

Sabbath Recorder

SDB General Conference 2015 Issue

He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

– Psalms 1:3 (NKJV)

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication
September 2015



“Be Ye Stedfast”

Stedfast Trust

Stedfast Grace

Stedfast Hope

Stedfast Prayer

Stedfast Praise



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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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8-Minute Message

On Monday morning of Conference, Bill's wife, Valerie Probasco (Shiloh SDB church) gave the first 8-minute message of the week. Here is what she shared:

It's easy to look around and see how steadfast other people are. When given that one word, STEADFAST, and asked what it makes you picture, I picture people. I was raised by hard-working Christian people. My parents were and are steadfast in their work, in their faith, and in their commitment to helping their family. I look at the people of the Shiloh SDB Church and see STEADFAST saints everywhere. I started to write them down but there are so many it would take more than 8 minutes just to tell you their names. I am so blessed when I think of the tremendous, faithful servant leadership of my church. In travelling with Bill this year it was so clear to see that Seventh Day Baptists are a STEADFAST people. Faithful to the Sabbath, faithful to the Word, faithful to the Lord.



Bill is steadfast. Everything about him is steadfast. On his travels this year he's only shared a few examples about what he feels he is steadfast in. Let me give you a few more from the perspective of someone who has lived with him for 18 years. He is steadfast in keeping certain routines. Every day starts with way too many push-ups and every night ends with reading the *Upper Room*...no matter how late it is. He is steadfast with his work ethic from the office to the house to the church. He strives to give every ounce of his ability and time to everyone. He is steadfast in his relationships. No matter what his friends or church family need, Bill is a steady, non-judgmental, unconditional friend. He is a steadfast parent who always brings humor to the family and enjoys being with his kids. He is certainly a steadfast husband, even when life throws interesting curves at us. I think back to right after our second child was born. Being 34 at the time, my hormones took some extra time straightening out. During that post-partum time, being at home with two small children was a blessing, but a bit of a challenge. Invariably, Bill was there, trying to help...but in spite of his very best efforts I clearly remember thinking, for a good week out of every month, that I had married a complete idiot! When I finally realized I was the issue here, I tried some supplements for some help. I read that evening primrose oil was good for what ailed my husband, I mean me. So, since I was home with the kids, I asked Bill to pick some up from the vitamin store. THIS is what my dear, steadfast husband came home with...(picture 2 jumbo-sized bottles of 2,000 gel-tabs)!

It's much easier to look around and see the steadfast qualities of others. But when the time came to turn the magnifying glass on myself and consider how the quality of being STEADFAST applies to me, the task became suddenly and exceedingly more difficult. Oh man, do I have to do this 8-

minute message? That's a lot of words. I can say what needs to be said in about 90 seconds. How can I get out of this? The battle of the flesh began.

Immediately following that, came the battle of the mind. STEADFAST??? You? What are YOU steadfast about? Let's see...keeping the house much less photo-ready than *Better Homes and Gardens* and being perpetually 5 minutes late to everything. THAT's what you're steadfast in. Then came the realization of the spiritual battle. At the mere mention of being STEADFAST, the devil attempts to use condemnation and self-doubt to shake you away from that very concept of standing firm.

Romans 8:1 says "*there is now NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*"

So, now that the battles of the flesh and the mind and the spirit have worked me over, I want to share with you what I hold firmly as the truth. My GOD is Steadfast. He is steadfast when I am not. His strength is made perfect in my weakness (II Corinthians 12:9). I start every day and end every night knowing His steadfast power rules my life. What am I steadfast about? The only thing steadfast about me isn't me at all. As we say in Jersey, "It ain't about chu ('you')." It's about the infinite power of GOD.

There are countless ways over the years that He has proven Himself to be steadfast to me. When I was home with our kids full-time and we were on one income, God provided. Time and time again signs of provision and faithfulness would come right to our door. God used His people to show His love for us with gifts of food, clothing, diapers, furniture, and vehicles. The list is overwhelming. But the timing was even more amazing. At the very moment we were at our "last," He sent his best. God is so good. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and he cares deeply for us.

But way beyond the physical provision, is the assurance that I am a child of the most high GOD and He walks with me daily. When I have emptied myself in service to my job and my kids and my church, I have a GOD whose strength is steadfast. He says, "My grace is sufficient for you." He says, "Cast your burdens on me because my yoke is light" ...and He carries me. Because I know whom I have believed, I am persuaded that HE is able.

I pray that this week you will receive a renewal in the steadfast spirit of our God. Thanks to the blood of Jesus He is in deep...and throughout....and all around you.

Stand firm in that truth. SR

Conference Business



West Palm Beach SDB Church



Agape SDB Church

This was the 203rd Annual Session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, Ltd.

Accepted into Membership of the Conference:

West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church
West Palm Beach, FL

Full Gospel Seventh Day Baptist Church
Cumberland, MD

Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church
Fort Worth, TX

Agape SDB Church of the South
Orlando, FL



Full Gospel SDB Church

Accredited as a Seventh Day Baptist Minister:

Rev. Nicholas Kersten — The Connecting Church;
SDB Director of Education and History

Rev. David Fox — SpringsLife Church

Rev. Paul Manuel — German SDB Church

Rev. Helmer Umaña — SDB Christian Church

Accreditation Renewed as a Seventh Day Baptist Minister:

Rev. John Pethtel — SpringsLife Church;
SDB Director of Church Development &
Pastoral Services

Rev. Matthew Berg — Next Step Christian Church;
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Rev. Kenneth Burdick — Seattle Area SDB Church

Rev. Robert Babcock — Marlboro SDB Church

Rev. Donald Chroniger — Shiloh SDB Church

Rev. Matthew Olson — Berlin SDB Church

Rev. Nathan Crandall — Milton SDB Church

Rev. Rodney Henry — Next Step Christian Church

Rev. Oscar Burdick — Bay Area SDB Church

Rev. Leland Davis — Metro Atlanta SDB Church



Remembrance SDB Church



General Council Roundtable



Susie Fox: GC Report



Virginia Evans reading report

Are You Willing to Trust God?

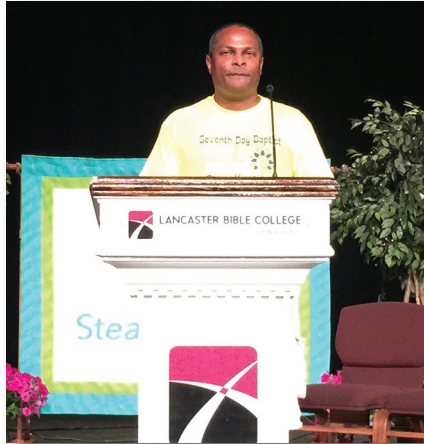
On Tuesday during Conference, Dennis Coleman (Shiloh SDB church) gave another 8-minute message of the week. Here is what he shared:

During this year's General Conference, Pastor Scott Hausrath led a Bible study where he taught us how to develop steadfast trust. I believe for us to say we have steadfast trust we must be willing to trust God with a specific situation. And so we are confronted with a question: Are you willing to trust God with _____? (Fill in the blank.)

I found myself faced with having to answer this very question sixteen years ago, just after my wife Julia and I learned we were expecting our first child. After receiving the good news, I let Julia talk me into accompanying her to the doctor's office for what was supposed to be a routine checkup. At first all went as planned. We found ourselves laughing and joking with the staff until Julia's doctor suddenly made a strange face...one you do not want to see any doctor make. She explained how Julia had developed a condition which was affecting the pregnancy. More often than not, she told us, this condition leads to a woman losing her baby.

