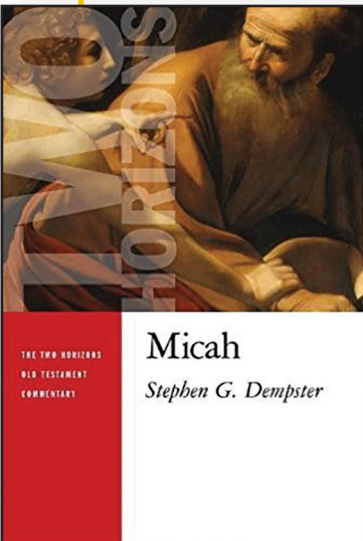
Seventh Day Baptists in New Publications



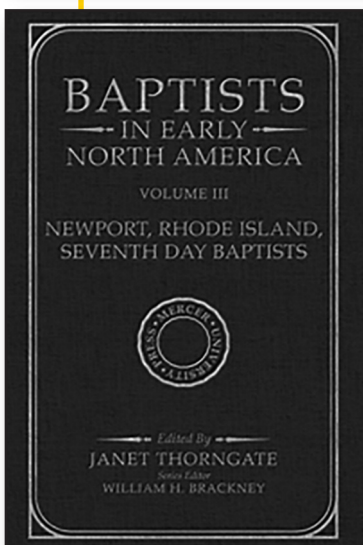
For many years, the Historical Society, and now the Council on History, has used the Historical Library and Archives to provide reference assistance to researchers. This research is provided to a few classes of people. The first group is to Seventh Day Baptists who are looking to better understand their own life and faith. Another group is academic researchers. A final group is those who are looking for genealogical information. For the past several years, the priority in the historical work among Seventh Day Baptists has been for research by academics and Seventh Day Baptists. We have had the opportunity and privilege to provide this service to hundreds of people.

Sometimes, this work of reference assistance leads to written works which contribute to the broader understanding of Seventh Day Baptists and our history, not only among SDBs, but also in the broader world. This year, three new books have been or will be released which contribute to the understanding of Seventh Day Baptists in the broader world.

The first of these books is *The Essential Handbook of Denominations and Ministries* by George T. Kurian and Sarah C. Day. This book is, as the title suggests, a series of brief entries on the 200 largest Christian denominations in the country, along with many para-church ministries. The entry on Seventh Day Baptists in this volume outlines our key organizational and doctrinal distinctives. The book is published by Baker Books, and was released earlier this year.



The second book that relates an incident from SDB history is the forthcoming commentary on Micah from the *The Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary Series*, by Stephen G. Dempster. Dr. Dempster is the Stuart E. Murray Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Crandall University in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. Dr. Dempster contacted us asking to confirm and document a story about SDB pastor Rev. Leon Maltby which has previously appeared in the pages of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Pastor Maltby, during his service in WWII as a chaplain in the Philippines, made a communion set out of unspent firearm cartridges. The reason he selected unspent cartridges was because he did not want to use something which had possibly killed a person to offer communion. Instead, he had the unused shells unloaded and made instruments of death into instruments of the proclamation of life in Christ. We were able to document the story for him, and he included it in his commentary on the book of Micah, which is due to be released later this year.



The final new book which provides more depth and insight into SDB history is Janet Thorngate's recent book on the Newport Seventh Day Baptist church. The book was officially released by Mercer University Press earlier this year. Official reviews are beginning to come in for this book — the early reviews indicate that Janet's work has uncovered new connections between the Seventh Day Baptists in Newport and the broader history of Baptists in general. This book is currently available from the Mercer University Press website (www.mupress.org), and from other major booksellers. We encourage you to purchase your copy directly from Mercer University Press, as only copies purchased from the press count towards the number that must be sold before the Council on History receives a royalty for the work. Janet has volunteered to write some short columns for this space in the coming months highlighting some of the more interesting findings from her work!

