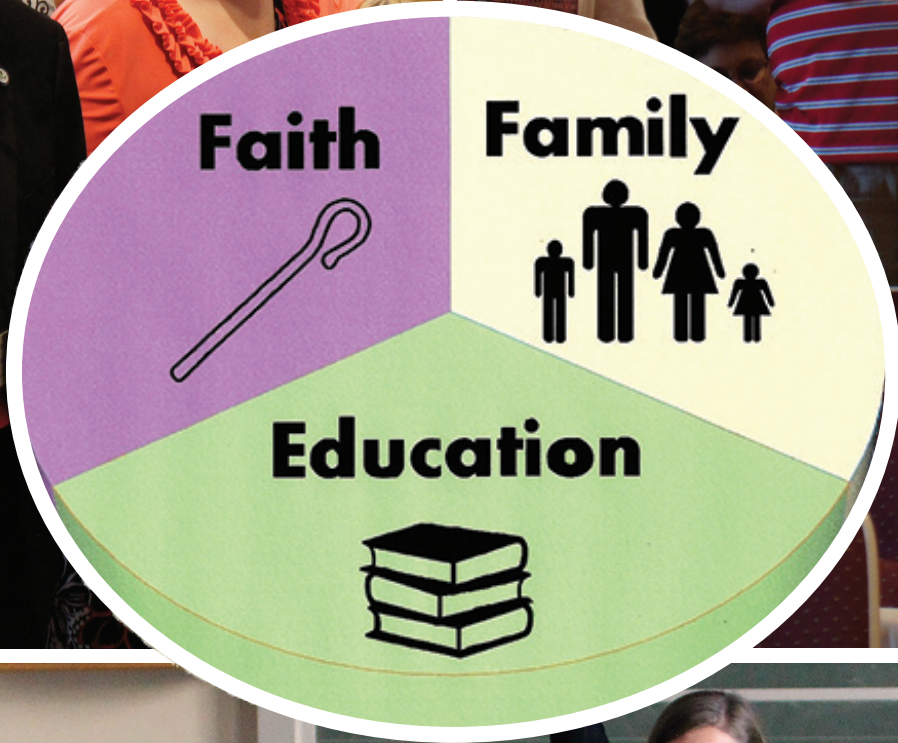
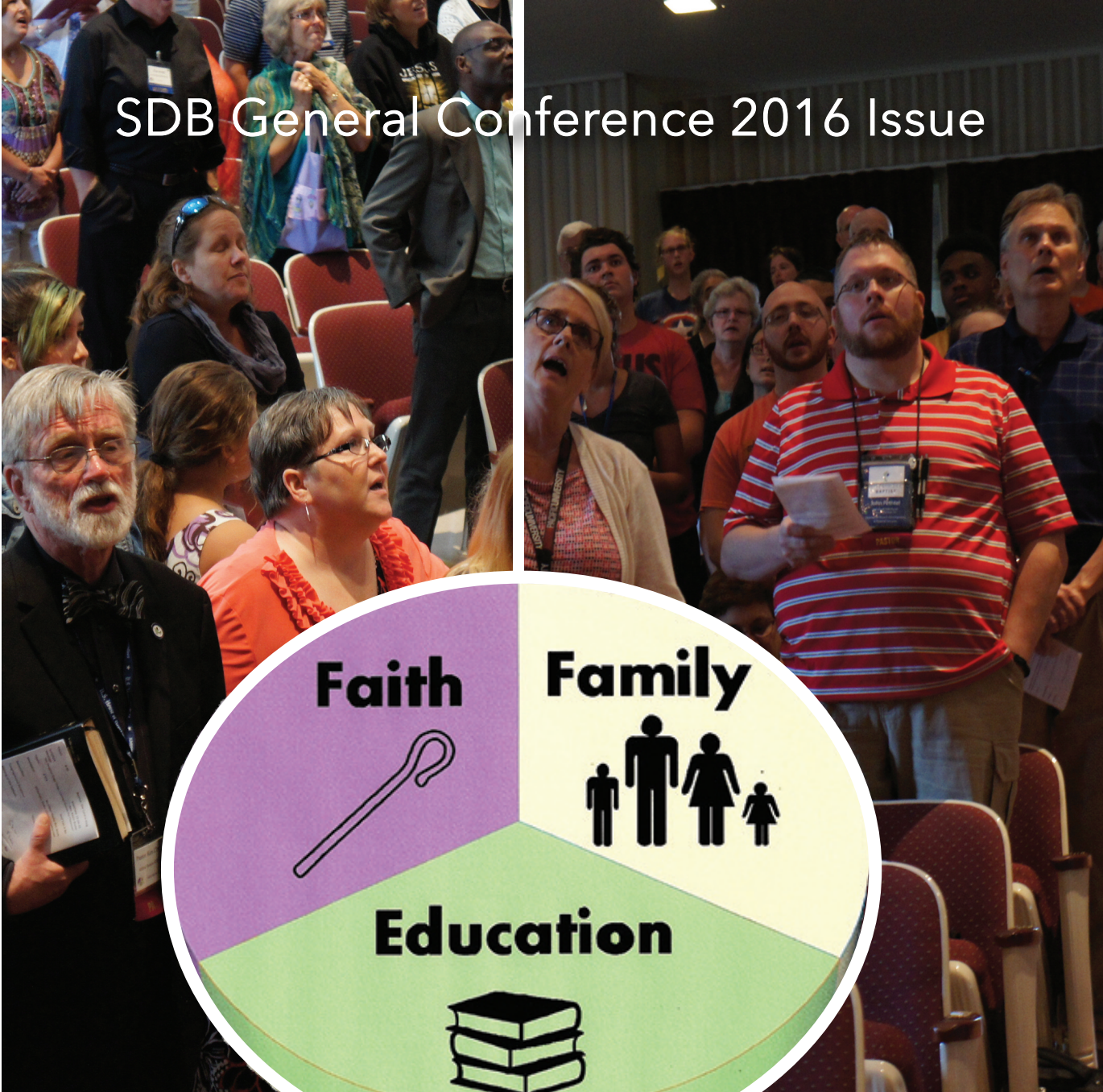


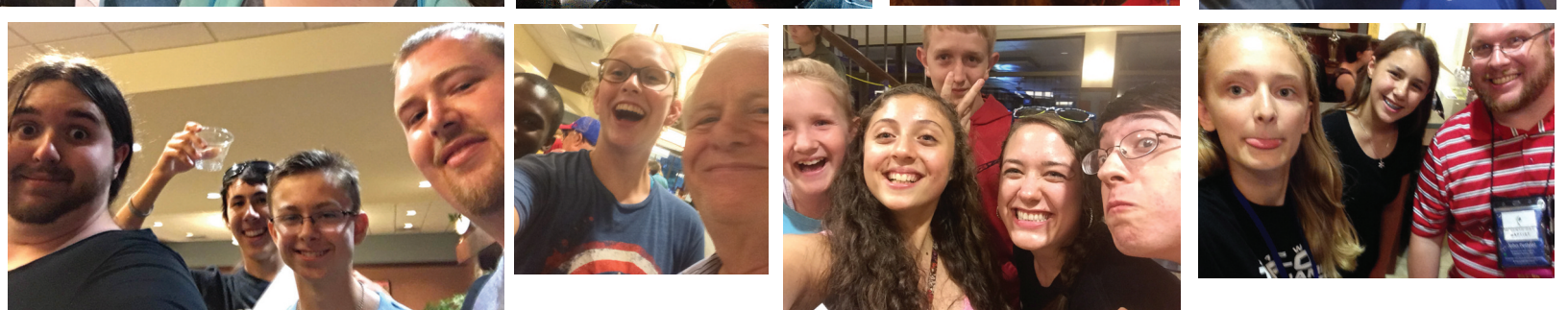
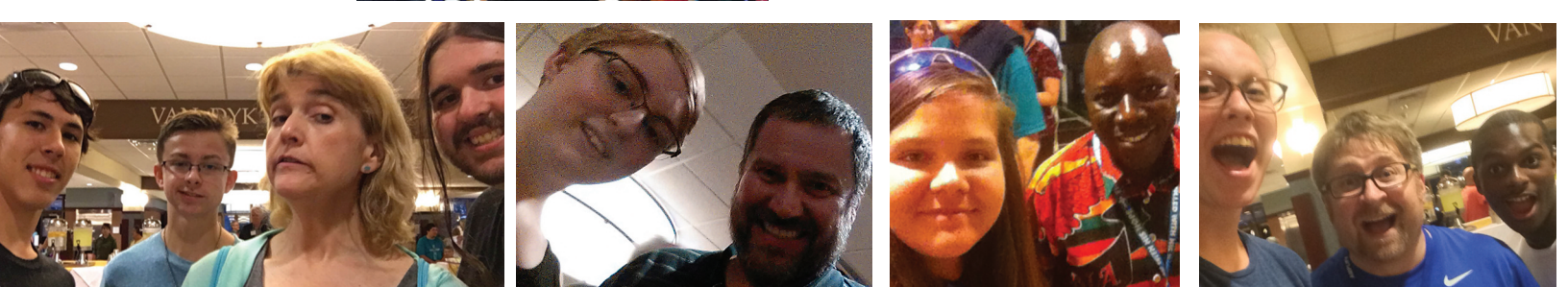
# Sabbath Recorder

