

End
to the
always
with you
I will be
Jesus said GO.



*Give careful thought to the paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways.*

-Proverbs 4:26 NIV

Last summer, God led the feet of many Seventh Day Baptists into countries and situations many had never seen before. They served faithfully where God had placed them.

The following pages have the stories and experiences of what happened when they went to Zambia, Guyana, Kenya, and Puerto Rico.

Compiled by Garfield Miller, Missions Coordinator, Jamaica



FOCUS on Missions

Clinton R. Brown
Executive Director

15	Women's Society <hr/> SCSC Jamaica Round 2! By Katrina Goodrich
16	Historical Society <hr/> Five Men and One Woman: They Served Fifty Years Until They Died by Janet Thorngate
18	Christian Education Council <hr/> Permission to Meddle: Covenant Life in the Body of Christ By Nick Kersten
19	President's Page <hr/> A Place Where God Speaks Dr. Michael Jordan
20	The Beacon <hr/> Three Most Important Things Madge Chroniger
21	Young Adult <hr/> A God-led Plan Elianna Chroniger
22	Alliance in Ministry <hr/> California Here We Come! by Rob Appel
23	Health News <hr/> Sepsis by Barb Green
24	Pastoral Services <hr/> Retired Pastor Profiles: Pastor C. Rex Burdick Pastor Edgar Wheeler by John J. Pethtel
25	Church News <hr/> New Members Obituaries
26	Church News <hr/> New Members Obituaries

Are We Willing to Be Uncomfortable for Jesus? **5**

by Rev. Brent Hannah

Leadership Training in Zambia **7**

by Rev. Gordon Lawton

My Yoke is Light **9**

by Carla Burlingame and
the Mazza Family

God Owns Everything. **11**

You Own Nothing!

by Kory and Amanda Langley

Empowering Keera Kenya **12**

by Caroline Snyder

I couldn't have been **13**

more proud

by Debbie James

**Fantastic Experience,
We Saw God's Goodness** **14**

by Casey Greene

Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

April 2016

Volume 238, No. 4

Whole No. 7,026



Patricia Cruzan

Editor

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Clinton R. Brown, Kenneth Chroniger, Katrina Goodrich, Caleb Crouch, Nathan Crowder, Barb Green, Nicholas J. Kersten, Gabi Osborn, John J. Pethtel, William Villalpando

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July and August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 171st year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published June 13, 1844.



Member of the Associated Church Press.

The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse signed articles.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

The Seventh Day

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

For more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone: (608) 752-5055; FAX: (608) 752-7711
E-mail: contact@seventhdaybaptist.org
SDB Website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (818)-468-9077

Where to Find Seventh Day Baptists Online:

<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://gplus.to/7thDayBaptists>

<http://7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/7thdaybaptists/>

<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>

Are We Willing to Be Uncomfortable for Jesus?

by Rev. Brent Hannah

Pastor at Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church

How many times have you traveled to a foreign country not knowing the people with whom you would travel, meet, stay, and work? How many times have you gone to a new place not knowing where you would stay, what you would eat, how you would get around, or even who would pick you up from the airport? For some of you seasoned travelers, these questions and situations may seem like no big deal. But for others, such as myself, who have very rarely traveled beyond my own country, these are all very big issues to deal with. I am the type of person who likes to know the plans and be sure everything is covered and taken care of. Traveling to a foreign country with so many unknowns made me very uncomfortable! So why did I do it? Because I knew that God had called me to do it.

Our SDB Missionary Society is working with the Zambia SDB Conference to provide the instructors and materials for the T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry by Extension) program for pastors in Zambia. One of the great needs throughout the world, and especially in Africa, is additional training for pastors. The T.I.M.E. program has been used here in the United States and in various places throughout the world to better train SDB pastors so they can better serve their congregations and communities. The Missionary Society is working with the Zambia Conference to provide a team of instructors to meet with the pastors in Zambia once a quarter to review what they have been studying and give further instruction.

After hearing Clint Brown share about the program at our SDB Pastor's Conference in April of 2015, and after he asked me if I would be interested, I felt the call of God on my heart. I did not particularly want to go to Africa. I am already very busy, and I could think of a number of reasons not to go (including my own discomfort with the unknown). But after praying and after discussing with family and church family, I decided to accept the call to be an instructor for the 2nd T.I.M.E. module in Zambia in October of 2015.

The Missionary Society is making this project truly an international SDB project by including instructors from both the USA and Canada General Conference and from other conferences which are part of the SDB World Federation. My fellow instructor was Pastor Ian Ingoe from New Zealand. We had never met in person until this trip, but we did have some contact over the internet. Getting to know Ian and becoming friends with him was one of the blessings of this trip. Pastor Ingoe is an experienced traveler, having made several trips to Malawi to help with many mission projects there. Input from Ian Ingoe, Clint Brown, and Garfield Miller of the Missionary Society all helped me to prepare for the trip. Preparations included getting the necessary medical exams, medication (to prevent malaria), and shots. I have a fear of needles and I get nervous even going into a doctor's office — so all of this again made me very uncomfortable! But God is greater than our fears (even silly ones!) and the desire to serve Him moved me through the process.

The first part of my trip to Zambia went well and I was able to connect with Ian at the Johannesburg Airport in South Africa. From there we flew on to the Ndola airport in Zambia. Our baggage arrived (yeah!) and we made it through customs. At this point we went outside to wait for our ride. It was a bit disconcerting that we did not know who would be picking us up and our cell phones did not work in Zambia. As we waited longer and longer, I began

Continued on next page...



FOCUS on Zambia





Are We Willing to Uncomfortable for Jesus?

continued from previous page...

to get more and more nervous and uncomfortable, wondering what was going to happen. But eventually (after about three hours) our ride did arrive and we made it safely to our destination in Kitwe, Zambia. The lateness of our ride from the airport was my introduction to “African Time” — which means that it will happen when it happens. This again was difficult for me as a Westerner who always strives to be early for anything.

In spite of this issue and the variety of unknown variables remaining, the rest of my time in Zambia went very well. I made many wonderful new friends and increased my circle of church family. Ian and I were provided with a nice, clean place to stay and we were well fed both morning and evening. Quistin Chalwe, General Secretary for the Zambia SDB Conference, provided transportation every day for us, and made sure all our needs were covered. The T.I.M.E. classes were productive, with pastors and others participating. We had many good discussions, both on the specific class topics and on a variety of other issues, both theological and practical. Ian and I were able to teach, minister, discuss, and worship with these Christian brothers and sisters in Zambia. We stressed that we were not there to tell them what to do, but to share our knowledge, experience, and training with them. This trip was primarily a teaching ministry, so I got to share in the development of connections and training that will allow the local Zambia SDB pastors to be more effective in their ministry, knowing that they are part of a worldwide SDB Church that cares for and works with them in their ministries. The time flew by and in the end I think it was a very successful trip — both for them and for me.

As I mentioned earlier, I started out very uncomfortable in regards to this trip. My many worries and concerns with the unknown (which may seem petty) could have prevented me from going or being effective once I arrived in Zambia. But after I settled in to the work in Zambia and after I was able to get past my own issues, I was able to relax and do the work that God wanted me to do there. I still do believe in planning and getting the details worked out beforehand as much as possible. But I also was affirmed in my need to trust God with what He is doing. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus tells us to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (NIV). “Going,” whether near or far, always involves leaving our comfort zone. Jesus calls us all to serve in some way. We are all ministers of His Kingdom. We are all called to become uncomfortable as we reach out in love for God and others. This is where our faith grows and is put into practice. I am so thankful that God calls each of us to be uncomfortable as we work with Jesus in the spreading of the Gospel in our own homes, communities, countries, and throughout the world. [SR](#)



Leadership Training in Zambia

by Rev. Gordon Lawton

Boulder, CO, Seventh Day Baptist Church

Zambia is a beautiful country in south-central Africa. It borders eight different countries, one of which is Malawi on the East. Pastor Carlton Ferguson, from Jamaica, and I were selected to go in June of 2015 to initiate teaching the T.I.M.E. program to their pastors. Preparation included choosing the classes to be taught, making sure that we had current inoculations, up-to-date passports and the visa requirements.

The normal order of the T.I.M.E. Program modules starts with Old Testament and New Testament classes. Missionary Society Executive Director, Clinton Brown, gave me latitude to choose a different module. I chose Bible Interpretation as I had worked with that module before. I thought having some tools for interpreting the Bible would be helpful from the beginning. Pastor Ferguson, Principal of the Jamaica Bible Institute (JBI), for ministry training in the Jamaican Conference, taught Old Testament.

