

# Sabbath Recorder



What Sustains You?

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

May 2018

# sustain...

strengthen or support physically or mentally

*For I can do everything through Christ,  
who gives me strength.*

Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

bear without breaking or falling

*God is our refuge and strength,  
always ready to help in times of trouble.*

Psalms 46:1 (NLT)

undergo or suffer

*He gives power to the weak and  
strength to the powerless.*

Isaiah 40:29 (NLT)

cause to continue or be prolonged for an  
extended period or without interruption

*You have armed me with strength for the battle;  
you have subdued my enemies under my feet.*

Psalms 18:39 (NLT)

uphold, affirm, or confirm the justice or validity of

*My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak,  
but God remains the strength of my heart;  
he is mine forever.*

Psalms 73:26 (NLT)

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Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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- 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.

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# What Sustains Me

by Margaret Taylor

When I was first asked to consider writing an article about our battle with cancer, I was not sure I could do it and wanted to decline. At the same time, there were two thoughts that came to mind. The first was *Unwavering Faith*, and the other was *Love in Action*. Those thoughts have played over and over in my mind since and stay with me. I guess the hard part is trying to explain just what all that encompasses for me.

My sure faith in God has not come quickly or easily. It has been a lifelong growth process and covered many hard trials that have tested and challenged my faith. I have had many confrontations with the Lord over the past years and come away reassured that God is still God and His word is still Truth.

## Faith sustains me.

I will not attempt to detail those times but simply say I have gained a much different perspective on life over those years. I learned from my mother who cared for a number of relatives, including both my father and my stepfather, and other relatives and patients in her own home for many years of her life.

I learned from my own personal experience, having out-lived two dads, two brothers, an infant son, and other close family members and friends. Probably the greatest test of faith came when my stepfather was diagnosed with a brain tumor and had surgery over 40 years ago. At that time I was willing to accept only one answer from God and angry when I didn't get it.

The healing has always come when I have sought the Lord, even accusing and venting anger or grief, and then found, like Job, that He understands and cares.

## His Word heals, comforts and strengthens me.

*Continued on next page...*

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When it comes to love in action, it would take many pages to detail all the ways we have experienced God's love over the past months. Since Dave's illness, we have been surrounded and upheld in prayer by people the world over. Prayer, like electricity, is such an incredible power source. It can comfort like a blanket or it can move mountains. God's Spirit is that unseen power in prayer and God uses His power in countless ways for our good and His glory.

## Prayer sustains me.

God's love in action is like His life blood flowing through our veins. It is filled with life that regenerates and nourishes our spirits, souls and bodies. Those nutrients come in many forms and amounts but they come in abundant supply. The phone calls, emails, cards, and letters have all fed our spirits with hope and encouragement — reassurance that we are not alone in this battle.

## Hope sustains me.

We have been showered with various gifts in many forms: gift cards, food, transportation, visits, financial support in many ways and amounts. We've received advice and counsel from others who have been down this road ahead of us. We have received equipment to make daily life easier and safer, including an electric lift chair. We even had snow cleaned off our car as a gesture of loving service.

## God's provision sustains me.

Probably the greatest source of strength that sustains us is our family. Our children have made themselves available to us in every way possible, even sacrificially. They have come to help with the mundane things of daily living and to support us (mentally and physically) in long days of doctor appointments. As time permits, they have rotated trips to share the load, and God has made a way.

Our daughter was able to come and spend three weeks with us in January while I had cataract surgeries in both eyes. Not only could she work from here, but with her expertise in the business end of the medical field, she has been able to help us with all that. Everywhere I lack, God has provided a means.

## Family sustains me.

And there is the church! There is no way I can put into words the way our Central SDB family has picked up the many and diverse responsibilities and carried on the ministries that David has overseen in the past. Each and every job is getting done. Many are sharing the load and doing an even better job than before.

There seems a fresher, greater awareness of what our church's ministry is in our community and a greater interest in involvement. I sense spiritual growth and stronger commitment in our church body, and that sustains me.

## Our church body sustains me.

Last but far from least, has been the privilege of participating in a weekly BSF Bible study. It is being actively connected to the larger Body of Christ and intimately involved in the life of our small group's members. The sharing time, the insights gained from studying Romans, wisdom revealed and the bonding of hearts and souls laid bare in shared concerns — all of that is medicinal. The unity of the group and power that comes from feeding on God's Word.

## God's Word sustains me.

All of this adds up to God's love in action!

## His love sustains me through all of you!

# My Desired Haven

by Deirdre Camenga

“A leg of your stool has been kicked out from under you.”

How did Pastor Liz know? That is exactly what it felt like. Emotionally, Eric’s cancer diagnosis felt much harder to deal with than my lymphoma diagnosis five years earlier. My wonderful, faithful friend, companion and love was facing the big C. At best—treatment options would forever change him physically. At worst—life without him. A difficult and sobering concept for our girls and me.

Clearly I was having an emotional reaction to this nasty diagnosis. Cancer facts: prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men. Eric’s particular kind was moderately aggressive and NOT a “wait and watch” type. He was only 53 at the time of diagnosis. The American Cancer Society does not recommend screening for men with no family history until after age 55. (I am thanking God Eric’s PCP ignored that recommendation!)

Faith facts: God had this, no matter what. God has gotten our little family through a lot of trenches—including open-heart surgery on our little seven-year-old Elizabeth, three bouts of unemployment for Eric, and lymphoma for me. I knew all this, and yet, I was shaken. I also knew that sometimes God says, “No,” to healing this side of heaven. I knew this from watching my brother, Doug, wither away from cancer 8 1/2 years ago.

Fast forward four weeks. We checked in at St. Mary’s Hospital before 9 a.m. His radical prostatectomy was scheduled for noon. My need to plan-so-I-feel-somewhat-in-control-self had the day mapped out perfectly. I would sit with Eric until the surgical team wheeled him back, then I’d wait out the surgery with my dear friend, Amy, who had driven almost two hours to sit with me.

In healthcare, however, life doesn’t always go as planned. Eric’s surgery was delayed by over four hours. I thought my nerves were edgy weeks before we even had the surgery scheduled. The hour-by-hour wait was grueling. The pre-op nurse had already given Eric his happy meds, twice, and each time we waited and waited some more. I was concerned for him. Not only had he not had anything to eat or drink since the day before, but he’d also had a handy dandy colon cleanse the previous evening. He was whipped. We both wanted to get it over. We wanted the nastiness out of his body so healing could begin.

Finally, at 4:30, the surgical team whisked him away. I joined Amy in the waiting room. Unfortunately, for over four hours she had endured the whining of two very disgruntled, very LOUD preschoolers who had been confined to a double stroller since noon. While I felt bad for their mother, I was too consumed with my own angst to offer assistance. I realized very quickly I needed to escape the waiting room chaos.

The waiting room attendant looked at me with complete understanding when I asked if there might be quieter, calmer spot to wait out Eric’s surgery. Amy and I made our trek to the suggested area. As we passed through a long hallway with window walls on each side, we noticed a little outcropping that overlooked a lovely garden. We eased ourselves into comfy chairs facing the garden oasis. Curiously, just outside of our spot, was a huge 4 x 4-foot rock with a water fountain gurgling out from the middle. Very odd.

We settled into an easy conversation—the kind you have with a friend that knows all about you and loves you anyway. We talked about deep concerns of the heart: cancer, death, life, faith. (Amy is a breast cancer survivor.) We talked of family.



We talked of lighthearted issues: our favorite characters of “Downton Abby” and all of the Jane Austen movies. Our conversation was interrupted periodically by phone calls from one of Eric’s OR nurses, giving me surgery updates. I also had conversations with my girls, including a very tearful one from Tacy, who was having her own traumatic emotional reaction.

I would like to say the four hours (surgery was 3 and he was in recovery for an hour) flew by. In reality they did not. Yet in the waiting, God tended to my frazzled nerves. A quiet, semi-private place to wait. A beautiful garden for my eyes. Bubbling fountain for my ears. Amy’s tasty snacks for my mouth. Good conversation for my soul. Encouraging surgical updates for my heart. Best of all, Eric’s surgery was successful. He fared well. The cancer was contained with no evidence of invasive spreading.