We will continue to provide assistance to researchers because we know that such assistance can provide a witness for Jesus Christ and for his work in the lives of Seventh Day Baptists! If you would like to receive assistance on your questions, please contact us. Very soon, a significant portion of the Society's collection will be available to search through our website. Watch this space for more details on this in the coming months! SR

CHRIST IS NOT TO BE KEPT A SECRET FROM ANYONE!

I never knew that the reality of leaving high school would hit me as hard as it did. I remember the exact day when I finally realized it would all be over. As cheesy as it sounds, it was right after my last band rehearsal, the day of the last concert. I walked out of the band room full of such sorrow. As tears filled my eyes I knew I was leaving the few things that had made up my life for the past eight years – my friends, my family, my music community, my church – all of it gone. The actuality of starting a new life in a new place with new people and no family or friends on campus was a huge reality shock that terrified me. It seemed as if everything I had been working for was all going to be gone. At that point I felt like I wasn't ready for this new step in my life. I was ready to tell my parents I wasn't going to college because I had become so nervous about what was out there in this new chapter. I wasn't ready to take on all of the chaos the world was ready to throw at me by myself. But little did I know that God had been preparing me for this day for a while. As I looked back on how I was raised, I knew I was ready to conquer whatever the world hurled at me to diminish my beliefs.

Since I started school at Alfred Almond in 5th grade, even up to end of the senior year, I have always struggled to stand up for what I believe in. The biggest part of my faith battle in high school has been the many explanations of being a Sabbatarian. Explaining why I couldn't go to that party on Friday night or that sporting event Saturday morning was difficult because most of the kids in my school didn't know how to wrap their heads around the concept. At first when I was explaining, it was something my parents wouldn't let me do – that it was Sabbath because that was a household chore, not a belief. As I have developed my faith over the years I have come to this wonderful appreciation for Sabbath and it has become my own conviction.

I know that I will have more struggles to come in college and in my future life – some that are far bigger than the day I choose to worship. I know wholeheartedly that my God, my parents, and my denominational family have trained me to be a soldier for Christ to share my love as He would. Matthew 5:13-14 says "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill." This Scripture has been a huge help in my faith-war throughout high school – teaching me to share Christ and His word no matter the situation because we are to be the salt and light for this world, helping others taste the Godliness and see the bright light of Him. Christ is not to be kept as a secret from anyone! SR




Scripture Memory Program Reporting and Recognition!

The coming of the summer means, in many places, our local churches have completed their participation in our Scripture Memory Program! The program traditionally runs from September through May — though this year, we gave local churches the opportunity to start later and run the program from October through June. Participants have been busily memorizing Scriptures selected by our Conference President, Patti Wethington. Upon completion of the program, participants whose names are reported to the Christian Education Council receive a certification of completion. Additional individual recognition is reserved for those who complete the program for a decade.

In addition to personal recognition, participants from local churches who complete the program help their church in an effort to secure church recognition for the program in the form of two separate awards. The first is the “Mary Clare Scripture Memory Bowl,” given to the


church with the most participants in the program. The second is the “Andrew J. Camenga Award,” given to the church with the highest percentage of church participants who complete the program.

Some local churches have already submitted the names of those who have completed the program by email. For those church representatives looking for the official form, it can be downloaded from the General Conference website (<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/scripture-memory-program-2016-17-reporting/>). To return the form, we ask church representatives to either fill out the form and send it through postal mail, or to fill it out and return it by email. **The due date for the forms for recognition at General Conference and to insure eligibility for the awards is July 10, 2017.** To be eligible for the Camenga award, churches must also have submitted information for the General Conference yearbook. 

Final Notice! ROLE CALL Vote-by-Church on Proposed Change to the Statement of Belief

In accordance with action taken at General Conference last year, local churches should now be completing their process in preparation for casting their votes on the changes to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference’s Statement of Belief. At this point, we have advertised the vote for several months (including in the *Sabbath Recorder*), and have confirmation that every one of our member churches has received information on this upcoming vote through a certified mailing from the United States Postal Service. If your local congregation hasn’t voted, the informational mailing sent from the General Conference office in January is available on the General Conference’s webpage (<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/reminder-vote-by-church-on-proposed-changes-to-statement-of-belief/>), and you are encouraged to ask your local leadership about how

you will cast your votes as a congregation. If your church has already voted, please send the results to the Center in advance or prepare your delegate chair to cast the votes for your congregation at General Conference.