Traveling a third of the way around the globe takes some time. My flight from Denver to Dulles, outside of Washington, DC, was a red-eye flight. I arrived in the morning and waited for the international flight to Africa. Pastor Ferguson had flown up from Jamaica the day before and we met at the gate for our flight to Africa. The flight from DCA to Addis Abba, Ethiopia, was 13 hours, and then we connected to a five-hour flight that took us to Ndola, Zambia. From Ndola, it was about an hour drive to Kitwe where we stayed and where the classes were.

The part of Zambia where we stayed and taught was urban. Kitwe is a major city with a copper mine to the southeast. The roads are paved and, in some places, four lanes wide. There are lots of people, vehicles and bicycles. Pastor Ferguson noted that Kitwe was very much like Jamaica: people all over the roads, driving on the left. Zambia time is like Jamaican time. Sunday to Friday, we were scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. It was more like 10 a.m. when we began; so we were an hour, more or less, off the schedule for the rest of the day. We did work at getting the six hours of class time in each day. Usually we went until we lost daylight — sometimes a little past, using a flashlight to be able to read our materials. There

were lights in the SDB church building bright enough to get around, but not bright enough to do a lot of reading.

We arrived on Friday and were met by Quisten Chalwe, the leader of the SDB Zambia Conference, and his two children. We rode from Ndola to Kitwe where we were taken to the guest house of the Faith Orphanage. Sabbath keeping Christians in Zambia contacted the SDB Missionary Society 30-40 years ago. The leader then was Pastor Mucumbo. His daughter Faith runs the orphanage where we stayed. Another daughter, Charity, runs a nursery school nearby. A son, Frey, works at the orphanage and was an excellent translator, as was Quisten, who is a nephew of Rev. Mucumbo.

Sabbath we attended the Buchi SDB Church there in Kitwe. (Buchi is an area of the city about two miles from the orphanage). I spoke at Sabbath School and Pastor Ferguson brought the message in the time of worship. Sabbath School began shortly after 10 a.m. About 11 a.m., I was asked to present. About noon we merged into the worship service which was completed about 3 p.m. I spoke on “Seeing with God’s Eyes” from 2 Kings 6:8-23; Pastor Ferguson spoke on Peter’s restoration from John 21. After a trip back to the Orphanage for lunch, we returned to the Buchi church facility (meetinghouse) and met with about eight pastors. During the week to come, we had some very faithful participants; there were others that were able to only be there for part of the time. Quisten sent me a list of 22 persons who had been present at least once during the week. Nine were from the Buchi church and twelve other church locations were represented. We discovered that although most of the pastors spoke English, they were more comfortable with their local Bemba. Quisten and Frey did most of the translating for us. We even had one pastor who was raised in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who spoke French and Bemba. He did well since another pastor, who spoke English and Bemba, translated the readings from English into Bemba so that he could understand. Knowing how to say just enough so that the translator can pass it on is sometimes a challenge.

Continued on next page...

FOCUS on Zambia



Leadership Training in Zambia

continued from previous page...

The materials for Bible Interpretation arrived before we did and the participants had prepared. This made it possible for us to proceed with the seminar materials that used the lessons learned. I did have to remind and clarify some, but we made good progress. In Bible interpretation it is important to understand what is being said based on the context. So I had some Bible verses that are often quoted and sometimes used out of context. Revelation 3:20, *“Behold I stand at the door and knock...”* is often used in presenting the gospel to an unbeliever; however, in context it is Jesus speaking to believers in the church at Laodicea who were lukewarm. One other was Matthew 6:33, *“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.”* This is sometimes quoted to encourage people to seek God first and then they will get cars, houses, cash, etc. Certainly we should seek God first. The context, however, is that if we seek God, He will provide food, clothes and liquid to drink because we are more valuable to God than birds and flowers. We also had times for answering questions that the students had. We explained several times about salvation by grace through faith. I referred to Ephesians 8-9 and then verse 10. The good works are for us to do but are not a condition of our salvation. If we build on the foundation of Jesus Christ, we will be saved (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

Pastor Ferguson’s Old Testament materials did not arrive early so he began at zero. He worked hard at presenting and requiring reading. God worked it out so that he had more time. I got sick Wednesday and was out through Friday — so he had all the time for his class. He did get through the material and we had covered my material Sunday through Tuesday. I was able to be back at Buchi for church and again did Sabbath School with Pastor Ferguson preaching. He is a gifted preacher.

Sabbath afternoon, we had a closing session with a quiz. The winner was given a Gospel Feet 5 K T-shirt from the USA Conference 2013, where money was raised for transportation for their pastors. The pastor of the Buchi church still uses his bicycle. We said goodbye. Sunday morning we did tourist shopping and then were off to the airport for our return flights.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve in this way, for the other leaders who have continued and are continuing with the training mission, and for the dedicated leaders in Zambia who are learning to become more effective leaders there. [SR](#)



My Yoke is Light

by Carla Burlingame and the Mazza Family
SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ

While sitting on a porch at Camp Glory in Georgetown, Guyana, we had a moment. We were appreciating the beauty of God's sunset, drinking a cold drink (a rare commodity in Guyana) when it sank in that God's yoke is much easier than our own.

Matthew 11:28-30 was the theme verse of the Guyana Conference 2015 summer camp. The verse states, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." However, for the previous eight months, we had been trying to carry our own yokes, not allowing God to share His yoke with us.

Last year, a small group that met in a local home, studied a book by David Platt — "Radical." It challenged us to live our lives radically for the Lord. In the book, it discussed ideas of living missionally, submerging yourself in God's word, and praying globally, amongst other ideas. A group of us were convicted to look into options with the Missionary Society to see if there were any upcoming mission trips that we could join.

Discussions quickly centered on the idea of sending a family to Guyana to assist with a construction project. We worried about what the three children (ages 10, 8, and 7) would do while the adults were working. Immediately we had taken the yoke upon ourselves.

As time passed, we continued to carry the yoke and worry about the future, as we were told that we probably would not be going to Guyana, we wouldn't be doing construction, and communication was a struggle. We continued to pray for God to ease our worries and pave the paths He wanted us to go down, but we struggled to actually allow Him to do so.

Finally, we found out that the trip would take place and we were going to Guyana to help run their annual Conference camp program — but we were not sure exactly what our roles would be while we were there. We began to make our plans for the week, gathering



recreation supplies, art supplies, and an old VBS curriculum to take with us.

When we departed for Guyana, we still had so many questions about what we would be doing: how many kids we would be working with; what age groups would be there; were we the only ones running the camp; who was meeting us; where would we be staying; would we be dressed appropriately; what were the kids' roles; would the kids get along ok with the other kids; what was the food like; was the water safe to drink; and how hot was it REALLY going to be?! Obviously, we were not ready to give up control yet, as we worried and struggled over details that God had already worked out for us.

The first two days of camp were tough. We strived to find our roles, overcome our insecurities, and connect with a culture that was completely different from our own. Camp Glory reminded us a lot, in appearance, of our own camp, Jersey Oaks Camp, here in Shiloh. But the structure of their camp surprised us in many ways. The camp was much more of a full family experience, including infants, children, teens, young adults, parents, and grandparents all together. We quickly found out how carefully God had laid people in our path to embrace us and help us blend into their close-knit community of SDBs.

Continued on next page...

FOCUS on Guyana



My Yoke is Light

continued from previous page...

One woman, Sister Eleanora (Washington, DC, SDB Church) became an invaluable resource to us as we became accustomed to life at camp. She helped make sure we had what we needed, helped us translate the Guyanese English, taught us about the Guyanese time table, and helped us learn about being missionaries through constantly praying for and with us.

Pastor Sherlock Cesar (Uitvlugt SDB Church) was the camp director and a part of our welcoming committee. He spent the first couple of days getting to know us, helping us find our place within the camp, and leading us spiritually in a way that we had not even realized we needed at the time. As the trip progressed, we felt like a part of his family.

As the week started to fly by, we began to find ways to connect with the people at the camp. The girls, Marianna and Reyna, brought out their Rainbow Loom kits and were immediately surrounded by new friends wanting to make bracelets. Frank and Frank, Jr. learned to play Cricket and began to teach the kids American sports, like kickball and football. They embraced these new experiences enthusiastically. Maura connected with the little kids at camp, ages 4-9, through games, songs, Bible study, and crafts. Carla spent time conducting and participating in a women's Bible study, specifically studying, praying, and reading the Bible with the cooks and women leaders of the camp. As we submitted ourselves to God's yoke, we began to experience the richness of His purpose for us on this trip.