SDB General Conference 2016 Issue



A Seventh Day Baptist Publication  
September 2016







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# Sabbath Recorder

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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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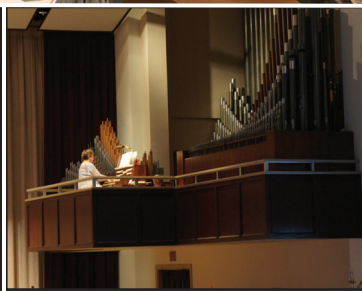
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# SDB General Conference 2016

July 31 – August 6







## Sunday Evening Worship

### Faith, Family, Education Speaker: Michael Jordan

Dean of the Chapel at  
Houghton College

What's interesting to me in this passage is that we often understand works as simply demonstrating the reality of our faith: if our faith is real faith, we reason, it will express itself in works. That is undoubtedly part of what James is trying to say — he's trying to challenge his readers to live out their faith. But he's not just saying that you need to live out your faith; he's also saying your faith is brought to completion by your works.

That is to say, your works are a component of your faith. It's not like you have your faith over here, your mental and theological and spiritual beliefs, and then this outward life of works that better be in accord with your faith. No, a life of good Christian works actually contributes to the faith you have.

Think of it this way: many of you have done missionary work of some kind before, either short- or long-term. You might go into missionary work thinking that this work is a way that your faith expresses itself. That is, you feel like you have this strong faith, this faith that puts Jesus at the center of your life, and it's so important to you that you want it to be front and center, you are willing to leave your home to go serve God somewhere else. But what you find, when you get there, is that it actually is having a huge impact on you. Your desire to serve God — which is a good and righteous thing — propels you out into good works; but the fact you do the good works feeds back into you and makes you have a stronger faith than when you started.

This is the kind of faith I'm interested in if we're talking faith, family, and education: not just a series of beliefs saying here's what I think about God, here's what side I'm on in the culture wars, here's what I'm willing to die for — but instead, a faith that results in a fearless openness to letting God change you and make you new, make you into a different person than you would

I was asked to speak on the conference theme, "Faith, Family, Education." As a guy with ten years of pastoral ministry experience, with five kids, who currently works at a Christian college, it would seem that these are three words and ideals I care deeply about. And I do care about faith, family, and education — roughly in that order. In fact, I care so deeply about faith, family, and education that I worry sometimes about the future. Not because I think faith, family, and education are in danger of going anywhere: I think all three are safely with us to stay. But I do worry about how we understand faith, family, and education. If we understand faith, family, and education rightly, they can be central in a godly life.

But increasingly, I think we misunderstand faith. There is, of course, this passage from James 2: *"So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe — and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works."*



be without this faith. Faith without works is dead, not just because you show that your faith is insufficient, but because without works you keep your faith from being this living, vital thing that can change you and through you change the world. It's not just that our works are an ornament to our faith, or proof that our faith is valid: the relationship between our works and our faith allows our faith to be something that blesses the whole world through us.

Which brings me to think about family. I think that we as Christians often misunderstand family in the same way we misunderstand faith. Perhaps one of the most famous passages regarding Jesus and the family is from Mark 3:31-35: *"Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'"*

When we think about family, we often think about people we share a special kinship with, the people we are closest to, the people that we have a special affection for. In modern Western culture, we think of the family almost exclusively in terms of emotional bonding. We can see this in many ways, even in the battle over same-sex marriage where the presumption is that a family has nothing to do with the gender of the members of the family, but the feelings and affinity they have for each other. The modern understanding of family is that my family is the one who supports me, who loves me unconditionally, the ones I can count on when the chips are down, etc. So we tend to interpret this passage in ways that reflect that. We assume that Jesus is saying, "Who am I really closest to in this world? Who are my real truest, deepest friends? The ones who do the will of God."

Again, there is some truth in this for sure. But I don't want to lose sight of the fact of what Jesus' mother and brothers hoped to

accomplish in this particular moment. This story is dropped into three different places in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. As it appears in the book of Mark, Jesus' ministry has taken a bit of a turn. Instead of simply garden-variety healing and teaching as it seems at the beginning, Jesus is now exorcising evil spirits. And this is getting people's attention. We read that people are saying that Jesus is out of his mind, that he's got a demon, that he is doing what he's doing by the power of Satan. So we read this interesting passage in v. 21: *"When his family heard this, they went out to restrain him."* Not "they wanted to talk to him," or "they wanted to say how much they loved him." But they went out to restrain him. They were going to bring him back home, to bring him out of the lime-light, to bring him back to his senses. They

**Your desire to serve God —  
which is a good  
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a stronger faith  
than when you started.**

were going, in short, to hold him accountable. That's what families did in those days: they were not just emotional bonds but there was real teeth, real accountability to being part of a family. A family had the right and the responsibility to rein you in when you got out of control, no matter

*Continued on next page...*



*Continued from previous page*

what age you were, no matter what you felt like you wanted to do or say with your life. And so when Jesus says, "Those who do the will of God are my mother and my brothers," he's not just saying, "Those who do the will of God are my favorite people;" he's saying, "Those are the people that have the right to speak into my life."

I don't think we should go all the way back in time to this ancient conception of the family. But I do think it's vital that if we're going to talk about a healthy faith being one that changes our hearts, then we should also talk about a healthy family being one that has the potential of changing our hearts. The vision Jesus holds out both for the biological family and our church family is that these relationships hold us accountable, change who we are. Jesus seems to think that we don't just belong to a church in order to express what we believe along with other like-minded individuals, but that we belong to a church in order to make ourselves accountable to other mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters who have the right to speak into our lives and to make us different creations than we would be otherwise. Just as I long for a faith that changes our hearts, I long for families that also change our hearts.