Churches who cannot send delegates to General Conference this year are invited to mail or email their results and responses to the General Conference. Emails can be directed to Executive Director Rob Appel (robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org). Mail must be postmarked by July 5, 2017, to insure arrival at the Center before the General Conference sessions begin. Questions may also be directed to the Executive Director John Pethtel (jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org), or Nick Kersten (nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org). 





Mental Illness

Mental illness refers to a wide range of mental health conditions. Examples include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders, and addictive behaviors. Nearly 46% of Americans will be diagnosed with some type of mental illness in their lifetime.

Many people have mental health concerns from time to time. A concern becomes a mental illness when signs and symptoms cause frequent stress and affect ability to function. In most cases mental illness symptoms can be managed with a combination of medications and counseling (psychotherapy).

Signs and symptoms of mental illness include abnormal thinking, behavior, and emotions such as feeling sad, confused thinking, excessive fears or worries, and problems sleeping. Physical symptoms may include fatigue, back pain, chest pain, and digestive problems. In general, symptoms may indicate a mental illness when they make you miserable and interfere with ability to function in daily life.

The main classes of mental illness are mood disorders, anxiety disorders, substance-related disorders, disorders of thinking (cognitive disorders), disorders of detachment from reality (psychotic disorders), developmental disorders and personality disorders.

Mood disorders include those that affect how you feel emotionally. Examples include depression and bipolar disorder. Anxiety is an emotion characterized by the anticipation of future danger or misfortune, accompanied by feeling ill at ease. Examples include panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder phobias and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Substance-related disorders include problems associated with the misuse of alcohol and illegal or legal

drugs. Psychotic disorders cause detachment from reality (delusions). The most notable example is schizophrenia.

Cognitive disorders affect ability to think and reason. They include delirium, dementia, and memory problems. Alzheimer's disease is an example. Developmental disorders cover a wide range of problems that usually begin in infancy, childhood or adolescence. They include autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and learning disabilities.

A personality disorder is characterized by a lasting pattern of emotional instability and unhealthy behavior that causes problems in life and relationships. Examples include borderline personality disorder and antisocial personality disorder.

There is no specific identifiable cause of mental illness. It is thought to be caused by a variety of genetic and environmental factors. A life situation may trigger the actual mental illness if you already have a genetic vulnerability. Biological factors include traumatic brain injury or exposure to viruses or toxins while in the womb. Life experiences such as loss of a loved one, financial problems, and high stress can play a role in triggering mental illness. Naturally occurring brain chemicals called neurotransmitters play a role in some. It's thought that inherited traits, life experiences, and biological factors can all affect brain chemistry linked to mental illnesses.

Mental illness is common. About 1 in 4 adults has a mental illness in any given year and nearly of those half have more than one mental illness at the same time. Mental illness can begin at any age, from childhood through later adult years. It is a leading cause of disability. Complications linked to the illnesses include:

Continued from previous page

family conflicts, relationship difficulties, social isolation, substance abuse, poverty, homelessness and suicide.

Treatment depends on the particular mental illness, its severity and life situation. Medications don't cure the illness but they can often significantly improve symptoms. They can also help make other treatments such as psychotherapy more effective. Psychotherapy is a general term for the process of treating mental illness by talking with a mental health provider. It can take place one-on-one, in a group, or along with family members.

Participating in your own care by working with your doctor to see which treatment option is best for you is important. In most cases a mental illness won't get better if you try to treat it on your own, without professional care. But you can do things for yourself that will

build on your treatment plan. Stick to the plan, take your medications as directed, learn about your condition, pay attention to warning signs, get active, avoid drugs and alcohol, and get regular medical care. Fortunately, treatment for mental illness can go a long way to restoring emotional and behavioral health and helping a person live a more normal life. [SR](#)

(Information taken from Mayo Clinic.com/mental illness)

How to contact General Council:

Email address to all of the General Council members:

sdbgeneralcouncil@seventhdaybaptist.org

Regular mail can be sent to:

Susie Fox, General Council Chair

1722 Taylor Station Road, Blacklick, OH 43004.

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.