We let go of the anxieties that we had yoked ourselves to. We changed our preconceived notions of what we thought a missions trip should be. We released the control we thought we needed to have. We began to live in God's moment. We realized that this trip was not just about us serving others, but that God had plans for US to learn and grow too.

Frankie (age 10): *I liked helping my dad teach American sports to them. One time while trying to teach them American football, I downed the ball and they, not*



understanding the purpose of "downing," were on me like a hound dog on a pork chop. Once it was safe, I stood up and told dad, "We need to teach them about 'downing'."

Marianna (age 8): *My favorite part of Guyana was making new friends. I made a bunch! Together we played games, made crafts, and went swimming in the creek. They taught me Guyanese songs, and I taught them American praise songs.*

Reyna (age 7): *My favorite part of Guyana was the tire swing. It reminded me of Jesus. He is the rope, and always holds us up.*

By stepping out of our comfort zone and placing ourselves in a position that forced us to rely on God, we have experienced God in a way we never would have if we had not gone on this trip. The relationships that we formed have encouraged us to be open to future endeavors that may take us outside of our Shiloh community. We hope to encourage anyone considering how he can serve God, by taking up His yoke, to look to family mission trips. SR



God Owns Everything. You Own Nothing!

by Kory and Amanda Langley
SDB Church of Texarkana, AR

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

— Matthew 5:3

I am going to tell you two different stories from the past year. One happened on the official mission field and one at home. To understand my stories you have to understand this: no matter how much you seem to have or not have, God owns everything and you own nothing. This is what it means to be poor in spirit.

As most of you know I went to Kenya this summer with a group of missionaries. We had several meetings and watched several videos explaining things that we should expect. The biggest moment that happened, though, was something that no one warned me about. I stood on the side of a mountain after church with a group of ladies and suddenly one girl handed me her baby. She then told me the baby’s name was Methuselah, she was five months old, and didn’t get sick. Then she said something I still can’t talk about without tearing up; she said, “And now she is yours.”

And now she is mine.

I could not take Methuselah in my arms, no matter how much the woman begged, but I have continued to hold her in my heart. That night in my room, I made a bracelet out of braided fishing line. It stays as a reminder to me that even though Methuselah has disappeared from my eyes, she has not gone away.

The extreme circumstances that urged several women to offer their children to me still go on. I can control none of it — but God holds all of it in His hands.

Now for my second story:

In my first story, I held a baby in my arms that God recently sent to Earth. In 2015, I also experienced in my hands a life that God was taking home. This is going to be brief because I do not feel as if this story is mine to tell. But I will tell you this: in four weeks I went to three funerals — one great-grandfather who died of a heart attack in a seasoned age, one uncle who was released from a long and painful fight with cancer, and one young lady whose death I will never understand.

No matter how many tears you cry, babies you love, or times you pound on someone’s chest trying to force him to breathe — you control nothing.

I control nothing.

But do not forget the second half: God controls everything. *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Isaiah 55:8-9.

We might own nothing, but God owns everything. And whether in Kenya or Arkansas, I have to trust God has a plan and repeat to myself:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 5:3 

Empowering Keera Kenya

by Caroline Snyder
SDB Church of Daytona Beach, FL

Many years ago, Audrey and Menzo Fuller, former Seventh Day Baptist missionaries to Africa, inspired me to dedicate my retirement years to missionary work. So it was with both humility and excitement that I was privileged to participate in Pastor Steven James's mission trip to Kenya in June 2015. Our group brought varying backgrounds and skills to Keera, as well as different expectations and desires on how best to demonstrate God's love to these incredibly warm and friendly people.

Pastor Steve and Pastor Kory Langley did an excellent job of teaching the elders and preaching. It was fascinating to watch Pastor Benard Mose translate not only with words but also with body language and expressions. Debbie James taught sewing techniques, and the ladies produced beautiful quilts and stuffed animals. Marleigh Fjako worked on music with the leading musicians of the churches. Amanda Langley taught the children and showed great kindness and dignity to all. Although my job was undefined, I was able to counsel several who were infected with AIDS. I am a "late bloomer" and did not have the wonderful blessing of being taught from the Bible about God as a child. I prayed constantly for the Holy Spirit to direct me, waking each morning to ask God, "How can I help today?"

Keera is located in the mountainous region of western Kenya. Census figures from 2015 report that approximately 20,000 people live in this undeveloped area, with about 7,000 adults, 6,000 children, and 7,000 within the two AIDS camps. These numbers indicate that over a third live in the camps, while many others are HIV or AIDS victims. As of 2015, the population of the entire country is over 49,715,318. Over 75% are under the age of 30, so the vast majority are of child-bearing age. Obviously, they are in vital need of AIDS awareness education and supplies for prevention.

The current SDB leader in Keera is Pastor Benard Mose, who took over when his father died 14 years ago. Since then, he has added four other churches, spending all his days in outreach and teaching. A strong sense of community is vital among these churches. I told Pastor Benard that I had a great desire to work with infants and young children, and he replied that the church was longing for a children's home. He showed me an area of church property that could be used, with access to a fresh water stream and adjacent to the public school. However, in this area there is no public water, sewage system, or electric power. They cannot afford to hook on to the electric lines going through the town.



The Daytona SDB church (FL) has now joined the Keera churches (Kenya) in their vision to build a small home and a community center at the most vital spot in Keera — complete with electricity and access to the internet. Along with a projector, this could be used at night to educate the populace about health issues, reforestation, tier gardening, composting, and water filtration. The need is great because of the high concentration of people who are sick and those who will become sick without intervention and education.

I implore you to keep Keera in your prayers. May God soften your hearts and open your minds to this vision of a lasting mission to the Lord's children in Kenya. SR



FOCUS on Kenya

I couldn't have been more proud!

by Debbie James
Verona, NY, SDB Church

After Steve returned from his first trip to Kenya in June 2012, God began to place a burden on my heart to teach the women of Kenya how to sew as a way to help provide for their families. I watched as God orchestrated all the details from that time up to our trip there in June 2015.

One Sabbath, I shared with a friend at church that I wanted to take a sewing machine with me to teach Pastor Benard Nyakabere's wife how to sew. Benard and Dorcas were the only people in the Kenya churches with electricity in their home and Dorcas had a huge desire to sew and provide for her family and people in her sphere of influence. This woman then offered to buy the machine and gave me a check for what I estimated the cost to be. The day I went to JoAnn Fabrics there "just happened" to be a sale on sewing machines. I found the perfect one, just a little over the amount of the check.

The ladies in our church gave fabric, sewing supplies, and money so I could buy other items that weren't donated. In addition to teaching Dorcas how to use the sewing machine, I had planned to teach the other ladies without electricity basic hand sewing techniques. Two of the projects I prepared were to teach them how to make a baby quilt and a stuffed animal. I cut squares and all the parts needed for the stuffed animals and assembled everything like a prepackaged kit you could buy in a store. I included a pattern and instructions



how to make more on their own. I placed the machine (still in the box) in one of our suitcases and padded it with fabric all around. The other suitcase I loaded with more fabric and all of the supplies I had put together.

Once in Kenya, things did not turn out as planned — but I could still see God's hand in the details. On the first day of ministry I woke up with a head cold that quickly turned into a bronchitis and laryngitis combo within 24 hours. With my voice now out of commission, I had to rest it as much as possible. Thankfully, Amanda knew how to sew and was able to help!

What a joy it was to see the women's faces full of smiles and to see them jumping with excitement as the projects took shape. One woman immediately wrapped her infant in the quilt that she and the other ladies in her church had just completed. In the evening, after the teaching sessions at the Keera church, it was time to begin sewing lessons with Dorcas. We set up the machine in my hotel room and instruction continued until we were both too tired to go on. We had such little time and I wanted to make sure she learned as much as she could.

When I left Kenya, I hoped and prayed that she would develop a love for sewing and thrive with her new skills. My prayers have been answered — Dorcas has become the Dorcas in the Bible, using her sewing to benefit orphans and other children. She recently made baby quilts and gave them to one of her friends who had triplets, and I couldn't have been more proud of my student. SR



FOCUS on Kenya



Fantastic Experience — We Saw God's Goodness!

by Casey Greene
Berlin, NY, SDB Church

I had the privilege, along with four other youth from the Berlin and First Hopkington SDB Churches, to go to Puerto Rico this past summer. Our time there was an amazing and eye-opening experience. The relationships and connections we made there will be a blessing for a lifetime. Never before had I walked into a place and been able to tell immediately that God was working there. But that was apparent the first time I stepped foot in Iglesia Bautista Del Séptimo Día.