Is it too much to hope for education that changes our hearts? After all, the Apostle Paul himself says at the beginning of 1 Corinthians 8 that "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." In fact there are segments of the church that are still very suspicious of "book learning," because there is the idea that those who get knowledge are most likely to become people who end up in love with their own wisdom and cleverness and out of love with the Lord. When I went to seminary, many people jokingly called it "cemetery" and told me to not get too much book learning. Perhaps some of you have heard the same. I grew up Baptist, and I have a hunch that we had the same jokes as you, even if I did worship on the "wrong day." ☺

At any rate, I would love to point you again to that passage in Paul where he says, "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." It's really quite interesting where that appears — you know where Paul says that? In the section of 1 Corinthians where he's talking about whether or not Christians should eat meat sacrificed to idols or not. He says, "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge;" that's an interesting phrase, isn't it? He seems to be saying that "if you think you're smart, you haven't learned enough; you need more knowledge."

In fact, he says, the most important thing is not any human knowledge, but what God knows: "anyone who loves God is known by Him." And so Paul goes on and talks about everything is from God and going back to God, and we only exist because He has made it happen. And then he says, "it is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge." Some people don't know this yet, and they still think of idols as real rivals to God; they have a weak conscience because they lack knowledge. Because of this, Paul says, those of us who have knowledge, those of us who know more, should not impose a stumbling-block on those who do not have knowledge. We should not seek to impose our knowledge on others because when we do, we wound their consciences." I don't want to do that," says Paul, "so if food is the reason they fall, I will never eat meat because I love each of them and I don't want even one of them to fall."

**The smarter you are,  
the more you know  
you need Him.**

Paul is not saying that knowledge is a bad thing — not at all. Knowledge is a means to know the truth. But he shows how real knowledge not only changes minds but again, changes the heart. Real knowledge drives us to our knees, says Paul; real knowledge doesn't make us proud of ourselves but pushes us back to the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again, and forces us to realize that all of our knowledge only drives us deeper into the realization that we didn't make this Earth, we didn't make ourselves, and we surely can't redeem ourselves. The smarter you are, the more you know you need Him.

Paul also shows how real knowledge builds empathy for others. Right after saying, "Knowledge puffs up," Paul builds an elaborate theological argument. Paul demonstrates that he does, in fact, know something. But do you see how his knowledge not only drives him to his knees in worship, but also makes him realize how precious fellow believers are? Our church, the Wesleyan Church, right now is debating our stance on alcohol. I won't go too far into it, but this



Monday and Tuesday

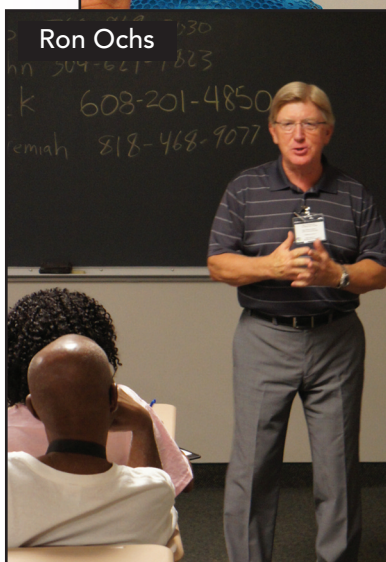
## Conversations with our Executives



Clinton Brown



Jeremiah Owen



Ron Ochs



Jennifer Wangness



John Pethel



Nicholas Kersten

passage is so important for our church right now because while there are people who think that loosening our stance on alcohol is the right thing to do, these people need to realize that those who oppose them are not their enemies but precious people of God whose consciences deserve respect and honor. Debates like this rack every church and convention; I don't know what debates consume you or may even consume some energy at this conference, but this is an urgent word from the Lord whenever believers are in disagreement: don't presume the worst in those who disagree. Real knowledge fills you with wonder at God's power, but not only at God; real knowledge also fills you with wonder at the mystery that is your brother and sister, precious and loved, as eternal as you are and as loved by God as you are. So if we are to have education, let it be the kind of education that forms our hearts as it fills our minds. As we learn the liberal arts, the sciences, theology, business, sports and recreation, the arts and music, as we learn these

things, let us learn in a way that drives us to our knees in worship of God and in empathy for our fellow human beings, especially those of the family of God.

Faith, Family, Education. Like all words, they can do a lot of good when they're used in the right way and a lot of harm when they're used in the wrong way. If we understand faith as just ideas about God, if we understand family as just emotional connections, if we understand education as just knowledge poured into our heads, we may as well pursue other goals than faith, family, and education. Pursued rightly, faith becomes a partner with works in changing our hearts; family becomes a structure that holds us accountable so that our hearts can change and grow; and education drives us to our knees in worship of God and awe of our fellow man so that our hearts can change. As you wind up this year of faith, family, education, may God use each to change your heart so that Seventh Day Baptists can bless the world as only you can. [SR](#)



## Morning Devotional Speakers



Rev. Barry Dailey  
Southeast Atlanta, GA



Pastor Jasmine Lynch  
West Palm Beach, FL



Pastor Saul Alonzo  
Silver Spring, MD



Pastor Ericessen Cooper  
New York City, NY



Rev. Jerry Vaught  
Portland, OR

## Evening Worship Speakers



Rev. Scott Hausrath  
North Loup, NE



Tyler Chroniger  
Shiloh, NJ



Rev. Carl Greene  
Hebron, PA



Rev. Garfield Miller  
Jamaica SDB Conference





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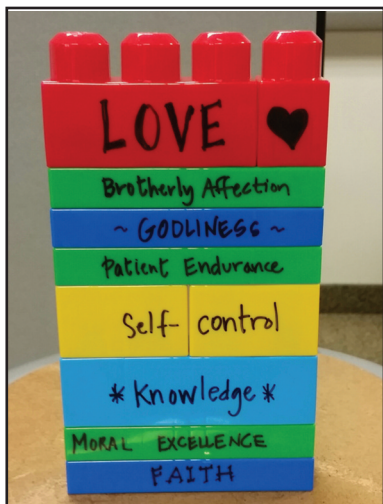


USA





This was a year of trying something new for the high school-aged youth. Following last year's decision that the Pre-Conference youth retreat was no longer practical, plans were made to hold sessions for the youth concurrent to the General Conference sessions. At the request of the youth, YouthCon 2016 was focused on providing them with leadership training with a theme of "Leaders Without Limits." The theme was developed around 2 Peter 1:5-8 and the "building blocks" God uses to establish the character of those who recognize that leading is not something you do but rather who you are. *"The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 1:8, NLT).



Building Blocks for Godly Character

Worship, Bible studies, hands-on leadership training tracks, meetings with SDB Executives, and participation with the Business and Interest Committees of the General Conference were intermingled with fun activities to help develop the 34 attendees into leaders not just of tomorrow, but also of today. We look forward to fine tuning the program to make next year's YouthCon even better. SR



Above: Jeremiah Owen on the art of taking video.



Left: When field trips go wrong: stuck in an elevator.

Right: Timothy Jacobs and Timothy McNeme, getting hands-on training.

Below: Ben Calhoun of Citizen Way encourages our young leaders.





## Associated Conference EDUCATION




The focus of this year's Associated Conference was taken from the General Conference theme, but elaborated on one key component: EDUCATION. We were delighted to spend this week of our faith walk with approximately 45 kids from our SDB family. Each day, the kids spent time learning different "subject areas" and how they are represented in the Bible.

One example included Math and the Bible. Our youngest Conference-goers learned about numbers that are in some of our beloved Bible stories, such as Creation and Noah's Ark. Our older children covered key verses and stories that represented numbers throughout the Old and New Testaments. It was amazing to hear how many they could name without clues! The Kindergarten and First Grade Class had a hands-on week of learning what God teaches us about Science. Other topics of the week included: History and the Bible, Geography and the Bible, as well as Languages and the Bible. Each day in Music Class, the kids learned specific scriptures that we now sing as some of our favorite praise songs to the Lord.