As I settled into bed that night, God reminded me of my morning’s devotional verses:

*“He stilled the storm to a whisper and the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad that the waters were quiet and He brought them to their DESIRED HAVEN.” —Psalm 107:29-30*

Following these verses in my journal I had written, “Looking to You today—counting on this.”

The phrase DESIRED HAVEN nearly lifted themselves off of the page. What is a haven? I need to look that up: a place of safety, refuge, offering favorable opportunities or conditions. Wow! God answered my prayer very specifically. He guided me to a precious desired haven where He masterfully hushed my frayed nerves.

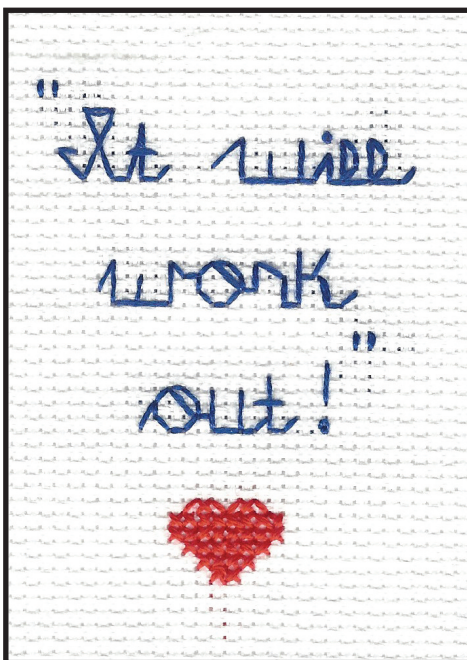
Still, I couldn’t get to sleep, even though I was exhausted. I kept seeing the huge rock with water flowing freely. It seemed so familiar, yet I know I’d never seen a rock fountain. Then I remembered a conversation God had with Moses.

*“Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Mt. Horeb; and you shall strike the rock and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink.” —Exodus 17:6*

God provided refreshment for the Israelites from a most unlikely place—a rock. While I didn’t go down and drink the water out of the rock, God certainly used it as a means of calming refreshment. The rock gushing water was all part of the **desired haven** I had prayed for in the morning.

It has been nearly five months since Eric’s surgery. The image of my **desired haven** sticks with me. A month ago I felt a lump in my neck. Was my lymphoma rearing its ugly head again? Within five days of this discovery I visited three physicians: my PCP, a surgeon, and an ENT. I also had an email conversation with my oncologist and the added pleasures of a CAT scan, an MRI, and a round of antibiotics. In the midst of these crashing waves, God kept reminding me of the **desired haven** He had provided months earlier. Oh yea—God can still this storm to a whisper, too.

*\*\*Endnotes: Eric is doing great. Aside from not being able to bike with me all summer, it’s almost as if he never had cancer at all. And my lump—well, it was an inflamed, infected parotid gland—something the ENT doc said is common in old, dehydrated ladies. [SR](#)*



## It Will All Work Out!

by Mayola Warner

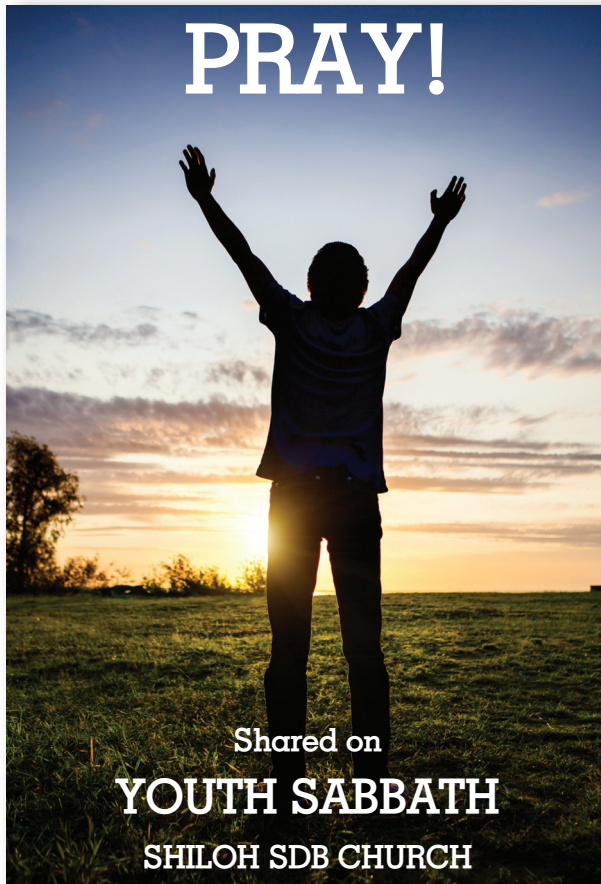
Think about it. Do you ever worry about anything? Are you ever frustrated or perplexed? Who isn’t?

I want to share a very important remedy that Garth’s Mom often shared. Since she had a close relationship with God, she trusted Him for His direction in life. She would encourage others by saying, “It will work out!”

A few months ago, I had a near death experience. My pulse went down to 30 and, as it says in Psalm 23, *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou are with me.”* And He was. He brought me back to a normal heart beat and told me, “Mayola, I brought you back because I have things for you to do. Number one: witness more for Me. Number two: do for others. Whatever thoughts I give you to do for service for others, do it.”

Then I had a pacemaker put in. Since then I have never felt better. It worked out.

I have always enjoyed doing embroidery and cross stitch work. Recently, on a very small piece of cloth, I stitched Mom’s saying, “It will work out!” I then attached it to a matching-size magnet. On the back of the magnet, I placed Mom’s belief that she always prayed and trusted God for the results. Why don’t you make a “fridge writing” to give away? [SR](#)



by Joshua Coleman

As many of you know, I have been running track for many years now. The sport has been an immense influence on my life...mainly because it is so demanding that I don't have time to do anything else. Over my Jr. High and High School track career, I have grown personally, physically, spiritually, and mentally twice as fast as in the 12 years before. After a surprisingly successful cross country season, my mother approached me to tell me something she had heard from the Lord. "Josh," she said, "God has told me this is your year." As soon as I heard that I was ecstatic. My year? Indoor and outdoor track is going to be fantastic!

At the start of what I expected to be the greatest indoor season of my life, I expected to improve my 800m time by about 5 seconds. Then I proceeded to only improve by maybe half a second—and I can honestly say this was probably the worst indoor season I've ever had. While this seemed contradictory to what my mother had told me, we all know that God works in ways that we never expect. You see, we have a tradition on our 4x400m and 4x800m relays. Before each race, as we stood in the paddock near the starting line, I or one of my teammates would gesture to the others and we would come together and pray. We would pray for strength and stamina. We would pray for energy and safety. No matter what we prayed for, prayer always came first.

It has been amazing to watch the effect this action has had on the team. At first, it was mainly the guys' relays that prayed before the races. As time went on, more and more people began to join in the tradition of praying first. I remember, during my junior year, there was a time when both the guys' and girls' relays prayed together. This past cross country season, the entire guys cross country team came together in a time of prayer before our race. During States this year, I stayed in a hotel room with two of my teammates. Before we went to bed, I decided to pull out a Bible to read verses and pray. I expected to pray by myself as my friends got ready to sleep, but was surprised when they both asked me to read the Bible out loud to them.

I'm not telling you this to brag about our growth as people or to tell about the strong bonds we share. I'm doing this to remind us all that prayer comes first in everything we do, and should be continuous. For, as I Thessalonians 5:17-18 states, "Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This principle should be ingrained in the minds of every Christian, and I think it has been in our church. But in a time when churches are losing people faster than people are turning to Christ—a time when people leave churches because they do not believe the same principles as our government—a time when politicians are unwilling to compromise, not because they are fighting for what's right, but because money speaks louder than their own conscience—we must hold to this idea. So I encourage you: go out and do everything God calls you to do. But beforehand, pray. You'll be surprised by the profound effect it will have on the lives of you and the people around you. SR

by Xander Post

There have been a lot of things that have greatly upset me recently. The amount of sorrow in the world. And the chaos that sometimes has the power to take control. I can get really, really scared sometimes. Some things have a tendency to keep me up at night. I feel the need to pray occasionally. I pray for strength, wisdom, and protection.