Suddenly I found myself in a position where I needed to comfort my wife while still trying to process what I had just heard. As a good Christian husband, I assured Julia that God would take care of this pregnancy and that the baby would be just fine. She asked if I truly believed what I was saying. My faith was on trial and Julia was not the only one asking a question. God was asking if I was willing to trust Him with the life of my son. With the Holy Spirit at work in our hearts, Julia and I were able to say yes to God. We were willing to trust Him with our baby...a decision we shared with our doctor.

It turns out God had provided a doctor who is a believer. Upon hearing our decision she joined us in prayer and worship. We took comfort in the fact that our doctor knew that God is in control. Yes, she still used her training to support the pregnancy over the next few months, but she did so in service to the Lord. Our doctor understood that God did not need her help. What He wanted was a doctor who was willing to trust in Him. He wanted the same from



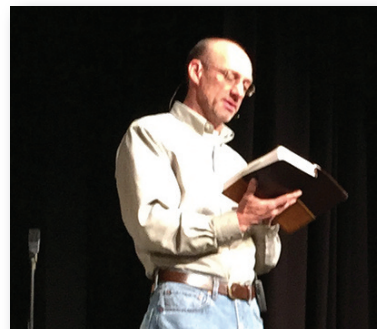
us as parents as He continued to watch over the child as we approached our due date.

Fourteen days before the baby was due, Julia called to tell me that the doctors were going to induce labor. During something called a stress test the baby's heart rate went down when it should have gone up. We would spend the rest of the day in a hospital. However, nothing happened until our doctor, who was scheduled for the night shift, arrived and joined us in prayer. Those of you who came to the Sunday night session of General Conference were able to hear Joshua as he played bass with the Shiloh Praise Band! God is directing Joshua's path. In many ways he has shown me more about trusting God than I have shown him.

Some of you reading this are dealing with difficult situations. Perhaps your children are on the wrong path. Perhaps your finances are not where you need them to be. Maybe the problem is more spiritual: doubts about what you should believe or even struggles with a temptation which you thought you had defeated. Are you willing to trust God with whatever specific difficulty you are facing? Are you willing to trust God with _____? (Fill in the blank.) SR



Josh and friends at the Youth Banquet



*Pastor Scott Hausrath
Monday morning
Bible Study:
"Steadfast Trust"*



How Star Wars can teach us about God

Liam Probasco
Shiloh SDB, NJ

1. The Rebels in Star Wars keep fighting against the Empire no matter what the odds. So, you could say that the Rebels are steadfast in what they are doing, just like we should be.
2. Clone Troopers support their Jedi generals at any cost, just like we should support God at any cost.
3. Yoda, a Jedi master, who has been in the Jedi order for over 800 years, still had a little darkness in him. No matter how holy we think we are, we still might have some doubt.
4. Anakin Skywalker, who later becomes Darth Vader, turned to the dark side because of his fear and anger. People usually turn away from God because they are scared, or they think God didn't provide for them.
5. Obi-Wan Kenobi sacrificed himself so that the Rebels could escape the Death Star. God sacrificed Jesus so that we could escape death from sin.
6. A light saber is the weapon of the Jedi and it should never leave their side, just as the Bible should never leave a Christian's side.
7. Yoda is small, but powerful. Matthew 7:20 says if we have faith like a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible.
8. Han Solo saved Luke Skywalker from Darth Vader because he was a steadfast friend. Jesus saves us and is our steadfast friend. SR



Mark Hamilton with fellow triplets, the Camengas



And the winner of the (blueberry pie) COSAR Penny War is...
Nicholas Kersten,
Director of Education & History



Miss Charlotte & Thomas



Rob Appel, chair man?



On Thursday evening during Conference, Pastor Steve Osborn (Boulder SDB church) gave two 8-minute messages. Here is what he shared:

Steadfast in the Bible

Philippians 2:12-18

There you are, clinging for dear life to the face of a rock with a hand that you know can't possibly hold your full weight for more than a couple of minutes.

Does life ever feel like that? I think we can all agree that we live in a crazy, mixed-up, turbulent world. It's getting harder and harder to live a STEADFAST life, isn't it? People tell you you're crazy for believing that outdated, irrelevant mumbo-jumbo. Your beliefs are narrow-minded, arrogant, judgmental, hypocritical, and prejudiced. Truth becomes more "relative" every day. Morality is whatever you want it to be. The most important thing is to be true to yourself. Look around: ISIS is brutally assassinating people around the world and right here in our backyards. Anyone with a gun can go in to a movie theater or a school or a church and take the lives of others for any reason, or no reason at all. Women and children are beaten and bullied. Pornography floods our computer screens. Abortion has been legal for thirty years and now gay marriage is here to stay and you are trying to wrap your mind around what all this means. Does it ever feel like your world is spinning out of control? Like you are hanging on by one weak hand, trying to remember what you believe, what's true? Wanting desperately to live a steadfast life?

Paul talked about how hard it is to live as Christians in a "crooked and twisted generation." He said, in Philippians 2:12, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (there's the challenge, and here comes the promise), for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Now there's a piece of good news. You aren't left here to figure it out on your own. God is working in you to help you desire and do what He wants you to do, to believe what He wants you to believe.

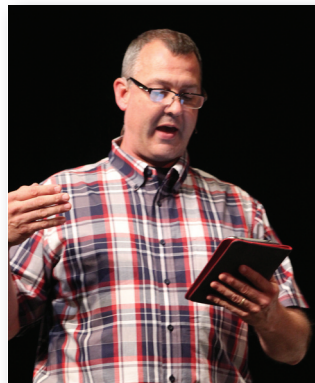
He goes on, "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." Isn't that what we are looking for — to be blameless and innocent? To live as children of God? To shine the light of Christ? To live a STEADFAST life in this crooked and twisted generation?

So you're hanging on for dear life; you don't know...how much longer...you can hold on. When suddenly from above comes the most beautiful thing you have ever seen...a rope! The rope is stability, security, your lifeline.

God has thrown us a lifeline like that. Paul mentions it in verse 16, "holding fast to the word of life." Paul was talking about God's Word, the Bible, our lifeline.

The truth of God's Word provides a lifeline of stability and wisdom for a steadfast life in this crazy, mixed-up world.

So what do you do? This isn't rocket science — when God throws you a lifeline, you grab hold and hang on for dear life! Paul uses the words "holding fast," which means two



things: 1) believing God's Word and 2) living God's Word. Psalm 1:1 (ESV) talks about this lifeline: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;" As Christians, that sounds like something we want, right? Part of our STEADFAST life? To not get caught up in the twisted

logic of the world. To be able to live free from sin and to avoid temptation. To stand true to our God in the midst of a world that shakes its fist and mocks Him openly.

What's the secret? "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:2 ESV) The Psalmist goes on to describe the life of this man or woman who clings to God's Word, who delights in it, who fills his mind and heart with it: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." (Psalm 1:3 ESV) Doesn't that sound like a description of a STEADFAST life? A tree planted by streams of water; yielding fruit; not withering; prospering.

Knowing and believing that God's Word is true provides stability in a world of shifting truth. If you fix your eyes on the world, you'll never know what to believe because the world doesn't even believe that truth exists. "Believe whatever you want to believe and that will make it true for you." But when Jesus prayed for His disciples, He asked His Father to, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17 ESV) So believing God's Word provides stability for a STEADFAST life.

Just believing it isn't enough, is it? We have to actually LIVE it if it is going to make a difference. The Bible is chock-full of wisdom and guidance for how to live a godly life. To whom else would we look for wisdom in how to live other than the One who designed life itself? Does the Bible address EVERY situation we'll encounter? No. But does it teach us God's standards; His principles; how He relates to His people; how He expects His people to interact with one other? Absolutely.

The truth of God's Word provides a lifeline of stability and wisdom for a steadfast life in this crazy, mixed-up world.