Throughout the week we prepared crafts in Art Class to share at a local nursing home, Wellsville Manor Care. The residents loved hearing the children sing and we were blessed to see our kids reach out to them with the love of Christ. Our other off-campus activity was a road trip to Camp Harley Sutton. Everyone enjoyed the ride on the water slide, but it was

equally fun cheering for each other and laughing at the big splashes at the bottom of the hill. We greatly thank Mr. Nelson Snyder who faithfully manned the hose and gave the kids tips on how to get the best ride!

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. This year marked Charlotte's 17th year serving as the Director of Children's Conference, and we are all so blessed by her selfless contribution. We are excited to pass the torch to Emily Watt and a new Children's Conference team, and look forward to all the Lord is going to do in the future! 

— Valerie Probasco  
Children's Conference Committee Member  
SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ





## This was the 204th Annual Session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, Ltd.

- Rev. Shay Rankhorn was voted an Accredited SDB minister.
- Accreditation renewed for:
  - Rev. David Taylor
  - Rev. Lawrence Watt
  - Rev. Stephen Osborn
  - Rev. J. Paul Green
  - Rev. Kenneth Chroniger
  - Rev. Steven Crouch
  - Rev. Gabriel Bejjani
  - Rev. Herbert Saunders
- It was voted to continue Youth Conference during regular Conference week. It was judged to be successful. See page 12 about the theme "Leaders Without Limits."
- SDB Historical Society merged with General Conference — new name is **Council on History**.
- It was voted that the following amendment to the Statement of Belief will be voted on by a "**Vote by Churches**" at Conference 2017: "**MANKIND:** *We believe that mankind was created in the image of God and is therefore the noblest work of creation. We believe that human beings have moral responsibility and are created to enjoy both divine and human fellowship as children of God. Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:44-48; 1 John 1:3; John 1:12* **MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY:** *We believe that God ordained and organized the family, comprised of people related by marriage, birth, or adoption, as a fundamental building block for society. We believe that the Divinely instituted union of marriage is solely between one man and one woman.*"
- A budget of \$789,805.80 was approved for 2017, with a target of \$418,100 from Current Giving. This does not include the Missionary Society, which is a separate corporation.

## Conference Business



Haywood Floyd reads committee report



Katy Bofinger — Business Recording Secretary

- The General Council is to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of establishing a Seventh Day Baptist spiritual retreat center and center for training in ministry and missions as it relates to the specific property formerly known as "Miracle Meadows" in Salem, West Virginia.
- Council on Ministry is to develop a plan to make contact with all groups identifying as Seventh Day Baptist, but that are not part of the Conference, and develop resources to aid such groups in developing as a church and applying for membership in the Conference.



Tuesday Evening Worship

Family: Luke 11:11-13  
Speaker: Tyler Chroniger

SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ



*Father God, we know Your spirit is here tonight. We know You are moving in our hearts and our minds. I pray for myself, and the message You have given me; that it would not be of me but of You and the words spoken tonight would be glory and honor to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

There are a lot of truths to be found in the Gospel of Luke. My main focus is going to be on those last few verses of Luke 11:11-13. It is basically speaking about the relationship between a father and son or our father and us, His children. (For those of you who don't know...August 25, 2015 @ 2:02 in the morning my wife and I were blessed with Brayden Jaymes Chroniger).



What I believe is that God has allowed me to have a son to help me understand His relationship to Jesus as well as help me understand how God relates to us and how we relate to Him.

Throughout the course of human history, God has wanted to bless the human race. I have to tell you this story. Jenn and I were making dinner and Brayden was playing on the floor of the kitchen. Jenn went over to the stove to put something in the oven and Brayden, being the inquisitive child that he is, proceeded to crawl over and pull himself up on the front of the hot stove. Needless to say we pulled him away and told him "No." He continued this several times but still refused to receive the warning. I believe that we treat God a in very similar manner. We treat God as children who don't understand. The problem is that we as adults, young adults, and young people who are starting to "get it," have numerous examples from our past where people have traded in the blessings of God for the consequences of the world.

Take, for example, Adam and Eve. They were created to live in a beautiful garden. They had extreme fellowship with God and they chose to squander it all because of a lie. They traded in the blessing of God for the consequences of the world.

When God was going to give Israel the Promised Land, what happened? They sent in spies — and if you recall the children's song, ten said "no" and two

said "go." They decided it was better to listen to the ten and not accept the blessing of God. So, they ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years.

Eventually, they received the Promise Land again but that wasn't good enough. So they asked God for Judges and Kings. God said, "you think you know what you want so here they are." The problem here was that the people fell away from God. They were taken into captivity and basically made slaves.

In each case, all God wanted to do was to bless His people. But they choose the consequences of the world over the blessings of God.

Look at the state of our world and our nation today. There is death, destruction, brother versus brother, wars, and famine. All of these are consequences of falling out of the will of God.

In Genesis 1:31, God called everything that He created very good. As I said in the story about Adam and Eve, God blessed them by allowing them to live in a beautiful garden and allowing them to be in a direct close relationship with Him. He ultimately blessed them with one rule: "Don't eat of the tree of the 'Knowledge of the Good and Evil' or you will surely die." Even God's rules are blessing. Why?

Part of my job as Brayden's father is to keep him from harm. I tell him "no," maybe smack his hand, because I know that certain things will cause him harm. I don't know if any of you parents have kids that do this but Brayden absolutely loves electrical sockets. You put him down on the floor and he makes a beeline for them. They are especially awesome when there is something plugged in to them.

*continued on next page...*



Continued from previous page

It seems like we have that problem — not to believe or trust God. God wants to bless us, which includes keeping us from harm. James 1:17 says that every good and perfect gift comes from God. Matthew 6:25-26 says: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”* If verses like this are true, why do we act like children who don’t know better rather than trusting the God who has our best interest in mind?

If you recall our text Luke 11:11-13: *“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

The parallel text in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 7 says this: *“If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”*

Jesus is saying that not only will we get good gifts or blessing from God, we will get the Holy Spirit. Why is this a good gift?

The Spirit is the one who picks us up when we have fallen, dusts us off when we are dirty, comforts us when we are sad, encourages us when we don’t want to go farther, and leads us through the mess of the world. If we believe that Christianity is true then the next big step is believing that God will provide us His spirit. When Jesus says you “who are evil still know how to give good gifts,” He uses the worst of the two words for evil in the Hebrew. I would go as far as to say that this would encompass anybody not following the will of God.

In the parallel text in the Gospel of Matthew, Mathew puts this take on prayer between judging others and narrow is the gate. Matthew 7:14 says, *“but small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”* Basically, only a few people are going to find the narrow gate and get through it. I think this is completely accurate, because like a child who doesn’t understand, we have the inability to learn from our past and the past of those before us. We would rather suffer the consequences of this world, than receive the blessing from God.

I want to give you one more example of this, which comes from Genesis 11. God wanted to bless the people and allow them to spread all over the world and subdue it. What happened? They decided it would be better to stay put and build a huge tower to heaven to make a name for

them. Ultimately, God’s will wasn’t being complete and the people weren’t receiving the blessing of God. So, God confused their languages so they would do His will.

Think about this example of a “road closed” sign. If some of you deal with construction, what is the purpose of a “road closed” sign? Well if you go through it or around it, you could end up severely damaging your car or damaging the people working in the construction zone, or worse. So again, part of God blessing us is to keep us from harm.

So I ask, what is keeping you from receiving the blessings of God? If God blesses those who follow His will and the Holy Spirit is one of the best blessings of God, what is keeping you from receiving the blessings of God? Once we get back into the will of God with the power of the Holy Spirit, we will start realizing and seeing the blessing of God all the more clearly.