PRAY. God will protect us, do not worry!

Deuteronomy 31:6:

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

No matter what is going on in your life, God is right here. He has never left. So be courageous, and spread the good news. SR



THE BEACON

By Xander Post  
SDB Church, Shiloh, NJ



## *Focused to Race*

Part 3

By Brenda Rankhorn

In the last issue of the *SR*, we discussed how our identity and our feelings may hinder us from glorifying God. A third hindrance is our past: Our past—like shame over foolish actions, bitterness over unfair treatment or suffering, or pride over “godly” or great life choices—can also influence our decision to glorify God.

If anyone had a reason to choose to please himself instead of God, it is Joseph. His mom is dead. His brothers taunt him, throw him in a pit, debate killing him, then eventually sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites who then take him to Egypt. In Genesis 39, we read that he is a successful man, that the Lord made all he did to prosper, and Joseph found favor in the eyes of his master and was made overseer of Potiphar’s house. Potiphar’s house was blessed while he was in authority. This could have really gone to his head. Then in verse 6 we read that he was perceived as handsome in form and appearance and, as a result, was tempted by Potiphar’s wife. Now he could have seen this as his opportunity to gain all that he had lost—to prove his worth and to get what he felt that he deserved—or as just a chance to protect himself from being caught and punished. His outlook and attitude is neither of these. Instead he responds to Potiphar’s wife with these words: (Genesis 39:8-9) But he refused and said to his master’s wife, *“Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”* Look closely at that last sentence. *“How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”* Who is his focus on? Himself, pride, fear? No. He sees this as an opportunity **to glorify God**.

Another great example is Job. Job loses his servants, his oxen, his sheep and camels, then finally he loses all ten of his sons and daughters. Reading in chapter one, we see that each of these things happened one after the other. Over and over one servant lives just so Job can be aware of what is going on—then while that one is still speaking the next

comes to inform him of the newest catastrophe. As if that is not enough, Job is afflicted with painful boils and his wife, who should be his greatest supporter, tells him to *“curse God and die.”* (Job 2:9) Then friends show up to give him inadequate and wrong answers and advice. In Job 16:2, Job calls them miserable comforters. After all these conversations that Job has with his “friends,” God converses with Job in four chapters. In the last chapter, Job is given an opportunity to glorify God when God tells the “friends” to offer a burnt offering and to ask Job to pray for them. I don’t know about you, but I would have had an awfully hard time praying for my friends who were wrong about me, especially when I was in the midst of such suffering. Verse 10 of chapter 42 states clearly that Job prayed for his friends. What was his secret? How was he able to do this? Let’s read Job 42:5-6 (ESV), *“I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”* Job says, I have heard about you but now I understand through firsthand experience. It is now a heart knowledge instead of just head knowledge. After and during his suffering he chose to see himself in light of God’s greatness. In that understanding, he chose to glorify God by obeying God and praying for his friends who gave him poor counsel. Job chose to focus on God. Both Job and Joseph chose God over their own desires.

What was the remedy for each of the hindrances? Focusing on God, “fixing our eyes on Jesus,” just like Hebrews 12:2 states. If we focus on how great God is, and what Jesus has done for us instead of on ourselves, then we can choose correctly to glorify God.

Look for the final installment in this series in the upcoming issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*. [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.*

# Intentional Leadership

Soon after completing college, I returned to my hometown and moved into my own place. With this new-found freedom I entered into a new and amazing opportunity—bringing a dish to pass for the fellowship meal. I readily volunteered to bring my personal specialty of “slop.” This involves taking all the left-overs in the refrigerator and throwing them into a crockpot with large amounts of curry powder and some additional Ramen Noodles. It is amazing. Yet, believe it or not, I was politely told that I did not need to bring food to a fellowship meal...ever again. Maybe I was told more directly than politely.

I was working outside of my skill set, and someone needed to let me know—for the sake of the church! This is a rather innocent example—but it does not take a whole lot of imagination to see how important it is to have people in roles of leadership, teaching, and service working within their skill set, calling, and character threshold. In the previous article, we considered how we select people to fill roles of leadership, teaching, and service within the church. Whether we are in a small church or a large church, it can be difficult to find volunteers to fill certain roles—but that is no excuse to move away from the Biblical standards of character and competence. Yet, even with these explicit standards, we can easily fall into the trap of using superficial qualifications of: 1) Self-selection or 2) Easy targets.

### Self-selection.

Self-selection as the only qualification is quite dangerous. When we ask for Sabbath School teacher volunteers from the congregation through a casual announcement, are we truly seeking out the most qualified and called individuals, or are we potentially inviting significant issues? Oxford Dictionary describes self-selection as “the action of putting oneself forward for something.” Self-selection is definitely a good thing to demonstrate initiative and a willingness to serve, but it is far from meeting Biblical qualifications for serving in certain capacities.

Self-selection does not meet the bar set in Ephesians 4 that we examined in the previous article—the bar of character and competence. When utilizing self-selection, we are not intentionally searching out people of character who demonstrate a Christ-like walk and concern for unity. Likewise, self-selection does not seek people who exhibit competence in the ways that they equip and build up others for the glory of God. Relying on self-selection for every role in the church, such as those that involve teaching, lacks the “interview questions” we should be asking as a church.

### Easy Targets.

Another approach we might use to fill roles of leadership, teaching, and service within the church is to ask people of character and competence who struggle to say no. We know who these workhorses are—the people who are looked up to by many, bring amazing talents to the table, and rarely say no. We can avoid the self-selection trap by asking these trusted individuals to perform just one more responsibility within the church.

There is a terrible cost to easy targets, though. Every time we press them into another role, their family is stretched that much thinner as home life becomes increasingly finite. As we ask people to fill the gap just one more time, we are also asking them to pare down their personal time with Jesus and His Word for the sake of public production. Our asking of easy targets to keep going with one more job brings a cost to their families, and potentially a draining of their own well of spiritual and emotional health.

If character and competence help us with discerning “interview questions” for church leaders, there must still be one more facet to avoid the traps of self-selection and easy targets. Here is that final piece provided in Ephesians 4: Chalk Line.

### CHALK LINE

I am not much of a carpenter, yet I still strictly adhere to the old adage “Measure twice, cut once.” There is great advantage to following this adage—not wasting material, getting the job done efficiently, and not looking personally inept. In order to link together measuring well and appropriate cutting, there needs to be a guide. This is where the chalk line comes in. Once we know the measurement, we snap a chalk line on the board we are going to cut to guide us in the process.

Ephesians 4:13 provides a chalk line to follow:

*until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*

### All.

Notice the important phrase that kicks off this verse: “until we all attain....” The chalk line is not an individual’s measurement only, but actually a measurement for the body of Christ, the church. When we search to fill roles in the church, it is not a matter of what is most expedient to get the task done. The



*The chalk line is not an individual's measurement only,  
but actually a measurement for the body of Christ, the church.*

true measurement involves how the body is affected. Self-selection and easy targets do not ultimately take into account what is best for the church in the long haul. We must use the chalk line offered in this verse.

#### **Dimensions.**

Three dimensions are provided. First, there is to be unity of faith. If we ask this person to serve in this role, will he not only bring unity to the church through his character and competence, but will their serving in this capacity also sustain the unity of Christ in their relationships? Is this person spread too thin in life to take on one more task?

Second, there is to be the dimension of knowledge of the Son. Remember, this is not only knowledge about Jesus, but also truly knowing Jesus personally. If our asking of someone to serve in one more role is ultimately going to detract from his individual time spent with Jesus—we need to reconsider asking him to risk that cost. On the other hand, there might be people who have not been asked to serve in a given capacity who would actually grow through their service in the church.

Third, there is the dimension of maturity. This is a measurement of the church as a body, not just the individual. Our selection of leaders, teachers, and servers not only reflects their individual maturity, but how they will bring group maturity. Once again, this raises the question of whom to ask for a given job. Perhaps the person with the greatest competence and character is not the best choice. What if someone who has threshold character and able competence would actually bring the greatest body maturity through their own growth as a leader? What if God's plan is to grow an emerging leader to bring about tremendous growth for the body?