"Hold fast" to the lifeline of God's truth so you can be STEADFAST in your life. Here's the thing — it is impossible to believe the truth of God's Word and live the truth of God's Word if you don't KNOW the truth of God's Word. That's why the Psalmist said, "he meditates on it day and night." You have to fill yourself up with it.

In Matthew 13, Jesus lays out some interesting principles for sowing the seed of God's Word. The seed may fall on the path. If we just read it and don't try to understand it, it does not sink into our hearts and Satan will come and snatch it away. The seed may fall on rocky soil and be received initially but not take root, so when tribulation and persecution come,

continued on next page...

8-Minute Message

it quickly withers. The seed of God's Word may fall on hearts filled with thorns — a person who is consumed with the things of the world: worries, fear, materialism — and it gets choked out by all the other things growing there. But when the seed of God's Word falls on the soil of a heart that is cleared of distractions, focused and ready to receive, it will take root and grow: 30, 60, even 100 fold.

Imagine if we would all do that. We've had it easy — far too easy for far too long. But times are changing. You're going to have to be able to defend what you believe. You're no longer going to be able to say, "Well this is just what Christians believe." People are going to ask you, "Why?" And the only way you're going to be able to answer is by sticking your nose in the Bible and knowing what it actually says.

Imagine if every one of us would allow the truth of God's Word to be planted deep in the good soil of our hearts; seeking to hold fast to the word of life. Imagine a generation of Christians committed to understanding the truth; invested in God's Word; living it out...a generation of Christians who really knows what they believe and are not only living it, but can also articulate and defend it. That would be a generation of Christians who are living a STEADFAST life, secure in the truth.

The truth of God's Word provides a lifeline of stability and wisdom for a steadfast life in this crazy, mixed-up world.

Steadfast in Fellowship

Philippians 2:1-4

We left ourselves on the face of that rock wall, clinging to the lifeline of God's Word. Well if one lifeline is good, two is better, right? Another lifeline that God has dropped for us is — FELLOWSHIP. The Holman Bible Dictionary (<http://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/hbd>) defines fellowship as: "The bond of common purpose and devotion that binds Christians together and to Christ."

We were never intended to live the Christian life alone. We have this strange, romantic fascination with the Lone Ranger mentality — that somehow, I have an inner strength to be able to be steadfast in life all on my own and I do not need anybody to help me. Fortunately, God has a better plan. He created us to NEED each other; to live in Fellowship with one another. And that is a large part of why He created the Church — so that we can live the steadfast life together with other, like-minded believers.

Fellowship with God's people provides a lifeline of strength and accountability for a steadfast life in this crazy, mixed-up world.

Philippians 1 ends with the image of going to war together for the sake of the gospel: "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so...I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27 ESV).

Paul carried this image over to chapter 2: "SO if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any partici-

Some others who presented an 8-Minute Message:



Charlotte Chroniger



Daniel Lovelace



Elianna Chroniger



Ed and Pat Sutton

pation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy..." (Philippians 2:1 ESV).

Do not be fooled by Paul's use of the word "if." He was using it for effect — wanting his readers to reflect and ask themselves: Do I have any encouragement in Christ? Have I received any comfort from His love? Is there any evidence of participation of the Spirit in my life? Do I have a mutual affection and sympathy for my brothers and sisters in Christ? Paul knew the answer to the questions but he asked them anyway to get us to think and to understand and to build up this passion among us as we read it, "YES!! All these things are true in my life, so what comes next?"

Well then, "...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind" (Philippians 2:2 ESV). That is easy as long as everyone is willing to adopt my way of thinking. But that is not what Paul was encouraging here. He was urging us toward unity with one another: that we would have the same mind, love, heart and life. Well that's hard isn't it? "Look at these people, Lord. You want me to have unity with THEM???"

In the Body of Christ, there are so many personalities, ideas, approaches, understandings ...how are we supposed to bring all those together and be UNITED? 1 Corinthians 2:16 tells us the key; EACH ONE of us has "the mind of Christ."

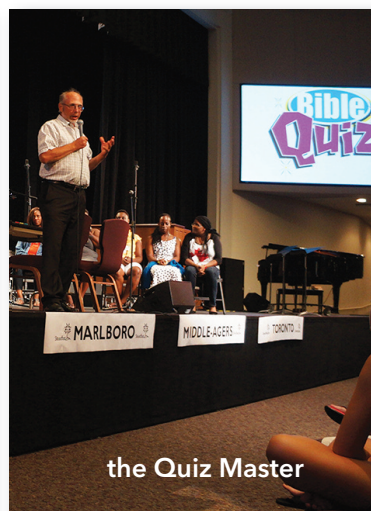
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Conference Games

Family Feud



Bible Quiz



More Conference 2015



Bret Hannah receives Bond Seminary Scholarship



Conference Choir



Perry Barbee from the German SDB Church receiving Gold-Headed Cane from Historical Society awarded to Dr. Paul Manuel



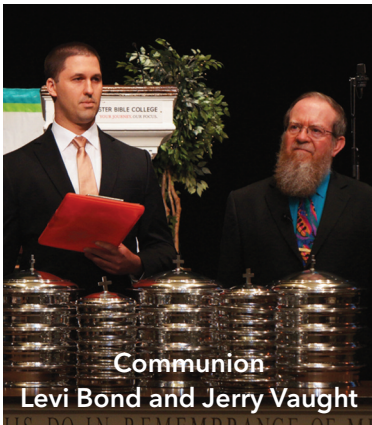
Crystal Apple to Teacher of the Year, Rachel Trudell Alfred Station SDB Church



Bells and Hand Chimes



New York City SDB Church Choir



Communion
Levi Bond and Jerry Vaught



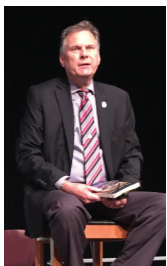
Toronto SDB Church Praise Band



Stained Glass Concert

Pictured below are some of the speakers during the week.

If you want to hear all the messages, they are available online at <http://bit.ly/SDBConf2015>



Rob Appel



John Pethtel



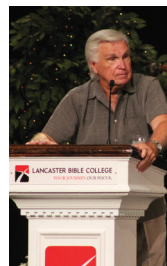
Jeremiah Owen



Donald Chroniger



Mark Hamilton



Dave Bailey



Ericessen Cooper



Wayne North

Children's Conference



Our Children's Conference was excited to host over 60 kids for fun and fellowship. The theme this year was STEADFAST, just like the General Conference. The kids had a wonderful week of Bible teaching, music, field trips, and outreach. Similar to VBS, the kids rotated through various stations. The Bible stories for the week focused on individuals who were Steadfast in their faith. Each day a Bible character was studied, but there was an additional story as well. The stories of five people from recent history were brought forward for the kids to really think about what it means to be steadfast for God.

Paul evangelized all across his known world. Today we think of Billy Graham as one of our greatest modern evangelists. Moses was an obedient leader who delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt...Gladys Aylward was an obedient missionary in China who saved 100 orphans. Peter was a disciple of Jesus who was imprisoned for his faith, which reminds us of Frances Bamfield and John James who were SDBs who were imprisoned for their faith. Jesus preached and lived a message of forgiveness showing the way for Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch woman and Holocaust survivor, to also preach and live a message of forgiveness. Stephen was a martyr for Christ in Jerusalem, and centuries later Jim Elliot was a martyr for Christ in South America.

Throughout the week we prepared crafts and music to share at two local nursing homes, Calvary Fellowship Homes and Mennonite Homes. The residents loved hearing the children and we were blessed to see our kids reach out to them with the love of Christ. Other day trips of the week included visits to the Skyline Pool and to the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum. At the Landis Museum, the kids

were able to learn some history in a hands-on, interactive setting while walking through preserved buildings, taking a wagon ride pulled by two large work horses, and tasting some favorite Pennsylvania Dutch treats like sticky buns and apple cider.