**It seems like  
we have that problem —  
not to believe or trust God.  
God wants to bless us,  
which includes keeping us  
from harm.**

For me, this has been a struggle. I have often times not listened to what God wanted me to do and have told Him “no.” God said, “do this” and I said, “what for?” Maybe some of your struggles aren’t like mine and you struggle with depression, anger, and bitterness. Maybe you grew up with a father who didn’t give you good gifts, and you struggle to understand the fact that God wants to bless you. All of those things are consequences from decisions we have made and not allowing God’s perfect blessings to flow freely in our lives. Is your life the more abundant life Jesus talked about in John 10:10? Once we realize that we aren’t following the will of God — and the consequences that we have are based on decisions we have made — we can start the course correction and honestly pray the way Jesus was teaching us from Luke.

<sup>2</sup> He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father,[a] hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.[b]

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.[c] And lead us not into temptation.[d]”



Continued from previous page

It is our active prayer life that helps facilitate the blessings of God. So pray with eagerness. Pray with sincerity. Pray with all authority in the name of Jesus, all while seeking the will of God.

I want to give you six practical applications.

1. Stop thinking you know better than God.
2. Stop accepting that maybe the consequences aren't that bad.
3. Start to understand that God wants to bless you.
4. Start to understand that part of God's blessing is to keep you from harm.
5. Start to understand the impact of the Holy Spirit.
6. Start to understand the impact of prayer.

This is your opportunity to respond to God and get right with him. Jesus said that if you ask for anything in His name it will be given to you. So think about the times when you have accepted the consequences rather than the blessing of God. Think about the fact that God wants to keep you from harm — maybe by putting roadblocks in your way. Listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and receive the blessing of God. SR

## Conference by the Numbers

Total Registration .....	434
Official Delegates .....	236
Churches represented .....	52
Pastors/Ministers .....	52
Ministerial/TIME students .....	7
Visitors .....	4
Children's Conference .....	58
Youth Conference .....	33
Staff .....	8





The Robe of Achievement Committee chose two very worthy women to be awarded the Robe this year; one who has already gotten her eternal reward and one who is still with us. They have several things in common. For instance they are both musical, pastor's wives, served on the Women's Board, and served on the Board of Christian Education.

**Receiving the Robe posthumously is Yvonne Louise Swanson Stephan.** We only regret that she wasn't nominated sooner so she could receive this Robe of Achievement in person.

Yvonne grew up in the Chicago area but graduated from The College of Emporia (Kansas) in 1963 and then received her teaching credentials from Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia.

One fateful day as Yvonne was setting up a third grade classroom in Leavenworth, Kansas, a young Army soldier turned up in her presence. "Aren't you going to help me?" she asked Mel Stephan. Mel and Yvonne were married on April 24, 1965, giving Grandma the last laugh as she had tried to convince the family that "Saturday is the real Sabbath, not Sunday." Mel and Yvonne remained "steadfast" for 48 years, raising two sons, Karl and Richard, and providing a home for numerous foster children.

During Mel's years of seminary, Yvonne was greatly involved in Christian education and the music ministry of the Bell SDB Church in Salemville, PA. During that time Yvonne worked at Camp JOY, led Junior Youth Fellowship and was a youth leader. They shared their love of Christ in the pastorate of Alfred Station, NY, and the Marlboro SDB Church near Bridgeton, NJ. Upon leaving the active pastorate, they joined the Shiloh, NJ, SDB church where Yvonne continued sharing her strong alto voice as well as talent on a variety of musical instruments. Her storytelling skill, enhanced by an ability to imitate almost any accent, was put to good use with children and adults alike. She cheerfully took her turn as Shiloh's Benevolent Society President and used her sewing ability to craft banners for special occasions. Yvonne's ministry to children continued outside the home and the church as she was a certified substitute teacher in every state where she lived.

On the denominational level, Yvonne served on the Host Committee for General Conference at least once, and was an active member of the Children's Committee for the Board of Christian Education in Alfred Station. Yvonne also took a turn directing Junior Conference and Associated Conference music. She directed Young Adult Pre-Con and participated in a Post Conference retreat. Yvonne compiled the BEACON 50th Anniversary section of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Later, during the 90s, she chaired the Robe of Achievement Committee for the Women's Board; in fact, she crafted this beautiful Robe in 1993 to replace the long-lost original Robe that had come to us from China many years ago. Always going the second mile, Yvonne even crafted a coordinating carry-on garment bag to protect the Robe on its travels. During this time she conducted a round-table discussion at the Women's Society banquet. Yvonne fought a courageous battle against cancer for about six months before God called her home on December 11, 2013. A plaque was presented to Yvonne's widower, Mel, with love and appreciation for the life he introduced to our denomination. SR

## Robe of Achievement





**Charlotte Anne Mennen Chroniger**

The second recipient is a mother of four children and a grandmother — her high school nickname was Chuck. Charlotte Anne Mennen Chroniger was born in Aplington, Iowa, to Jesse and Joan Mennen. Her walk with Jesus came as a result of the influence of her mother and some of her Youth Group leaders. She became a committed Christian as a youth.

Playing the piano and traveling were two of her dreams. One of them came true when she spent two summers as a missionary in Japan. It was at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City that she met her future husband, Donald Chroniger. They married on August 30, 1981. God blessed them with four beautiful children: Tyler, Jordan, Bethany and Jessica. Pastor Don has called her the stability of the family, committed to organization, administration, and ministration.

Charlotte has been a member of the Nortonville, KS, SDB Church, New Auburn, WI, SDB Church and her current church, Shiloh, NJ, SDB. Early in her career, she was a teacher and Minister of Music in Centerville, Iowa. It was in New Auburn that she received Ordination. She was also co-founder of The New Auburn Community Choir which is still in existence.

Charlotte has served the denomination effectively and tirelessly on the Council on Ministry, The Board of Christian Education, The Women’s Board (as SCSC Chairman and Women’s Page Editor), Pre Con, and Young Adult staffs, organist and pianist at Conference, Conference choir accompanist, writer for *The Helping Hand*, and Director of Children’s Conference for nearly 20 years! At Conference in 2015, she organized and directed a joint bell choir concert involving several church choirs. She has a servant’s heart and has done all to follow the Lord’s call and glorify Him, not herself. Charlotte organizes Veteran’s Day programs at both Hopewell School and Stow Creek School. She is Coordinator for Teen Arts, and participated in “Revive South

Jersey,” a program to bring the Gospel to underprivileged children in Bridgeton.

In the Shiloh Church, Charlotte is organist, pianist for the choir, frequent Sabbath School teacher, youth group leader every Friday night, bell choir director, and past director and staff member of Vacation Bible School. She is Vice-president of Ladies Benevolent Society and has served on numerous committees for Benevolent Society as well as for church. Since 1991, she has been Primary Camp Director and has reached out to many of the youth to be on staff to help them with their Christian walk. She also takes care of the camp informational mailings for all three camps. Charlotte coordinates the annual Thanksgiving Dinner and frequently volunteers to head-up a monthly fellowship dinner. She faithfully takes time to write sincere thank you notes to all who help with dinners, camp, and to all who give of their time and talents. On most Sabbath days, Charlotte hosts guests in her home for a Sabbath meal and she is the first to volunteer to host visitors coming for Association, Pastors’ Conference, or other occasions. She lines up the talent for the church’s annual Gospel Music Festival and helps to emcee the program. With all this going on, she still finds time to make and deliver meals to those with illness in the family, with new babies or to those in need.

Charlotte is definitely an encourager to all to use their talents for God. She is very supportive and understanding of where everyone is in his walk with God. One of Charlotte’s favorite songs, “Blessed Assurance,” speaks of “praising my Savior all the day long.” This is certainly evident in Charlotte’s life and in everything she does. She is praising God and spreading the assurance that Jesus is hers and His salvation can be yours, too. Her impact can be seen and felt in her family, her church, her schools, her community, and her denomination.

