

WHAT are you hiding?

WHERE are you hiding?

WHY are you hiding?

Are you hiding FROM God?

Are you hiding IN God?



**HIDING!**



Hiding?

God knows!

## In Every Issue

- 13 **The Beacon**  
by Xander Post
- 
- 14 **Council on History**  
Native Americans in the Newport  
Seventh Day Baptist Church  
Part 2: Martha's Vineyard and a  
Mystery Unsolved  
by Janet Thorngate
- Church Development &  
Pastoral Services**
- 
- 16 **The Best Way to Help Your Church;  
Pastor Search; Multiply Conference**  
by John J. Pethtel
- 
- 17 **Focus On Missions**  
Brazil Ministers with Music in Africa  
by Clinton R. Brown, Cristiane Miranda
- 
- 18 **Young Adult**  
Paisley  
by Sarina Villalpando
- 
- 19 **Alliance in Ministry**  
Proclaiming the Gospel Around the  
World Through Personal Relationships  
by Rob Appel
- 
- 20 **Women's Society**  
Less Talk, More Action  
by Katrina Goodrich
- 
- 21 **Christian Education Council**  
Where the Fish Aren't  
by Nicholas J. Kersten
- 
- 22 **Church News**  
Pastors Conference  
Spring Happenings at Dodge Center  
COME ALIVE Conference in New Auburn
- 
- 24 **Health News**  
Autism  
by Barb Green
- 
- 25-26 **Obituaries**
- 
- 27 **President's Page**  
Special Guest Speaker—Leith Anderson  
Less TALK – More ACTION  
by David Stall

## In This Issue

- 5 **Turtle Shell of Religion?**  
by Debbie Bond
- 6 **Hiding Away**  
by Chuck Meathrell
- 8 **When To Hide, When Not To Hide**  
by Levi Bond
- 9 **Hide**  
by Wayne North
- 10 **POP**  
by Eric Rudert
- 12 **Focused to Race, Part 4**  
by Brenda Rankhorn

## About The Authors

**Debbie Bond** attends the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ. She is a youth leader in the F.O.R.C.E. youth group.

**Levi Bond** is the Assistant Pastor at the Portland Area SDB Church, OR, and President of the Northwest Association of SDB Churches. He is a graduate of Multnomah Bible College. He works as a Home Energy Auditor/Inspector for a Low-Income Weatherization program.

**Rev. Charles R. (Chuck) Meathrell** is the founding pastor of Jacob's Well Church (SDB) in the Midlands of South Carolina. He is the husband of Jessica and father of three young boys. He and his family live and serve in Lexington and West Columbia.

**Wayne North** is the pastor at FREEDOM Community Church, New Auburn, WI. He and his wife, Kristine, have 6 children and 1 grandchild. His passion is to seek and release the presence of God and the Spirit's power into the people and churches as they fulfill the Great Commission through the maturing and equipping of the saints.

**Brenda Rankhorn** is wife to Pastor Shay Rankhorn for over 30 years, mom of five, grandmother of three, and currently in school to become a Physician's Assistant.

**Eric Rudert** grew up in the White Cloud SDB church, has been a member for several years and served in various capacities. Coincidentally, just after college, he worked for an insurance company in Battle Creek for 5-1/2 years and was able to attend the SDB church there. He has served on COSAR for the denomination for several years.

# Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

June 2018

Volume 240, No. 6

Whole No. 7,048



Patricia Cruzan  
Editor

[sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Clinton R. Brown, Katrina Goodrich,  
Barb Green, Nicholas J. Kersten, John J. Pethtel,  
Xander Post, David Stall, Sarina 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 173rd 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 email your manuscript as a Word document to the Editor at [sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org).

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

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](mailto:contact@seventhdaybaptist.org)

SDB Website: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

[jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org)

cell: (818)-468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:

[sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org)

## SDBs 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>

# TURTLE SHELL OF RELIGION?

By Debbie Bond



Humor me and play along. Time to go back to when you were young and get your imagination going. Picture a turtle. Now this turtle doesn't like to go outside of his shell. He has found that the outside world is scary. It is full of predators and kids that poke at him—it just isn't comfortable. He has figured out how to stay in his shell. (Now use that imagination.) Inside his shell he has a couch, TV, mini-fridge, and everything he could ever want. He has it decorated and has found that he can read and learn, and even grow in his relationship with God, just by staying in his shell. This is great, right?

This turtle has the life—he doesn't have to worry about anything, and he can even have his religion while he hides in his shell. How many times have we hid in our religion? Have you pulled yourself inside your turtle shell of church, Christian music, and quiet time, hiding from the rest of the world? Sometimes as Christians we get overwhelmed by the outside world. We see the destruction around us and we hide. We hide in our churches. We put on our religious clothes, our religious attitude, and our religious smile. We go to church or we sit at home or at work or at school—and we work on our relationship with God. We don't worry about others.

Yes, we can live a comfortable life as a Christian. We can read the Bible, pray, go to church once a week, and maybe talk to a few other church people occasionally. We can do our religious duty and not really bother to worry about others—or even Jesus—if we are perfectly honest. Too often we would rather be religious and comfy in our church pew, or on our couch, than to share Jesus Christ with anyone.

Jesus didn't go to the cross for your comfort. Jesus didn't bear the unbearable pain of the cross so you could learn about Him or so you could sing songs about Him. He didn't bear the agony of separation from God so you could hide. He bore it all so you could live.

Get out of your "shell" church. There are people dying right in front of you. There are people going to hell because we are hiding in our shell of comfort. There is so much pain in the world. There are people giving in to all the things in this world that are leading them to death and destruction. Drugs, sexual immorality, and the perversion of the Gospel are just some of the destructive behaviors. We are Christ's hands and feet. We are called. We need to get out of our "shell" and run the race that He has put before us.

God gives us a new shell. One that we can run in. Romans 8:11 (NKJV) reads: *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."* God has empowered you to run a race with the most amazing power that exists. Jesus raised the dead, healed people, and ultimately changed lives. If He lives in you, He hasn't given you a spirit of fear and timidity, but the power to change lives. Stop hiding in your religion—run the race that God has set before you and has already declared to be victorious. [SR](#)



# Hiding Away

By Rev. Charles R. (Chuck) Meathrell

Reflection on the past can be a challenging thing-but it has its uses. So much of my identity is wrapped up in the small town in which I was raised and the bulk of that centers around the church there. (All these years later it's still my home church.) I feel that familiar tug on my heart remembering sundry and innumerable games played around the church and parsonage, especially the latter and its three yards. The main yard sat (well, sits) at the corner of Main and Church streets and at the time it was bordered on the northwest by the parsonage; on the north by the (late-great and rickety-as all-get-out) Trainer Building—a sort-of-garage that had been remodeled to become a nursery/library and two classrooms. On the northeast side of the parsonage was a longer, narrow yard with a large red-painted deck which once connected it to a trailer for Pastor Ken Davis' mother. Behind that was a dramatic plunge toward Terrace Avenue down which, a few years later, I would lower a lawn mower on ropes. (Devil's Plunge.) Finally, on the back of the parsonage, behind the bathroom and the master bedroom, was a great, forbidden place. It had a legitimate Narnia-esque feeling, *sans* talking animals, with a number of large bushes and several of the tallest trees in North America (from the perspective of a six-year-old). The bushes and trees cut it off from the street and brought it that solitude that appears with absolute suddenness and urges you to be solemn and respectful. Quiet. Often alone. So while all of the obedient children were playing hide-and-seek in the main part of the yard near Church and Main, I would steal away to the backyard and crouch down under a huge evergreen tree or climb up onto a stone monument by the street. In retrospect, I was doing a different kind of hiding. Sometimes even kids feel the need to

hide away. We all do that to some extent; we feel the pressure that comes with life and have the same kind of "fight or flight" reaction that a horse has. We'll spend a little time fighting and a lot of time flight-ing. (Yes, I know that's not a word.) It's a self-preservation instinct that God put into us that, like most everything He gives us, we abuse with tenacity and regularity. It's a good thing to get away; we have a problem when our constant reaction to all stress is to run and hide away.

## What are you hiding from?

Life can be incredibly stressful sometimes. Amidst the regular craziness of life (laundry, dishes, kids, keeping the marriage alive) these things come up that make us want to hide. You may remember what it was like when a parent passed away and you had to deal with estates and grieving while still keeping life rolling on. Possibly you suddenly lost your income and have bills to pay; it happens to the best of us. This brings us to the meat of the matter: what are you hiding from? Take a moment for some of that reflection I was whining about earlier—as difficult as it can sometimes be, it's urgent that we take time to examine ourselves every once-in-awhile. There are any number of things that we can be afraid of, rational or not. Often times they boil down to the same few: sickness/death, loneliness/rejection, hunger, failure, poverty, and any combination of the aforementioned. Do any of those sound familiar to you at all? They speak to our human experience; we've seen others be sick and die and so we fear it ourselves. We have felt the sting of rejection by others and, like an animal at the electric fence, we back away from it. Perhaps we've seen hunger and are terrified that we might go there sometime ourselves.

# We have a problem when our constant reaction to all stress is to run and hide away.

## Where are you hiding?

Where we go when life is scary is arguably the most important detail. It offers insight into who we are as believers and as people in general. It might be that you hide in your books or television. It's also very possible that you treat your fear with shopping or (this is a big one for us Westerners) food. For folks not yet impacted by the Gospel, it gets worse as people treat fears and other struggles with all/any of the above as well as alcohol, drugs, pornography, and countless other vices. (Many Christians struggle with some of those last ones, too.) In each and every case above, that place of refuge is a mirage and will ultimately cause more damage than it will help. Remember that old Julia Roberts movie "Runaway Bride?" If you're not familiar with it, let me fill you in: it's about a bride who repeatedly runs away because she has a crippling fear of commitment. The problem with that particular plot is easy to spot; she'll never be happy until she overcomes this fear. Of course, it's easy to spot shortcomings in other people. Julia hid in a pair of metaphorical running shoes and did something literally that most of us non-fictional people only ever do metaphorically. She ran. She hid. Where we go for protection is kind-of a big deal.