When working with kids, it's always a blessing to hear the unexpected comments that come along. On one occasion as our bus was pulling out, a tiny yet polite Kindergarten voice said, "Excuse me Miss Bus Driver but don't you think that was a little fast?" The kids weren't the only ones who said some memorable things. According to inside sources, there were a few "Charlotte-isms" throughout the week as well. Here are a few:

"I have a face that no one forgets."

"Does it LOOK like I play basketball?"

"If you see a pregnant lady, that's my daughter-in-law."

"You better eat your peas at lunchtime, kids. Save me some butter pecan ice cream."

The Children's Conference committee would like to thank everyone who taught or helped out during the week. We had a wonderful time and couldn't have done it without you! Thanks also to Charlotte Chroniger who organized the curriculum, materials, staff, and program to provide a smooth and enjoyable week for our young SDBs. Our deepest thanks go to all of the parents and family members who shared your kids with us. They already know the steadfast greatness of our God. Let's strive with them to remain steadfast in that truth.

Submitted by:

Valerie Probasco

Children's Conference Committee Member

SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ

More Conference 2015



Easier driving than walking?!



Prayers and Squares seminar



SDB Pastors vs. Youth basketball



SDB Women's basketball





We young folks are Seventh Day Baptists

MISSION:

Our mission is to equip our o

For over 300 years, SDBs have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to use their gifts and resources to share His gospel. Today, we continue to advance His mission in North America in a unique way. We believe that this Vision Map generally demonstrates the way in which God has been and will continue to work through us to make new disciples and transform us into greater Christ-likeness.

During the past few years, the General Council has prayerfully developed a Vision Map for the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. General Council shared this with delegates from our churches at Conference 2015 in Lancaster, PA. The Vision Map is a working model being used at the denominational level to prioritize and guide how we use our resources and decide which new programs we pursue. While there are some references to our beliefs, it is not intended to be a theological document or replace our SDB Statement of Beliefs. Any questions or feedback can be sent to visionmap@seventhdaybaptist.org.



The Reason We Exist

churches to actively advance God's Kingdom.

FOCUS: what we do

We must develop and support new and existing leaders who will work through healthy local churches. Leaders include pastors, as well as people who have served, are serving, or desire to serve in local churches.

CORE VALUES: how we do things

Bible and Spirit Led

The Bible is the Word of God and the standard for our faith and practice. We expect the Holy Spirit to inspire and lead us as we fulfill our mission.

7th day Sabbath

We are a people who lovingly observe the 7th day Sabbath (Saturday) as a day of blessing and rest.

Local Church Focus

Our membership is made up of local churches who have the freedom and responsibility to worship, educate, and share the Gospel. We provide support to and through local churches.

Our Heritage

We exist because our forefathers were faithful in preserving our unique heritage. We will continue to remember our past to inform our present and plan for the future.

KINGDOM CULTURE: how we want to be

Compassionate Biblical Living

People demonstrate compassion by ministering to others as Jesus did. Our daily living should Biblically demonstrate the love of God.

Generous Givers

People unselfishly contribute time, talent, possessions, and finances as God has blessed them.

Family

We desire to invite people to join us in worshiping and serving God. We will communicate and treat each other as if we are family because we are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Wise Stewardship

Stewardship is wisely demonstrated in managing all of the resources God has entrusted to us. We actively use and invest what God has given us rather than just storing it away.

Volunteer Focused

Volunteers are encouraged, empowered and mobilized to serve. Many ministries are successfully supported by passionate volunteers. (Through these opportunities, leaders are identified and developed.)



Ruth Probasco with husband, Owen

Robe of Achievement 2015

The robe was crafted by a former chairman of the Robe of Achievement committee, Yvonne Stephan. It replicates the original robe that came to us from China. Yvonne lost a courageous battle to cancer in 2013 and is greatly missed. We are so thankful to have this robe as a reminder of her and the service she gave to us as a denomination.

I'm going to give a few hints before I reveal our recipient so can you play along in your mind and see if you can figure out who it is. After I reveal who it is, I have several more accolades to share.

This woman has:

1. Raised 4 children
2. Worked as a nurse
3. Been married for 62 years.
4. Been a member of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist church and an Associate Member of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church.
5. She has served many years on the Women's Board.

This year we are honoring Ruth Ayars Probasco.

The major part of Ruth's service to the denomination was her years on the Women's Board including serving as President, Vice-President, member of the SCSC Committee, and writing articles for the *Sabbath Recorder*. During that time she also served on the NABWU (North American Baptist Women's Union) Board as well as being a member-at-large following her term on the Women's Board.

Ruth was First Lady when her husband Owen was Conference president in 1997. Those of you who have been in that position know what that means in terms of denominational service. She also served on the Host Committee in 2009 as the Displays and Transportation Coordinator.

Ruth was described as being focused on her family, but always willing to help in the community. She worked as a nurse in several elementary schools for 35 years as well as volunteering her nursing skills at Jersey Oaks Camp. She even saved the life a camper one time. She has volunteered as a nurse for American Red Cross blood drives. Not only that, she has received her 10-gallon pin for giving blood to local blood banks. She has literally given of herself! The local food bank is another place she volunteers.

Whether she is in Shiloh or Daytona Beach she finds a way to serve. The list of ways she has served in her local church, whichever place she is, goes on and on. To name a few: Sabbath School teacher; hosting families, SCSC teams, SDB missionaries and visitors; assisting with fellowship meals; and treasurer of the Shiloh Ladies Benevolent Society.

Ruth continues to keep in touch with her family by learning new technologies such as Skype and Facebook. But she also keeps up the "old fashioned" communication of remembering everyone's birthday and anniversary with a card.

Some day Ruth will hear the words "well done, good and faithful servant" from the Lord...but today, we are pleased to honor Ruth Ayars Probasco as our Robe of Achievement recipient for 2015. SR

All things must pass...

So, a year has passed since I stepped forward and took my gavel from retiring Conference President Steven James. Much has happened. I've traveled to over two dozen churches, met with eight Associations, written a year's worth of SR articles, learned more about being "steadfast" and Seventh Day Baptist, etc. It's been...fantastic! God has blessed me and my family this past year.

But the time has come to prepare for a new theme and a new President. I pray for God's blessings on Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger and his family as they begin their year of sharing and visiting. But, as I go – and truly all things must pass, including the President's gavel – I want to say thank you to everyone who made this year a special one. So, thank you. Here are some highlights from my week at Conference:

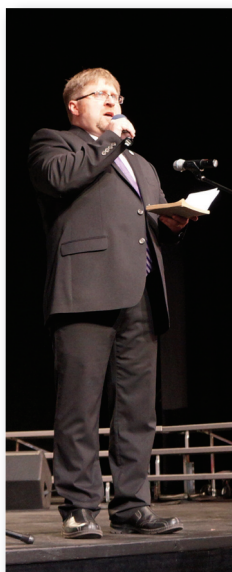
- Having my son bring the first message of the week.
- Enjoying 8-minute messages throughout the week: whether that be spoken, played, or displayed; especially getting to see my wife present an 8-minute message (see that message in this issue!), and her getting to be the first to call me an idiot for the week...and that's all right!
- Playing softball with longtime friends – and their children: a new Conference experience I enjoyed.
- Survey says...playing host to 10 different Family Feud teams!
- The Friday night praise lifted up by a bus load (literally) of NYC SDB choir members who came to support their pastor and help usher in the Sabbath.
- Leading the business session without too many gaffes (thank you Parliamentarian Camenga!).
- Just sitting back and being in awe of how Rev. Dave Bailey Sr. from Ranch Hope can take over a room while never getting off his sermon's message that told us to "Settle Down!"
- Spending the week with my good friend Mark Hamilton, who came all the way from Lithuania to share with us, and hearing how blessed he was to have come (and wanting to return sometime!).
- And maybe the moment of the week: seeing the Toronto Bible Quiz team all but literally pull an answer out of their teammate to finish the quiz!