While we hold a high standard for character and competence, we must not overlook the dimension of body maturity. We need to be very careful to not just measure to find the individual with the "most character and competence." This would potentially starve emerging leaders from opportunities. Ultimately, we would also miss the chalk line measurement of church-wide maturity.

#### **Emotional Maturity.**

When it comes to maturity, notice that the standard is "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Quite often we think of maturity in terms of knowledge and spiritual maturity. These are incredibly important and are necessary pieces of

maturity. Yet, when we look at the fullness of Christ, we need to recognize another picture of maturity that He exhibited throughout His life: emotional maturity. Jesus knew when to be incredibly gentle. Jesus knew when to offer a sharp rebuke. We can get confused about emotional maturity, thinking that emotional maturity is the lack of emotion. That would be a miss. Emotional maturity is appropriate emotional response, not the lack of emotion. This sort of maturity is imperative for a church to know unity of faith. Once again, when we are selecting leaders, teachers, and servers, we should be using emotional maturity as a criteria on the individual and group level. Does this person possess the individual emotional maturity required for maintaining unity? Also, will the person serving in this role point the church toward greater emotional maturity through leadership development?

#### **A FINAL METRIC**

When we use character, competence, and the chalk line for selecting appropriate individuals for roles in the church, we have a clear picture of what should be avoided. Verse 14 talks about being children tossed to and fro on waves, carried by the winds of doctrinal change, and deceived by craftiness and cunning. That is something to avoid! Keep in mind that this is the short measure—there is a long-term measure to view as well:

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Eph. 4:16-17)*

Appropriate identification of emerging leaders not only avoids getting lost in the sea of doctrinal change, but it provides a glorious view of what can be. Each part is living out what it is equipped to do in order to not only grow, but build itself up.

#### **Sending Capacity.**

The measure of appropriate selection of leaders, teachers, and servers within a church is the sending capacity of that church. When a church not only trains up but also provides opportunity for equipped individuals, leaders start to emerge. Notice that this metric is sending capacity—that there are leaders, teachers, and servers available to be sent from the church because she has faithfully been asking the right interview questions. The

*Continued on page 21*



## Decision Making

Every single day we have to make an endless list of decisions. From something as simple as “What am I going to watch on Netflix today?” to something as life changing as “Where am I going to put in a job application?” Sometimes, those decisions are obvious and easy to make—other times...not so much! Sometimes these decisions seem to make no sense at all. A little over two years ago, I made one of those decisions that didn’t make sense—but it would change the pathway my life was on.

Two and a half years ago I was working for Rite-Aid, getting pretty much 40 hours each week, besides starting my senior year of college taking 16-18 units a quarter. My grades were slipping because of the way my boss was scheduling me. He wasn’t giving me enough time to do the work I needed to get done for school. So, I put in my two weeks’ notice.

After about half a quarter of living jobless (I mean, with my family, so I wasn’t too bad off), I decided that I needed to try to figure it out and find another Job. I decided to look into the local school district and I found a position called “Child Development Apprentice.” I thought it looked interesting and applied. A week later, I had an interview. I interviewed—and heard nothing for almost two months. I finally got an email at 6 a.m. saying I had gotten the position. But there was a problem—they gave me an afternoon position. I had requested a morning position since I was still in school. So, they froze my hiring, to wait until a morning position opened up a month later. I started the week after the position opened. I loved it. And that was when I made my next crazy decision.

While I was finishing up the senior year of my bachelor’s degree, I decided to concurrently enroll in the community college down the street and take Early Childhood Education classes alongside my already 16 units. Yeah, I know, I’m

crazy! But as I kept taking classes, even as I finished my BA, I fell further in love with the Early Childhood Education field and decided that I wanted to get an associate’s degree. Yup, that’s right—I decided to start my associate’s after I finished my bachelor’s. Honestly, that was the decision I felt the most subconscious about. All of my friends who had also gotten their bachelor’s were going on to their master’s degrees or going into the fields that they had spent so long preparing for. I felt like I was throwing away all that hard work and starting over. I felt like people would be judging me for that. But I still took that step and kept taking ECE classes. As I was taking classes, I started learning about the qualifications that I needed to become a preschool teacher. In California, there are six permit levels which people can apply for (rather than teaching or administration credentials) which determine what they are qualified to do in the child development field. (They range from a Teacher’s Assistant all the way up to Program Director). Well, I found out all of these permits have alternate qualifications—and guess what! My bachelor’s degree, along with the classes I had already taken, left me only one class away from qualifying for the second highest permit (Site Supervisor). This week I received that permit (currently the last week of March).

While I was making all of these decisions, they didn’t make sense. But when I look back on this journey, it does make sense. God was leading me down a path that He had prepared for me. *“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”* (Psalms 27:14) God has prepared a life for us, full of decisions—decisions that don’t seem to make sense, decisions that seem to have little importance—but God has divinely placed these decisions in our lives. He prepares to lead us each down a path that will lead us closer to Him and the plans He has for us. So jump in and prepare for the best decision of your life. SR



# WHY RETIRE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR?

Back in August of 2017, I had a conversation with the other Directors of the Conference about when would be a good time for me to transition out of the position of Executive Director. Basically, to a person, they said, “That is your decision. We are glad to have you here in this position as long as you feel led to be here.” They also thanked me for asking them.

At this year’s General Conference Sessions, we need to decide what we are doing as far as this position is concerned. One of the agreements between the Conference and the Executive Director is that we would give each other a year’s advance notice before a change would occur. The reason for this is due to the longevity that it usually takes to fill this type of position. Because of all this, I let the General Council know in October that I would be taking a spiritual retreat before our March meetings, in order to give them a decision—because I was thinking it was time for me to vacate the position.

On February 2-5, I went on the retreat. After 28 hours of fasting and then praying on Sabbath morning the 3rd, I asked God to show me what He wanted me to do. I opened my Bible, clearly expecting it to open to Psalms or Proverbs and I heard a clear voice say, “Turn to James.” So I did!

In a “Reader’s Digest” shortened version, this is what my retreat was like. I want to share the verses that God directed me to. They are in the order that I received them. You can look up the whole passage if you would like. I will just note some of the clear messages for me.

*James 1: 5 — If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

*Proverbs 2:6 — For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding;*

*Acts 23:1b — “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”*

*James 3:16-18 — <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

*Hebrews 6:10 — For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.*

*2 Timothy 4:6-7 — <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*2 Corinthians 8:10 — And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. <sup>11</sup> Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.*

*Titus 2:7b — In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup> and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned.*

I do not make this decision without a lot of emotion. I have been in this position for 14 years. That is a long time to be involved in a ministry, and then just simply step away. After losing my good friend Jonas Sommer and his family on February 15, my demeanor and emotions were all over the place. And likewise, my heart hurts just thinking about losing this part of my life as well. But it is the right thing to do at this time. I believe that our Association of Churches needs a boost. I believe that my stepping down will do just that: give us a new excitement and renewed collaboration as a united team!

Won’t you please be in prayer with me as we take this new journey? [SR](#)

# A Summer Prayer List

*The SCSC Committee of the Women's Board is pleased to announce the 2018 SCSC projects and teams. This year we have 12 students being sent out to 7 projects spanning the country from east to west and north to south. They are as follows:*

## **Ashaway, Rhode Island—First Hopkinton SDB**

PD, Nadine Lawton  
Collin Green, Milton, WI  
Gabrielle Osborn, Boulder, CO

## **Boulder, Colorado**

PD, Angie Osborn  
Wayne Bloom, New Enterprise, PA  
Jevon Levy, Kingston, Jamaica

## **Colton, California—Maranatha SDB**

Co-PDs, Nathan Crowder and Willy Villalpando  
Victoria Richards, Blue Mountain, Jamaica  
Jordan Lynch, Toronto, Canada

## **Daytona Beach, Florida**

PD, Grace Crouch  
Melissa Brown, Texarkana, AR  
Sarina Villalpando, Colton, California

## **New Auburn, Wisconsin**

PD, Wayne North  
Dustin Tio, New Auburn, Wisconsin

## **New Enterprise, PA—German Church**

Co-PDs, Grace King and Verne Fuller  
Randi Gammons, Texarkana, AR  
Deva-Ann Levy, Kingston, Jamaica

## **Texarkana, Arkansas**

PD, Beth Brown  
Haylee Gammons, Texarkana, AR

Spring is a busy season for the SCSC program and we covet your prayers as this season continues through the summer. These 12 students are in the middle of a lifelong journey that began with their application due in January and continuing with their acceptance into the program. The SCSC Committee is dotting i's and crossing t's — they lay the ground work for the summer and take care of the details that set up a project for success. Training staff has come together and is putting together a week of intensive training to help the students be prepared for things they may face on project and the rest of their lives. Project directors are putting the details of their summer projects together.