## Are you hiding IN God?

I would love to tell you that church planting has been the scariest thing I've ever done. The truth is that I was never smart enough, or honest enough with myself concerning what this was going to be, to be especially frightened. I probably would have been scared to death if I'd had an inkling of how incredibly difficult and sometimes painful it was going to be. Then when the deep moments of

despair come, I have no choice than to do the thing that God has been urging me to do all along. I must go to Him and take whatever burden/trial/fear this is to lay at His feet, understanding that not only is He eternally mighty to bear that weight but also lovingly willing.

<sup>1</sup> *Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;*

<sup>2</sup> *from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,*

<sup>3</sup> *for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.*

<sup>4</sup> *Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!*

— Psalm 61:1-4 ESV

I absolutely love that. He is a strong tower and thus when the enemy attacks we have our place to go and hide. (Does anyone else have goosebumps?) So when it gets hard, scary, sad, and bewildering we can all rush into that tower and remain there until the threat passes. These days, when I think back on Salem's little Narnia, it is as someone who has been gone from the town and the hiding place for nearly a decade. Time has blurred the memory itself but not the feeling. I can't say whether Pastor Dale and Janet were happy that I was back there, but in my own life it served its purpose. At last I can look back from my new, better hiding place and appreciate that the boughs of those giant evergreens were put there on purpose by someone with a plan. These days I bring the burdens of a busy life to the King and take refuge in Him—because He is far greater than the stone monument on Main Street. He is the strong tower. SR

# When To Hide, When Not To Hide

By Levi Bond

As I reflect on hiding, the thought that keeps coming to mind is that hiding is a protection method, and it is usually the easiest method of protection. When I leave my car in a public parking lot, I hide things that a criminal might want to steal. When I was in the US Air Force, I had access to information that had to be hidden, and we learned to set up camouflage tents to hide our equipment. In everyday life, there are good reasons to hide things.

A good Biblical example of hiding is found in Joshua 2. Joshua sent two spies to Jericho to gather intelligence on the city and then they could make war plans. These two spies went to the perfect place for men visiting town to hide out. They went to the home of a prostitute named Rahab. Men were probably coming and going from her home on a regular basis, so their visit would not be noticed—but they were noticed. Rahab took further action to hide them when the authorities came knocking. She told them that the men had left and they needed to chase them. When the spies left, she instructed them to hide outside of the city for three more days to avoid capture. The spies made a covenant with Rahab to protect her and her family.


Hiding is not a sin in most cases. The spies were hiding and Rahab helped them hide. By hiding, the spies were able to fulfill their mission and not get into any ugly confrontations. There are many times in life when hiding is the best way to protect ourselves. Hiding is passive, but extremely effective. In relationships with others, sometimes hiding is the best way to resolve a bad disagreement. I was threatened by a neighbor who was getting evicted a few years ago. The sheriff advised me to avoid or hide from him and to call them if things escalated. I followed their advice for a few weeks until he moved out—the situation never escalated. Hiding was by far the best way to resolve that situation and not get into trouble.

A much more difficult decision is when not to hide. When do you open up and share information with



another person or God? Of course, God can be trusted to handle information appropriately 100% of the time. It takes a lot more discernment to know who can be trusted with sensitive information. Rahab confessing and repenting of sin is not recorded in Joshua 2. Later in Joshua, her faith is evident in her actions of hiding the spies and following through with their instructions to save her family. She was also mentioned in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter. At some point, she probably did confess and repent of her sin, but it was not recorded in the Bible.

I am speculating here, but I think it is possible that Rahab confessed her sins to the spies and repented while they were staying with her. If the spies did hear her repent, I think they handled it appropriately. They kept confidential information confidential. They did not share confidential information in a book that would be read by billions of people later. Even when you confess sin, there is usually still a responsibility to hide, but it is the responsibility of the other person. That person has to hide what he or she learned. All pastors and Christian leaders get into situations where someone reveals information that still needs to be hidden.

I give a few examples, but a short article cannot give great details of when to hide and when not to hide. If you would like more information on that, I recommend reading the book *Boundaries* by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. I read that book last year as I was working on issues of hiding. The front cover says “*When to say yes, how to say no, to take control of your life.*” I could easily change that title to “*When to hide and when not to hide.*” 



# HIDE

By Pastor Wayne North

Have you ever played “Hide and Go Seek”? Each day this childhood game is continually being played out in the world as people are running around, “hiding and seeking” the wisdom of this world—a culture which is denying the Truth that could set them free. We live in this culture of people hiding and separating themselves. Maybe this is you! Maybe this is someone you know! Maybe this is the vast majority of people we know!

As we look in scripture, we see two roads that appear to be opposite in direction. One road takes us in a direction which is responding to the fear and hurt that this fallen world has imposed upon us. The other is responding to the fear of the Lord and the hope only He can give. Which road have you chosen or been saturated by?

**Why do people hide?** We see a culture of destruction. No longer do I assume kids I meet, and even adults, come from stable and God-fearing homes. It’s exactly the opposite. I assume they are coming from broken and shattered homes which have produced broken and shattered backgrounds—which produces broken and shattered hopes and dreams. People no longer interact as a whole in reality. We have found alternate realities to immerse ourselves in. In northern Wisconsin, we have seen an epidemic of opioids and “meth.” A local county has estimated that a minimum 10% of its population is addicted to “meth” alone. These are just symptoms of the darkness many are trying to hide within and running into.

**Why are you trying to hide?** God has already found you and knows the things hidden in your heart. Allow the Word to demonstrate its power in you and through the Church. We must quit being conformed to the darkness of this world and begin to be transformed by the renewing of the mind. God is calling His church to a radical Christianity of love and righteousness that will allow the power of the Truth to set the captives free. We underestimate the power of the Gospel so much!

In a “pseudo-modernist” society, there is no truth—only alternate “realities.” It’s like each person gets to play his own video game and determine the reality he gets to live in. This probably accounts for the addiction and escalation of fantasy role-playing and the disconnect between truth and imagination. It seems that people are fleeing from their pain and hopelessness. This reminds me of the pigs that were driven crazy when Jesus cast the demons out of the Gadarene man. The current culture is being driven crazy. The culture is chaotic, running blindly and



heading towards a cliff. The symptoms of this chaos and torment echo throughout our culture, the world, and even our churches. Divorce, drugs, suicides, self-harm, depression, fear, anger, and all the other symptoms reveal a culture that is reacting to the garbage this world has to offer outside of the comfort and peace that only God can give. We push God out of our culture. Since there is no such thing as a vacuum, we know “someone” that is happy to step in to steal, kill, and destroy.

**What if we immerse ourselves in God?** What does He promise? Well, if we submit to God and resist the devil, he will flee! This works great, but we have a submission problem. Submission is a form of worship. We submit to what we honor and give time for. We make time for what we worship. I was once told that if you want to test the fruit of someone’s life to see what he worships, look at his checkbook and planner. How people spend their money and time will tell you what they worship. God promises to be our refuge in times of trouble. He promises to never leave us or turn His back on us. He gives us weapons that are not carnal and are good for pulling down every stronghold that comes against us. Yet, humanity still wants to be like God and exalt itself to deity. Kind of sounds like someone else we know.

Even the children’s song we all grew up singing tells us, “we are weak, and He is strong.” Yet, we still trust in our own strength and intellect more than God’s. We don’t believe we can do all things through Christ. We must know that God’s kingdom doesn’t just come in Word, but also in Power. Adam and Eve wanted to gain the knowledge of good and evil. Yet, they had to hide themselves from their “nakedness.” They were formerly covered with the glory of the Lord and knew only His goodness. While we can never attain perfection on this side of eternity, we can be once again immersed in the power of the presence of God and the blood of Jesus Christ. The Church needs to recognize again the presence of His glory and kingdom that lives within us. We must realize this world has nothing to offer us. Then we can offer the world the hope and peace that can only come through the presence and saturation of Jesus Christ in our lives.

*Continued on page 11*



By Eric Rudert

Are you a pop, soda, or even a soda pop? One may be able to tell certain geographical origins of others by the term used for our beloved carbonated soft drinks. These terms can cause confusing dialect for those who move into new areas. We're mostly a pop here in Michigan, BTW.

My POP is an acronym for Power Of Prayer. I've been on quite a journey, and would like to give testimony regarding some of my experiences and blessings. I'm convinced that I wouldn't still be alive and able to write this article without the power of prayer, and of course, God's grace. I'm also still alive due to a few miracles. There's no other explanation for my survival other than prayer and God's intervention.

Last October, I was coughing a lot, and many prayed for me. I was diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Those who work in coal mines, sawmills, with asbestos, etc. are more likely to get PF. Plus, go figure, I'm a non-smoker. My condition was called Idiopathic PF. When I first heard "idiopathic," I wondered if the doctor was calling me an idiot. Idiopathic means "no reason." Whew! But there was no "whew" last October when this disease hit me fast, and hit me hard. Think about the times that the wind was knocked out of you, or when you mis-timed emerging from under water.

Most of us have experienced a certain fright of being out of breath. The Bible mentions breath several times, as it's obviously important and can be used in teaching since everyone can relate to breath, or the scary lack thereof. My lack of breath turned into a rapid decline in my health. I didn't take the "why me" road very often, but became very concerned as I kept having to "kick it up a notch" on my oxygen machine with attached nasal cannula hose. Soon I had the notch cranked to the max, and my certain fright wasn't from a quick occurrence, but rather to a noticeable lingering slow decline in being able to breathe.

As my condition worsened, the first miracle was when my wife Michelle had the sense to call 911 vs. taking my (typical guy) response that I'd be OK. This started more serious health observation and treatment. This was also the continuance of more prayers amongst family, friends, business associates, and of course, churches—maybe even yours. I then went to a university hospital located in Ann Arbor, MI (Go Green, Spartans) for a dual lung transplant work up. They more or less kicked me to the curb and I felt I was basically being told to go home and die. From several discussions with others in "my shoes," apparently the protocol for the university qualification criteria lung transplant list puts emphasis on potential recipients to be younger than I am (63) so that the use of the lungs lasts longer for the recipients.

More serious prayer requests were again initiated. I talked to Rob Appel, and he inquired about putting my name on the SDB Pastoral Prayer Chain. I replied "Yes, please." Cards and well-wishes poured in. Funny thing how a few of them said "thinking of you." I coveted the "praying for you" statements.