Things You Need To Know About the SDB Conference

Retrospect – ret•ro•spect – noun – a survey or review of a past course of events or period of time.

It is hard to believe, but I have had the honor of serving and representing Seventh Day Baptists for over thirteen years! Time flies when you are having a good time! This causes me to look back over the years to see what we have done together, and the first thing I came across was this: **The Challenge**.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Back in November 2004, I wrote in the *Sabbath Recorder* about a challenge that we all needed to embrace. That challenge was to have a new vision about our churches. I wrote, "The challenge was made to all Seventh Day Baptists to look to a new vision to work together to establish twenty new churches and increase in another twenty of our established churches over the next fifteen years; Vision 2020!"

So, how have we done in less than 13 years? We have added exactly **fourteen** churches.

2005 — SDB Church of Ft. Lauderdale
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
2007 — SDB Church of Southeast Atlanta
McDonough, GA
2007 — SDB Christian Church – Silver Spring, MD
2007 — All Nations Church — Grand Rapids, MI
2007 — Central Washington SDB Church
Yakima, WA
2009 — Agape SDB Church of Christ
St. Albans, NY
2009 — Faith SDB Church – Bronx, NY
2013 — Maranatha Community — Colton, CA
2014 — Bradenton (now Union Station at Dunedin)
Dunedin, FL
2014 — German SDB Church – New Enterprise, PA
2015 — Agape SDB of the South — Orlando, FL
2015 — SDB Church of West Palm Beach
West Palm Beach, FL
2015 — Full Gospel SDB Church
Cumberland, MD
2015 — Remembrance SDB Church – Fort Worth, TX

And we have **three** joining this year!

Redemption Evangelical Fellowship Church
Riverside, CA
Edgewater SDB Church – Oak Hill, FL
Agape Ministry Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia
San Sebastian, Puerto Rico

That makes a total of **17** churches in less than 13 years since the challenge. We have done very well, Seventh Day Baptists, in furthering God's Kingdom here in North America!

And here is the rest of the story! We have another **4-6 churches** getting ready to join us in the next three years!!!

There is always the other side of the coin however; the bittersweet job of working with churches that are closing their doors. This is never easy and never fun. But it happens and is sometimes necessary in the life of a church's ministry. In the past thirteen years we have removed from our Conferences rolls about 12 churches. Some of these had not operated as a church for years and we had simply neglected to remove their names from our membership. One was removed because of their actions that were not in line with the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief. Others closed their doors.

2009 — Community Church – Los Angeles, CA
2009 — Christ's Baptist Church – Centralia, WA
2011 — San Gabriel SDB – Azusa, CA
2011 — Cornerstone SDB – Tupelo, MS
2013 — Nortonville SDB – Nortonville, KS
2013 — Sunshine Mountain SDB – Chatawa, MS
2013 — Vision Christian Fellowship – Westerlay, RI

We are growing! In November 2004 when I wrote this original post of Vision 20/20, we had no Spanish speaking churches. We now have six: two in Silver Spring, MD; Houston, TX; Riverside, CA; Seattle, WA; and Puerto Rico! And the potential for many more is on the horizon. This is an area of ministry we should all get behind!

God is good! All the Time! 

NEW MEMBERS

BOULDER SDB CHURCH

Boulder, CO
Steve Osborn, Pastor

Joined by profession of faith:
Rachael Osborn

Joined via transfer:
Bethany Rihn
Joshua Rankhorn

SDB CHURCH OF FORT LAUDERDALE

Fort Lauderdale, FL
Norman Fearon, Pastor

Joined:
Beverly Charles Jalan Leslie
Donald Mitchell Kazmar Cole
Hayden Wilks

SHEPHERD'S FOLD MINISTRY SDB CHURCH

Johnson City, TN
Rev. Shay Rankhorn, Pastor

Joined by letter:
Chris Galarneau
Kellie Galarneau

STONE FORT SDB CHURCH

Stone Fort, IL
Glen Lewis, Lay Pastor

Joined by Baptism:
Terrie Lewis

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DIRECTORS

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OBITUARIES

COOK – Samuel Ralph Cook died on May 9, 2017, following a long struggle with major injuries leading to serious and debilitating pain and health issues. He passed away at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, MD. He was 70 years old.