SCSC has a lot of moving parts. Even though details, places, and faces may change, this program remains committed to helping young people learn how to be a leader — then putting them into position to practice and gain confidence in the skills they are developing alongside their God-given gifts.

Pray for the students, training staff, projects and directors, and the SCSC Committee as we continue in this season of preparation and then action. Pray that the program works in and through the lives of the students, teaching them how to be leaders and helping them to be a blessing to the churches they will be working in this summer. SR

## 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







Clinton Brown with new SDBs in India 2015

## You Can Go to India If He Wants

I have written before about how God had amazingly diverted my path a few years ago to make things happen in India though Seventh Day Baptists that I could not have anticipated. I was frustrated because my path was blocked, but His plan was so much better than mine. What I did not mention in that account was how He miraculously opened the doors when the time was right for me to go visit our brothers and sisters in India.

I had read about how God had closed the eyes of hostile forces so Bibles could be smuggled into communist countries, or provided resources when they were needed to get ministers out of troubles—but I guess I did not think I would get the privilege of things like that happening to me. Of course, it was not really about me, so why should I have been surprised? It was God who was due the credit and I should be amazed, but not surprised.

When the time was right, I was finally able to arrange flights to India. I found the arduous process of the bureaucracy was no longer the system—an easy online application was now available to enter. This most people could attribute to coincidence, but that is not really the amazing part of my being able to enter. Because entry was now going to be so easy, I got the visa needed to enter India, mapped out my travel itinerary, and purchased the flights needed. It was not until later that I realized that the last leg of my trip was going to be in a state of India not typically open to foreign visitors.

From what I could find online, the state I was trying to enter was one of several that required an additional entry visa only issued in India for visits to restricted regions. By this time, I had no way to schedule a trip

within India to gain one of these special permits. Since it was beyond my ability to make provision for entry to that state I would just have to leave it up to God. I prayed that I would do all I could, but if He wanted me to go into that area then He would have to provide the inspiration or way to enter.

With that in mind, I visited the other two areas of SDB work in southern India and made my way to the airport where I would have to be issued the ticket to my final stop. Approaching the counter, I had a hand in one pocket ready to pull out my passport, and in the other pocket I held some rupees in case a “fine” would allow my ticket to be processed. Then something happened that I had never seen in all the airport ticket counters I have approached in dozens of countries. Instead of asking for my identification, the lady asked for my flight itinerary print out. She took the piece of paper I pulled from my bag and found my ticket number. Briskly she punched in the code, gave me the ticket, and pointed to the gate where I needed to go. Not once did she ask for my passport. Perhaps she was just not a good ticket agent and did not understand the importance of making sure passengers provide valid identification and travel documents. Or perhaps God had determined He was going to take care of this challenge for me and remind me that if He wants me to go somewhere then nothing can stop me.

Pray with me that we continue to be willing to go where He wants us to go and confident that He will make a way for us to be where He wants us to be. SR

*This is what the LORD says: "I will go before you, and level the mountains. I will smash down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.*

—Isaiah 45:2

# Native Americans in the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church

## Part 1: An Indian whose name is Japeth

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

by Janet Thorngate

Several Native Americans joined the Newport, RI, Seventh Day Baptist Church, but none of them lived in Rhode Island.<sup>1</sup> A letter from Ruth Burdick in Westerly, Rhode Island Colony, to her father Samuel Hubbard in Newport, records the actual circumstances of the three earliest baptisms after the founding of the church in 1671.

*I judge it my duty to make use of this opportunity to impart to you the dealings and good hand of our God unto us. He hath been at work, as we believe in ye hearts of some of the inhabitants of New London, and bowing their hearts to be obedient unto the Lord Jesus: The names of them is John Rogers, James Rogers his brother & ye third an Indian whose name is Jepheth, who gave a very satisfactory account of ye work of grace wrought upon his heart.*

That was in February. The Rogers family of New London, Connecticut Colony had called John Crandall over from nearby Westerly. He had preached among them and baptized John, James, and Japeth.<sup>2</sup> Later a third brother, Jonathan, decided he wanted to be baptized “but judged himself unfit.” John Crandall was too sick with a winter fever to go again to New London and do another baptism so “they sent to Newport, and Elder Hiscox, Mr. Hubbard, and his son-in-law Clarke, were sent to visit them in March 1675, when Jonathan Rogers was also baptized, and all four of them were received as members of their church by prayer and laying on of hands.”

<sup>1</sup> Sources for the 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, and 58. 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.

<sup>2</sup> The name *Japeth* was variously spelled including *Jepheth* and *Jephtha*. All we know of him is from Samuel Hubbard's correspondence, portions transcribed by several different people before the originals were lost.

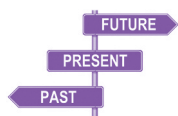
### *Japeth and the Rogers Family*

That was the first of many trips back and forth between Newport and New London. Japeth always accompanied the three brothers as they sailed one of the family ships the long day's trip up Long Island Sound to Narragansett Bay, usually returning the next day with William Hiscox and a couple other church members. Hiscox preached and eventually baptized most members of the extended Rogers family. Samuel Hubbard refers warmly to “our precious brother Japeth” in several of his letters. In one to John Rogers, he says, “I pray remember my true love to brother Jepheth, the first of New England Indians: encourage him in the Lord.”

James Rogers, the father of John, James, and Jonathan, was a wealthy landowner and merchant in New London. Probably Japeth was one of the slaves or indentured servants who worked in the family's fields and commercial interests. His Christian commitment, however, seems to have been his own decision. “Old father Rogers” and his wife and daughter were not baptized until the next year. Eventually, his son John led most of the family away from the SDB church forming the group that became known as the Rogerenes.

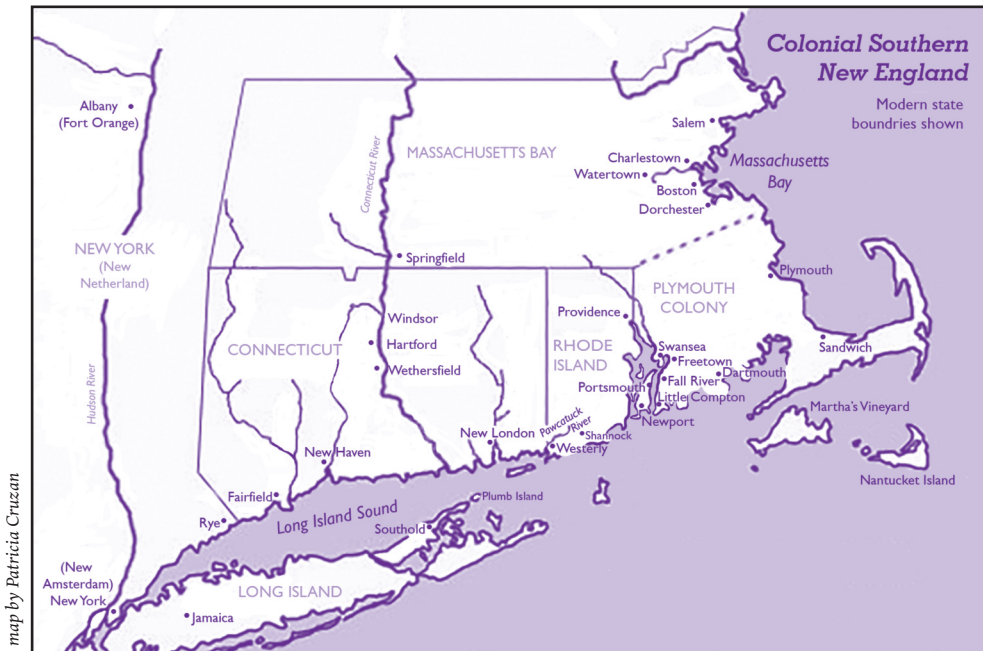
### *Japeth Disciplined by the Church*

Ironically it was the youngest son Jonathan—who remained a faithful SDB all his life—who, along with Japeth, was a target of the first recorded disciplinary action of the Newport church. “A letter of reproof was written to Jonathan Rogers, for carrying a burden on the sabbath...” signed on behalf of the church by eight members. “And they sent another letter of reproof at the same time to Japeth, Indian, for growing cold and vain.” We can only guess at the myriad possible reasons why Japeth may have become “cold and vain.” Alas, that is the last we hear of him.