Another miracle happened when my son Elliot's wife Lindsay, who is a doctor, looked at a website designed for those who are moms and doctors. She made an inquiry about lung transfer opportunities. A wife whose husband is on the Spectrum Health (Grand Rapids, MI) Lung Transplant Team responded. I was referred to and accepted by Spectrum the night of November 5, 2017. PTL! My health continued to decline over the next three days and I was in need of a donor. We were at the saying good-bye stage. My stepson Mike flew in from Florida. While I was in lots of pain, and on medications, I remember looking into the tearful eyes of many loved ones, and sharing my faith, encouraging them to keep their faith, and even to some (hospital staff, too) to accept the Lord as their Savior. I obviously couldn't sing, but had a friend's ear close to my mouth and managed to whisper these familiar lyrics to him: *Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say "It is well, it is well with my soul."*

My loved ones told me that they would not stop praying for me, even though my condition was failing. I was put on

*Continued on next page*

## Hide

*continued from page 9*

**Are you sowing in faith?** We will reap what we sow. Are you asking, seeking, and knocking? If we ask, He will reveal it. If we seek Him with all of our heart, we will find Him. If we find Him, we will find out who we are. If we knock, it shall be opened. It's time that we intensify the race we are running. It's time to knock with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. God wants you to be complete or "SOZO," SOZO means saved, healed and delivered. SOZO is the Light to our darkness and the fullness of grace. The Light of salvation causes a response by those dwelling in the darkness of the "Hide." It also causes a reaction by the darkness living inside of people who are trying to hide sin, brokenness, pain and suffering. It's time for the Church to quit being "so-so" about their faith and the let "SOZO" of the Spirit transform the Church. We are called to be in the Light, the Light in us, and to emit this into the dark world. The Light, Jesus, destroys darkness. The enemy deceives and causes fear to keep people from overcoming the darkness. It's time to be more than conquerors!

God already knows where you are hiding. He already knows what you are trying to hide from Him and everyone else. It's time for us to come out of the darkness of hiding into the "Light of the world." It's time to enter into His rest, into His presence, into His Eternal Kingdom as it enters into us. We war not against flesh and blood. It's a spiritual battle. Our weapons are not carnal. My hope is that we step out of the shadows of our hidden places and release the hidden darkness from within. Share your "darkness" with God's people. Allow the light of others to shine upon your darkness. Worship God within the darkness. Allow His glory to radiate and permeate the darkness until it encapsulates your whole being. Ask your church or others to pray and counsel you into God's Truth. Allow the elders of the church to anoint you and pray over you so you will become well and healed physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Confess to God and one another because confession is good for the soul. Allow others to carry your burden. Praise and worship God with all of your life. Live a lifestyle of worship! The devil wants you to be separated and isolated in the darkness. Too many people are being devoured. Step out of your darkness back into the flock of protection and restoration. Be "hidden" in the Light of Jesus Christ and His Bride! SR

---

## POP

*continued from previous page*

ECMO, a complicated machine that oxygenates your blood. I guess I was sort of half dead and half alive. I had 9 tubes and lines going in and out of me and 14 medication and feeding IVs. Photos of this time period of my journey are frightening. After 12 days on ECMO, the medical staff told my wife that I had about three days left. The next day was the best miracle—they found compatible lungs. Wow! Thank You again, Lord! My transplant date was November 20. I am now slowly recovering.

I should mention one unique circumstance that happened while I was in the hospital. Michelle and Elliot were praying outside of my room with my 1978 vintage NIV Bible, a hand-me-down from my mom. A gentleman was walking by and must have noticed the particular type of Bible and asked, "What are you reading?" Guess what! It was David Zondervan of Zondervan Publishing Co, the publisher of my Bible.

There IS Power Of Prayer. Looking back, I've tried to tally all the people who were praying for me. I figure it's into the thousands, ranging from the White Cloud SDB church to international prayers. One of my college friends had a friend who was going to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. He sent me a picture of the prayer request paper that was placed there in one of the cracks in the wall. There were local churches

and various prayer groups throughout the USA. People around the hospital and well beyond have told me "So, you're the one we were praying for." Thank you to all of you who prayed for me. I couldn't have survived without all of the prayers and a God who listens to prayers and wants us to talk to Him—and especially submit our warranted and sincere prayers to Him.

My going forward action steps are to try to take the Lord with me more throughout each day. In doing so, I will pray more, reciprocate prayers to others who prayed for me, and pray for unbelievers, strangers, and those whose circumstances I had often ignored or looked the other way. I will also continue to pray for "SDB Nation," Christian Nation, and for International Christians. My obvious closing thought: let's remember Ed Cruzan's 2009 Conference theme—1 Thessalonians 5:17. PRAY!

P.S. Please let me mention my wife Michelle, who spent countless hours by my side, which turned into days and weeks. I want to thank my family members who were also by my side. With limited visitation opportunities due to my health, there were several church family members and friends who waited and prayed in lounge areas during the serious stretch of time. Then, of course, there were/are all the prayer warriors (maybe even you) I wish I could list—but the list would cause this article to be too lengthy. Many thanks again to all. Be Blessed! SR

# *Focused to Race*

## Part 4

By Brenda Rankhorn

Thus far, we have determined that our purpose, our goal is to glorify God and in order to obtain that goal, we must focus on God so that we can leave our hindrances behind. Some of us may say, "I know what I'm supposed to do—look to Jesus—but that is easier said than done. I have so many thoughts creeping in." This could be another whole topic in itself but I don't want to leave you with the great idea of focusing on God without some tools. I will touch on these and you can study them more in depth at your leisure.

The first thing to remember is that we are not babies. We are warriors. I like how one author stated it, "we were born in a war zone, not a maternity ward." We can fight. We don't have to passively accept everything that is fed to us. We are warriors. Let's read II Corinthians 10:4-5: *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* So our first tool is to take thoughts captive. A thought comes in and we get to choose what we do with it. We don't have to invite it into our house and give it a place at our table. Analyze the thought and decide if this thought is hindering you from glorifying God. Tie it up, give it to God. Refocus on our King of Kings.

A second tool is to resist the devil. Because we are warriors and we are given weapons, we can resist the devil. James 4:7 says, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* Tell the devil to go and take his lies about your identity, your past, and your fears with him. What did Jesus use to resist the devil? Scripture. This makes it very important to know the Word. If you know that there are certain hindrances that you are prone to, then memorize scriptures to use when those thoughts come. Quote the truth of those scriptures until the devil leaves you alone.

So besides taking the thoughts captive and resisting the devil, we can praise the Lord, which is our third tool. How often have you tried to quit thinking about something and the harder you tried, the more you thought about it? ("I'm not going to eat one of those warm fresh chocolate chip cookies. It is not good for me to eat those even if they do smell good." How well are you doing at not thinking of those cookies?) The same goes with trying not to think of your past, your pain, your fears, your identity and so on. What you



need to do is refocus. There is much power in praising God. Remember the story of Paul and Silas in jail? While they were praising God, there was an earthquake, doors were opened, and prisoners were loosed. (Acts 16:25-34) We become free when we praise God! There is also a story in the Old Testament, in II Chronicles 20, about praise defeating the enemy. When the enemy came against God's people, God commanded King Jehoshaphat to send his singers out to sing and praise God instead of sending out the warriors. The result—God sent ambushes and the enemy was defeated. When you find yourself thinking about your struggles, your problems, your desires, your faults, or any other hindrance that keeps you from glorifying God, just praise the Lord. If you have trouble knowing how to praise the Lord then go to the Psalms and just read some of those as your own praise to God. I'm sure David won't mind.

And the final tool is simply to ask to see and understand God, to see God's glory. I like Moses. Yes, he made a lot of excuses at first, but he did obey. Later in Exodus 33:18, he asks God to show His glory to him. He asks this not long after the golden calf incident. After a long discussion with God, Moses says, (Ex.33:18) *"Please show me your glory."* He knows understanding God's character is all he needs to continue glorifying God by leading the people as God has asked. Paul also asks this in Ephesians 1:15-19, *"<sup>15</sup> Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His*

*inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.”* The more we “see” of God, the more we want to pour out our life for Him. “Ask and you shall receive” (Matt. 7:7). We can tell God, “I want to see You so that I can reflect You.” When we truly understand God’s greatness, then we should have no problem saying, “It doesn’t matter who I am, I have seen God and I know what He can do. That is good enough for me.”

These tools—to take our thoughts captive, to resist the devil, to praise the Lord, and to ask to see God—will help us to focus on God which will in turn cause us to drop our hindrances and run the race marked out for us. Our goal is to glorify God. Are we going to allow hindrances to keep us from this goal? If not, make a plan and stick with it. No more going through life on autopilot. Just as I could look at my blackened greasy hands and recall the bad memories and allow them to prevent an enjoyable bike ride, so too can we all choose to look at our past, remember our inadequacies, or dwell on our feelings and allow them to

prevent us from glorifying God. Or just as I had the other choice of looking at my ring and reminding myself of my husband’s love for me which would free me to enjoy my longer bike ride, so too can we choose to look to Jesus and remind ourselves of all His promises and of His wonderful love for us and allow that to stir us to glorify Him in all that we do and say.

Just like I did not let the past, my feelings, and my incompetency at fixing a bike chain prevent me from completing my planned bike ride, I urge you not to let your identity, feelings, and past prevent you from taking every opportunity to glorify God. In every circumstance, whether good or bad, we must ask ourselves, “Will I choose God over self?” Choosing to glorify God not only changes what we do, but how we do it. It changes our whole attitude and outlook on life. When we choose to focus on God, we glorify Him. May God grant us the strength and the will to choose to glorify Him in all that we do. SR

*Adapted from a workshop series written and delivered by: Brenda Rankhorn of Shepherd’s Fold Ministry for the Appalachian Association Women’s Retreat held at Camp Joy in September 2017.*



You know...  
 One day we’ll be perfect.  
 One day we’ll be without sin.  
 There will be a day where we walk without sin.  
 We will walk with God.  
 I know I will.  
 Will you?