Samuel Ralph Cook was born January 21, 1947, in Cuba Hospital, Cuba, NY, to Paul Leroy Cook and Margaret Louise (Akers) Cook.

Sam graduated from Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, MD, in June 1965, and attended the Benjamin Franklin Business School in Washington, DC, 1965-1966. Sam's long and very successful career included work as a counter man and parts manager for several automobile dealerships until drafted into the Army in July 1970. He served honorably as a Medic in both the US and Germany. Following his discharge from the Army in 1972, he began his lifelong work as a heating and air-conditioning expert. Sam's more than twenty Certificates of Advanced Training and Leadership led to numerous selections to ever increasing positions of responsibility and leadership with organizations which included: Weather Engineering of Colorado Springs, CO; Harvey Hottel Heating and Air Conditioning; BTU Services; HRE Inc. (Field Supervisor); AOL (America-On-Line); and AMS (American Mechanical Services) all in Maryland, where he retired from the United Association of Steamfitters Local 602 in 2009 at the age of 62.

Sam will be remembered fondly by family, friends and co-workers as a man with an intense sense of workmanship and responsibility along with the need to do things the right way, yet possessed of a sly sense of humor and playfulness. His love of the outdoors and the joy he received from riding his beloved motorcycles was known by all. He was a wise and extremely well-read man with a depth and breadth of knowledge experienced only by those who came in close contact with him, a facet of his life that will truly be missed. He was a man of deep faith in God and love for mankind, ever ready to help those in need.

Both Sam and Martha Jean joined the Central SDB Church on 9/12/81 (36 years).

Sam Cook is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Martha Jean (Cartwright) Cook of Little Genesee/Bolivar area in, NY, and Takoma Park, MD. Together, they shared two surviving sons and two grandchildren. The children are: Travis Wade Cook of Dubuque, IA and Troy Wayne Cook of Berkeley Springs, WV. Sam is also survived by his brother Daniel P. Cook of Monument, CO, along with many other loving family members and friends. Sam is predeceased by his father, Paul Cook in 1987 and his mother, Margaret also in 1987.

In honor of Sam's life donations in lieu of flowers can be sent to the "Wounded Warriors" project or Shriner's Hospitals for Children.

OBITUARIES

GESKE – Neil “Bud” Geske. The world lost a truly great man on February 12, 2017, when Neil W. “Bud” Geske, Jr. passed away peacefully at home near Milton, WI.

Neil was born May 30, 1938, in Edgerton, WI, to Neil W. Sr. and Signy (Sathre) Geske. While attending Edgerton High School, he met the love of his life and future wife, Roselyn Reiersen. They were married September 2, 1956. Neil was retired from Mazak Corporation of Schaumburg, IL, as a CNC service provider and electrical engineer, and from Precision Service of Milwaukee, WI.

Neil was a giant among men, who demonstrated great love, loyalty, dedication, honesty, and straightforwardness. If you knew him, you loved him! He approached life as though it was one great adventure. He purchased his last motorcycle at the tender age of 78. He was an avid kite flyer, musician, and bicyclist, and he did absolutely everything with gusto.

