

Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

October 2018

*Let us not lose heart in doing good,
for in due season we will reap
if we do not grow weary.*

— Galatians 6:9

see Page 5



"End of Harvest" painting by Morgan Weistling (<https://www.morganweistling.com>)

O Bless the Gifts

O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.

Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

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

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

THE SEVENTH DAY

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

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REAPING THE HARVEST

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

by Pastor Andrew Samuels
Conference Sermon
August 1, 2018

Maybe you haven't noticed, but we talk a lot. We debate, we discuss, we murmur, we complain, we criticize, we just talk. I mean, as a conference. And I must confess that I have just had a hard time understanding why there is so much talk, and so little action. So, I decided to look up the meaning of the word "conference." Do you know what it means? It means a gathering of people, "to talk." So, conference is a place and a vehicle to talk. It comes from the word "confer." To confer means to talk. No wonder we have problems with action items at conference. Action items and conference are paradoxical. They don't go together. They are a contradiction in terms. So, I'm working on a different word for us. In the meantime, while we're searching for the correct word to move us from merely talking to acting, I want to suggest six principles that will help to move us from talk to action—to engage us in less talk and more action.

You want different outcomes. You want different results. You want your Conference to do something for you, your church to do something for you, your wife to do something for you. We all like a good harvest; a rich harvest; a fruitful harvest. How does that become a reality? Only by understanding and applying these six Laws of the Harvest:

1. YOUR HARVEST DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU SOW

You will never hear a farmer say, "I want to see my harvest first." That is impossible. You cannot get a harvest where no seed has previously been sown. A lot of people go to church every Sabbath wanting to harvest from seed they have never sown—or come to Conference desiring to harvest from seed they've never sown. In farming, you cannot access a harvest without a seed. You cannot get the grace of the harvest without the sowing of the seed. Now we recognize that God can always work a miracle. God could sow the seed Himself and give us a harvest, but miracles are the exception, and not the rule. Jesus healed a blind man, but there were still other blind people around. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, but everybody in the cemetery did not get up. God operates in our lives on the basis of laws, and the universal law that applies to all people and all places and all times and all things is that if you expect or desire your harvest, you have to **first** sow some seeds. You can pray all day long, "Lord, enlarge my territory, bless my field, bless my harvest, give me some potatoes and rice and yams and tomatoes and watermelons and grapes and apples, and throw in a few mangoes"—but that's going to be a long prayer for a long time with nothing to show for it. No matter how hard or long you pray, no matter how spiritual or spirited you are, no matter what church you go to, no matter what tongue you speak, if there is no seed put in the ground, there will be no harvest. So, the Lord is asking some of us right now, "Where is your seed? Did you bring a seed to plant? Have you been sowing?"

Today, we are seeing a harvest being reaped. We are able to be present at our annual General Conference specifically because people planted, and people sowed into this ministry many years ago. Others have continued sowing through the years. The ministries of the Christian Education Council, the Council on History, the Council on Ministry, the Memorial Fund, the Summer Christian Service Corps, the Tract and Communication Council, and others exist today, and are blessing our churches and our people because somebody sowed. Many of us will never know the names of all those who sowed, will never know anything about many of those who sowed, but they did, and their seed continues to bear fruit in 2018. They didn't just talk; they acted. Do you realize that the overwhelming majority of us eat from trees we did not plant, and we have no idea of how those trees came about, or who planted them? That's because the harvest depends on whether you sow.

Continued on next page...

**LESS TALK
MORE ACTION**
More of Conference

2. YOUR HARVEST DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU SOW

If you plant an apple seed, you won't get a pear tree. If you plant onions, you can't go there looking for pumpkins. Genesis 1:12: *"The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good."* Fruit and vegetation reproduce after their own kind. That is a law. When a husband and wife come together and she gets pregnant, she does not have an elephant. God has put in you the power to reproduce after your own kind. You can't produce anything from you that isn't already in you. You can't plant one thing and go looking for another when reaping time comes. What you plant has to be predicated on what you plan to produce. Your expectation has to guide your operation. As you look at your needs, your needs will tell you what seeds you are to plant in order to enjoy the harvest you want to have. Your seed has already been endowed by the Creator with the power to reproduce after its own kind. Therefore, it's not only important **that** we plant, it's equally important **what** we plant. Galatians 6:7: *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."* You can't fool your seed. The seed God has given you in every area of your life, already knows its assignment. Regardless of what you call it, it will only reproduce after its own kind. You can call it prophecy, but if it's really just a lie, that's what it's going to produce. You can call it prayer, but if it's really just religious manipulation, then that's what it's going to produce. You can call it excellence, but if it's really just mediocrity dressed up in church clothes, that's what it's going to produce. This law works across any platform in your life, both positively and negatively. Therefore, if you look at your life right now, and you have an abundance of negativity in your life, that means very simply that somewhere along the way, somebody planted negativity in the garden of your life and experience. It may