The committee is very pleased to honor **Charlotte Ann Mennen Chroniger as our second Robe of Achievement recipient for 2016.** [SR](#)





During the afternoon activities at General Conference, the SDB Council on History was allotted 45 minutes to honor and celebrate a century of ministry of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society. The Society was merged with the General Conference in April of this year, but not before the Society entered its one hundredth year of preserving and promoting Seventh Day Baptist history.

The current members of the Council on History celebrated the many people who undertook and represented the Society over its one hundred years of ministry — including the many directors and officers of the Society, its employees (Historians, Librarians and other staff), the many donors who supported the work over the years, and the recipients of the Gold Headed Cane (awarded by the Society to honor those who made especially notable contributions to the work of the Society and the preservation of SDB history). The program made it clear that history, while directed and shaped by God, is ultimately made through people: for one hundred years, the Society was all about the people.

As part of the celebration of the Society’s work, a special award was given to **Wayne C. Maxson**, who has long served the Society in a variety of roles including as a trustee, an advisor, and a consultant — in addition to his many other contributions to the work. Wayne was on hand to receive his award and to celebrate the day with us!

During the awards time, the Council on History also had the privilege of awarding the **Gold Headed Cane to Rev. J. Paul Green** for his eighteen years of service to the SDB Historical Society as a director and treasurer. Paul was not present to receive his award, and so arrangements are being made to present it to him formally after Conference.

In addition to the celebratory program and awards, the Council on History was able to introduce a new video which promotes the importance of SDB historic preservation in local churches. It also gives the history of the Historical Society’s ministry and encourages giving to the Society’s Centennial Fund to provide for future historic preservation efforts. The video can be found on the SDB history webpage at <http://www.sdbhistory.org/centennial-fund/bulletin-inserts-promotional-materials>. The entire run of bulletin inserts is available, which you or your church can use to continue to celebrate historic preservation work among SDBs! The bulletin inserts are available in English and Spanish, though only the first few inserts are already available in Spanish.

We encourage you and your church to celebrate the successful century of the Society’s ministry for the remainder of this year — as you consider the role of your local church in the broader scope of our history! SR

## It’s All About The People:

100 Years of the SDB Historical Society Celebrated at General Conference



Top: current members of the Council on History.

Center: Wayne C. Maxson given special award.

Right: Director Kersten awarding Gold Headed Cane.



Council on History

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten  
Director of Education and History



# New Award and Traditional Awards given at Conference

As promoted in the pages of the *Sabbath Recorder* over the last year, the Christian Education Council honored two churches and an outstanding teacher during the awards time at this year's General Conference meetings.



NYC wins *Mary G. Clare Scripture Memory Bowl*

The **Sabbath School Teacher of the Year** for the 2015-16 Conference year is **Rev. David Fox** of the SpringsLife Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Pastor David wasn't able to attend General Conference. We are making arrangements to award the *Crystal Apple Award* for outstanding work in developing and teaching in the Sabbath School program they have in his local church later this fall. David was instrumental in the development of the current program and his students and their parents rave about his work in teaching the Gospel and its implications to his classes. Congratulations David!

Possibly owing to the encouragements of Conference President, Rev. Dr. Ken Chroniger, there was spirited competition for the *Mary G. Clare Scripture Memory Bowl*, awarded to the church with the highest number of members/attendees who complete the **Conference Scripture Memory**

**Program**. Traditional powers Toronto were once again strong challengers for the award — but after concerted effort, the winner of the 2015-16 award was the **New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church**, with 30 participants.



Hebron wins *Andrew J. Camenga Scripture Memory Award*

After General Conference last year, the CEC received a suggestion to consider giving an award to the church with the highest percentage of people who completed the Scripture Memory Program — offering an opportunity to smaller churches who might not be able to reach the total numbers of some of the larger churches. In response, the CEC created an award for the church with the highest percentage of attendees (not number of members) in the church who completed the Scripture Memory Program. In order to qualify for the award, local churches needed to have at least 20 attendees and report their membership and attendance numbers to the General Conference Directory for this Conference year. (How could we figure a percentage unless we had up-to-date numbers?)

The new award also needed a new name. After deliberation on the part of the Council, the award was named after a tireless advocate for Christian Education among SDBs — and a leader who has constantly striven to support and encourage all of our local churches regardless of their size: the Rev. Andrew Camenga.

The first recipient of the **Andrew J. Camenga Scripture Memory Award** for the Conference year 2015-2016 was the **First Hebron (PA) SDB Church**. Twenty-five of their reported average attendance of 31 completed the program this year — that's nearly 75% of their regular attendees!

Certificates for those individuals who completed this year's **Scripture Memory Program** will be mailed soon, along with the materials for next year's program. Keep your eyes peeled for your church's information! Information about the 2016-17 nomination process for the **Sabbath School Teacher of the Year** will likewise be forthcoming! [SR](#)





# Whose Plan is it Anyway?

by Pastor Steve Osborn  
SDB Church, Boulder, CO



Top photo: Ordination Ceremony

Bottom photo: John, Dave, and Steve with the five ordained pastors

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Pastor Dave Stall told me, “One of the most important things in visiting Ethiopia is to be flexible.” Boy, was he ever right! We had plans — and good ones. But God had better ones.

Our plan was for Pastor Dave, Pastor John Pethtel, and me to make a follow-up visit to our churches among the Nuer people who are refugees from South Sudan now living in Ethiopia. Our goals included checking up on the building projects — a permanent structure for the main church in Gambella and shelters for their two other churches; continuing training with the pastors in SDB beliefs and practices; and traveling to connect with the other churches.


Immediately, God began to shift our plans. A panicked call from our translator at the airport revealed that he would have to obtain his visa before being allowed on the flight. Since we were in Washington D.C., that might have been possible except for the fact that a blizzard had shut down the Ethiopian Embassy. So off we flew with no translator, armed only with Dave’s minimal knowledge of the area, the hope that someone would meet us at the airport, and faith that God had a plan bigger than ours.

We were greeted enthusiastically at the airport in Gambella by young men who remembered Dave from the construction project and spoke just enough English to get us loaded into their friend’s SUV and whisk us away to the church. We were completely unprepared for the gathering of close to 50 people who had come from near and far in anticipation of our visit.

A tour of the property revealed that the building was well maintained and, not only had all projects been completed, but much more work had been done — including building a fence around the property and installing pit toilets. This was important because we discovered that they had four additional pastors to ordain. The number of churches had grown from three to ten in the two short years since the previous visit. The Gambella Church building was being treated as a Conference Center where leaders from the other churches could come and stay for occasions such as this. God had been working in ways we could not even imagine.

Our hearts were put at ease when we realized that part of God’s plan included Kuol Gach, a new pastor who spoke brilliant English. He had translated the SDB Statement of Belief and key portions of SDB history from English into Nuer. He was also the best translator we could have hoped for. We slid seamlessly into the teaching roles God had planned for us. Countless hours were spent over the next week and a half in the shade of the beautiful tree outside the church building teaching, listening, and answering questions they had about what SDBs believe and do. Many of them have come out of Adventism and have been harassed about joining this “upstart” denomination. We were also able to assist them in ordaining three of their four new pastors and holding their first Communion service as SDBs.

With so many new churches, our desire to visit grew even stronger. One church was even in a refugee camp and two were across the border into South Sudan — which were two areas I had hoped we could encourage them to view as potential areas of outreach. How shocking to discover that God was way ahead of me! Unfortunately (or so we thought), early on during our time in Gambella, a conflict broke out between the Nuer tribe and another refugee tribe in the area. We were informed by government officials that it would be unsafe for us to travel. We were initially disappointed, until we recognized that the majority of the leaders from all ten churches were present in Gambella. God’s plan was to allow us to spend time that would have been consumed by travel in more teaching, training, and answering questions.