Neil is survived by his wife of 60 years, Roselyn; siblings: Grady (Carole) Geske of Kailua, HI; Sandra (Ralph) Cohen of Janesville, WI; Lin (Carroll) Lund of Edgerton, WI; and Signe Johnson of Carlsbad, CA; children: Michael (Wanda) Geske of Janesville, WI, Jeffrey S. (Denise Ellis) Geske of Battle Creek, MI, Kory A. (Jackie) Geske of Milton; Kathy “Gus” Geske of Janesville; Jayne (Douglas) Lubke of Edgerton; and Maureen (George) Diaz of Linden, VA; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Wednesday, February 15, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Albrecht Funeral Home in Milton, and from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Thursday morning at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. The funeral service followed at 11 a.m. Burial took place at Rock River Cemetery, Milton, WI. Memorials may be given to Edgerton Hospital’s Healing Garden, and Camp Wakonda, a ministry of the Milton SDB church.

GLEASON – Carlene A. Gleason passed away February 28, 2017, at the Hart Comfort House in Wellsville, NY, following a brief illness.

She was born on February 23, 1949, in Olean, NY. She was the daughter of Carl and Letha Crandall Polen. Carlene married Dean F. Gleason on February 20, 1968, in Little Genesee. Mr. Gleason preceded her in death on July 23, 2008.

Carlene was a graduate of the Bolivar Central School class of 1967. She was employed as a counselor for the Allegany County Counsel on Alcohol and Substance Abuse in Wellsville for 24 years prior to her retirement. She was a member of the Little Genesee Seventh Day Baptist Church. Carlene enjoyed tole painting and painting floral designs.

Surviving are two children, Marti (Scott) Card, Cuba, NY, and Marc Gleason of Little Genesee. Also surviving are five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Douglas (Eleanor) Polen, Wilmington, DE; and several nieces and

nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Duane Polen.

A memorial service was held on Sabbath, March 11, 2017, in the Little Genesee Seventh Day Baptist Church with Rev. Kevin Palmiter and Rev. Patricia Bancroft officiating. Burial was in Wells Cemetery, Little Genesee, NY. Memorials may be made to the Hart Comfort House, 141 E. State St., Wellsville, NY 14895. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Schaffner Funeral Home, Inc., Bolivar.

JOHNSON – Barbara A. Johnson, 90, of Milton, WI, passed away on Wednesday, December 28, 2016, at UW Hospital in Madison.

Barbara was born on January 10, 1926, in Milton, WI, to the late Dean Stanley and Belva (Severance) Fox, Sr. She graduated from Milton Union High School. On August 26, 1944, at their home on College St., Barbara married Robert C. Johnson. She worked early on at the Burdick Company and Gibbs Manufacturing, before working as a clerk at JC Penney. She was a long-time member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she was a deacon and was active in the Women’s Circle. She loved to square dance with the Milton Squares and enjoyed knitting in her spare time.

Barbara is survived by her children: Kenneth (Mickey) Johnson of Janesville, WI, Ronald (Darlene) Johnson of Janesville; Glen (Vicki Jentoft-Johnson) Johnson of Beloit, WI, Annmarie (Ronald) Bennett of Evansville, WI; grandchildren: James Johnson, Michael (Gabrielle) Johnson, Grant (Barb) Jentoft, Megan (Chris) Griffith, Tyler Jentoft-Johnson, Autumn Bennett, Kurt Bennett, Quinn Bennett; five great-grandchildren; sister, LuVerna North of Bloomer, WI; and many nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert Johnson; grandson, Geoffrey Johnson; granddaughter, Jessica Lee Jentoft-Johnson; siblings: Dean Stanley Fox Jr., Phyllis and Marilyn Fox.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Milton with Pastor Liz Green officiating. Entombment will follow at Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville.

DEATH NOTICE

BARRETT– Deacon Michael Barrett of the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church and leader of the Wakefield SDB Church passed on to be with the Lord on Sabbath eve, May 19, 2017, in the Falmouth Hospital, Jamaica. His going home service was held at Wakefield SDB Church on June 18, 2017. He was an ardent Christian and a dedicated worker in both churches. We thank God for the exemplary life he lived.

OBITUARIES

LEWIS – Jean Harris Lewis, age 92, of Riverside, CA, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on April 12, 2017.

The wife of the late Philip Lewis, who died in 1990, Jean was born on April 3, 1925, in Shiloh, NJ, and was the daughter of the late Clarkson and Elizabeth Bonham of Shiloh. She was an active member in the Shiloh SDB Church until she moved West.