One of the purposes of the trip was to paint the church. We started the first day we were there and finished the front of the building before we left. While we were painting, a couple of people came over and spoke with us. One of these people was Eric, a teenage boy who came to the church off and on. To our surprise, English was his first language. We had a great conversation with him and he agreed to come to camp. Later it became obvious it had been orchestrated by God.

On our second day in Puerto Rico, we had the opportunity to do street ministry outside a market in San Sebastian. I had never done street ministry and it was nerve-racking at first, but it quickly became easier. The people were incredibly receptive and the pamphlets we handed out (about the differences between Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh Day Adventists) inspired great conversations.

The highlight of the trip was by far the camp. The camp gave us a chance to get to know the kids of the church better. The faith of all those involved grew during that time. The theme

of camp was “breaking the chains.” Through the preaching, teaching, worship, and fellowship, we saw God work mightily. I wish I could share every little detail, but length forces me to focus on highlights.

I mentioned earlier a young man named Eric. After just a week at camp he was like a different person. We watched him get set on fire for God and develop a passion for sharing His Word with others. He told us by the end of the week that he felt God was calling him to be a missionary and that's what he wanted to do now. He ended the week being baptized. His transformation only took a week, but it was evident to everyone.

Even people from our group were very touched by the camp. One night a preacher from another church came to give a message. Through the Holy Spirit he could tell us intimate details about our lives we had not previously shared and was able to pray for us exactly how we needed it. There were a lot of tears, prayer and healing that night. The theme of “breaking the chains” held true for us. That night was the closest many of us had felt to God in a long time.

During camp, we went door to door and handed out information on the church along with cans of tomato sauce, which is a staple there. It was a very unique experience. My group went and delivered tomato sauce to one man who smiled and thanked us. This may not seem significant but Ruth, a long term missionary in Puerto Rico, later told us that she had never seen the man smile before. God can even work in tomato sauce and that's what I saw Him do that day.

My fondest memory from the whole trip also happened during camp. One night we were singing worship songs in Spanish as we always did and the Spirit was really moving. We were all getting really into it and one of the boys, Juma, turned to me confused. He asked me what I was doing, saying I didn't even understand what I was saying. Technically, that was true. I had only a vague understanding of what I was singing — but it didn't matter. I could've been worshipping in any language. It was not the words that made it special, it was the presence of the Spirit and the state of my heart. It may not have been in my language, but it is still one of the best worship experiences I have had.

While in Puerto Rico, we also had the opportunity to go and pray for two people who were sick. One was an elderly woman who had lost her ability to walk. She welcomed us

Continued on page 21...



FOCUS on Puerto Rico



SCSC Jamaica Round 2!

In case you missed it, in 2014 (two years ago for those like me can never keep track of what year it is now), an SCSC team of three was sent to Jamaica for a project as part of a pilot project between the Women's Board and the Missionary Society. This inaugural project was to determine the feasibility of an international missions track as part of the SCSC program. The Jamaican SDB Conference is a dear sister conference to the USA/Canada Ltd. With their express interest in the SCSC program, it seemed like an excellent place to try something new and continue a partnership that has lasted for decades. After much hard work from everyone involved in both nations, the SCSC team (Lauren Telford, Lindsay Crouch, and Elizabeth Camenga) was sent to Jamaica for four weeks. The project was a success which was summed up by Elizabeth this way, *"Lauren, Lindsay, and I ...were blessed to join Jamaican laborers in God's vineyard to prepare the way of the Lord."*

This year the Women's Board/SCSC committee is excited to once again partner with the Missionary Society to send an SCSC team to Jamaica for a summer of service! This year's missions track team is Jennifer Brown, Elisabeth Lawson, Josiah Lynch, and Michaella Osborn.

Those in the mission track not only participate in the normal SCSC training program but also participate in extra preparations, most notably taking the "Perspectives" course. This is an intensive 15-week course that will "impact your 'perspective' on God and His purposes and the way He works in the world." This course is an opportunity to learn how God is working in the world and help discover your purpose in it — a missionally based program. It is an exceptionally relevant course for any Christian to take. With its missions background, it is a very helpful

tool for those preparing to work in the mission field, as are those who are accepted in the SCSC missions track.

The goal of the SCSC program is to prepare students to be Christian leaders and to help give experience and confidence to young adults so that they have the equipment to carry out God's purposes. The missions track in SCSC is another way to do that work and an opportunity to share the love of Christ outside our country.

This is an exciting endeavor — but then again I'm pretty typically excited about SCSC and it isn't just because I'm on the Women's Board and want to make us look good. I spent four years in the program and I can honestly say it was wholly worthwhile. When I was eligible for SCSC (less than five years ago), an international mission wasn't an option, but now it is! That's awesome!

It takes hard work and support to get something like this started and even more to keep it growing. Yes, keep it *growing*. SCSC is a program that began a little over 50 years ago and it has continued to grow in that time. This mission project is a continuation of that growth. It is something to be intently and enthusiastically praying over in the coming months — something to be supporting with your words and actions. If you are the type of person who wants to know more about these things, I encourage you to speak with someone who has gone, or is going to, Jamaica this summer — I've given you their names. If you don't know any of these wonderful young adults, contact either the Missionary Society or the Women's Board. (Don't know how to contact us? Look for us under the Ministries tab at seventhdaybaptist.org). Do not lose out on an excellent opportunity to help further God's purposes in this world. SR

ATTENTION ALL CRAFTY FOLKS

This year the Craft Table will be back at Conference. So bring your crafts to donate toward raising funds for SCSC.



It was thirty-five years ago that I first saw the picture. Four men and one woman, posed formally in front of an ivy-covered wall, impressive, yet at ease in their fashionable 1920s attire. Who were they? And why worthy of an 8 x 10 print mounted on pressed grey cardboard — with not a note of who, what, where, when, or why! I packed the photo along with hundreds of others in the boxes of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society library and archives soon to be put on a moving van leaving Plainfield, NJ, for Janesville, WI. In the years since, through the historical detective work that becomes addictive, the four men emerged as four of the five original trustees of the Historical Society. And the woman? That took longer.

Five Men and One Woman: They Served Fifty Years Until They Died

2nd in a series celebrating the
Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society Centennial

by Janet Thorngate



Historical Society Trustees, late 1920s: From left, William M. Stillman, Corliss Fitz Randolph, Asa F. Randolph, Else Fitz Randolph, Ethel L. Titsworth (later Stillman).

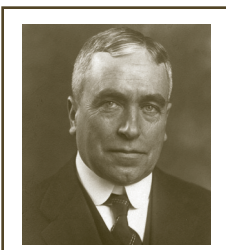
Of the other four founders, **William M. Stillman (1856-1937)** was the oldest. He served as 1st Vice President until his death in 1937. A graduate of Rutgers University, he was an attorney in Plainfield, making his legal services available for any denominational concerns. His wide-ranging interests included support of the early work of Joseph Booth as first SDB missionary in Nyasaland (Malawi) and South Africa. After the death of his first wife he married Ethel Titsworth; they are the bookends in the four-men-and-one-woman photo. It was a short marriage. He died seven years later; she, twenty-four years younger (age fifty-seven when they were married) lived to serve the Society another twenty-eight years.



William M. Stillman

The fifth founding trustee was not in the photo because he had already died: **Frank J. Hubbard (1868-1927)**. He had signed the Articles of Incorporation with the other four men in June 1916 and had served as treasurer the eleven years until his death. He was a civil engineer; graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; prominent for civic involvement in Plainfield,

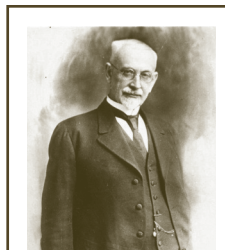
especially in public education; and much involved in the SDB General Conference particularly as a fund-raiser for the new denominational buildings erected in the 1920s. He was the brother-in-law of the woman in the photo. She, Miss Ethel Lucile Titsworth, was elected to succeed him and served as treasurer for thirty years, as trustee for thirty-eight, until her death in 1965. She also followed Hubbard as treasurer of the Tract Society.



Frank J. Hubbard

Next to Stillman in the photo is **Corliss Fitz Randolph (1863-1954)** who might be called the father of the SDB Historical Society. Having already served many years on the SDB Historical Committee (forerunner of the Society) and having been largely responsible for the huge two-volume *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America* (1902), Corliss became president of the

Society as well as historian and librarian, serving for thirty-eight years until his death. Educated at Alfred and Columbia Universities, his employment was as a public school principal in Newark and his membership was in the old New York City SDB Church, but his first love was the work of Seventh Day Baptist history and his spirit and work influences it to this day.