You know...  
 One day we will feel no pain.  
 There’ll be no sickness, no disease, and no heartache.  
 Not even death.  
 When we stand before the Father,  
 will you enter through the gates with me?  
 I know where I’m going.  
 Do you?

We will be saved.  
 Just have faith.  
 “When Jesus saw their faith, he said,  
 ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’ ”  
 –Luke 5:20 NIV

Jesus sees our faith—your faith.  
 He loves you. SR



# Native Americans in the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church

## Part 2: Martha's Vineyard and a Mystery Unsolved

*Third in a series of spinoff articles from recent research on the Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists*

by Janet Thorngate

One of the first three people baptized and received into membership in the Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptist Church was an Indian named Japeth who lived in New London in Connecticut Colony.<sup>1</sup> Later in the year that Japeth was baptized, and for most of the next two years, King Philip's War engulfed much of southern New England as Natives under Wampanoag Chief Metacomet (dubbed King Philip) fought the United Colonies (Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Plymouth). It was five years after the war that the next Native Americans joined the church. They lived on Martha's Vineyard, the large island about forty-five miles southeast off the coast of Newport.<sup>2</sup>

Relationships between the Native Americans and the English colonists on Martha's Vineyard followed a very different pattern than those on the southern New England mainland. From the beginning, the goal of the English proprietor was to convert the Indians to Christianity. He used quite different methods, however, than the Massachusetts missionaries, not only learning the Wampanoag language (Algonquin/Massachusetts) and their religion but working within the parameters of their society. He did not require converts to abandon their customs, respected Native leadership and property rights, and trained Native converts as preachers and teachers of

their own people. Schools to teach the Natives successfully prepared them to read the Bible (John Eliot's 1663 version in Massachusetts). They became part of the Calvinist Puritan church (Congregational). About the time Japeth was baptized in New London (1675), it was estimated that about three hundred Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag families (roughly 1500 people) were Christians, more than half of the Native population; English settlers there had increased to 180.

The mainland Wampanoags lost the war and their independence but because those on Martha's Vineyard had never supported Philip, relations between English and Wampanoags there changed little. By then, however, Baptist preachers were active on the island and many English and Wampanoags were lured from the Congregational monopoly by ideas of believer's as opposed to infant baptism and a church free of political control.

In Newport, Elder Hiscox of the ten-year-old SDB Church received a letter from Thomas West, the first practitioner of medicine on Martha's Vineyard. "God has clearly made known unto me the way of baptism," he wrote, "so that now we both wait to give up ourselves unto God in that ordinance therefore pray come to us and help us." Hubbard later recorded that Hiscox went to the island, baptized Thomas and Elizabeth West and "Sister Rogers," and the church's messengers laid hands on them and added them to the church. Tacked on to the brief message was this curious note: "...where there is two Indians, Christian Indians as they call them that keep the 7th day."

That was May 1681. Not until a December letter to Edward Stennet in England do we hear more of those "two Indians," again in a kind of footnote to Hubbard's focus on two others:

*This week past there came two Indians, one of them an old man & his son, both baptized at Nantucket; the old man was sent forth to preach unto the Indians.... And brother Hiscox and they had a reasoning together, found the old man very sound in what they knew; had a Bible in their own language,*

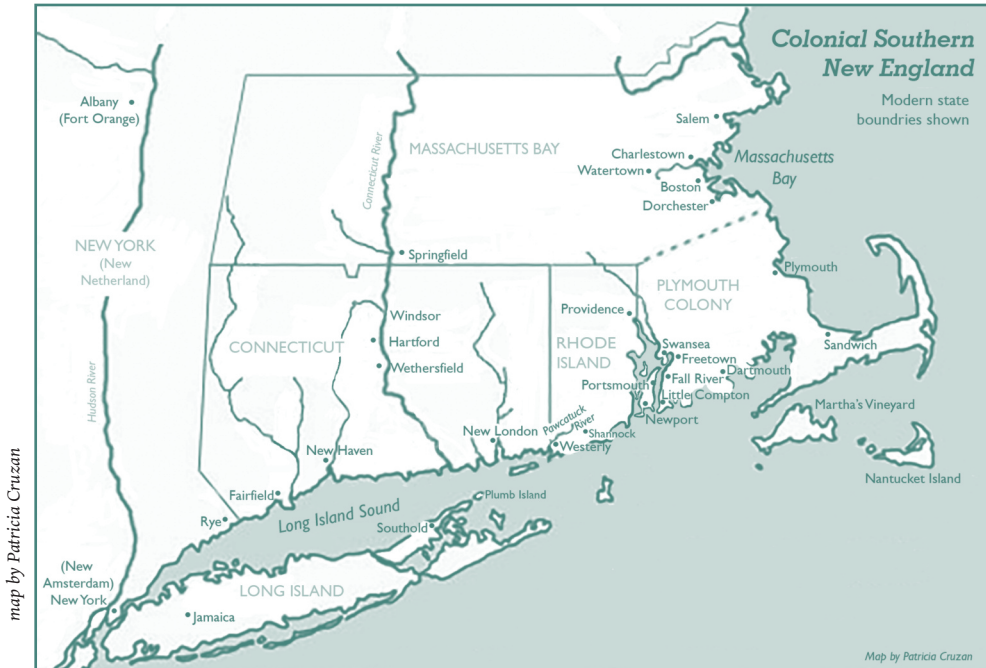
<sup>1</sup> See *Sabbath Recorder*, May 2018, "Native American in the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church," Part 1.

<sup>2</sup> Sources for Newport church information in this article may be found in *Baptists in Early North America: Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists* by Janet Thorngate (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2017), particularly pages 35-37, 43-47, 58, 60, 65-68. In addition to a history of the church in its historical context, the book includes the previously unpublished church records and the collected writings of Samuel Hubbard pertinent to the church's history. The book may be ordered from the publisher for \$60: [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org) or Mercer University Press, 501 Mercer Univ. Dr., Macon GA, 31207. A few copies are available from the SDB Center. For Martha's Vineyard see (1) Banks, Charles Edward. *The History of Martha's Vineyard*, Dukes County, Massachusetts. Boston, George H. Dean, 1911-25. Reprinted Edgartown, MA: Dukes Co. Historical Society, 1966, (2) Segel, Jerome D. & R. Andrew Pierce, *The Wampanoag Genealogical History of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books 2003-2016, particularly vol 1 109, 197, 273, (3) Dresser, Thomas *The Wampanoag Tribe of Martha's Vineyard: Colonization to Recognition* (Charleston SC: The History Press, 2011), particularly p. 54.



Council on History

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten  
Director of Education and History



Map of Colonial Southern New England showing towns where the Hubbards lived or visited other contacts and church members.

etc. After much discourse they reasoned about Jehovah's 7th day Sabbath and after much discourse the old man said, I thought a little water sprinkled was baptism, but God have opened my eyes, now I see it is not: God can open my eyes to see the Sabbath also. **There is two Indians was baptized here this summer by brother Hiscox in our town, and they had hands laid on them by brother Hiscox and the church brake bread with them: they live on Martha's Vineyard in York government. They through grace do stand fast with one brother and two sisters; blessed be God.**

Eventually we learn their names (one of the many spellings of their names) in a letter a month later: **Isaac Takkamme and David Oakes**. "And brother Isaac [who was then in Newport] saith his brother and his wife will be next for baptism and the Sabbath: this is good news."

Hubbard visited the five Vineyard members himself in 1683 reporting that all were well including "those brother Indians who stand fast and courageous in and for God's truth and cause." Last reference to them was in a Hubbard letter to Henry Reeve, a member in Jamaica, Long Island, saying that Isaac Tuckkamee had been in Newport "ten days or more" reporting that all was well on Martha's Vineyard and "some more there keep the 7th day Sabbath" and "he doth desire you would inquire for an Indian that was sold to Jamaica, his name is Gesse." Those sober last words remind us that though at least most Native Americans on Martha's Vineyard at that time were free, it was not the case with all elsewhere.

After Samuel Hubbard's death, when the Newport church began keeping official records, there was no further mention of Isaac Takkamme or David Oakes. The first official mem-

bership list (1708) includes Elizabeth West and two of her children (Thomas had died) and two Rogers women, but no recognizable Native American names. But, wait—not yet end of story!

"An Indian named Isaac" living on Martha's Vineyard, is mentioned in an obscure but fascinating note in the I Hopkinton record book years later. The church authorized money to send a member to "inquire into the circumstances of an Estate that was given by an Indian named Isaac at Martha's Vineyard." The bequest was in four equal parts: to the Newport church, the I Hopkinton church, Elder Thomas Hiscox (I Hopkinton pastor and son of William Hiscox who baptized Isaac Takkamme), and the Tribys (Ruth Tribys a Newport member).

Efforts to find a will or any further scrap of information about it (in Newport church records, Martha's Vineyard legal records, etc.) have so far produced more questions than answers. They have turned up more spellings (and possible spellings) for Isaac's and David's Indian names, verified that they were real people who lived on Martha's Vineyard, bought and sold property (in some cases to each other) as early as 1667 for both, as late as 1688 for David Oakes and 1721 for Isaac Takkamee. A still unverifiable but unrefuted eighteenth century theory is that Isaac was Isaac Decamy, pastor of a Native American Baptist church on Martha's Vineyard around 1700.

What can we conclude? So many questions remain. The personal and church relationships cultivated between these Native American members and their Rhode Island church brothers and sisters do stand in contrast to the tragic pattern of colonist-Native relationships repeated from New England westward through the next century. <sup>[SR]</sup>

# PASTOR SEARCH

The following SDB churches or groups are looking for pastoral leadership. Please keep them in prayer as they search for their churches' more preferable future.

**First Hopkinton SDB Church** (Ashaway, RI)  
Looking for an Assistant

**Middle Island SDB Church** (New Milton, WV)

**First SDB Church of Hebron** (Coudersport, PA)

**Covenant SDB Fellowship** (Hungry Horse, MT)

**Simpson Chapel** (Marengo, IN)

There are other potential vacancies in the near future. If you are interested in one of these vacancies, if you are called to pastoral ministry or if you know someone who might be interested in pastoral ministry, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services by email at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org).



The 4th annual MULTIPLY Church Development Conference (October 18-20, 2018) is open to anyone who desires to see renewal and revitalization in their church or desires to see new SDB churches in North America.