have been you, or it may have been someone connected to you in some way, but the presence of the fruit is an indication of a seed that has been planted somewhere in the past. What you sow is what you reap. You cannot sow evil and reap good. You cannot sow anger and reap peace. You cannot sow gossip and not be talked about yourself. You cannot sow greed and hope someone is going to be generous to you. That's not how the law works. If you sow lies, expect to be lied about. If you sow discord and dissension, expect to be betrayed and stabbed in the back, **unless** you dig up what was previously planted, and start sowing something different. Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, if we need unity and harmony, are we going to keep sowing strife and animosity? In the name of Jesus Christ, let's stop sowing seeds of discord. Let's stop sowing seeds of disunity. Let's stop sowing seeds of misinformation. Let's stop sowing seeds of backbiting. Let's stop sowing seeds of manipulation. Let's stop sowing seeds of control. And let's start sowing seeds of grace, and peace, and harmony, and gentleness, and truth, and order, and love, and courage, and reconciliation, and forgiveness.

What I am saying is, if some bad seeds have been sown in the past, so that they are now showing up because that's just how the law works, let's leave them in the past, and begin to plant some different seeds. I don't know who I'm talking to tonight, but I know that messed up relationships can be reconciled. Severed relationships can be healed. Our God is a Healer and a Restorer. Let this be a new day for our Conference: new direction, new beginning, new planting, new perspective, new attitude, new spirit, new environment, new climate, new outlook, new opportunities, the opening of new doors.

3. YOUR HARVEST DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH YOU SOW

2 Corinthians 9:6: *"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

Have you ever known anyone who wants to do a little bit of work and get a great big check? A farmer cannot sow one seed and then look for fifteen acres of harvest. You can't sow a little and hope to reap a lot. That's contrary to law. Some of us want a supersized blessing from a microscopic investment. If you want fifteen acres of harvest, you'd better do fifteen acres of sowing. Some of us are not pulling our weight. Some of us are just warming the

benches, taking up space, criticizing, finding fault, standing by, spectating, and talking. It is time to start sowing, start plowing, start planting, start investing. Your energies are needed, and so are your gifts, and abilities, and skills, and resources, and input. I don't care how long you've been here: it's time to pick up a plow, a fork, a tool, and to do something. Those who are busy rowing the boat don't have time to rock it. When people have nothing to do, that's when they major in the spiritual gift of faultfinding and criticism. We don't need anymore of that. What you get out of your situations in life is in direct proportion to what you put in.

4. YOUR HARVEST DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU SOW

If right now, I want to grow some mango trees and I have some seeds in my pocket, and I decide that the church carpet on the altar and platform is sacred ground (the territory where people pray), and I'm going to plant my mango seeds right there—you would think I'm crazy. What you already know is that if I put them down there, I'll be waiting a long time because I would have planted my seed in bad soil. The carpet/floor is not conducive for what I'm trying to do. You can't just plant anywhere. You have to plant in a place which is designed to receive the seed you are planting. Verse 10 tells us that God is the one who gives seed to the sower and gives him bread to eat. And in the same way, He will provide and increase your resources, and then He'll produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Good soil is where you invest so that you can legitimately give thanks to God. So, the next time you're at the casino, or in the lotto line, ask yourself, "Can I thank God for where I'm planting the seed right

now?" Some of us are planting seed in some bad soil, and that is not going to produce the harvest we would like. Sometimes we have to be secretive about where we're sowing, because we know it's not good soil.

We are called to be discerning, and recognize the quality of the soil in which we're planting. The Parable of the Sower told by Jesus in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8, clearly indicates to us that typically every time we sow, there are at least four different types of soil on which our seeds fall. Even in this company right now, as we are hearing this word, we all represent different types of soils: some of us are wayside soil; some of us are rocky places soil; some of us are thorny soil; and some of us, thank the Lord, are good soil. So, which soil are you? Can someone sow into your life and good fruit will be produced? The harvest depends on where we sow.