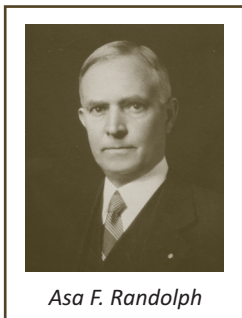
Corliss F. Randolph



Historical Society

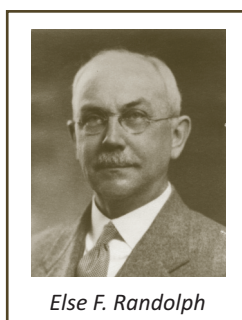
Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education and History

In the center of the photo lineup is **Asa Fitz Randolph (1876-1951)**, recording secretary for the Society and its legal and financial advisor during his thirty-five-year tenure. His Plainfield law office was corporate headquarters for the Society and storage space for the growing collections until the SDB Building was finished thirteen years later. Benefactor of many denominational concerns, one-fifth of his \$83,000 bequest through the Memorial Board went to the Historical Society constituting one-sixth of the endowment that supported its work during the second half of the century.



Asa F. Randolph

Finally, **Else Fitz Randolph (1868-1965)**, younger brother of Corliss, completes the lineup. One of the first graduates of Salem College, he was a teacher in West Virginia, Missouri, and New York City, retiring after forty-one years as principal of a school on Staten Island and returning to his home church in Middle Island, WV. His General Conference offices included terms on the Commission (forerunner of General Council) and Conference President. In commenting on his passing at age ninety-seven, Society Librarian, Evalois St. John, noted, "He was the last surviving member of the original Board of Trustees.... He had served as Vice-President down through these years and his interest had never ceased."



Else F. Randolph

Ethel L. Titsworth Stillman (1888-1965) died the same year, one year before the Society's 50th anniversary. So little we know of her beyond her years as HS and ASTS treasurer: a Smith College education, her self-assured posture in the iconic cloche hat and fur piece of the 1920s photo, and her best-known legacy — a generous endowment for SDB missionary vacations.



Ethel T. Stillman

Other striking facts connect these five men and one woman. Besides serving as trustees of the Historical Society, they all served terms on the American Sabbath Tract Society and on the SDB Memorial Fund, many years as officers of one or both. All had deep roots in SDB soil. They treasured the stories of faithful ancestors who had laid the foundation, but their vision was for the future. They saw the historical work as nurture for that future.

They worked hard during the First World War to generate interest and scarce resources to support construction of a denominational building that would house first the administrative and publishing work of the Conference and then a library and archives for the study and teaching of its history. Through the Great Depression they became a magnet for books, manuscripts, and artifacts from churches, colleges, private homes, closets, garages, and attics. They volunteered hours and years, and inspired that volunteerism in others. Never receiving more than a few hundred dollars a year from the denominational budget, they solicited and made personal contributions and generated endowment funds that amounted to \$4,000 in 1960 and \$170,000 by 1967 to preserve the distinctive history and heritage of Seventh Day Baptists. More is needed to support it in a new century.

To honor their legacy, we invite today's Seventh Day Baptists to contribute to the Historical Society Centennial Fund, endowment "to provide financial support for the preservation and communication of Seventh Day Baptist History." [SR](#)

Sources: *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*, vol. 3, by Albert N. Rogers, *Sabbath Recorder* obituaries, Historical Society reports in *SDB Yearbooks*. Photos from SDB Historical Library.

Author note: Janet Thorngate is president and former librarian of the SDB Historical Society and a member of the Salem, WV, SDB Church.

They treasured the stories of faithful ancestors who had laid the foundation, but their vision was for the future. They saw the historical work as nurture for that future.

Help insure the future of our past!
Contribute to the
Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society
Centennial Fund

*Through Cash Contributions
 Planned Estate Giving
 Making the Society an
 Insurance Policy Beneficiary*

Contact the Historical Society
 3120 Kennedy Road
 PO Box 1678
 Janesville, WI 53547
 Phone 608-752-5055
 E-mail: nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org

PERMISSION TO MEDDLER: Covenant Life in the Body of Christ

meddle [med-L]

verb (used without object), meddled, meddling.

1. to involve oneself in a matter without right or invitation; interfere officiously and unwantonly:

ex. *Stop meddling in my personal life!*

One of the ideas at the core of the life of local Seventh Day Baptist churches is that of covenants. Covenants are the documents that define the nature of the relationship that members of local SDB churches have to one another. In what is now common language among Seventh Day Baptists, many local church covenants contain a clause which includes the following statement (or something like it):

...we agree to watch over each other for good, to the intent that we may be built up together in Christ, grow in grace and further knowledge of the truth, and be instrumental in bringing men to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are several elements to this statement, but it begins with an interesting and invasive little phrase —“to watch over each other for good.” My predecessor in championing Christian Education among SDBs, the Rev. Andrew Camenga, is fond of using the word “incite” as a way of talking about what we do amongst ourselves to encourage each other in our sanctification. He takes his cue from Hebrews 10:24, where the author of that book encourages us to “spur one another on to love and good deeds,” (NIV). I think most Seventh Day Baptists, in a vacuum and devoid of context, would say that watching out for one another is a good thing. But no matter how you slice it, when it comes to someone watching over you, that is a very different animal.

We live in an individualistic and increasingly private culture. Cultural forces have pushed us into the mold of keeping our private lives private and steadfastly denying that anyone else can tell us what to do. Politicians play on such stubborn individualist streaks to sell all manner of ideas to their potential constituents. Entire television shows are devoted to the things that happen “behind closed doors,” calling such things “Reality TV.” Have you ever stopped to think about how odd it is that millions



of people stop to watch fake reality on television rather than engaging in what is actually happening with their neighbor next door? It is possible that it has never been a further distance from your living room to your neighbors.

Counter to such individualistic and alienating thought is what we believe about what our churches should be: groups of people dedicated to one another entirely — where loving concern about the lives of others is not only welcomed, it is encouraged. To steal words and bend their meaning a little bit, participating as a covenant member in a Seventh Day Baptist church is giving your fellow church members “permission to meddle.” This is necessary, because a church represents the body of Christ and there is no such thing as segmentation of parts or privacy in a real live body. (If you want clearly marked parts separated from one another, you go to a morgue or a museum!) As Paul clearly reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12, the parts of a body all have a relationship with one another! Your local church is God’s gift of support, encouragement, and correction for you — part of the riches of his mercy and grace in Christ! If what we want are functioning bodies of loving care and concern, then lovingly engaging in the lives of others is the only way.

All of this naturally leads to two questions: who has permission to meddle in your life? In whose life do you have permission to meddle? If your answer to either question is, “no one!” it may be time to go back to the drawing board and look at the covenant of your local church. Then take the bold step of letting God’s people into your daily life. SR



Christian Education Council

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education and History

A Place Where God Speaks



Dr. Michael Jordan
Dean of the Chapel

Chair of the Department of Biblical Studies
Theology and Philosophy One
Houghton College, Houghton, NY

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration of Houghton College, please accept my warm welcome to our workplace and home. Houghton was founded in 1883 by Willard J. Houghton, who was born in this tiny town 58 years prior. At the age of 26, he accepted Christ — he called it being “reclaimed” — and set about a new mission in life. In his words, he wanted to “light up this dark and sin-cursed world,” letting the Gospel “lights shine very clearly on the dangerous places, exposing the rocks and sandbars that the masses are striking.”

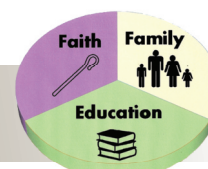
That’s a very common Christian sentiment — the desire to make the world a better place. He often signed his letters “Yours for fixing up this world, W.J. Houghton.” To fix the world, to light up the world — what Christian doesn’t wish to do this? For some, this means going into ministry; for others, it means going into missionary work. For Willard, this meant education and evangelism. He was very involved in establishing Sunday Schools with children in the little communities surrounding Houghton, and would frequently preach at revival meetings around western New York. Eventually, Mr. Houghton set his sights toward the education of young adults. He worked with the treasurer of the Wesleyan Education Society to found a place where we “could school our children away from the environments of the larger towns and cities.” Mr. Houghton agreed to give a generous financial donation “so as to make it easy for the poor...to send their children from a distance to their own Christian school.”