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

Registration deadline is October 1, 2018 and the conference fee is \$100. This fee includes registration, meals for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and lodging for Wednesday-Saturday nights. Transportation arrangements will be provided from/to the Colorado Springs airport (COS).

A change in our format this year is that we will be sponsoring a pre-conference all day on Thursday so you will want to arrive on Wednesday to participate in the full weekend—but please register and join us for whatever part you think that you can.

For more information and to register, visit [seventhdaybaptist.org/MULTIPLY](http://seventhdaybaptist.org/MULTIPLY).



One of the questions that I get frequently from people in congregations is, "What can I do to help my church?" While the answer can be specific to your local church, I am suggesting a few ways that you can be helpful to your local church and its ministry.

1. **Regularly Attend and Participate:** Don't just come when you feel like it. Commit to that relationship with your church family. They miss you when you are not there. And don't just show up. Participate with your worship, your service, your fellowship, and your giving. I can't tell you how much that helps a church.
2. **Learn How to Love the People in Your Church:** Learn how they receive and understand your concern and care for them. If you are not sure, just your presence in a time of need is critical.
3. **The Rest of the Week:** Don't just be a part of your church on the weekend. Visit with others and build relationships during the week as well.
4. **Offer Solutions Not Problems:** Your input and feedback is always welcome but don't just be critical. Help figure out ways to overcome the obstacles to ministry in your church.
5. **Pray:** Pray regularly for your church leaders and other members and ask that they pray for you. Share your concerns and praises. People want to celebrate how God answers prayers.
6. **If You See a Need:** If something needs to be done, do it. Those dishes are not going to wash themselves. The trash will need to be picked up. Replace the paper towels.
7. **Listen to and Strive to Live Out the Sermon:** Don't just tell your pastor that he preached a great sermon. Live that sermon out. Talk about how your life has changed.

There are many other things that you can do to be helpful but honestly the bar is low. Be an encouragement and example to the rest of your church and jump in!





# Brazil Ministers with Music in Africa

By Clinton R. Brown and Cristiane Miranda

Two Brazilian musicians were confronted with the prospect of going to Africa to share their talents with SDB young people in Malawi while waiting for flights leaving the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation meetings in January of 2017. The Miranda family had just finished serving as musical worship leaders for WF at Quatro Barras—but the father, Luis, and daughter, Cristiane, were both excited by the prospect of going and sharing their gifts to train others in music so that those young adults might have skills and confidence to lead the worship of African congregations.

When their relatives and church brethren in Brazil found out about the opportunity the Mirandas were offering to partner, they began praying and generously providing support for the mission. The Missionary Society came alongside giving advice and promoted the mission in other countries, providing additional prayer and financial support from around the world.

Cristiana wrote the following in her report after the 50-day mission in August and September of 2017:

There is a Malawian slogan that states they are “the warm heart of Africa.” This is how the country presents itself. I have always thought that slogans are, mostly, just empty words. Beautiful words, I recognize, but empty when they do not reflect reality and are nothing more than an expression of desire.

However, this is not the case of Malawi. The welcoming Malawian heart is real, it beats strongly, and it was felt intensely from the moment of our arrival at the Chileka airport in Blantyre, where SDB brothers and sisters welcomed us with such sincere enthusiasm and overflowing joy that it felt as if we were returning home.

Our apprehensive but confident hearts joyfully joined in with theirs, and that same joy was experienced throughout the 50 days in which we shared—and realized—the difficult dream they dared to dream.

Malawi is considered to be the sixth poorest country in the world. In Malawi, you can get very ill from simply drinking a glass of water from the tap—not to mention the many houses that do not even have a tap, forcing many women and children to set out on long journeys on foot and to carry back buckets of polluted water over their heads.

Generally speaking, Malawians have little money to buy food and even less money for the luxury of bottled water. The majority of Malawi’s population suffers from thirst, hunger, and lack of medical attention. They also lack the basic guidance and instruction that teaches simple things like boiling water before drinking.



What they do not lack, and actually have in abundance, is joy and gratitude. For those who think that the people of Malawi have nothing to offer have not had the opportunity to be greeted by them at an airport and live with their smiles for a few days. “The warm heart of Africa” is not just a catchphrase—it is word made flesh.

The challenge of being in a faraway country, using a foreign language to teach music in such a short time to thirty young people that had never had contact with instruments before, may seem folly—and maybe it is for those of little faith.

We were, on the other hand, confident the mission would be positive. However, what we experienced with them, through the harsh reality of their everyday lives, from north to south in their mountainous territory—in the only mode of transport that the church has in the entire country and which must have seen better days—being witness to the huge and heart-touching effort of the SDB members with those youngsters, who tirelessly strove to learn, was much more intense and profound than my father and I could have ever imagined—and way beyond positive.

Today, these 30 SDB youngsters are trained in musical theory and singing techniques; some playing the flute, others percussion instruments, guitar, keyboard, electric bass, trumpet, and violin. They are also equipped and, for the most part, motivated to worship the Lord and spread the word of God through music and through teaching what they have learned to more and more brothers and sisters.

I believe that music does not get people together, but it fills spaces between them, regardless of distance. For those who have God in their hearts, this closeness is not measured, it is felt.

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

~ Psalm 95:1

By Clinton R. Brown  
Executive Director

FOCUS on Missions



# Paisley

I'm going to start this article by saying I had serious writer's block and didn't know what to write about—so I'm going to write about my bunny. Also a side note, I am writing this in April and sorry to those who don't like informal writing.

On April 7, 2018, I got a beautiful pet rabbit. For a while now I have wanted to get a pet to be both my best friend and also to be my emotional support animal. By definition an emotional support animal is “a companion animal that a medical professional has determined provides benefit for an individual with a disability. This may include improving at least one characteristic of the disability.” Disabilities range from physical to mental and do not need to be visual for everyone to see—but that the person dealing with them is to know because our opinion and knowledge of ourselves is what matters. My disabilities are in the mental bubble, but I will keep the details to myself.

I decided on a rabbit because they are amazing animals that are sometimes calm, energetic, understanding, and a good companion. Rabbits take the same amount of care and companionship as dogs, but also I believe rabbits can be a friend just the same. Rabbits are extremely smart animals. They can be trained, understand their names and your voice, and if you get close enough, your feelings. They grow amazing bonds with their family/owners when given the time and attention. They are extremely social creatures.

Some may ask, “Well why a rabbit and not a dog?” One, they don't bark and loud noises are one of my triggers; two, smaller poops; three, less smell/no bath; and four, my dad wouldn't allow a dog. Just kidding—even though reasons lay within the benefits—I honestly prayed about it. God continually showed me the signs of a need for an emotional support animal, but I wasn't clear about which animal would be best until a couple months ago. With my struggles within mentality, I have continually used different methods to cope. I run, listen to music, talk to God, scream, and etc, etc. Last year I got a Betta fish and that fish became the light of my life. He was entertaining to watch and just something peaceful, a break from life—but I still felt the need for something else. (My fish is still alive, healthy, loved and appreciated.) I started research on therapy animals, service animals, and emotional support animals and felt that emotional support animals fit my needs and that was what God felt, too. I have always loved petting animals or watching animals because their presence just brings me warmth and happiness. I did know that a dog wasn't for me because the thought of getting a dog



wasn't working in my favor. It became clear to me that I wanted a rabbit through two different factors. One was that I felt instant happiness whenever petting the rabbits at the local pet store, and that no matter how hard the day felt, petting and seeing the little nuggets brought me more peace and joy than any other animal—but also because I would make trips just to go pet the bunnies. Second factor is that I never got bored when reading/researching about rabbits and that I continually wanted to learn more and more about them. It made me genuinely excited.

Enough about how I got a rabbit, but here is how my rabbit has changed my life in a month. My rabbit is a beautiful princess named “Paisley” and she is three months old. I honestly feel like I have a kid. Paisley has brought immense joy and purpose into my life. She is so full of personality and love. She is stubborn, goofy, lazy, hyper, friendly, loving, adventurous, and most importantly, adorable. Paisley is super silly without even trying and has made me laugh every day since I've gotten her. She is very comforting and can tell when I just don't feel right and will bug me until I smile. I honestly cannot describe in words how amazing she is and how much greatness she brought into my life. She brings me emotional support when needed. When I am extremely anxious, she'll in some way make contact with me and distract me from it. She gives me a reason to get up in the morning and function through my day. She makes me want to live a better life and work harder because I am living to support both of us. I am so in love with the happiness she brings me. She has made me more structured and organized, but also has helped me live. And for that the only words I can tell you are that she is a decision I will never regret and I am excited to see what God has in store for us.

Finally, I want to make it clear that I am not saying God isn't enough for me. I in no way want this to be interpreted as that, but God shows everyone love and helps them in different ways. I believe God showed me love and hope through this beautiful creature that makes me smile, laugh, and just feel a purpose every day. My advice to everyone is that God works in mysterious ways. See how He is working in your life. See how He is making your days better. Look to see who or what He has put in your life to make it better. If it hasn't happened yet, don't worry; it'll happen soon because He has its timing. [SR](#)

# *Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Personal Relationships*

Last month, there was an article in the “Sabbath Recorder” paying tribute to my good friend Jonas Sommer. Jonas and his family were tragically taken from us on February 15th in an automobile accident. Jonas was the President of the SDB World Federation. He had sent out a correspondence to all the members of the World Federation giving them a five-year vision that he had for the member Conferences. However, I just received this in late April because my email address was inadvertently omitted from the original list used. And so, now I am able to pass this on to Seventh Day Baptists in North America. I am sorry for the lateness.

Here is that communication from Pastor Jonas from January 2017:

To members of Seventh Day Baptist  
World Federation

Dear Co-Workers on God’s Fields,

The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, says we are God’s co-workers (1 Co 3: 9). The cooperator is one who works together with another to complete some work. In our case, God has chosen us to be His co-workers in the World’s evangelization. A teacher of mine once said, “God could have delegated this sublime mission to the angels, and they would have done this with passion and joyfully, but He did not. He wants us, as human beings, in cooperation with Him, to proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation”.