Thank you again for a memorable week. If you were blessed half as much as I was, you were truly blessed! I look forward to seeing everyone at Conference 2016.

In the meantime, if you need me, you'll have to catch me...



Centennial Celebrations & Moving Forward with the Merger



At the recently completed General Conference meetings in Lancaster, PA, the Conference voted to adopt the merger agreement which was previously adopted by the Historical Society at its May meeting. As a result of these two votes, the Society will be working cooperatively with the Conference to affect the merger of the two organizations sometime early in 2016, after the necessary documents have been collected and can be reviewed by legal counsel and the State of

Wisconsin. Because the merger will not be affected until 2016, the Society will have the opportunity to celebrate 100 years of fruitful ministry. The work of historic preservation among SDBs, once the merger is final, will be accomplished by the SDB Council on History.

The Historical Society was founded in 1916 to further the aims of the General Conference's Standing Committee on History, which was dissolved when the Society was founded. The presenting issue which required the creation of the Society was an offer from Julius F. Sachse, a friend of Seventh Day Baptists and the owner of a large collection of items pertaining to the Ephrata Cloister and German SDBs. Nearing the end of his life and wishing for his collection to be taken care of by Sabbathkeepers, Sachse contacted the SDB General Conference with an offer to sell the collection to us.

Unfortunately, the General Conference could not participate in the transaction because it was not yet incorporated itself. So the Historical Society was incorporated in New Jersey so that it could ultimately complete the transaction. In addition, because the Conference didn't have the available capital to purchase the collection, those who wished to take ownership of the collection raised funds to help reach Sachse's asking price. In the end, Sachse paid half of his asking price himself, SDBs

raised the rest, and the Historical Society became the proud owners and stewards of Sachse's important collection — a collection which we have seen cared for an entire century.

Despite the corporate changes, the vision and mission of the Historical Society and the coming Council on History will be the same as they have been going forward, including both preservation and communication goals. These goals still require the ongoing support of Seventh Day Baptists if they are going to be successful for the next century. For this reason, we hope that those interested in historic preservation among SDBs will give their full support to the new Council on History by supporting us in the coming years!

One of the long standing ways to support us is to be a regular financial supporter of our work. As a result of the affection of the merger, current membership categories in the Society will be converted into analogous new supporter categories for the Council on History. Moving forward, those who designate their donations to the work of historic preservation among SDBs will receive the benefits of the former members at designated giving levels. Life Members of the Society will become *Patrons of SDB History*, and those who give more than \$200 will become new *Patrons*. Annual Members of the Society will become *Friends of SDB History* for a donation of \$20/year. An additional category, *Legacy Partners*, has been created to honor those who give more than \$5,000 to the continued preservation of SDB history through our Centennial Fund. Discounts on our publications and access to our website (www.sdbhistory.org) are the biggest perks of supporting our work.

The Centennial Fund campaign continues, and we are a long way from our goal of increasing the endowment of the Society by \$300,000 by the end of 2016. Keep your eyes peeled for the Society's fall mailing for your chance to join in our campaign to support historic preservation among SDBs for the next century! SR



Historical Society

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education and History

Resolution on Child Protection

The following Resolution was passed at General Conference 2015. Because of the importance of this Resolution and the issues surrounding it, we are printing it in its entirety here. Please be on the lookout for more information about this in the coming months.

Resolution on Child Protection

Whereas our Lord Jesus demonstrated his righteous anger at his own disciples, rebuking those who would do anything to prevent children from coming unto him, saying “to such belongs the Kingdom of God,” (Mark 10:14) and condemning those who would harm children, saying “it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:6); and

Whereas an epidemic of child abuse exists in our culture, with the vast majority of such children being harmed by someone they know and trust, wounding children physically, emotionally, psychologically, sexually, and spiritually with lifelong ripple effects; and

Whereas the silence of the church — when we fail to appropriately address sin by not reporting disclosures of child abuse, or not caring for those who disclose child abuse, or not proactively taking steps to prevent child abuse — is a fundamental failure of servant leadership, rendering the church complicit and culpable before the Lord, driving people away from the safety, healing and hope of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas Scripture warns leaders against the careless exposure of believers to temptation and danger, and every jurisdiction acknowledges that child abuse is a serious felony and has its own mandated reporting laws;

Therefore, be it resolved that we exhort all member churches to become informed and to take an active stance toward preventing child abuse in the church by screening staff and volunteers, training them in child protection, and actively maintaining child protection

policies pertaining to our obligations to love our children and protect their rightful interests as God’s image-bearers from the devastating actions of abusers (Matthew 18:5-6); and

Be it further resolved that we remind all member churches that the heinous crime of child abuse must be reported to duly appointed proper representatives of the God-ordained civil authorities, in accordance with local laws, and that we must cooperate with those authorities as they “bear the sword” to punish those who do evil. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14); and

Be it further resolved that we urge all member church leaders to use their influence for the protection of children, by any and all godly means, including preaching and teaching against the heinous sin of child abuse, warning anyone with knowledge of these sins to “take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them” (Ephesians 5:11), and by supporting victims who often suffer in silence and shame without the vocal and compassionate support of the church; and by supporting the families of the victims; and

Be it further resolved that we urge all member churches to seek to bring reconciliation between all parties involved (2 Corinthians 5:18-21), and restoration of the perpetrator, based upon their repentance, that they would know that there is forgiveness and freedom from their bondage to such sin as given by God (1 John 1:9); and

Be it further resolved that we recommend that the General Council examine every possibility to protect children at our annual General Conference sessions and implement any measure that seems prudent and appropriate and to do so in consultation with legal and insurance professionals; and

Be it finally resolved that the SDB General Conference urge all Seventh Day Baptists to renew our allegiance to our Lord Jesus by loving our children as He loves our children, “for to such belongs the Kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14) SR



2015-2016

Scripture Memory Verses

Theme: Faith, Family, Education

For those who prefer memorizing contiguous passages, the longer passage of Psalm 32 is provided as an alternative. Memorizing it qualifies as complete participation in the program.

PSALM 32 (New American Standard)

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered!

² How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit

³ When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.
Selah.

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I did not hide;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD";
And You forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah.*

⁶ Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You
in a time when You may be found;
Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

⁷ You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance. *Selah.*

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding,
Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check,
Otherwise they will not come near to you.

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;
And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| OCTOBER Faith | Youth/Adult Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. – Hebrews 11:1 NASB |
| | Junior Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for... – Hebrews 11:1 NASB |
| | Primary Now faith is the assurance... – Hebrews 11:1 NASB |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| NOVEMBER Family | Youth/Adult Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. – Exodus 20:12 NASB |
| | Junior Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged... – Exodus 20:12 NASB |
| | Primary Honor your father and your mother... – Exodus 20:12 NASB |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| DECEMBER Education | Youth/Adult Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV |
| | Junior Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed ... – 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV |
| | Primary Study to show thyself approved unto God ... – 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV |

JANUARY

Faith

Youth/Adult

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

– Revelation 14:12 NASB

Junior

...keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

– Revelation 14:12 NASB

Primary

...keep...their faith in Jesus.

–Revelation 14:12 NASB

APRIL

Faith

Youth/Adult

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.*"

– Romans 1:17 NASB

Junior

...But the righteous man shall live by faith.

– Romans 1:17 NASB

Primary

...live by faith.