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.

map by Patricia Cruzan

Japeth was, indeed, “the first of New England Indians” baptized as a Sabbathkeeping Baptist. The others lived on Martha’s Vineyard, the large island about forty-five miles southeast off the coast of Newport. 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.

Most of what we know about the church members there also comes from Samuel Hubbard’s correspondence (before official records begin). However, a curious note in later Ist Hopkinton church records reopens the mystery of what became of them.

More on this in the next article in this series! [SR](#)

## A NEW FELLOWSHIP is forming in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina!!

We are a small fellowship that is sponsored by the host church of Shepherd’s Fold Seventh Day Baptist Church in Tennessee. We have been meeting weekly each Sabbath in the home of Debbie Rod in Apex, NC. We hope to have many more join us in our endeavors to begin a Seventh Day Baptist ministry in this area. Currently, we participate in the live-streaming services of various SDB churches that offer this service: primarily the Alfred Station SDB Church, NY. We are also studying *The Attributes of God* by A.W. Tozer (Volume 2).

All who might be in the area, or visiting the area, are welcome and urged to join us. Come help us build this ministry and fellowship! Please call the number below to let us know when you might be in our area so that we can give you updated information as to where we are meeting.

Come share your Sabbath mornings with us at 10 a.m. to study God’s Word, followed by worship and fellowship at 11 a.m.

### THE GOOD NEWS SDB CHURCH

A ministry to the Raleigh-Durham area that shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with our community, reaching others one life at a time.

Contact: 919-985-6868 or [GoodNewsSDBChurch@gmail.com](mailto:GoodNewsSDBChurch@gmail.com)



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

This process is currently being implemented in six churches but we are inviting your church to participate.

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

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

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

For more information, visit [seventhdaybaptist.org/pulse](http://seventhdaybaptist.org/pulse) or contact the Director of Church Development.



**ATTENTION Church Development Advocates!** Are you not sure if that is you? If you are interested in the health of your church and our denomination and/or you want to see new SDB expressions of faith in North America—then you are a Church Development Advocate.

So what do you do now? Join us monthly for the Church Development Network Video Call! You can join us via your computer or phone each month on the 4th Thursday at 8 pm Eastern. To join our email reminder list, please let the Director of Church Development know at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org).

We are looking forward to you sharing and hearing about what God is doing in our churches and what we want to see happen in the future. We **WANT** your participation!



The 4th annual MULTIPLY Church Development Conference (October 18-20, 2018) is open to all who desire 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. 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. 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).



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)

**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).



## 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

## The Pulse of a Healthy Church

*Continued from page 13*

actual sending is up to God—the calling of the church is to generate a capacity for sending.

Two things when it comes to leadership development: 1) This goal is potentially more about sending equipped individuals and families to other churches and mission settings than amassing numerical growth within your own church. 2) Leadership development metrics might be two generations out. Meeting the chalk line of unity, knowledge, and maturity as a church is not a quick deal, nor is sending out emerging leaders.

As a church, ask the hard questions of character, competence, and the chalk line. Anticipate a lengthy intentional investment that might come at a great cost, including the sending out of wonderful folks. Ultimately, be expectant of the growth God will bring in His kingdom through your church's faithfulness. SR

## CORRECTION:

### *The Lord's Prayer series*

In my last installment of "The Lord's Prayer," I mentioned that the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls brought about the change in many English translations. Though this discovery was important, I was mistaken. There were more reliable and older Greek texts discovered after the creation of the King James Version—but they were not discovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls. However, this does not change the fact that the oldest Greek manuscripts do not have the second half of Matthew 5:13.

—Philip Lawton

## NEW MEMBERS

### NEW YORK CITY SDB CHURCH

New York, NY  
Ericessen Cooper, Pastor

#### By Baptism

Bro. Malik Francis  
Sis. Jada Green  
Sis. Tianna Brown  
Sis. Cailin Bell  
Sis. Kaila Cooper

#### New Deaconess

Sis. Ita Cox  
Sis. Pamela Whitely

#### New Deacon

Bro. Oliver Francis  
Bro. Lebert Small



For access to the library of current and past issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*, go to your App Store and download the **FREE SDB LINK** app.

## OBITUARIES

**JONES** – Milburn C. Jones, 90, of Battle Creek, MI, died December 30 at Evergreen Manor.

Milburn was born September 17, 1927, in Battle Creek to Albert and Glenna (VanBlarcom) Jones. He was a graduate of Bellevue High School and attended many technical classes at Kellogg Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Michigan State University and Argubright Business College.

Milburn had been employed by Stoll's Building Services in Hastings, Farmers Trading Post, Sullivan's Dairy Barn, Sears Department Store, and Battle Creek Inn. He owned and operated Jones Dairy Service from 1963 until retiring in 1976.

Milburn was a active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Battle Creek and served as deacon, trustee, superintendent of ushers and greeters, Senior Saints and Sabbath School.

Milburn also served as camp custodian of Camp Holston at Cotton Lake and was a volunteer for Glenn Arbor Hospice. Milburn enjoyed building and repairing items that others needed help with.

Milburn is survived by his wife of 72 years, the former Beth Yvonne Cavinder; daughters, Suzanne L. Mesaros of Battle Creek; Sharon K. Robertson of Praiseville, MI, Marjorie E. (Gary) Paulin of Assyria, MI, and Marion (Paul) Schleusener of Dimondale, MI; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; a sister, R. Gwendolyn Wright of Bellevue, MI; and a brother, Milford G. (Sondra) Jones of Mill Creek, WV.

Funeral services were held January 6, 2018, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Battle Creek with interment at the Union Cemetery. Memorials may be given to the Seventh Day Baptist Church, 202 N. Washington Ave., Battle Creek, MI.

**WORLEY** – Margie (Mema) E. Worley, age 93 of Big Rapids and White Cloud, MI, passed away January 11, 2018, at her home following a short illness.

The oldest of four children, Margie was born Margie Lee Elliott on September 11, 1924, in Durham, NC, to Roberta Frances Evans and Ruben Lee Elliott. Margie married Laurie Atkinson Wethington, Sr. (June 1, 1946) who preceded her in death in 1959. She later married David W. Worley (August 1966) of Seneca, SC, who also preceded her in death in 1996. Margie worked for the City of Long Beach, CA, where she was a secretary in the health department for over 20 years. Margie moved to the White Cloud area in 1999 from Greenville, SC. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in White Cloud, where she was active in the prayer ministry, the Women's Circle, the Teen Center, and missionary programs of the church. Margie had an active card ministry and calling ministry to many people throughout the United States and was a true prayer warrior. She was a strong spiritual supporter to her sons, Michael and Bernie, throughout the years. Throughout her lifetime, she started various church ministries from NC to CA and finally in White Cloud. Some of her favorite Bible verses were Psalm 23, John 3:16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Margie is survived by her sister Mary Keith of Durham, NC; brother-in-law, Larry Worley (Tess) of Greenville, SC; son, Michael Wethington (Nancy) of Hayneville, AL; daughter-in-law, Patti Wethington of Big Rapids, MI; stepdaughter Linda Bearden (Charles) of Greenville, SC; nine grandchildren and step-grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; one step-great-great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

Margie was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings Harold C. Elliott and Ruth L. Elliott and son, Pastor Bernie E. Wethington, of Big Rapids, MI; and step-sons Laurie Atkinson Wethington, Jr. and Bruce Allen Wethington.