Our Heavenly Father wants to use our mouths, our hands and our feet to carry the message to the whole human creation. We can’t forget that He is the one who convicts of sin, of justice and of judgment.

However, our Lord wants us to be committed to Proclaim the Gospel. We are called to be fully dedicated to do our part, in the certainty that God, who cannot deny Himself, is already doing His part.

The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation will be, in the next five years, raising the banner of commitment to God, to Christ, and consequently to the Proclamation of the Gospel around the world. Our central theme will be: **Committed to Proclaim the Gospel around the World**. And we are going to focus on the following sub-topics:

- 2018 – Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Personal Relationships.
- 2019 – Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Evangelism.
- 2020 – Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Discipleship.
- 2021 – Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Our Gifts.
- 2022 – Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Planting Churches.

We would like to invite you to join us on this journey and be committed to Proclaiming the Gospel in every possible way. Pray! Intercede! Contribute! Share! Be an instrument in God’s hands!

May God bless us in His service.  
Jonas Sommer

*So the theme for this year—and I apologize for its lateness in getting to you— is “Proclaiming the Gospel around the World Through Personal Relationships.”*

*I just saw a post on Facebook of friends seeing each other (some of them for the first time in 20 years) and thinking, it is through these personal relationships, our memories with each other, that we continue to strive and work together to champion Jesus here in this world. May we continue to work together in love and forgiveness, and with a passion to proclaim the Gospel daily through our personal relationships; so they will spill out onto others to bring them into the family. [SR]*

# Less Talk, More Action



## *A reflection on the General Conference 2018 theme*

on the same level as vomit. Ouch! But seriously, is this your church? Is your church lukewarm?

How many times in a year are you out, not as individuals, but as a church in your community, doing and participating? How many people in your area and beyond do you affect beyond Saturday morning worship? Does your community even know you're there? Because if you, as a body, are not going beyond your four walls on a regular basis, it is difficult to see how you are anything other than, like the church in Laodicea, lukewarm.

Churches are very good at discussions. In this day and age, it seems as though we have to be because there are many people who have questions and/or attack the Christian belief system. Christians need to be apologists and be able to turn the questions around and defend the faith. It is a belief, subconscious or otherwise, that underlies this need for discussion alongside a need to be correct. If you know me, it is apparent that I enjoy a good discussion and am no stranger to apologetics. I believe it is important to be able to explain the faith you have in Jesus and answer the questions of those who are seeking. However, if apologetics is all you ever learn to do as a Christian, you have a problem.

Much of what apologetics involves is talking and discussion—which is completely fine. However that cannot be the end-all of being a member of a church. If all being a member requires is learning to talk about Jesus convincingly, is it any wonder that the church sits empty?

In the book of James (2:14-26) it says “faith without works is **dead**.” The book of Revelation echoes this sentiment in the letter to the church of Laodicea (3:14-22): “I know your **works** and you are neither hot or cold.” The NIV uses the explicit term of *vomit* to describe what happens to this church. The word *works* can easily be substituted with *action* in these passages and not change the idea of the passage. From these passages it isn't too much of a stretch to reach the conclusion that a church without action is dead—or at the very least,

So how do we help our churches stop being simply lukewarm? Admitting there is a problem is most of the battle. If you aren't sure if your church is “lukewarm,” there is a slew of resources available to make that determination. Periodic self-reflection is a good thing. Once you figure it out, discussion needs to happen—and that's OK. But there has to be an end to the discussion. It can't just keep going in circles airing grievances and repeating the fact that there is a problem.

Uncovering the problem might take a little time but it needs to be acted on sooner rather than later. There will always be several opinions about how exactly that action needs to be taken—and that's OK, too. But an action needs to be taken; a change begun. Even if what you try doesn't work, there are more ideas to choose from and an infinite number of ways to become more involved in your community and to create a church no longer suffocating itself.

This process is not simple and it certainly isn't easy. Just admitting that a church needs to move from its stationary position of sitting in pews is intimidating because it is out of our comfort zones. It may mean jettisoning some things that seem integral to a church building or service but aren't important in the context of carrying out the Great Commission— and it might mean more. Every church is unique and what works for one might not work for another. The most important thing is moving into action as a body. Imagine what we could do. SR



Women's Society

By Katrina Goodrich  
[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)

Earlier this year, my children acquired a new game—a “fishing” game. A rotating plastic pond is filled with plastic fish. Each fish has a hinged jaw that opens and closes as the pond holding the fish rotates around. The object of the game is simple: you use a simple plastic fishing rod to catch the plastic fish and remove them from the pond. Whoever catches the most fish wins. Though that seems simple enough, to young children the game can be difficult, as the fishes open their mouths to the hook at a seemingly variable rate, and there is some motor skill needed in hooking the fish.

We opened the game and I set to trying to explain the game to my two-year old son, Caedmon, and my four-year old daughter, Zoey. After clearing up some misunderstandings about the use of the fishing poles (“No, Caed, you can’t grab the bait end and shove it in the fish’s mouth..”) we started playing. Both kids had trouble catching the fish and started exploring ways of catching fish that broke the rules. As I tried to aid them, letting some of the less problematic violations slide, my son Caedmon did an interesting thing: he started fishing where the fish weren’t—from places where I had pulled a fish already as an example.

Apparently, because he wasn’t having success with the fishes’ mouths, he decided that shoving the hook into an empty hole was an easier and more desirable way to play the game. He went on for a full minute doing this, seemingly having a great time, before I asked him what he was doing. His decision came shortly after he had gotten tantalizingly close to catching a fish several times. His frustration with his near-misses led him to a place where he gave up attempting to play the game at all. When I pointed out to him what he was doing, instead of trying again, my son moved to the fish that had already been pulled from the pond, triumphantly hooking fish that were already out of the game!

I tell you this story from a thoroughly amusing night at home because I think there is a clear analog of this experience in our work as the body of Christ in our evangelism efforts. So many of us feel a burden for the lost and we want to get out and become “fishers of men”—but when we realize that not every cast of our figurative nets yields salvation for the lost and growth for the Kingdom—we too easily become discouraged and give up. Some of our giving up looks like fishing where lost people are not—in places where we are quietly confident we will not have to deal with the rejection that comes from our perceived failures in sharing our faith. Others of us refuse to leave the safe confines of our local congregations to share our faith, instead preferring to stick with those fish that Jesus has already caught!

If you are reading this and desire to increase your skill with your nets, there is good news! The best way to increase your skill in sharing your faith in Jesus Christ and witnessing to the work of God in your life is to get out and practice! Do not assume that just because the preliminary casts of your net do not yield Kingdom growth that they are wasted efforts! In addition, if you want to grow in skill, there are many resources you can use which will aid you in practicing your casts! May we never be content in fishing where the fish aren’t! SR

## Where the Fish Aren't





Pastor Barry Baugh



Pastor Dale Smalley


**New Auburn FREEDOM Community Church** hosted the COME ALIVE! 2018 Revival Conference from April 11 to 14. Guest speakers were Pastor Barry Baugh of Teen Challenge and Pastor Dale Smalley. Evening revival services were heavily attended. These events included inspirational and transformation messages, along with dynamic worship and ministry opportunities. Hearts, souls, and bodies were touched as God’s presence brought dozens to salvation, healings, and deliverances to those who attended. Hundreds attended the evening services as well as Sabbath morning. God showed up and ruined many people’s “nice, comfortable” religion. We expected God’s miraculous presence and Kingdom power to show up—and He did! We decided to destroy the “churchy atmosphere” that relies on programs and to restore the presence of God. COME ALIVE! aims to restore God’s almighty presence back into our churches once again, and to restore the ability to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. It’s time for His Church to grow in Spiritual depth, maturity, and numbers. Be empowered and instructed by those who walk in the Gifts and have decades of experience at a COME ALIVE! at your church.

Pastor Wayne North used Friday and Saturday to present the aspects of the balanced approach and potential of the Biblical “5-Fold” ministry (some consider it the 4-Fold) to mature and equip the churches, as well as the presentation and discussion of the Fruit of the Spirit and other Gifts of the Spirit. We evaluated the Gifts, identified people with those Gifts and the meshing of them together for the ministering of the Gospel and the effectiveness of the church. The Biblical and balanced use of these Gifts, within the Fruit of the Spirit, allow the Body of Christ to be effective and complete in the ministering of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our churches could, and maybe should, be doubling in size every year! It’s time for us to realize God’s design and expectation for His Church (which includes our churches).

God intends for the Church to be equipped and ready to minister the Gospel to the world. God’s Kingdom doesn’t just come in Word, but in power. We are living in a time where churches have a form of Godliness but deny its power. Maybe that is why the Church appears to be dormant and irrelevant for the 21st century. For many are called but few are chosen. To whom God calls, He equips. To those He equips, He completes. To those He completes, He empowers. To those He empowers, He sends. It is the vision of COME ALIVE! to recognize, equip, and empower churches and their people to be effective and victorious in their

ability to release the Gospel into all the world. Maybe your church, or even you, feel weak and ill-equipped to minister the Gospel. Our churches should expect consistent and flourishing salvations and transformations in their everyday walk. The Church is supposed to be storming the gates of Hades and snatching the lost, broken, and defeated from the clutches of the enemy. COME ALIVE! allows your church to get a “spiritual check-up” periodically just like we do for our natural bodies.

Some questions to ponder: What’s your purpose? What’s your calling? Where’s your place in ministry? Why aren’t people coming to Christ on a daily basis in our churches? What gifts are missing, immature, or dormant in your church? Does your church rely upon programs or God’s power?

We would like to offer COME ALIVE! Revival Conference to you and your church. Maybe you haven’t done it this way before? Maybe you’re tired of religious activities? God has provided a framework for the Church to be flourishing and growing especially in these evil and dark days. Are you? Is your church and its ministries? It’s time for YOU and her to COME ALIVE! Feel free to contact us for more information at [pastornorth@hotmail.com](mailto:pastornorth@hotmail.com), or 715 642-0229. God bless and keep looking up! 

**Team Members Requested!**



Would you like to be part of a team that has a lasting impact on the future of Seventh Day Baptists?