The dreams and visions of these church leaders are huge. While there we helped them make plans for more church buildings, purchase of property, registering the SDB Conference with the Ethiopian government and adding electricity to the Gambella Church building. I hope you will join us in prayer for this exciting new group of SDBs who are passionate about building God’s Kingdom and the SDB witness in Ethiopia and South Sudan. For more information about how you can support their efforts financially, please visit [sdbmissions.org](http://sdbmissions.org). 

Clinton R. Brown  
Executive Director





*As we have finished another week at General Conference and SCSC, I feel that it is important to reread this message. So thank you all and God bless. (From September 2015)*

After a very exciting and action-packed week at General Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 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 in the coming months. This last summer has been a huge one for me, one 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. The 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 next for me. Thus, I feel as we return to our classes and our everyday lives, it is important to remember that we should 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 others, 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 about 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.”* 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, He still desires us and wants us to live with Him in Heaven eternally! Pray to God every day that He helps you to power through that day without falling to the temptations you are trying to escape. One of the songs sung by Stained Glass, written by Brandon Gumness, really stuck with me this year. Here is the chorus:

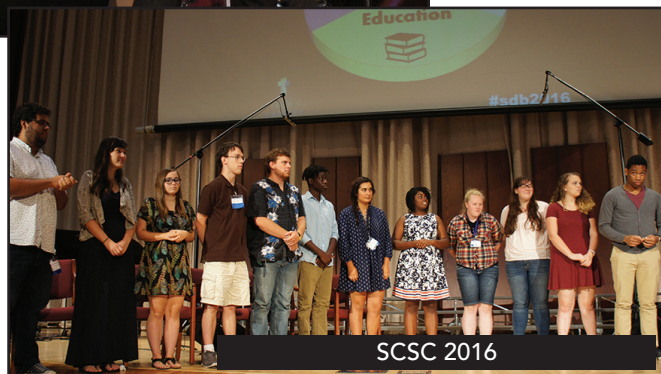
*Lord, lead me today,  
To trust and obey,  
Every hour I need you.  
Lord, lead me today  
Be a light to my way*

*Sin loses power when we call your name.*

## Spring Forward, But Don’t Fall Back!

By Willy Villalpando  
Maranatha Community Church  
Colton, CA

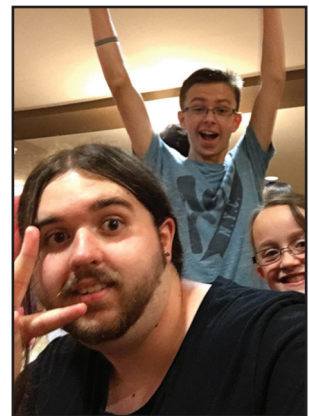
This is an awesome example of the prayer that we should be praying every day so that we don’t fall into the old habits that we had before we began our summer adventures! God has so much planned for every one of us. I pray that you continue to seek Him and to resist the temptations that you might come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



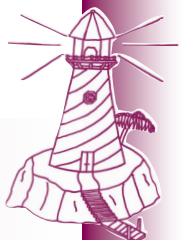




Welcome to the *Beacon* of 2016-2017! If you do not know already, the *Beacon* is a section of the *Sabbath Recorder* — specifically for the youth of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination. In this section there will be an article written by a youth. These articles are not only meant to honor and represent Seventh Day Baptists, but also, most importantly, the Creator of the universe. This year we hope to have a variety of motivated young people to write for the *Beacon*. We encourage the youth to express something of value and importance in their lives. They can share their testimony/how they met Jesus. They can talk about their struggles and how they overcame them; giving genuine advice to our denomination. They can discuss how God has influenced their lives. They can write about anything — anything appropriate, that is. We also support articles relating to the theme of SDB Conference 2017: “Life on Mission.” We, too, are excited to say that Conference will be held in Azusa, California, next summer! If you have any questions and/or are interested in writing for this year’s *Beacon*, please email the *Beacon* editors: Annie Lloyd ([anniejlloyd@gmail.com](mailto:anniejlloyd@gmail.com)) or Duane Davis ([duavis99@gmail.com](mailto:duavis99@gmail.com)). We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for the youth this year! [SR](#)



By Annie Lloyd





As I grow older it seems as though a lot of my “Christian” conversations revolve around how to keep moving forward in your relationship with God. Even though I’m not involved in as many different activities as I was when I was younger, it seems as though life is moving more rapidly and I don’t have time to do things as I once did then. I get so rushed and hurried that I’m constantly attempting to fit God in my life in between times — which admittedly come fewer and further between as the years continue.

I realized I’m trying to fit God into my life when I really need to fit my life into what He has planned for me. I think this shouldn’t seem as revolutionary to me as it does. I neglect that because I consistently get so caught up in “doing.” This realization completely changes my outlook and attitude about things and even affects my energy levels when I act on this truth.

Acting on information you have garnered can be the most difficult step you take in your life. Part of our calling as Christians is to act. It is not a dead faith that we have, but an active and living one. We are excellent at seeing things that need to be done or generating ideas for the future — but until you act upon it, this information is meaningless. This is where I’ve been. I came to this realization that the world doesn’t revolve around me. Until I do something about it, I continue to do and feel the same things which I did before.

The question then is, how do I begin to do this? In what practical ways do I begin to act on this knowledge I now have? I do not want to stay where I have been. Once I identified this problem, I was blessed to attend a conference where John Chandler, of the Spence Network, was giving a seminar. He spoke about his network and their goals — which are about developing young leaders in the church. I took away a lot of practical lessons from that time. One in particular struck me: He asked if we were “winning the battle.”

## Win the Battle

By Katrina Goodrich

[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)

In this age, it is so easy to become distracted the very moment your day begins. Many times you wake up with a list of things you need to work on during the day, or awake to fires that need to be put out at work, school, with your children, spouse, etc. It is exhausting to wake up to this and you can’t possibly start your day on a godly course.

This is one reason why John encouraged us to do morning devotions. For the first time in my life, the reason people do morning devotions makes sense — because they want to start their day off on course and then whatever they’ve gone over that morning they can put into practice. But just doing morning devotions isn’t winning the battle. Many people today use their cell phone as an alarm clock. The problem with this is that, if you’re like me, you get notifications of everything that occurred over the evening. Distractions! Even if you do devotions after this, you still have something going in the back of your mind. Then, if you have your Bible on an electronic device, you get distracted by all subsequent notifications. I now use a regular old alarm clock and a printed Bible for my morning devotions. I’ve found that this is what I needed to keep growing.

Winning the battle constitutes reading your Bible and spending time with God the very first thing you do in your day. I don’t win the battle every day. I will continue to lose occasionally in the future. But it is amazing to see the direct results of beginning to fight this battle. SR



Conference  
2016  
Women’s  
Banquet





# FAITH



Children's Message



Sabbath Worship: Kevin Butler, speaker

# FAMILY



President's Family



Children's Program



Family Discussion Panel



Pastors' Luncheon

# EDUCATION



Seminars



Accreditations



Sabbath School



YouthCon





Josh Coleman



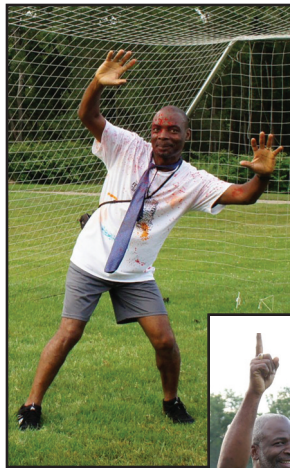
### 5K COLOR RUN Race

Local "Runners" crossing the finish line were:

1st place SDB Gentleman was:  
**Joshua Coleman**

1st place SDB Lady was:  
**Gabi Osborn**

1st place SDB under 16 was:  
**Aaron Barbee**



### Basketball





Oldie & Not-so-Oldie Games



Wrapping up the week



Dunk Tank at Family Carnival



Thanks for a great Conference, Mr. & Mrs. President!