A Celebration Of Life Service was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in White Cloud, Michigan, with the Rev. Matthew Wethington, the Rev. Nathan Crandall and Pastor Keith E. Shick, JR, presiding.

## Expected Conduct at General Conference

*This must be read, then noted  
online or at the end of the paper form on p. 26*

We desire to maintain our witness for Christ. Part of this witness is our ability to live as a community that recognizes the responsibility to think of others. One such responsibility is a demonstration of respect for those who need a good night's sleep. We also want to spare our people from social pressures that might encourage inappropriate activity.

1. Local rules of the school and facility are binding on all who attend Conference unless changed by the Host Committee or the General Council.

2. All socializing between males and females (except husband and wife) shall be limited to public areas, or personal rooms (except during quiet hours) in which the doors are completely open.

3. Quiet hours are from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. each night of Conference. During quiet hours no excessive noise will be permitted. No talking will be allowed in hallways, and no music (such as instrumental, vocal, or from a stereo) will be permitted except where used with personal headphones. Quiet talking will be permitted in lounges, or in personal rooms with the doors closed (same gender only and spouses).

4. A Disciplinary Council shall be established before Conference convenes.

5. The Disciplinary Council shall meet at the call of the chairman to deal with infractions of these conduct guidelines. Discussion shall be confidential and shall include input from the person(s) involved.

- A first offense of the rules will result in a written notice of warning. In the case of a youth being in violation, copies of the warning shall be delivered to both the youth and sponsor.

- A second offense of the rules will require that a violator (and sponsor, if appropriate) meet with the Disciplinary Council to work out an agreement of what type of service or restitution would be an appropriate consequence for the violation. In the case of youth offenders, the sponsor will also monitor the service of the youth.

- A third offense is punishable by a fine of \$50. In the case of a youth offender who is unable to pay, the youth's sponsor will be responsible for the fine.

- If the offense warrants, violators will be sent home at their own expense (or the sponsor's expense in the case of a youth).

6. All unmarried young people under 18 years of age will need to have their own parents, or a sponsor over 25 years of age, attend the Conference. ALL YOUNG PEOPLE will be assigned to rooms on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsors.

7. Parents or sponsors assume full responsibility for the conduct and discipline of the young people whose sponsorship they accept. Such responsibility does not extend to direct supervision when youth are engaged in a scheduled Conference activity.

**PLEASE SIGN this understanding on the online form  
or on p. 26 of the paper form in this issue.**

## Children's Conference Planned for General Conference 2018!

Emily Watt will once again direct a Conference for our children at General Conference this year at Carthage! Children's Conference this year will feature activities for elementary and middle-school-aged school students (4-14 years) including Bible studies, recreation, and games. The events available vary based on the age of the students, but all look to be fun and educational!

## YOUTH CON! It's Back for 2018!

Directors Kory and Amanda Langley have designed a powerful package of faith, friends and fun focusing on the theme: **THE NEXT RIGHT THING!** Come and discover a key to a life of satisfaction and success. Do "The Next Right Thing." Plan NOW to be there. YOUTH CON 2018! See you there!

*This year's Youth Conference includes an additional fee of \$25, which includes a Youth Con t-shirt! As you register for Youth Con, please remember to include the shirt sizes of the registrants!*

**If you have questions about either of these Conference associated activities for those under the age of 18, please contact Director of Education & History Nick Kersten for more information!**

**JANUARY 2-5, 2019**  
**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

REGISTER @  
[crossforthenations.org](http://crossforthenations.org)

For 18-25 year olds  
and their leaders.

**CROSS 19**

### Join us at CROSS 19

**The young adults of the Milton church invite SDB young adults (18-25) to join them at CROSS 19, January 2-5, 2019, in Louisville, KY.**

**CROSS 19** is about bringing people from every tribe, tongue, and nation into the everlasting joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus.

**Key Speakers:** John Piper, Trip Lee, David Platt, Kevin DeYoung  
Worship by Matt Boswell; KB in Concert

**Go to <https://crossforthenations.org/> for more information.**

*The early registration rate of \$99 is only available until May 31st. If you register with our group, registration will be \$79. We'll also be reserving a block of hotel rooms for a discount and to hang out together. Contact Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator, at [lykelinda@miltonsdb.org](mailto:lykelinda@miltonsdb.org), by May 31st to reserve your spot. Rates go up after May 31st, so if you are undecided, contact Linda anyway so we can reserve extra rooms just in case.*



## 2018 CONFERENCE

Carthage College

July 29 – August 4

2001 Alford Park Dr.

Registration

Kenosha, WI 53140

Instructions

(262) 551-5801

Registrar: Linda Lawton  
(608) 449-3787

registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org

Forms mailed to: Linda Lawton

11604 Community Center Dr. #8  
Northglenn, CO 80233

• **ONLINE REGISTRATION ends June 30!** Go to [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) to register online. You may pay now by sending a check or using your **Credit Card**. You may also use your credit card at registration on campus. This speeds up your check-in process on arrival!

• **On-Campus Registration:** Follow the signs to the **Todd Weir Center**. Begins Sunday July 29, at 11 a.m. to late evening. *Be prepared to wait if you did not pre-register and pay ahead of time.*

### • Registration:

**Mon.-Thur.** 9 a.m. to noon,

1 p.m.- 5 p.m. & after the evening service to 10 p.m.

**Fri.** 9 a.m. to noon, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. & after the evening service to 10 p.m.

**Sabbath Day** 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• **If you are coming just for Sabbath,** August 4, **please pre-register.** All attendees **must** register in order for you to be covered by the Conference insurance, and so we can have an accurate count.

• **About the Form** ~ One form per family.

(1) Please list **all names** as you want them to appear on the official name tags, last name first. Ages must be given for those under 18, as well as last school grade completed as of June 2018. First-time Conference attendees, please identify yourself. There is **no charge** for children 0-3 years. Please indicate if you plan to use the **NURSERY**. **ALL NAMES must be listed** to ensure that everyone is covered by insurance.

• **Special Requests:** e.g., if need handicapped access; willing to be in "higher tolerance" dorm; want Oaks semi-private room.

### (2a) & (2b) FULL WEEK RATES:

On Campus or Off Campus (3a) & (3b)

**DAILY RATES:** For daily rates, please indicate days attending.

• **Registration for all:** Everyone attending (ages 4 & up), full- or part-time, is required to pay the registration fee. It covers facilities, materials, and insurance of Conference activities.

• **Housing:** All beds are single beds. **Two children** (ages 11 and under) **are allowed to sleep on the floor** at no charge if there is a paying adult family member for each child.

• **There is air-conditioning** only at The Oaks. The Oaks are a two-bed, semi-private suite that is available at a higher cost. These consist of a shared sink area and closet, shared bathroom and two separate bedrooms with a single bed in each room. NOTE: These rooms are **NOT** available for children sleeping on the floor.

• Due to limited space, The Oaks are **NOT** available to those not staying for the full week; however, upon arrival if any rooms are left you may pay the upcharge of \$84.

• Dorms have 2 beds per room.

NOTE: **NONE** of the dorm rooms are air conditioned. However, they are near Lake Michigan where the air is cool at night.

• **KEYS:** There will be a **\$50** lost key charge.

• **Linens:** Are included in the cost and include the pillow, pillowcase, sheet set, and 2 each: towels, hand towels and washcloths.

• There are elevators in the dorms and the conference buildings.

• **All unmarried young people under the age of 18**, if not attending with a parent, must have a sponsor over 25 years of age in attendance at the Conference sessions. The sponsor must be listed on the Registration form; young people will be assigned to same dorm and close to the sponsor.

• **Meals:** Meal tickets for the entire week include supper Sunday, July 29, through breakfast Sunday, August 5. "Lunch & Supper" meal tickets include supper on Sunday, July 29, through supper Sabbath, August 4. **Children ages 3 & under are free.** Individual meals may be purchased in the meal line at the cafeteria.

HOWEVER, you MUST be pre-registered in order to eat lunch in the cafeteria on Sabbath Day.