We are currently seeking enthusiastic, nurturing and loving brothers and sisters to support **Children’s Conference for 2018 in Kenosha, Wisconsin.**

Please consider joining this teaching, singing, dancing, loving and laughing group by spending your mornings making a difference in the lives of the children (ages 4 – middle school) in our denomination.

If you are interested in working with this amazing program, please contact Emily Watt at 240-393-6294 or [ew9@hood.edu](mailto:ew9@hood.edu)



## Pastors Conference 2018

From April 27 to 29, 2018, more than 50 pastors and spouses came to confer, learn, pray, encourage, worship, and laugh with each other around the theme, “Less Talk More Action.” Pastor Dave Stall and the congregation at the First Hopkinton SDB Church proved to be gracious and generous hosts for all of us. Our bellies and hearts were full from the food and fellowship shared.

On Friday, we heard from John Pethtel about *Biblical Productivity*; Garfield Miller on *Spontaneous Ministry*; Rod Henry on *Vision*; Nate Crandall on *Strategic Planning*; and Dave Stall on *Measuring Action*.

On Sabbath, we joined with the congregation at the First Hopkinton SDB Church for worship with Johnmark Camenga preaching about our identity in Christ. Lori Roeleveld was our guest speaker on Sabbath afternoon with a fantastic presentation on the *Art of Hard Conversations*. She will be one of our guests at our annual Conference sessions this year.

On Sunday, Patty Petersen and Steve Osborn helped us to understand why we would want to *Partner Together*. We then went to the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, RI, for a tour and lunch courtesy of Cindy Nadeau. Our afternoon ended with a tour of the Newport SDB Meeting House at the Newport Historical Society. We sang together and learned from Janet Thorngate lessons from the pastors of the Newport SDB Church on how to take more action.

It was a blessed weekend! Thank you for sending your pastor to this time of refreshment and encouragement! Next year we will meet for the 2019 Pastors Conference in the Janesville/Milton, WI, area around the theme, “Mobilize.” [SR](#)

## Spring Happenings

By Madelyn Neher, Sabbath Recorder correspondent

The Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church hosted the 2018 Spring Fellowship Retreat on March 23-24 in Dodge Center with the theme “Revive Our Hearts.” This retreat is the new generation of what has been Semi-Annual Meetings between our churches in Dodge Center, MN, and New Auburn, WI, and in the last few years, with the addition of Outreach Bible Church in Portage, WI, and Grace Seventh Day Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN.

The weekend began with a vespers service Friday night lead by Pastor Billy Edwards followed by a light lunch. Following the regular Sabbath morning worship was a fellowship dinner and afternoon meeting with a presentation of the *Revive* organization—that included videos of the activities last year of *Revive* in Texas and Ohio, and Dodge County, MN. Pastor Bill Shobe traveled with the *Revive* team to each of the week-long events. After the video, everyone had the opportunity to participate in the presentation and respond to the *Revive* Gospel message with color-coded bracelets and Bibles specially marked to find the verses showing the way to salvation. Sabbath night included supper, a short business meeting and fellowship game time.

Pastor Bill Shobe gave a brief explanation about his trip coming in June. He will be going as translator with Clint Brown from the Missionary Society. They will go to Ivory Coast, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of Congo. The funds given to Spring Fellowship Retreat were voted to apply to Pastor Bill’s trip through the Missionary Society.

Pastor Wayne North, of Freedom Community Church in New Auburn, told about their building expansion project slated to begin

actual building this summer. They have two assistant pastors at this time. They are hosting COME ALIVE, a Spiritual Growth Conference in April.

Pastor Bill Shobe reported that the Dodge Center church has been focusing on revitalization. Discussion of the book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* was held and currently they are in the midst of using the devotional *40 Days of Prayer*. They are trying to establish an outreach focus. The YF has combined with the Praise Fellowship Church youth group. They are focusing on how to be a light to the community.

Pastor Dale Rood shared about Grace Church in Bloomington. They have an average attendance of 20. They support missionaries serving in Turkey, have a close connection with Grace Church in the Philippines, and are considering calling Pastor Greg Olson to ordination.

Pastor Wayne North shared that the Outreach Bible Church in Portage is struggling since Pastor Daron Smalley stepped down and because of some recent deaths in the church family. Freedom Community’s assistant, Steve Hinton, has been filling the pulpit every other Sabbath for them and Dale Smalley is holding a Sabbath night service.

We look forward to meeting at Freedom Community Church in New Auburn, WI, when they host Spring Fellowship Retreat in 2019.

The following Friday evening for vespers the Dodge Center Church had a Passover Presentation with Pastor Bill Shobe interactively demonstrating and explaining the symbolism of the Passover. [SR](#)



## Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. Although there may be nothing in the way people with ASD look to set them apart, they may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged.

A diagnosis of ASD now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder, and Asperger syndrome. These conditions are now all called autism spectrum disorder. ASD occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups but is about 4.5 times more common among boys than among girls.

People with ASD may repeat certain behaviors or not want change in their daily activities. They may have different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person's life. Specific behaviors may include: not pointing at objects to show interest, such as a plane flying overhead; having trouble relating to others; preferring not to be held or cuddled; having trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions; having unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound; and losing skills they once had.

All the causes of ASD are not known. However, we do know that there are likely many causes for multiple types of ASD. Environmental, biologic and genetic factors may put a child at risk. Genes are one of the risk factors, as is having a sibling with ASD. ASD tends to occur more often in people who have certain genetic or chromosomal conditions, such as fragile X syndrome or tuberous sclerosis. Valproic acid and thalidomide when taken during pregnancy have been linked with a higher risk. There is some evidence that the critical period for developing

ASD occurs before, during, and immediately after birth. Children born to older parents are also at a greater risk.

There is currently no cure for ASD. If you think your child might have ASD or you think there could be a problem with the way your child plays, learns, speaks, or acts, contact your child's doctor and share your concerns. If there is still concern, ask the doctor for a referral to a specialist who can do a more in-depth evaluation. At the same time, call your state's public early childhood system to request a free evaluation to find out if your child qualifies for intervention services. You do not need to wait for a doctor's referral or a medical diagnosis to make this call.

Where to call depends on your child's age. If your child is not yet 3, contact your local early intervention system. Call the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center at 919-962-2001 or visit the ECTA website <http://www.ectacenter.org/contact/ptccoord.asp> to find out where to call in your state. These services help children from birth to 3 years old learn important skills and can include therapy to help the child talk, walk and interact with others. If your child is 3 years or older, contact your local public school system.

Even if your child has not been diagnosed with an ASD, he or she may be eligible for early intervention treatment services. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act says that children under the age of 3 years who are at risk of having developmental delays may be eligible for services. In addition, treatment for particular symptoms such as speech therapy for language delays often does not need to wait for a formal ASD diagnosis.

Research shows that early intervention services can greatly improve a child's development. In order to make sure your child reaches his or her full potential, it is very important to get help for an ASD as soon as possible.

—cdc.gov



## SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE USA & CANADA CONFERENCE SESSIONS DISPLAYS POLICY

Displays are an extension of the ministries of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. The displays are used to inform, celebrate, and support the Conference and its mission.

Display space is limited at every conference session based upon size and location of the venue used. Therefore, priority will be given based upon the following categories of display, with Category 1 being the highest priority:

- **Category 1:** This category includes displays related to the councils, allied societies, or other ministries of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be no charge for these displays.
- **Category 2:** This category includes member churches of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be a fee of \$50 for a display in this category.
- **Category 3:** This category includes churches and groups identifying as Seventh Day Baptist. There will be a fee of \$100 for a display in this category.
- **Category 4:** This category includes vendors or other ministries that support or encourage the mission of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be a fee of \$150 for a display in this category.

**Additional Charges:** If the display is selling products, there shall be an extra \$25 charge. If the display needs electricity, there shall be an extra \$25 charge. Displays in Category 1 are exempt from these charges.

### **There shall be no guaranteed location for any display.**

Internet and electricity May or May not be available for displays and availability shall be on a priority and then first come, first served basis.

1. Application for a display must be submitted no later than May 15 of each year, or the Monday following the 15th if it falls on a weekend. Acceptance of your display will not be confirmed until after May 15.
2. A separate request must be submitted for each display table.
3. Tables will be at least six feet long. You will be responsible for providing a tablecloth and skirt for your display. (These are required.) One chair can be provided per display upon request.
4. Nothing May be attached permanently to any walls or to the display table. Storage May only be provided underneath the display table.
5. No audio equipment or sound amplification of any kind is permitted. Videos without sound May be shown as long as the monitor/television rests on the display table.
6. We prefer and recommend electronic distribution of information instead of printed matter. Use of QR codes, web addresses, or SDB LINK is recommended.

If you must ship materials for your display, you must contact the Executive Director to obtain the proper address. You will be responsible for the costs of shipping your display.

No display May be set up at the venue prior to the opening Sunday of the conference sessions. All displays must be removed from the venue by 10 am on the closing Sunday of the conference sessions.

All displays that have items for purchase shall remove or cover the items from 6 pm Friday until 6 pm Saturday.

All displays must be approved by the General Council and/or Executive Director.

Waivers to this policy May be requested from the General Council and/or Executive Director.

### **For more information contact**

**Robert Appel, Executive Director**  
robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org  
Phone: (608) 752-5055

## OBITUARY

**HAZEN** – Ruth Ellis Hazen, born June 12, 1940, passed away peacefully on April 21, 2018, from lymphoma cancer.

Ruth grew up in Stephentown, NY, and graduated from Potsdam State Teachers College. She started teaching first grade in Dexter, NY, in 1962. Ruth was one of the first SDB Summer Christian Service Corps members when she served in the Syracuse, NY, area in 1965. Ruth moved to Petersburg, NY, where she taught first and second grades until June 1971.

Ruth married Philip Hazen on July 4, 1971, in Berlin, NY. The couple relocated to Washington, DC. In the fall of 1983, they purchased and renovated a historic farm house in Tracy's Landing, MD, where they lived until 2015. Their final residence was at Collington Retirement Community in Mitchellville, MD.