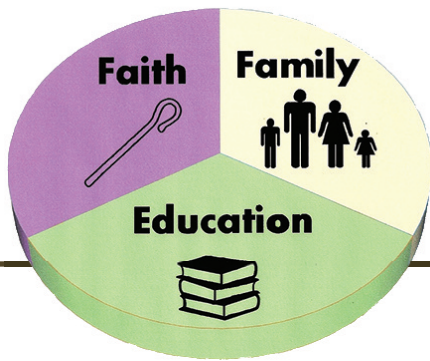
After 133 years, we’re still at it. I graduated from Houghton in 1999 and it was a very formative time in my life. It was here that I began to explore the world of ideas. It was here that I began to think about the

connections between our worship and the rest of our lives. It was here that I began to see that I too had my own way of shedding God’s light on the world. And it was here that my call to ministry really crystallized. In the classroom, in the chapel, on the quad, in my dormitory (my beloved Shenawana Hall): God spoke to me here and changed my life.

It was that reality that drew me back to Houghton in 2009. We moved back for my wife Jill to take a job teaching mathematics. I knew I could probably teach part-time, and I was hopeful of finding my professional niche; but even more than that, I wanted to come back here because I knew it was a place where God speaks. After a very stressful seven-year pastorate, I wanted to surround myself with people and surroundings that pointed me back to God, and encouraged me to become the best Christian I could be. Again, through my time in the classroom and the time interacting with so many godly folks, God spoke to me here and changed my life.

It’s with that in mind that I welcome you here to my home, to Houghton. May it be a place of rest and renewal for you; a place where God’s Word is proclaimed; a place where you know in your mind and in your heart how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. May God speak to you here during your time in Houghton, and change your life. [SR](#)





3 Most Important Things

"What are the three most important things in life?" my dad would ask Ellie and me.

We would respond, "Faith, family, and education, not necessarily in that order." This was the conversation we had every morning just before we left the house to get on the bus to go to school. The theme of Conference 2016 has been instilled into my life, every moment of it — although it wasn't until this year that I really found the meaning of this phrase.

Faith — As Christians we share a unique bond in our faith and the little things of faith are brought to life throughout our denomination, even in our local churches. For example, one Sabbath morning I was reading the affirmation of faith with the rest of our congregation. Behind me I heard two little voices reading along with us, not because they were being forced to, but because they chose to. A few minutes later those same little voices wholeheartedly were saying the Lord's Prayer. That truly showed me Faith! In Matthew 18:3 it says, *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and come like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* This child-like faith that I heard made me realize that this is the kind of Faith that God wants us to have. He wants us to be curious about how He is working in our lives and to be wholeheartedly putting our lives into praising Him and His works!

Family — I have the fantastic opportunity to worship with my generational family! Along with these family members, there is a kind of family that is completely built off of worshipping with each other and believing in the same things. The big word my dad uses for this is

a fictive-kinship. Watching this family form all over our denomination is amazing. One trip we took for the "Presidential tour" was to Toronto, Canada. The church there is so amazingly welcoming and the family atmosphere that they have in their church was even more amazing. One of my favorite views of the service was watching an elder in the church reach over to a toddler to help him find the hymn we were going to sing. Another great scene was seeing how many people stopped to converse with Pastor Herlitz to show that he had somehow impacted them and was a part of their soul family.

Education — During the travels for the "Presidential tour," we have used many of the trips to double as college visits. I know, I'm only a junior in high school and I've already started the college search. I needed to find the perfect school, a school to get me to my hopes and dreams. We traveled to Wisconsin, California, and plenty of other places. I couldn't figure out why I wasn't liking the colleges. Maybe they were too far from home or didn't have the right environment. As much as I need to find the perfect college, my spiritual education also grew! I learned more about our denomination and God's word. I knew if I was going to find the perfect college, it needed to be a place where my faith could be fostered and I could create my own family while learning to pursue my hopes and dreams.

I hope that the theme of Conference this year has found its way into your everyday life and has, and will continue to, impact you as much as it has me. SR

— Madge Chroniger
Alfred Station SDB Church



Everyone always told me that time goes by faster as you “grow up.” I’m just now starting to believe it. It seems like just yesterday I was stepping foot into my first day of high school, my nephews and nieces were babies, and I had AGES to think about what I was going to do with my life. I don’t have ages to plan my future anymore. In fact, my future is slapping me in the face right now. My first year of college is almost over, and yes, it was amazing. I have wonderful roommates, challenging classes, great professors, and a beautiful campus on which to learn. That’s all well and good until I start to think about the fact that I have about four to five more years before I’m going to start my life in “the real world.”

Those are some not-so-nice words in my dorm room. Leslie, Ali, and I try to avoid thinking about our future because we don’t know what’s in store. We know that we plan to live together for at least three more years. We have a dangerous list of things we plan to do once sports seasons are over. We plan when we will have roommate dinners. We plan every detail of our days, but the idea of living in “the real world” is not one we embrace.

Now, of course, our plans don’t always go as we hope they will. As I’m sure you’ve all heard, “the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” I would like to add a little bit to that saying though. I think it should read: “the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, but the ones

rooted in faith aren’t a far cry.” Cheesy, I know, but stick with me. Think about it — have you ever made a God-led plan? If you said yes, then you already get it. A plan made through God can’t be messed up. If you said no, then think about it this way — have you made plans that didn’t work out the way you wanted but worked out even better? That’s God’s way of saying “Your plan is close, but try this.”

A God-led plan is the best plan. He can guide your paths much better than you can guide your own. Listen to His call and I’m sure you’ll figure out a plan that suits you just fine.

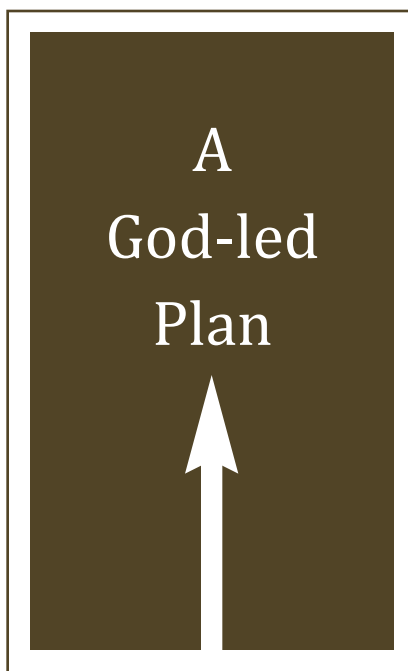
As you embark on scary choices, like my roommates and I try to figure out what we should do with our lives, I ask that we all seek God so that we might know what it is He wants for us.

Think on these verses:

Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB):
“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

Romans 8:28 (NASB):
And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. SR

— Elianna Chroniger
 Alfred Station SDB Church
 Alfred Station, New York



Willy Villalpando
 Maranatha Community Church, Colton, CA

Young Adult

Fantastic Experience...

continued from page 14

into her home and we were able to sing for her and just be light in her life. We prayed over her and she told us she believed she would one day walk to church. Her faith has stuck with me and is a great example to us all. The other sick person was a man who had a cancerous tumor. The doctors were not sure what they could do for him. We laid hands on him the night before we left. Since returning home, we have found out he went to the doctor a week or so later and the tumor had shrunk so much the doctors felt they didn’t need to take any action. God is good!

One of the final days that we were in Puerto Rico we had a cantata and sang for the church. The cantata was for anyone in



the community. A new family came that had never been to Iglesia Bautista Del Séptimo Día. Since we left, they have continued to attend church there, which is wonderful.

Since returning, many details have faded from my mind. I can’t remember exactly what we did on every day or what people said. However, what we learned and the relationships have stayed. Every day at 3 p.m., the alarm on my phone goes off and I pray for a couple of the people I met there. I know that many of the other youth who went still talk to the kids we met there. Language and distance are nothing when the love and unity of Christ is working in us. Overall, this trip was a fantastic experience and we saw, and continue to see, God’s goodness more clearly because of it. SR



A General Conference 2017 Session Invitation

The History

The last time we had General Conference gathering in Southern California was 1993! Since 1949 we have been in SoCal a total of five times. That means between 1949 and 1993 we averaged about every eight years we would be there. So, what happened between 1993 and 2017? Why haven't we been there? There are two main reasons:

1. It costs more to go there. Most of our SDB population reside east of the Mississippi River. Their cost of travel is more expensive to attend. *(Please understand, those who travel from the west coast incur these high travel costs every year they attend.)* Because it costs more, we have had lower attendance at the sessions, as low as 268 and as high as 466. It also costs more for the SDB Center and Missionary Society to ship their items for the gathering.
2. In 2007 at Newberg, OR, at George Fox University, it was decided that we should attend in the Western part of the USA or Canada once every ten years — because of the downturn in attendance. In 2003, we were also at George Fox and the attendance was 467. Four years later it was 342. That is a 26.7% drop.
3. This means that once we attend Southern California in 2017, there is a good chance that we will not be back there until **2037!** We will most likely be in the Pacific Northwest in 2027, and *you can almost count on that.*

The Invitation to Azusa Pacific University

In 2017, we will revisit the site where we held our General Conference Sessions in 1975; yes, some of you were not even born yet. Azusa Pacific University is located in the beautiful city of Azusa. Azusa is just 21 minutes east of *Pasadena, CA* — where the Rose Bowl Parade and Bowl Game are held every New Year's Day.