One of Nick's Many Hats

## NEW MEMBERS

### SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale

North Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Pastor Norman Fearon

Joined

Bro Glasford Dacers  
Sis Hannah Brown

### Hebron SDB Church

Hebron, PA  
Pastor Carl P. Greene

Joined after baptism

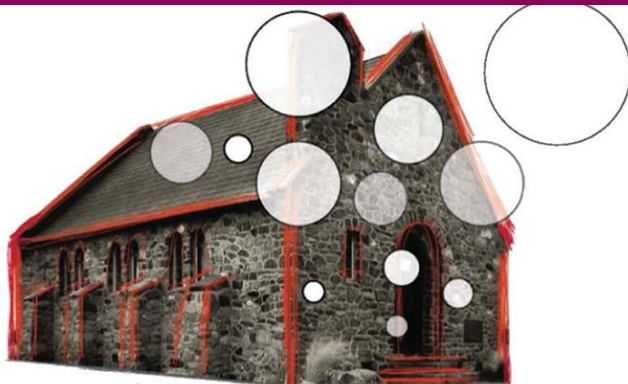
David DeCarlo  
Jameson Kenyon  
Samuel Greene

### Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church

Paint Rock, AL  
Pastor Clyde Thompson

Joined by baptism:

Lorena Robles Dunn



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

Contact information:

John Pethtel, Director of Church Development  
(cell) 304-629-9823 or [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org)

### The 2016 MULTIPLY Church Development Conference

is open to anyone who desires to see renewal and revitalization in his 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](http://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.



## OBITUARIES

**THOMPSON** — Clara Cassilda Brown was born on September 11, 1923, to Joseph and Ella (Thompson) Brown in Luna, St. Mary, Jamaica, West Indies. She was the third of four children and attended Unity Primary School.

Clara grew up worshipping at the Luna Seventh Day Baptist Church, Luna St. Mary, Jamaica, West Indies, and became the church organist for many years. During this time, she learned to be a “dress designer,” “dress maker,” and seamstress, and she made many bridal gowns for the SDB ladies.

She married Socrates A. Thompson on December 25, 1951. They raised one child, Patricia Anne. During this time, she continued to make bridal gowns for the SDB weddings and was the “go to” person if you were getting married. Clara remained very active in church work serving the denomination as Conference Secretary for over 10 years. She resigned to migrate to the United States in 1962.

Her childhood dream was to be a nurse and in the United States — she was afforded the opportunity to do so. She gained employment at Isabella Nursing Home as a Nurse’s Aide, but was encouraged by her nursing director to go on. Clara became an LPN but was not satisfied. She then applied to the nursing program at Medgar Evers College, CUNY, was accepted, and graduated in 1980 with her BSN. She continued to work at Isabella until her retirement in 1995.

In 1996, Clara relocated to Florida, then joined and worshipped at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Daytona Beach until she became ill. Following several years of illness, she slipped away peacefully during the early morning of June 17, 2016.

She was predeceased by her sister, Amy, and brothers Leonard and Martin. She leaves to mourn: her daughter, Patricia, son-in-law, Winston, Deltona, FL; and grandchildren, Kecia, Milton, WI; Bethany, St. Louis, Mo; Patrick, Deltona, FL.

**GREENE** — Linda Marie, 63, of Dodge Center, MN, passed away on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, surrounded by her loved ones.

Linda was born on October 7, 1951, in Owatonna, MN, graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1969, and attended Milton College until just shy of obtaining a BS degree in mathematics. Linda relocated to Denver, CO, where she met Gregory Charles Chess, and together they had a daughter, Shani Rae Greene. In 1986, Linda and Shani moved back to Dodge Center where she renewed her faith in Christ and ties with her family and church. Linda worked 27 years at the Mayo Clinic as a medical secretary. She served faithfully in the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church where the vibrancy of her faith became readily apparent. She had charge of the music ministry in the church, played piano for worship and many other occasions, served as a deaconess, served as a Sabbath School teacher, and was available to serve in many other ways in her community and church. She loved her Lord and shared this love with her family and friends. She was especially known for her musical talents, which included her beautiful voice as well as piano and organ.

Linda is survived by her father, Clare Greene; daughter, Shani; and two grandchildren, Khalen and Jayda; by two brothers, Bruce (Carla) Greene and Larry (Del) Greene; by two sisters, Kathryn Greene-Therneau and Barbara Simonsen; and by loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Ardith (Bond) Greene; a niece, Cindy Greene; her Uncle Wallace and Aunt Millicent Greene, and Uncle Claston and Aunt Seili Bond. Services celebrating her life were held on Sabbath, November 1, 2014, with burial in Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center.

## BIRTHS

**MULFORD** — A daughter, Bailey Grace, was born to Kyle and Alison Weatherbee Mulford of Stow Creek Township, NJ, on July 13, 2016.

**VEALE** — A daughter, Abigail Rose, was born to A.J. and Jessica (Chroniger) Veale of Greenwich, NJ, on July 13, 2016.

The **PAINT ROCK SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH** has marked their 90th year as a congregation. The Church was chartered on August 21, 1926, in Athens, AL. A celebration was held at the Church in Paint Rock, on Sabbath, August 20, 2016.

## MARRIAGES

### **SHEPPARD — NICHOLS**

Mark Sheppard and Eleanor (Fogg) Nichols of the Shiloh, NJ, SDB Church, were united in marriage on July 27, 2016, by Rev. Donald Chroniger.

### **BREY — CORALLUZZO**

Kevin Brey and Elaine D. Coralluzzo were united in marriage on June 26, 2016. Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank officiated the wedding at the Philadelphia Seventh Day Baptist Church.





President Patti Wethington

# LIFE ON MISSION

Touching lives for Jesus



Another conference has come and gone. Dr. Ken Chroniger poured his heart into the theme and purpose of “Family, Faith, and Education.” We were blessed to share in the many facets of understanding how our family is so very important and influences our faith and our faith establishes deep roots through learning and education. I am personally grateful for the opportunity to have been his “wing woman” and learn more about Conference proceedings, pound the mallet a couple times— and finally receive the ultimate blessing as I stood surrounded by a multitude of past presidents. They offered me prayers and support as I was transitioned into the denominational presidency for this coming Conference year. I’m blessed.

I am humbled, anxious, and excited as I walk into the 2016-2017 Conference responsibilities. “Life on Mission” is my theme. I believe that this focus is divinely inspired and timely for our people. It will be a journey that can be easily applied if we are willing to love and connect those who are so very close and within our reach. You see “Life on Mission” is really following as again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:21 (NIV). God has called each one of us to a life on mission as we apply the simple gifts and talents He has given us — reaching out with the love of Jesus to those who intersect our life work, our close community, our children’s friends and families. Simply stated, right where God planted us on this earth... that’s where He wants you to live on mission for HIM!

Ephesians 3:14-21 has been my life scripture since I met Jesus in a personal way when I was 15 years old. <sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (NIV).

This is my prayer for each one of you — that you would be strong for Jesus, filled up with God’s love, be able to hold on to the magnitude of the love that Christ has for you, and then overflow that love on others so that they too can know Jesus as we do! He will accomplish more that we can ever imagine through faith and HIS power at work within us!!! Come walk this journey with me as we boldly transform our “Life on Mission” for Jesus. [SR](#)



Past Presidents of Conference



Periodicals postage paid  
at Janesville, WI  
and additional offices

# **LIFE ON MISSION**

**Touching lives for Jesus**

**Coming Next Summer:  
July 23 - 29, 2017**

**Seventh Day Baptist General Conference**

**Azusa Pacific University  
Azusa, California**