(4) & (5) **Banquet Tickets** Please register for Banquets so we know how many to

plan for. Prices are discounted with meal tickets. **Indicate if you prefer vegetarian or gluten-free.**

(6) **Youth-Con & activities:** Youth (finished 9th–12th grade) must sign up for youth events held Sunday thru Friday lunch. There is a fee per youth for Youth-Con that covers additional cost associated with this special track + a T-Shirt. **\*\*See more info on page 23.**

(7) **Off-campus Housing:** Please indicate a phone number (cell or other) where you can be reached. (8)

**Transportation:** Attendees flying in will be picked up only at the **Milwaukee (MKE) Airport**. Please indicate arrival and departure times by pre-registering by **June 30**. There is a FEE of \$10.00 each way for pick-ups from the airport.

If you fly into Chicago (O'Hare or Midway Airports) you will need to take the **Van Galder Bus** to Kenosha. You will be picked up at the **Brat Stop at I-94 & Hwy 50**. If you make arrangements, we will pick you up there. There is a FEE of \$10.00 each way for pick-ups.

• **NOTE: NO RV spaces** on campus.

• **Nursery Services:** Will be in the **Todd Weir Center** (Ehler Chapel) for children 3 years old and younger. Hours will be posted. **Parents using the nursery are asked to help for half a day** some time during the week.

• **Internet Access:** Guest Wi-Fi is available throughout the campus.

• **NO SMOKING** or **Alcohol** allowed on campus.

• **ALL ATTENDEES** should read and sign the Expected Conduct Statement on p. 22. Those registering online will mark a box indicating that they have read it and agree to abide by it.

**NOTE:** Carthage College is located right off Lake Michigan and is approximately **10 degrees cooler** than the city temperature. Please be sure to bring a sweater or light jacket for possible cool evenings.



# 2018 SDB Conference Registration — Carthage College-Kenosha, WI July 29 – August 4 (information for your name tag)

<b>(1) NAME:</b> LAST	FIRST	Gender	Grade	Age	Need Nursery	1st	SDB CHURCH (or Organization representing)	CITY/STATE if different from below
								Need more room? Use another sheet
Child's School Grade completed <input type="checkbox"/>							Mark if your first Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Requests (Higher tolerance dorm); \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Sponsor (All youth under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees:** Adults (Age 12 and over); Children (Ages 4-11); [Children, 3 and under, FREE—please list ALL names above]

**(2a) FULL WEEK RATES ON CAMPUS**

	How many?	Rate	Amount
•Adults (age 12 and up) Full Week, Registration, Bed & Linens			
All Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$440	=
Lunch/Supper only	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$404	=
No Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$334	=
•Children (age 4-11 in a bed)			
All Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$320	=
Lunch/Supper only	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$296	=
No Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$236	=
<i>[For children on floor, must have one adult family member per child on floor]</i>			
All Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$210	=
Lunch/Supper only	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$186	=
No Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$126	=
•Children (3 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/> x	FREE	=
•The Oaks Residential Village please add \$84 for each bed ~ this is based on double occupancy	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$84	=
<b>TOTAL (2a)</b>			

**(2b) FULL WEEK RATES OFF CAMPUS**

	How many?	Rate	Amount
•Adults (age 12 and up) Full Week, Registration			
All Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$290	=
Lunch/Supper only	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$248	=
No Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$151	=
•Children (age 4-11)			
All Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$210	=
Lunch/Supper only	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$186	=
No Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> x	\$126	=
•Children (3 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/> x	FREE	=
<b>TOTAL (2b)</b>			
(4) Women's _____ x \$20.00 w/meal ticket _____ x \$30.00 w/o meal ticket			
Banquet _____ # of Vegetarian meals _____			
(5) Youth _____ x \$15.00 w/meal ticket _____ x \$25.00 w/o meal ticket			
Banquet _____ # of Vegetarian meals _____			
<b>(4)</b> _____ <b>(5)</b> _____			

All attendees MUST be registered or listed! Please read the "Expected Conduct" statement on page 22 and sign the statement at the bottom of the next page. Register online at [www.seventhdailybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdailybaptist.org)

(6) Youth Conference \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = (6) \_\_\_\_\_

**(3a) DAILY RATE ON CAMPUS**

	How many?	# days	Rate	Amount
•Adults (age 12 and up) Registration, Bed & Linens	_____	_____	x \$72 =	_____
All Meals	_____	_____	x _____ =	_____
Lunch/Supper only	_____	_____	x \$65 =	_____
No Meals	_____	_____	x \$48 =	_____
•Children (age 4-11) Registration, Bed & Linens	_____	_____	x \$46 =	_____
All Meals	_____	_____	x _____ =	_____
Lunch/Supper only	_____	_____	x \$43 =	_____
No Meals	_____	_____	x \$34 =	_____
•Children (age 4-11) FLOOR	_____	_____	x \$30 =	_____
All Meals	_____	_____	x _____ =	_____
Lunch/Supper only	_____	_____	x \$28 =	_____
No Meals	_____	_____	x \$18 =	_____
•Children (3 and under)	_____	_____	FREE	_____
<b>TOTAL (3a)</b>				_____

(7) If housing off-campus, Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (8) Transportation needed between Milwaukee Airport and the campus.  
 Arrive: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM Depart: Air # \_\_\_\_\_ AM  
 Pick-up needs One way \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10/person = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Round trip \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/person = \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Conduct document on p. 22**

I/we, the undersigned, have read and do understand the "Expected Conduct at General Conference."

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(3b) DAILY RATE OFF CAMPUS**

	How many?	# days	Rate	Amount
•Adults (age 12 and up)	_____	_____	x \$46 =	_____
All Meals	_____	_____	x _____ =	_____
Lunch/Supper only	_____	_____	x \$39 =	_____
No Meals	_____	_____	x \$22 =	_____
•Children (age 4-11)	_____	_____	x \$30 =	_____
All Meals	_____	_____	x _____ =	_____
Lunch/Supper only	_____	_____	x \$28 =	_____
No Meals	_____	_____	x \$18 =	_____
•Children (3 and under)	_____	_____	FREE	_____
<b>TOTAL (3b)</b>				_____

**TOTALS**

Regis., Housing, Meals, etc. = _____ Less amount prepaid = _____ Balance Due = _____
--

Checks to: "SDB Host Committee"  
 Send form to: Linda Lawton  
 11604 Community Center Dr. #8  
 Northglenn, CO 80233  
 (registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
 Linda Lawton (608) 449-3787

As the parent of \_\_\_\_\_, I further agree that my child is legally responsible to the undersigned sponsor, and that said sponsor may also make any necessary decisions regarding medical services.

Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# LESS TALK MORE ACTION

Rev. David Stall, Conference President

pastordavestall@gmail.com

## Put your money where your mouth is!

You've talked about coming to conference this year, and making that a priority.

Well, now it's time to take action and commit! Registration forms are out!

The biggest reason most people don't make it to conference is money. It is expensive. Lots of things in your life cost money. The real issue is usually not money, but priorities.

Average monthly cable TV bill is over \$100  
Average monthly cell phone bill is over \$100  
Average monthly coffee expense for an adult in America is almost \$100

So, don't just sit there in front of your cable or satellite TV, scrolling through the blah blah blah on your smart phone, sipping on your overpriced coffee, and say that you wish you could afford to go to conference.

**Less Talk. More Action.**



For \$440 you can register for conference and that includes ALL meals and lakeside lodging for a week.

Plus, you can be involved in ministry decisions, learning, socializing, worship, and inspiration among your SDB brothers and sisters.

**Set this as a priority.  
Fill out the registration. Make it happen.**

**I realize some can't attend for other reasons.  
Let me know if I can help. I'll call your boss!  
Or your spouse. Or parents. Teachers. Doctors.  
Whoever!**

I don't do Facebook and  
I only take complaints in person.  
If you wish to complain about this article or others,  
you will find me in Kenosha, WI in late July.  
That opportunity alone might be worth \$440!

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

## Conference Registration Information inside on pages 22-26

General Conference

Youth Conference

Children's Conference

Online Registration ends June 30!

Go to [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)  
to register online.

**LESS TALK  
MORE ACTION**

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

July 29 — August 4, 2018

Carthage College in Kenosha, WI