– Romans 1:17 NASB

FEBRUARY

Family

Youth/Adult

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

– Genesis 2:24 NASB

Junior

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife ...

– Genesis 2:24 NASB

Primary

...they shall become one flesh.

– Genesis 2:24 NASB

MAY

Family

Youth/Adult

For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.

– Matthew 12:50 NASB

Junior

For whoever does the will of My Father...is My brother and sister and mother.

– Matthew 12:50 NASB

Primary

...Do the will of My Father...

– Matthew 12:50 NASB

MARCH

Education

Youth/Adult

Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.

– Proverbs 22:6 NASB

Junior

Train up a child in the way he should go...

– Proverbs 22:6 NASB

Primary

Train up a child...

– Proverbs 22:6 NASB

JUNE

Education

Youth/Adult

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

– Matthew 11:29 NASB

Junior

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...

– Matthew 11:29 NASB

Primary

...learn from Me...

– Matthew 11:29 NASB

You can't go to India... yet



As I understand it, providence is when God makes provision or gives guidance because of His foreknowledge of how events are going to unfold. Usually, it seems our vision is so narrow we miss it entirely, but sometimes the Holy Spirit gives us insight into what God is doing or helps us to look back and appreciate what God has done. Last month I shared a little in an article about how events in South Korea led to me meeting with a pastor from India, but I do not feel like I gave God due credit for how that worked out.

I had actually been trying to get to visit the Seventh Day Baptist works in India for over a year. My practice is to chart how long it has been since international SDB groups have been visited and try to give priority to regions that have not been visited in a while. India had moved up my list and I tried to coincide seeing them with a visit to the Philippines for a conference with our pastors there. Meanwhile, I was contacted by new SDB leaders in Seoul, Korea, who were impressing upon me that they should be moved up in priority on my visit list. I dismissed their clamoring, until I found my most probable flight plans returning from India would have me laying over in Seoul. It seemed to make sense to me and my Executive Committee that because I was going to be in Seoul anyway, I should turn my two-hour stopover into an overnight.

My plans seemed settled until the Indian embassy did not issue my visa for entry. They held my passport and delayed my visa until it was coming too close to my flight to the Philippines. I had to hurriedly make a flight plan adjustment, skipping India and extending my visit to South Korea since we were already making arrangements to visit with them. Because of my longer stay in

South Korea, a pastor from a remote Indian state called Manipur, on the Myanmar border, was able to meet with me and learn about Seventh Day Baptists. This happened because he was visiting Seoul for a Christian leadership conference and met some of our Korean brethren. It seemed that the way for me to meet the pastor I needed to meet from India was to not go to India, but to go to South Korea. Had I gone to India, I would have been in regions quite distant from this Indian pastor's home and working with leaders to whom he had no connection while he was in South Korea.

Because my visit to India was delayed, not only was I able to devote more time to surveying all the SDB ministry work there and bring a Hindi-speaking SDB as a guide with me, but there was now a whole new group that had sprung out of the South Korean visit. They did not even exist when I had made my original plans. And now they had established four fledgling churches in the region. They were on fire to reach Indians of Myanmar heritage for Christ as well as their kin and connections in places in Myanmar that are virtually unreached with the Gospel.

I had worked hard trying to negotiate entry to India in 2013, traveling to embassies in New York and Washington, DC, in a single day. And I remember my frustration at being stopped at every turn. Now I feel I see how God was correcting my course so that He could be glorified in ways that I could not anticipate. How could I have guessed, you have to go to South Korea to start churches in Manipur? I pray this helps keep me praising God for the unexpected detours, because He knows where I need to be. [SR](#)



Kenya Mission

by Kory Langley
Assistant Pastor

Texarkana SDB Church in Texarkana, AR



from across the nation, many of whom had never met, and we were able to bond as a team and work for his purposes.

God blessed me in many ways and taught me many things while I was there...but the one thing that I learned that I would like to impart through this article is being open and ready. Amanda and I were not currently looking for a mission when we were told of the Kenya trip. When we were propositioned with coming, we immediately turned to prayer because we wanted to be wherever God would have us. But what I mean most when I say be open and ready is not necessarily in regards to short term missions that are in some other country. In spending time with Kenyans, I saw how poverty can hold you back; but I also saw how love, excitement, and enthusiasm for the Lord can bring you forward. What the Kenyans lacked in financial affluence they more than gained in fervor for the Lord. While many of us do not consider ourselves wealthy, we are not often wanting for food or adequate shelter. But many of us have let our lights dim before God. One of our members stated that the Kenyans loved God so much in spite of their poverty...but I stated that I believe it is because of it. They NEED God. Our financial security often sees us putting God in a position of a nice extra to have. So, when I say be ready and open, I mean to help and do God's work right where you are. Everywhere and everyone has some need. I'll close with this. Pastor Steve was given a dare before his first trip to Kenya. He passed this dare to us on our trip, and I pass it to everyone reading this article. We were dared to try and bless the Kenyans more than they blessed us.



Recently I was blessed with the opportunity to be a part of a short-term mission to Kenya. Upon returning I was informed that I could write about the experience for the *Sabbath Recorder*. I immediately began to think of the highlights of the trip. I wanted to be able to portray to the reader the vast experiences that were bestowed upon the missions team. I wanted you to feel the love and share the laughs that we got to be a part of. However, I soon realized that I could not form the words to adequately describe what transpired. I could not do the trip justice. Instead, this article will simply tell you a couple of the important things about the trip — who was there, why we went, and what I learned. Pastor Steve James of the Verona church led the group. We went to Kenya to preach to the congregations for encouragement and to teach the leaders of Kenya how to better lead and serve their people. Pastor James' wife, Debbie, attended with the intention of teaching delegates from each Kenyan church the skills of sewing. This was to help the people learn a trade that could be used personally and for profit. The kits that she used to teach them were left for the churches. Marleigh Fjako attended to learn and share with the Kenyans through music. Amanda Langley, my wife, attended to work with the children of Kenya and to use art as a medium for a VBS-like scenario. Caroline Snyder attended to be an aid in whatever way possible. God brought people

I do not know if I succeeded but I tried. I ask you to go out in your everyday life, and bless those you encounter more than they bless you. Remember that means even if they have done nothing for you, you still owe them something. God bless... SR



Hi everyone! My name is Caleb!

And my name is Gabi! We are excited to announce that we are the 2015-2016 Beacon editors!

Hooray! Get the confetti!

We stole the ingenious idea of co-editing from Ellie Chroniger and Becca Olson...but we are also adding our own twist by having an apprentice editor, Annie Lloyd.

You said "twist," but I think we all know you meant "one up." In your face, Chroniger/Olson.

I was trying to be civil, but yes, "one up" is a better term (we love you Ellie and Becca).

In all actuality, we could never live up to our predecessors' awesomeness. But that's not to say we won't try. In the coming year, you can expect to see the same kind of inspiring messages in the Beacon; however also expect to see more variety! We're beginning a campaign to enlist the amazing writing abilities of however many SDB youth we can. So, while Gabi (and Annie) and I will still be writing the most, there will be a very diverse voice this year. For that, I'm super excited.

I agree! Our goal is to try to give as many youth as possible a chance to have their voice heard, because let's be honest, they have some pretty amazing things to say!

Cough so if you're a youth and you want to write let us know ***cough***

And you know, if you don't, we have our ways of making you...

Gabi! No threatening our readers! We've talked about this.

Okay, okay.

Sorry about that, folks.

Moving back on track, we'll leave you with next year's conference theme: Family, Faith, Education.

Actually, this ties back into what we were just saying. Even though it's written for youth and by youth, the Beacon is applicable to all, and is perfect for promoting faith and education in a family setting. (So youth, if you want to be involved in building family, faith, and education, WRITE FOR US).