Just west of Azusa, about 11 minutes, is the city of San Dimas. The 26-40-year-olds will recognize this as the home of Bill & Ted. *Most Excellent!* (If you do not get this reference, check with someone younger.)

Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm are about 40 minutes away to the south!

The largest ocean in the world is less than an hour away! Did I mention beaches? No? There are beaches!

Los Angeles is 30 minutes, and Beverly Hills is about 50 minutes away.

Universal Studios is a mere 34 minutes from Azusa.

That place called Hollywood; it is only 45 minutes away!

For those wanting to travel a bit further, San Diego is only two hours away.

(Please Note: You never measure anything in miles in SoCal; it is always by time. The above times are about what they take to each destination. There is always a chance of a backup on all the freeways. Sorry.)

There are so many things to do and see in SoCal! The above is just a good start. However, with all of these great places and things to see, our Conference President in 2017 is planning a great week of events. President-elect Patti Wethington grew up in Southern California and she is looking forward to showing off California to all who will be attending — hoping they will have an experience they will take away with them that they will never forget! And I believe that can happen, for you see, I attended in 1966 when I was 11 and I still remember things from that Conference to this day!

So, this is your first official invitation to attend the General Conference Sessions in 2017 at Azusa Pacific University, July 23 – 30, 2017. Please add it to your Calendar, save your "pennies", and we will see you in SoCal! <http://www.apu.edu/>

Do you want to hear Patti's Conference Theme? Come to **Conference 2016** and be one of the first to hear it! In the meantime keep your "**Faith, Family, Education**" going strong, as we lead up to our 2016 event! SR





Sepsis

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to an infection which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. An old term for it is blood poisoning. Sepsis can occur to anyone, at any time, from any type of infection, and can affect any part of the body. It can occur even after a minor infection.

Sepsis is caused by any type of infection anywhere in your body including the skin, lungs (pneumonia), urinary tract, abdomen (appendicitis) or anywhere else. When germs enter a person's body and multiply, an infection occurs. This can cause illness and organ and tissue damage.

Anyone can get sepsis as a bad outcome from infection. The risk is higher in people with weakened immune systems, babies and very young children, elderly, people with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, AIDS, cancer and kidney or liver disease, and people suffering from a severe burn or wound.

Symptoms of sepsis can be shivering, fever being very cold, extreme pain or general discomfort, pale or discolored skin, sleepiness, difficulty waking up, confusion, feeling like you might die and shortness of breath. Since sepsis is the result of an infection, symptoms can include infection signs (diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, etc.) as well as ANY of the symptoms listed above.

Sepsis can be deadly. It kills more than 258,000 Americans each year and leaves survivors with life-changing after effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state there are over one million cases of sepsis each year. It is the ninth leading cause of disease-related deaths. Doctors diagnose it using physical findings like fever, increased heart and breathing rates, and lab tests. Since many symptoms are the same as in other conditions, sepsis is hard to diagnose in its early stages.

Death from sepsis can occur as quickly as 6 hours after symptoms appear. That is why it is so important that

people be aware of this outcome. If you have any signs or symptoms of an infection or sepsis call your doctor or go the ER immediately. This is a medical emergency! Tell the treating physician that you are concerned about sepsis. If you are continuing to feel worse or not getting better in the days after surgery, ask about sepsis. Sepsis is usually treated in the hospital by treating the infection, keeping vital organs working, and preventing a drop in blood pressure. Assistance breathing with a machine or kidney dialysis may be necessary. Sometimes surgery is required to remove tissue damaged by the infection.

Many people who have sepsis recover completely and their lives return to normal. Some people may experience permanent organ damage. For example, in someone who already has kidney problems, sepsis can lead to kidney failure that requires lifelong dialysis. Recovering from sepsis may be a long, slow process as a person may experience extreme weakness and fatigue; breathlessness; general body pains or aches; difficulty in moving; difficulty sleeping; weight loss; dry, itchy skin that may peel; brittle nails and hair loss. There may also be confusion, poor concentration and depression. The first step toward recovery includes rehabilitation. The purpose is to restore you back to your previous level of health. Begin rehab by building up activities slowly and resting when you are tired.

You can prevent sepsis by getting vaccinated, preventing infections by cleaning scrapes and wounds, and practicing good hygiene; by looking for signs of fever, chills, rapid breathing and heart rate; rash, confusion and disorientation when you have an infection. Hospitals are writing protocols that list the criteria for diagnosing sepsis in an effort to stop this deadly complication. Although this is a sobering thing to read about, knowing the signs and getting immediate help may save your life. ^{SR}

To learn more go online to:
cdc.gov/sepsis or cdc.gov/cancer/prevent_infections.

Information from Sepsis Fact Sheet developed by the CDC, Sepsis Alliance and the Rory Staunton Foundation

Over the course of 2016, the Committee on Support and Retirement and the General Conference wish to highlight the eleven current retirees in our Old Pastors Retirement Plan, formerly called P.R.O.P. (Pastors Retirement Offering Project), to bring awareness to our continued need to meet the obligations set forth by the terms of these plans in honor of their service to Seventh Day Baptists.

If you wish to contribute to honoring the service of these individuals, you can make a donation by giving online with a mention towards COSAR at seventhdaybaptist.ministrygive.com or by mailing a check to: COSAR, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

THANK YOU for your generous support!

Retired Pastor Profiles

Pastor C. Rex Burdick

Pastor C. Rex Burdick was born in Boulder, CO. At age 11 he was baptized and joined the DeRuyter, NY, SDB Church. He went to Salem (WV) College, and at the beginning of his senior year married Bette Lippincott. They had five children (Douglas, Norman, Carole, Martha, and Pamela) in ten years. While they were serving in Riverside, CA, Bette died. In the next year, he married Joyce Sholtz from Verona, NY. He served six SDB churches over a forty-year period: Independence, NY; Marlboro, NJ; Salem, WV; Verona, NY; Riverside, CA; and Berlin, NY.

After college at Salem, Rex attended the Alfred School of Theology for one year, then transferred to Faith Theological Seminary (Elkins Park, PA) where he earned a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Sacred Theology while serving full time at the Marlboro, NJ, SDB Church. He was ordained to the Christian Ministry by that Church in 1948 (where he served for eight years). He was accredited by the Conference that same year.



1953

Pastor Rex was the President of the General Conference in 1964, serving on Commission for three years. He edited a special issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* in 1958 and was the Editor of the *Helping Hand*, 1990-1992. He was a member of the American Sabbath Tract Society while in Marlboro and served on the Council on Ministry from 1978 to 1984. The *Sabbath Recorder* records his participation in at least ten ordinations for pastors.



Pastor Rex and Joyce

While in Berlin, NY, he was bi-vocational, driving school bus and substitute teaching in the high school.

Pastor Rex and Joyce retired from Berlin, NY, to Verona, NY, in 1985 where they were active in the SDB family. Pastor Rex went to the home that Jesus had prepared for him on February 29, 2016. His wife Joyce will continue to receive benefits under the Old Pastors Retirement Program. [SR](#)

Pastor Edgar Wheeler

Pastor Edgar Wheeler was born on October 28, 1920, in Nortonville, KS. He graduated from Nortonville High School in 1938 and then pursued education at Salem College, WV, where he graduated in 1947. While going to college, Pastor Edgar met and married the love of his life, Xenia Lee Randolph, on August 10, 1945.

Pastor Edgar had 11 children (Annita, Robert, Ruth, Richard, Helen, Leon, William, Catherine, Noelle, Esther, and Ernest). They also have numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

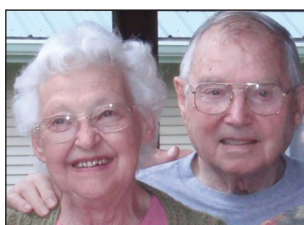
While serving the church in Hammond, LA, he attended and graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1951. Pastor Edgar also served churches for the next forty years in Paint



1958

Rock, AL; DeRuyter, NY; Salemville, PA; Ashaway, RI; Denver, CO; and Nortonville, KS.

After his retirement, he continued to serve SDB churches in need, becoming an interim pastor four times in Lost Creek, WV; Salemville, PA; and Ashaway, RI.



Pastor Edgar and Xenia Lee

His denomination service also included serving on the Missionary Society for 18 years (including as President) and the Council on Ministry for 18 years (including as chairman). He was Conference President in 1970.