Jean and her husband moved to Riverside in 1948 and lived in their present home since 1956 where they raised five daughters. She graduated from the University of California, Riverside and taught school for 25 years in Grand Terrace.

Jean was a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church where she was organist for over 60 years. She participated locally as a deaconess, chairman of the Advisory Council and treasurer of the Board. She served on National and International Denomination Boards and Committees including Secretary of the World Federation. She received the Women's Board "Robe of Achievement" award for service.

She was an active member of the Association of American University Women, American Guild of Organists, and California Retired Teachers Association, Riverside #21. She volunteered as a Docent at the Mission Inn (20 years) and at the Marcy Branch of the Riverside Public Library. She counted everyone she met as a friend and kept in touch with many. She loved eating daily with her breakfast group and traveling. She visited family across the United States and participated in Elderhostels both on this continent and in Europe. She kept copious journals. Most importantly, she loved spending time with her family.

Mrs. Lewis is survived by her five daughters: Joan (Patrick) McAllister of Greenwich, NJ; Jennifer Lewis (Kurt) Berg; Victoria (Norman) Burdick, Melanie (Marse) Caricato of Riverside; and Cynthia (Maurice) Soper of Neligh, NE; 12 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren; a brother, Winfield Scott "Bud" (Gail) Bonham of Naples, FL; Murray Lewis of Lewisburg, PA; Betty Lewis of Little Rock, AR; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Philip, granddaughter, Kate McAllister, and several brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law.

The girls are deeply grateful to her caregivers who have supported them and kept her lovingly in her home for the past two years.

The Celebration of Life was held on Sabbath, June 3, 2017, at 1:00 pm at the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church, 5901 Chicago Avenue, Riverside, CA, with Rev. Gabriel Bejjani and several of Jean's sons-in-law and grandson presiding.

RABATIN – Grace Frink Butler Rabatin was born at home in Bladenboro, N.C. on August 24, 1921, and passed away on April 24, 2017.

Grace grew up on a tobacco farm. Her parents were Grover Cleveland Frink and Hannah Frink. Her brothers were JC, Earl and Bill. Life was full of hard work and service to God and others.

In 1941, while at Auburn University, she met Robert Lee Butler, Jr. (Bob) from Woodville, AL. They were married at Auburn and soon after graduation Bob joined the Navy where he was a flight instructor during World War II. After the war, they came back to Bob's family farm in Woodville and remained there until 1959. They had two daughters, Annalie and Donna, and two sons, Bill and Phil.

Grace and her family moved to the Central community in Brownsboro, AL, and built a house there, where they were active in school and community activities. For 10 years Grace worked at Central School as secretary to the principal, H.G. Rowe.

Bob passed away in 1972, and in 1976 she married Michael J. Rabatin (Mike). Grace and Mike moved to Keel Mountain in Gurley, AL, in 1985 where they built a house on a portion of the Butler family farm. Mike died in 2000 and Grace remained on Keel Mountain for the rest of her life. She loved living on the mountain and one of her last requests was that she be buried there.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, mother-in-law and friend. She had such a grateful spirit and showed great appreciation to anyone who did anything for her. Most of all she was grateful to God for all He had done in her life. In her final days she kept repeating, "God has been so good to me, I am blessed beyond measure, I have had such a wonderful life." She was definitely a reflection of God's love and a blessing to all who knew her. Grace was an active member of the Paint Rock SDB Church and a deaconess for many years.

She is survived by her four children, Annalie (Gordon) Maynard, Donna (David) Barnhart, Bill (Arlene) Butler, and Phil (Becky) Butler. In addition, she is survived by 13 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Sabbath, April 29, 2017, at Kingdom Life Christian Fellowship, 2135 Highway 72E Huntsville, AL. In lieu of flowers the family requested donations be made to the Keel Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, 2171 Keel Mountain Road Gurley, AL 35748.