Yes, props to you Pastor Ken Chroniger for choosing a relatable theme. We look forward to being involved in an awesome year of The Beacon and sharing what God lays on our hearts with all of our amazing readers!

"Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set." (Proverbs 22:28 ESV)

"You shall not move your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in the inheritance that you will hold in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess." (Deuteronomy 19:14 ESV)

In all seriousness if you are an SDB youth who feels led to write, please contact us at:

captain2forks@gmail.com or
gabi.osborn99@gmail.com

SR



THE BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee
of the Christian Education Council
for and by members of SDB Youth Fellowship

Spring Forward, But Don't Fall Back!

After a very exciting and action-packed week at General Conference in Lancaster, PA, and a very awesome, yet long summer for those who participated in SCSC and Stained Glass this year, I bet we are all excited to be home and get the chance to rest before we start school again. This last summer has been a huge one for me: full of change for the better; full of repentance, acceptance, and remembering that my identity is rooted in God and not my own worldly beliefs. Changes that have come as a result of remembering my identity in Him are incredible and I cannot wait to see what He has planned for me next. Thus, I feel as we return to our classes and our everyday lives, it is important to remember that we not let ourselves fall back into the old routines that we had before this summer.

So, how exactly do we stop ourselves from falling back into the old habits that we had formed before this summer? Remember who you are and remember Whose you are. I love the way that Nick Kersten put it when he talked to us about identity at SCSC training this year. I want you to picture walking into a mall. Why do some shirts cost more than another, especially when they are made of the same material? Because of the label on the back of the shirt. I personally have given into this phenomenon...I own a shirt that (if it were not on sale) would have cost me \$60. Of course I bought the shirt for \$30. But why did it originally cost so much? Because the label says Calvin Klein. Now I want you to think of yourself. Each of us has a label that we received before we were born. That label is stamped and signed by God. What could be better?? However, sometimes we attempt to cover up that label with our own makeshift labels. God made our labels, and He made our fabric. Psalm 139:13

(ESV) says, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb" and Jeremiah 1:5a (ESV) says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." God created us and has a special plan for each and every one of us. It is important that we remember this so that we continue to seek Him and His plan as opposed to falling back into our worldly desires! However, this does not mean that we are meant to do it alone! If that were true, then we wouldn't have an amazing God who loves us beyond anything that we can comprehend. Despite all of the mistakes that we make, God still desires us and wants us to live with Him in Heaven eternally! Pray to God every day that He will help you to power through that day without falling to the temptations you are trying to escape. One of the songs sung this year by Stained Glass, written by Brandon Gumness, really stuck with me...here is the chorus:

*Lord, lead me today,
To trust and obey,
Every hour I need You.
Lord, lead me today
Be a light to my way
Sin loses power when we call Your name*

This is an awesome example of the prayer that we should be praying every day so that we don't fall into the old habits that we had before we began our summer adventures! God has so much planned for every one of us. I pray that you continue to seek Him and to resist the temptations that you might come across this next school year. God bless you all and just remember...with His help, you can do it! SR



1840-2015

“Making Connections... 175 Years and Counting”

The Connecting Church – Milton WI Seventh Day Baptist

Celebrating 175 Years

November 14th, 2015

*Join us for Worship, Meal of Sharing, Milton House Tours,
Choral Performances and Milton College tours.*

Conference by the Numbers

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Total Registration | 690 |
| Registered Delegates | 273 |
| Churches Officially Represented | 51 |
| Ministers and Pastors present..... | 68 |
| Associated Conferences | 76 |
| PreCon Retreats | 55 |

8-Minute Message: Steadfast in Fellowship

Continued from page 11

And as we work and struggle and fight to conform to HIS mind, then we'll all naturally fall in step with one another because we're all following the same leader. The key isn't the two of us arguing about whose mind-set is right. The key is all of us conforming to the mind of Christ. Then we will be of the same mind; then we'll be of the same love; then we'll be in harmony in spirit and mind and will walk lock step with one another as we move forward together in His grace.

Fellowship with God's people provides a lifeline of strength and accountability for a steadfast life in this crazy, mixed-up world.

Let's talk about Strength. How many of you are always strong enough to live a steadfast Christian life? Ecclesiastes 4 gives a simple description of this concept of being strong together: *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow... Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him — a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ESV)

We are better together. We strengthen each other. During times when I am weak, I can draw from your strength and hopefully sometimes in your weakness, you can draw strength from me. And guess what – sometimes we're weak at the same time, and that's okay...because at least we are weak together and we will fight our way through our weakness together. Together is always better.

Accountability goes hand-in-hand with strength. (Galatians 6:1-2 ESV) *“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness... Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* If we want to fulfill the law of Christ, Paul tells us that we should “bear one another's burdens.” Well...what's our tendency? “Share my burdens? No way. I keep that stuff to myself” — right? But that's not Biblical is it? That's not living together and it certainly isn't fellowship.

And so I'm going to ask you: Who are you accountable to? Who knows you well enough to perceive when something isn't right; whom do you trust enough to be completely transparent; whom do you call when you are in trouble or facing temptation; whom can you count on to ask you those hard questions — knowing that they will not judge you but also not let you off the hook? We need those people in our lives. Desperately need them because...

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How do we do this thing called Fellowship? Paul gives us a hint: *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:3-4 ESV) It's a pretty simple formula, isn't it? But it's hard to live because...let's face it, we are selfish people. Right? We are self-centered, self-absorbed, self-serving people. That's our sinful nature. But Christ is transforming us! And as He transforms us, and as we conform to His mind, I learn to look out for you and to let you look out for me. That's the way the body of Christ works.

You see, Fellowship is more than pot luck and ice cream and watching our kids grow up together. Those are fun parts of Fellowship, but they are only a tiny piece of what Fellowship really is. Fellowship is loving each other through thick and thin; Fellowship is grinding through the dog days of life together — rebellious teenagers, or bankruptcy, or divorce, or all those other things that we don't want to happen in life but they happen anyway; that's Fellowship! Fellowship is putting our heads together to solve a problem or dream about the future; Fellowship is being willing to endure tense situations as we wrestle through disagreements together; Fellowship is being willing to give either a hand up or a swift kick in the backside — and knowing which one is needed; Fellowship is serving heart-to-heart, side-by-side and hand-in-hand.

Fellowship is another one of those lifelines that God drops down to us in this crazy world that's making less and less sense every day. Don't think of it so much as a rope but more like having a dozen other climbers all around you; and some of them are pulling you from above, and some of them are showing you the next handhold, and some of them are below you making sure you don't fall. And we are all pulling each other through this thing we call life.

The Bible encourages us to grab this lifeline too and hang on for all we are worth. *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV)

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Leadership Needed for SDB Startup in Phoenix

Pastor Bob Peet and the Kingdom of God Church have been mobilizing people for over a year to begin an SDB church in the Phoenix, AZ area.

Phoenix is the most populous state capital city in America, as well as the sixth most populous city in the USA.

Someone is needed now on the ground to help build, lead, and focus the congregation. The Phoenix SDB group has been meeting monthly. Pastor Bob has been providing leadership but we know that God is calling somebody to commit to serving in this Arizona mission field.

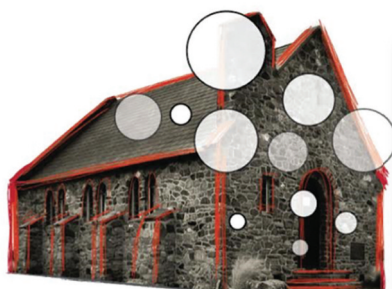
Do you know such a person? Are you a pastor, church planter, or lay leader who would be willing to provide leadership for this fledgling group?



Would you be interested in financially supporting Pastor Bob Peet's travel to minister to these SDB saints in Phoenix?