His beloved wife, Xenia Lee, passed away on February 12, 2016. [SR](#)

OBITUARIES

AUGUST — James "Jim" LeRoy August, 75, of Longmont, CO, passed away on February 17, 2016, at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, CO. Jim was born on February 24, 1940, in Atchison, KS, to Lloyd E. August and Genève Stone August.

Jim met the love of his life, Frances, through church in Boulder. He left to serve in the United States Air Force before getting the chance to marry Fran. While in Germany, Fran flew out to meet him and they were married in Bitburg, Germany, August 11-12, 1961. After marrying Fran, Jim transferred to Eglin AFB in Florida. After leaving the military, Jim and Fran moved to Colorado and lived on Poorman Road for 43 years. They relocated to Longmont until his passing.

Jim had two children: a son Scott Eugene of Longmont, CO, and a daughter, Jami Antonete.

After leaving the Air Force he went to work for Ball Aerospace in Boulder. He started working with solar sensors that were installed on star trackers that journeyed on the first space shuttles. He also developed the testing procedures for the solar trackers. Jim was an avid entrepreneur, owning his own business, Micro Computer Service, Inc., developing and building stand-alone computers. He was told his stand-alone computers would never take off and that the main frame computer was all there would ever be. With his computers, he created a scoring program for gymnastics after watching the

poor execution of scoring at his children's gymnastic competitions. He and Fran traveled all over the United States, using their scoring system at competitions. He also developed a school attendance program, letting teachers know whether or not their students were in attendance based on a barcode system. Jim worked at Ball for another 18 years, ending a total of 34 years and retiring in 2004. In his retirement, Jim worked on fixing and flipping real estate.

He was the volunteer general contractor for building the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder in the 1990s. During his mission work in Guyana and Mexico, he helped build a church and bath house for a church camp. One of his greatest contributions was on the SDB church camp, Camp Paul Hummel, building a bath house, surveying for fence line, developing a water cistern system, and upgrading the sleeping cabins.

Jim enjoyed travelling and seeing the world, and recently achieved a photo safari in 2015 to South Africa.

He is survived by his wife, Fran August of Longmont, CO; son, Scott August of Longmont, CO; brother, Bill August of Iowa; sister, Judy Cranfill of Texas, and brother, David of Kansas.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents and daughter, Jami Antonete, who tragically passed in 1985.

Funeral service was held Thursday, February 25, 2016, at the SDB Church of Boulder. Interment was in Green Mountain Cemetery.

BUTLER — Elizabeth Louise Martin Butler, 84, of Woodville, AL, went home to her eternal resting place on Sunday, April 26, 2015, after a lengthy illness.

Louise was born on May 1, 1930, in Madison County, AL, the second child of Buck and Kate Couch Martin. She spent her childhood in the New Hope area of Madison County, as well as the Greenbriar Cove area of Marshall County, and graduated from Union Hill High School in Morgan County in 1949. For many years, she held several clerical positions at New Hope High School, finally retiring as a library aide in 2001. Louise was an active member of the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church where she served many years as a Deaconess.

Louise was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who cared deeply for her family. She was an excellent cook and housekeeper who loved to entertain friends and family in her home. In addition to cooking, her hobbies included gardening, decorating her home, and playing bunco. The mother of three athletic sons, she traveled many miles to watch their baseball, basketball, and football games. Louise treasured the time she spent with her grandchildren most of

all. She enjoyed babysitting them and supporting their school and sports activities. Louise also loved to vacation with family and friends, including a couple of trips with her husband across the United States in his 18-wheel truck. She was looking forward to celebrating her 85th birthday with her family. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the staff at Hospice Advantage as well as caregiver Jennifer Evans.

Louise is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Daniel M. Butler; three sons, Rodney G. Butler, Stephen M. Butler (Angie), and Jeffrey L. Butler (Leitha); five grandsons, Zachary Butler (Brandi), Bryn Butler (Jennifer), Blake Butler (Jennifer), Taylor Butler, and Isaac Butler; one granddaughter, Sara Elizabeth Butler; and was expecting her fourth great-grandchild. She is also survived by two brothers, Murril Martin (Dorothy), and Murry Martin (Barbara), as well as many nieces and nephews. Louise was preceded in death by her mother and father; brothers, Billy Martin, J.B. Martin, and Donnie Martin; and sister, Helen Cooper.

OBITUARY

FULLER — Menzo W. Fuller, 97, passed away on February 23, 2016, at Lady Lake, FL.

Menzo was born in North Loup, NE, on August 30, 1918, the son of Charles and Madge Watts Fuller.

He served in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific from 1941 to 1945.

On November 22, 1945, he was married to Audrey Babcock. They had 67 years of wedded happiness. They lived in North Loup, NE, for 28 Years.

From 1973 to 1979 they spent time as missionaries at Makapwa Mission near Blantyre, Malawi. From 1988 until 2011 they lived in Daytona Beach and were members of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church for 28 years. He was an active member of the American Legion, a volunteer fireman, and small business owner.

He is survived by daughters Kerry Rahn and Phyllis Williams, and sons Richard and Robert Fuller; granddaughters Jamie Chee and Angela Groenemen; grandson Marc Williams; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Merle; and his wife, Audrey.

A private memorial service will be held at the National Cemetery in Houston at a future date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Daytona Seventh Day Baptist Church, 145 1st Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, where they were active members, or to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lane Park Road, Tavares, FL 32778.

NEW MEMBERS

BOULDER SDB CHURCH

Boulder, CO
Steve Osborn, Pastor

Joined by Baptism

Ann Steele
Gabrielle Osborn
Diane Wagner

MILTON SDB CHURCH

Milton, WI
Rev. Nathan Crandall

Joined by Baptism

Ryan Holbrook
Amber LaBelle
Keith LaBelle

Joined by Testimony

Micah Crandall
Jackie Geske
Kory Geske

SHEPHERD'S FOLD MINISTRY SDB CHURCH

Johnson City, TN
Shay Rankhorn, Pastor

Joined by Testimony

Cate Abraham
Estal Fain

APRIL Memory Verse 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

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.

Contact Information for Directors:

Jeremiah Owen

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

Rev. John J. Pethel

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

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten

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

**OPEN MINISTRY POSITION:
ASSISTANT PASTOR**

First Seventh Day Baptist Church
of Hopkinton
Ashaway, Rhode Island
**Part-time position, salary is
\$18,000/year**



*Come and join a growing
Seventh Day Baptist Church!*

*We need an energetic minister to respond
to God's call. Bring your gifts and talents to
expand our ministry in the community. God
is moving here and people are responding.
These are exciting times for our church!*

Responsibilities:

- Primarily Youth Ministry with some Adult Programs
- Christian Education, Discipleship, Sabbath School, Bible Studies
- Youth Events, Youth Missions, Youth Group Meetings
- Assist Senior Pastor with other pastoral work including preaching, teaching, visitation, etc. in accordance with time allowed and spiritual gifts

Requirements:

- High School Diploma
- Some College Education
- Bible College, Theological training, Seminary preferred (may be done while serving here)
- Gifts in Leadership, Administration, Teaching would be ideal
- Experience in Youth Ministry and/or Education would be helpful
- Musical Ability is always helpful

**Submit Resume and cover letter
by deadline 5/01/16**

Mail to: PO Box 438, Ashaway, RI 02804
Email to: Ashawaysdb@yahoo.com

For more details and information,
contact Pastor Dave Stall

Phone: 401-377-2123 (church office)
Email: pastordavestall@gmail.com



multiply colorado springs
CONFERENCE **OCTOBER 20-22, 2016**
revitalization - renewal - development - growth - planting

**The 2016 MULTIPLY Church
Development Conference** is open to anyone
who desires to see renewal and revitalization in their
church or desires to see new SDB churches in North
America. We 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 weekend.

Registration Website

tiny.cc/MULTIPLY2016

Registration Deadline is September 19

Registration is free. Lodging is available for \$75 for 3 nights on a first
come, first served basis. Your only additional cost is travel to and from
Colorado Springs.

Contact Information:

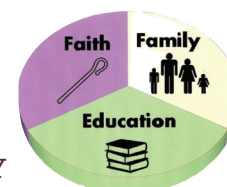
John Pethtel
Director of Church Development
304-629-9823 (cell)
jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org



July 31 - August 6, 2016

**Seventh Day Baptist
General
Conference**

Houghton College, Houghton, NY





**Jesus said to his followers,
"Go everywhere in the world,
and tell the Good News
to everyone."**

— Mark 16:15 NCV

It wasn't a suggestion.

It wasn't a request.

It was a command!