Ruth enjoyed researching and traveling to locations related to Deale, MD, history and her grandfather's service during the Civil War. She also wrote several articles for the *Sabbath Recorder* and was the guest editor for a special issue. Ruth was a steadfast member of the Central SDB church in Mitchellville, MD, where she enjoyed teaching Sabbath School classes. In fact, Ruth taught Sabbath School for many years in all of the SDB churches that she attended. Ruth received the Crystal Apple award (Sabbath School Teacher of the Year) in 2009 for her years of dedicated service.

She is survived by her husband Philip; her two sons, Jonathan and Jeffrey; her four grandchildren, Adrianna, Isabelle, Alexander, and Analiese; and her siblings, Robert Ellis, Howard Ellis, and Sandy Clare.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & PASTORAL SERVICES**

**Rev. John J. Pethtel, Director**

jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (304) 629-9823

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Jeremiah Owen, Director**

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (818) 468-9077

### **EDUCATION & HISTORY**

**Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten, Director**

nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org

office: (608) 752-5055

cell: (608) 201-4850

### **SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

**Clinton R. Brown, Executive Director**

129 Main St. #156

Ashaway, RI 02804

### **SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Robert Appel, Executive Director**

3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678,

Janesville, WI 53547-1678

robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org

Phone: (608) 752-5055

## OBITUARIES

**ROOD** – Doris Leone Rood, passed away January 30, 2018, at the age of 98 in Lafayette, CO, from a brain aneurism following a fall in her home.

Doris was born August 8, 1919, to Ralph and Madge (Muncy) Coon in Berkeley, California. When she was 10, her family moved to Boulder/Denver, Colorado, where her father served as pastor of the Denver and especially the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Churches. She received her B.A. in Music Education from Colorado University in Boulder in 1940. It was in Boulder she met her future husband, Edward Judson Rood, who was there for summer school and who preceded her in death in 1960.

Doris had a passion for music, having given piano lessons in her home and teaching elementary school music. She was a skilled pianist who played the piano in her home right up to the time of her death. She often played piano for her church. Recorded classical music would often be heard in her home. Aside from her passion for piano and music, she enjoyed reading, knitting, sewing, praying for her family and others, her church family, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a prayer warrior whose faith was abundantly evident to all who knew her.

Doris was a member and active participant at two Seventh Day Baptist churches: Milton, WI, where she spent most of her working years, and Boulder, CO, for her school years and retirement years. She also served as a deaconess at both churches. While in Colorado, she hosted a number of Seventh Day Baptist young people, including "Stained Glass" music teams, and several going to school or getting started in their working life.

Besides her husband, Doris was preceded in death by her parents. Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Dale (Althea) Rood of Dodge Center, MN; Philip (Sheri) Rood of Arvada, CO; and Alice (Michael) Parker of Thornton, CO; her siblings, Lloyd (Marguerite) Coon of Lafayette, CO; Jeanne Williams of Overland Park, KS; Marian (Mynor) Soper of North Loup, NE; and Ruth (Ronald) Krum of Monterey, TN; as well as seven grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life was held February 17, 2018 at the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church, Boulder, CO, with Pastors Steve Osborn and Dusty Mackintosh presiding. Burial is in the Milton Cemetery in Milton, WI.

**SEAGER** – Betty George Seager, 85, was born September 29, 1932, in Fayetteville, AR, and died April 13, 2018.

Betty was an operator for Bell Telephone Company, and librarian for the Arkansas Democrat newspaper for 25 years. She was a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader, and a volunteer at Jefferson Elementary.

Mrs. Seager was a founding member and a clerk of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Little Rock, AR. She was a loved daughter, sister, wife, mother, and friend to many. Betty loved her flowers, plants, birds, and working in the yard.

Surviving her are her husband, Irving Seager; sister, Lula Belle Powers of Springdale, AR; daughters, Diane Seager and Karen Curley (wife of James Curley); grandchildren, Michael Seager Bell of Colorado, Amanda Bell Price (wife of Nick Price) of Little Rock and Shane Curley of New York; great grandchildren, Julia Bell of New Mexico, Isabella Price and Emma Grace Price of Little Rock. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rex and Mildred George.

Special thanks to Dr. Stephen Tucker, Vicki Nelson, Janice Lee, Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Helen "Glee" Lumus and Arkansas Hospice in giving her the care she needed.

Pastor Jeffrey Monroe officiated at the funeral service; interment at Pinecrest Memorial Park.

**BURNS** – On March 18, 2018, Rev. Michael L. Burns, of Murrieta, CA, went home to Glory.

He was born February 11, 1950, in Maryland, the oldest of four children, to Evermond Burns and Dorothy Lister. He was self-employed at a service station. Other work history included employment with NASA before he converted and was called to the ministry.

Michael served as a Seventh Day Baptist minister at Washington, DC; Hebron, PA; and Albion, WI. His love for God was shared with many and he was loved by those who knew him. At Albion, he served from 1998 until 2010. He continued as his health permitted after that date until moving to CA in June 2017.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Evermond and Dorothy, and his wife, Sharon Jill Burns. He left behind his siblings, Darlene Clark, Dennis Burns, Bobby Burns and Harry Lister. He is further survived by his children, Patti, Desmond, and Sara; his grandchildren Amanda, Rachel, Mikayla, Emma, and Amelia; and his great-grandchildren, Nevaeh, Maurice, Abigail, Ariana, and Ezra. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**SANFORD** – Wilma M. Sanford, 96, of Little Genesee, NY, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, March 23, 2018.

Wilma was born on January 29, 1922, to Clark H. and Nida Ellis Seidhoff in Battle Creek, MI. She grew up in Salem, WV. Wilma graduated from Salem High School in 1939 and from Salem College in 1943. On August 7, 1943, she married Gordon L. Sanford at Scott Field, IL.

She taught school in Somerset, OH, and worked at a civil service job on Muroc Air Base (now Edwards) in California. After World War II, Mrs. Sanford came to live on the Sanford Farm in Little Genesee, NY.

Wilma was active in the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Genesee, serving as Treasurer, Deaconess, and Trustee. In 2010, she was presented with the Seventh Day Baptist Denominational Woman's Board "Robe of Achievement" in recognition of her dedication and service to her faith.

She was a former president of the Little Genesee Sunshine Society, and was involved with the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. In 1994, she and Gordon were named Town of Genesee "Citizens of the Year." Wilma was also past president of the Little Genesee Garden Club, a member of the Allegany Co. Bird Club, and the Genesee Quilters Club. She stitched many quilts, including one for each of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Wilma and her beloved husband were blessed with sixty-eight years of marriage, enjoying their extended family and many friends. They enjoyed traveling and were able to visit all fifty states.

Surviving are four children, David (Patricia) Sanford, Wyomissing, PA; Cynthia (Gregory) Matthes, Springfield, VA; Teresa (Douglas) Ploetz; Little Genesee, NY; Stephen (Deborah) Sanford, Union Dale, PA; ten grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, two brothers, a half-sister, and a grandson.

It was Wilma's request that there be no prior visitation. A Memorial Service was held on May 27, 2018, in the First SDB Church of Genesee. Burial was in the Bowler Memorial Cemetery, Little Genesee.

Memorials may be made to First SDB Church of Genesee, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

# LESS TALK MORE ACTION

Rev. David Stall, Conference President

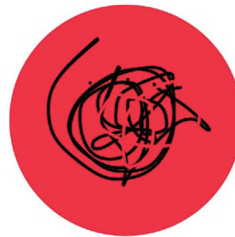
[pastordavestall@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavestall@gmail.com)

## Special Guest Speaker — Leith Anderson



I'm very pleased to announce another special guest speaker at our General Conference sessions! Leith Anderson will be with us on Thursday. He will speak at the pastors' lunch in the afternoon and preach during the evening service. You will be blessed and challenged by his words!

I have asked Leith to speak about "evangelicals taking action" and what that might look like in our lives. Leith is among the most qualified Christian leaders to speak on this topic. He also represents an organization that I think our Conference should be associated with, the National Association of Evangelicals.

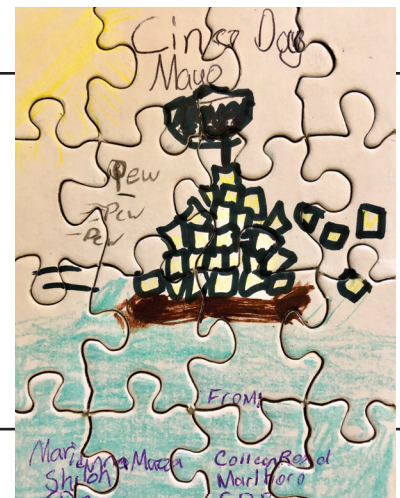


**Leith Anderson** has been president of the National Association of Evangelicals since 2006, and was the senior pastor of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, for 35 years. He regularly teaches in

seminaries, addresses evangelical concerns with elected officials, and provides theological and cultural commentary to leading news outlets. He has been published in many periodicals and has written over 20 books. Anderson has a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, and is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, Bradley University and Denver Seminary.

Last month, I was blessed greatly as I attended Eastern Association in Shiloh, NJ. I preached a Conference sermon, gave a Conference presentation, and had some great fellowship. Since it was May 5th, I shared about my intense dislike of mayonnaise and my plan to get rid of all the mayo by floating it out on the water, then sinking the raft. I called the plan "sinko de mayo." A few kids in attendance were puzzled at first, then made this awesome gift for me.

Thank you, Marianna & Colleen!



9/30 All. Assoc. Toronto	10/6 Berlin NY	10/7 C.NY Assoc. Verona, NY	11/11 S.A. Assoc. Atlanta, GA	12/23 Boulder CO	12/30 North Loup NE	2/24 Edgewater FL	3/3 Daytona Beach, FL	5/4 E. Assoc. Shiloh, NJ	7/29 Conference Kenosha, WI
--------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------



Periodicals postage paid  
at Janesville, WI  
and additional offices



This year's coffee themed event will include the race, an obstacle course and more, making it a K-Cup worthy evening! Supporting the Missionary Society's mission to promote the sharing of the Gospel with all people, all funds raised will aid projects such as sending a missions team to Tanzania, providing orphan support in Uganda and aiding in reopening Rwandan churches.

Look for more details in next month's *Sabbath Recorder* and through the Missionary Society's online presence.

# LESS TALK MORE ACTION

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

July 29 — August 4, 2018

Carthage College in Kenosha, WI