If you feel God's pull in this direction please prayerfully contact:

Pastor Bob Peet (kingdomofgod@frontier.net) or
John Pethtel (jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org).



Announcing the
**MULTIPLY Church
Development Conference**
October 22-26, 2015
Colorado Springs, CO

allow His work to be done among ordinary folks like us.

The weekend will start on Thursday, October 22 after dinner time, with an introductory session with just SDBs. Friday and Saturday morning, we will join with others attending the MULTIPLY Con-


Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services, John Pethtel, our Church Planting Task Force, and the Council on Ministry have been working to help provide an opportunity for those who are seeking to start new SDB expressions of faith or revitalizing the ministry that God has called them to.

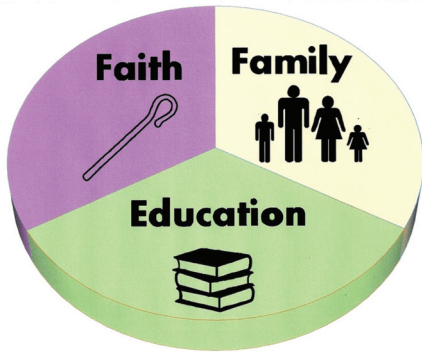
We are partnering with Frontline Church Planting and their annual MULTIPLY Conference to serve SDBs. Leaders and speakers from around the country will gather for this weekend to share stories, knowledge, and strategies with one another. SDBs will have their own sessions as a cohort before and after to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

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

ference where there will be a variety of topics and options of learning available, through the main sessions and breakouts, to speak to you where your ministry is currently. During the rest of Saturday and Sunday morning, we will meet together again as SDBs to worship and talk about SDB-specific challenges in our ministries and to pray for one another.

The MULTIPLY Church Development Conference is open to all SDBs who are interested in breathing new life into their local church or our family of churches. There will be no cost for registration or for lodging (although this option is limited). The only costs are your food, time, and travel to Colorado Springs (There might even be a scholarship available for travel.) More information will come as we get closer to the date. We are looking forward to seeing you or someone from your church there!

Please register at the MULTIPLY Conference website: tiny.cc/MULTIPLY2015 if you are interested in attending. 



President's Page

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger
Alfred Station SDB Church, NY



Pastor Ken with Peggy, Madge & Elianna



Passing the gavel to new President

My oldest daughter is 39; my youngest is 16. But all six "kids" have heard it so many times they can complete what jokingly became a mantra. "There are three most important things in life: Faith, Family, and Education." The echo then comes, "Not necessarily in that order."

When we borrow a term from Biochemistry, we can say that Seventh Baptists have Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid. Okay, let's translate: as a people, Seventh Day Baptists have a DNA. We have core values that identify who we are as a people. (You might discover those values by purchasing "Identity" from the Seventh Day Baptist Store: <http://seventhdaybaptist.org/shop>). Reach back with me to my family mantra and discover who we are as Seventh Day Baptists. Discovering our people's DNA can be defined as "Faith, Family, and Education"

Do you remember the commercial which closed with these words, "What's in your wallet?" Open your wallet and see what you have inside. Now we're not checking to see if you have 5, 10 or even 100 dollar bills...though your local church could use them in the offering plate this Sabbath. When you check your wallet, see if you find Faith. Look at it closely. Is it counterfeit Faith or does it

rest in Jesus Christ alone as both Savior and Lord? Then check in your wallet - do you find Family? Is it Family as the Southern Gospel tradition shouts, "We are brother and sister down here"? Check the wallet one more time and you should find Education. We're not talking about Pseudo Education. Is it real currency? You remember what Paul wrote to Timothy, "Study to show yourself approved unto God rightly handling the word of truth." You found true Faith, actual Family, and spot on Education. The challenge is to spend them and not keep them enclosed in your wallet.

There is an old preacher's story about a dad and his son who were walking through a rural cemetery. The young man with a gleam in his eyes inquired of his dad as they stood in front of a headstone. "Dad, that first number is the birthdate, correct?" "Yes" "The second number is when the person passed, correct?" "Yes" "What is that little line in between?" Dad was silent for what seemed an eternity, and then said, "Son, that's what the person did during his life."

We are bound on one side by General Conference Sessions in Lancaster 2015. We are bound on the other side by Houghton Conference 2016. While our gatherings are highlighted and necessary, it is what we do between sessions that makes the difference. Make a difference. Live out "Faith - Family - Education". SR

– Pastor Ken R8:28



Pastor JR Shick, White Cloud SDB Church, MI

The week before Conference our Ministers Association from the town of White Cloud had a community church picnic. It was received very well. We planned on serving 60-75 people and we had over 120. What a blessing for the first time doing the picnic. The food was amazing and a great time was had by all. There was only one problem that we had observed. The intent for this picnic was to build on relationships within the community of believers. We noticed that people would stay within the comfort of others from their own churches. This should not be a big surprise to us. We see this in our own churches. Families sit in the same places and we tend to talk to the same people every week. How do we get out of this pattern?

I have noticed this summer that my children have no problem making friends. Most children do not have a problem making friends. They see something that piques their interest and then they start asking questions.

Seems easy, right? I was reminded of Mark 10:13-16:

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

If it's so easy for a child to make friends or to enter into a conversation, why is it so hard for adults? The answer is that we stop thinking like GOD'S children.

Many of us are comfortable where we are, or we are afraid. Basically, we are too old in our thinking. Most of us found comfort in the presence of our parents or close family and friends. One of the reasons I was drawn to Seventh Day Baptists was its strong family ties. From the first time I stepped into the church at White Cloud I was part of the family. For the first time in my life I felt like I was with my family and not in a church. From that

moment on I found GOD's way was not to "do church" but to be part of HIS family. So maybe we should just look at everyone as family.

The week of Conference, I challenged all that went from the White Cloud church to find someone they did not know, or find someone they have not seen in 10 years or longer, and learn something about him. It did not stop there – they needed to tell the rest of the group about that person or persons, reminding them that this was their family.

This was also my wife and kids' first Conference. I would introduce them to people by saying, "This is my brother or sister." At one time my son Keith asked, "Who was that man, Daddy? He kind of looks like Santa." His white hair and beard stood out. "That is my Uncle Dale," I told him. So, I figured I would introduce you all to a few of my family. First my brother Dennis who is a fellow Chicago Bears fan. His wife Julia is from Jamaica and she can sing! My brother Andy, who is a world traveler, lives in Florida. My sister Paula, whom I have not seen in over 13 years, leads a worship band. I have a brother Nick who loves teaching, history, blueberry pie and cookies. My sister Pat is an editor for a long-running magazine. If you would like to get an idea of how big my family is, just look at our family photo (above) from Conference. Remember, not everyone was there.

Maybe we need to change our perspective. Get on the floor and look up at Jesus' face as a child would. Remember you are HIS child. Look for opportunities and invite people into HIS family. Then He can put HIS arms around them and bless them too. If you are comfortable in the place where you are, it is time to get uncomfortable. Look for something that piques your interest and invite someone to church, Bible study, or fellowship. There is always room at GOD's table.

Man, I love my kids! Sometimes our children can teach us the biggest lessons. Looking forward to seeing all of you next year and others from HIS family at conference. SR

The 3rd annual Gospel Feet 5K

Thank You!

to everyone who participated and donated
to support the goal to train pastors and leaders
in Zambia.

Over \$4700 has been raised so far!

One hundred and nine (109) persons participated in the run/walk at Conference. The amount collected so far is close to a third (1/3) of the total fundraising goal for the project of \$20,000. Imagine the impact this will have for SDBs in Zambia! The opportunity to contribute is still ongoing!



Donate online: www.sdbmissions.org