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OBITUARIES

WELLS – Mary Margaret Hummel Wells was born on August 26, 1918, and graduated to Glory on September 29, 2016.

Mary was the only daughter of Geneva Ethel and Paul Haldane Hummel, and lived on the Hummel-Wells farm till her death.

Mary attended Valmont School, and college at CU Boulder, and Colorado State University where she graduated with a teaching degree in 1941.

Mary taught school in 1941 in Jefferson country and in 1943 in Dove Creek, Colorado. In her later years she worked for Boulder Valley Schools Food Services until retirement.

Mary married Willard Wells on May 27, 1944, in Boulder, CO. They have three living children: Willard Eugene Wells of Boulder; Jennie Lou Munn, in McGregor, TX; and Geneva Adele Ferrera, in Broomfield CO.

Mary was preceded in death by her brother Eugene, her mother and father, and her husband Willard G. Wells.

Mary is survived by her three children; four grandchildren, Pauline Weyers, Darrell Wells, Robert Ferrera, and Joe Ferrera; and seven great-grandchildren, Jared, Benjamin, Zachary, Cael, and Charlie Ferrera; Jake and Morgan Weyers.

Mary was a devoted and faithful member of the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church throughout her years until her death. She served her community sewing clothes for the Head Start children, helped as an election judge, and served as a deaconess in her Church.

Mary lived her life dedicated to God and family, and enjoyed a very fulfilled life! She will be missed by many, but the legacy she leaves behind is a cherished remembrance, never to be forgotten, and those who believe will see her again in her Heavenly home.

WRIGHT – Harold D. Wright was born in Boulder, CO, December 4, 1930, to Manly and Mable (Thorngate) Wright. He entered into rest on January 9, 2017.

Harold was an only child but shared his life with many foster siblings. His dad was groundskeeper for Boulder High School and the family had their home on that campus. This afforded Harold with many adventures and friends, most of whom he could still name and tell about.

He enlisted in the Army, serving during the Korean War. Anything military, especially airplanes, was of great interest to him. He could name all planes and Ace pilots. He said he saw a lot of himself in the TV character Radar, of *MASH*, as after nearly losing his big toe he was removed from combat in Korea and served in office duty in Japan. Cars were also a joy for Harold, not just the many he owned, but those owned by anyone else...

He was the "keeper-tracker" of his huge family because he could look at any picture and give that person's history – good, bad, or indifferent.

The Seventh Day Baptist Church was an extension of his family, and not just because he was related to most of them. Many of his favorite stories were about taking the "kids" to SDB conferences.

He is preceded in death by both his parents, uncles, aunts, and several cousins.

Harold is survived on his mom's side by Rhea Thorngate of Lakewood, Marilyn Van Steenberg of Centennial, and their families and many other cousins. On his dad's side, by Ronald Wright of Maui, Demaris Swisher of Alaska, Gatha Neidigh & Ginger Harvey of Lafayette, Debbie Wright of Washington, Bahiyah Wright of Texas, Trish Heistermann of Denver, Tina Wright of Aurora, and their families.

We can honor Harold by donating to Agape Hospice by calling 720-482-1988. They provided him with great peace and respect.

He was laid to rest at Fort Logan Cemetery with Military Honors.

Coming Soon!

July 23 - 29, 2017

**LIFE
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Touching lives for Jesus

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

Who has the key
to the door of Heaven?



For this is **how** God loved the world:
He **gave** his one and only **Son**,
so that everyone who **believes** in him
will **not perish** but have
eternal life.

— John 3:16 (NLT)

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5K RACE AT CONFERENCE



6:30 am on **FRIDAY, JULY 28**

SDB Missions partners to bring hope to the lost, food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, aid to the sick, and homes for children who have no one.

This race is only 5 kilometers, but with your contributions it will help us shine Light into places of darkness and bring aid to our neighbors in the far reaches of the globe. With your assistance, SDB ministries in more than 40 countries can provide water wells, aid for widows, families for orphans, disaster relief food, medicine, water, and hope for prisoners, while sharing Jesus Christ, His love, and all that He commanded.

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