5. YOUR HARVEST DEPENDS ON WHEN YOU SOW

If you plant a seed this morning, don't expect to see a harvest this afternoon. Crops take time. There's a time gap between the sowing and the growing, between the planting and the producing. Unless God chooses to override His law, and He can do that, and when He does that, we call it a miracle. But remember now, miracles are the exception, not the rule. There is a season to sow, and a season to reap.

Galatians 6:9: *"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not grow weary."* Due season is not when you decide it is. Due season is not when you want it to be. Due season is after you have planted seed in a previous season, after you've planted in good quantities, after you've planted in the right soil, after the sun comes up and shines on it, after fertilizer has developed it, and after time has passed. Due season is the season when because of what you've planted in the past, it now comes up in the present. It is then, and only then, that you legitimately have the right to expect a harvest. You have a seed in the ground. If you have no seed in the ground, you can sing till you're blue in the face and nothing will happen. It's a seasonal issue, which means there's a time gap. So don't get frustrated if you decide, "I'm going to start praying this weekend," and you don't see a miracle by Monday night. It takes time. Just because it's not showing yet, doesn't mean nothing is happening. It's underground. It's out of sight. Your miracle is underground. Your healing is underground. Your deliverance is underground. Your breakthrough is underground.

Your anointing is underground. Your appointment is underground. Your seed is already working, multiplying, sprouting, birthing, producing, germinating, rising, arriving, and ascending. Something is happening. Any day now is your due season. In order for a harvest to come up, a seed first has to go down. Sometimes we get a little frustrated, and a little impatient, and we get upset with other people, but then there are others who pray, and who wait, and who implore, and who caution, because one day, the harvest is going to be reaped. Hallelujah! Just because God is silent, does not mean that God is still. God is working right now. There are things that we yet want to see happening in our Conference. God is working. Seeds are being sown: seeds of prayer, seeds of patience, seeds of forbearance, seeds of endurance. It may take a while, but harvest time will come. Wait on the Lord. Wait for your breakthrough, your salvation, your rescue, your miracle.

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Pastor Andrew Samuels

**LESS TALK
MORE ACTION**
More of Conference

6. YOUR HARVEST DEPENDS ON WHY YOU SOW

2 Corinthians 9:10: *“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”* God is interested in meeting your need, as long as in meeting your need, you become a better person. Many of us just want to be blessed for blessing’s sake. We want to show off—“Look what I drive or wear.” God is not interested in getting you a new car if you’re going to be the same old you. God is not interested in giving you a bigger house if you’re still going to be small-minded. God is not interested in giving us new leaders, new initiatives, new programs, and a new direction, if we’re going to remain the same old way. How can we be in the church for all these years and still have the same grouchy, unloving attitudes? How can we hear all these sermons all these weeks and our hearts remain one of stone and sarcasm? Christianity is about change. It is about conversion. It is about transformation. You can’t just keep saying, “That’s the way I am; that’s my personality; that’s how I was raised.” Let’s get it together. The church should be the most loving, forgiving, kindest, most gentle place in the world. God is not just interested in what you possess. He’s interested in the person you are becoming. People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care. When God gives you a harvest, the first thing you do is recognize that it came from Him. Not from Wells Fargo or Bank of America, or Wall Street or the Government. Once we realize that, the more humble we will become so that people can see Him and not see us. The more He blesses me, the more I’m going to serve Him, love Him, praise Him, talk to Him, talk about Him, honor

Him, represent Him. God wants you to sow up so you can go up. He wants you to go up, so you can grow up. It’s not just what you get, it’s who you become.

Whatever God gives you, He puts in it the seed for the next thing you will need. God’s grace in your life is so comprehensive that in meeting your present need, He includes your next seed. He meets the need, He includes the seed, so you can replant it to meet the need that you do not even know you have yet. This is the day of harvest. Sow that seed and wait for the harvest. God is not just enough. He is more than enough to give sight to the blind, heal the sick, feed the hungry, liberate the incarcerated, give speech to the dumb, hearing to the deaf, power to the lame, dead men their resurrection. It is harvest time. He is more than enough in sickness or in trials, in tears or in trouble, in ups and downs, on the mountain and in the valley, in despair and frustration, in battle and in warfare. It’s harvest time. You were sad and He put a smile on your face. You were disappointed and He put clapping in your hands. You were discouraged and He put a shout in your spirit. It’s harvest time. A great God deserves great praise. God will supply, but you’ve got to get your seed in the ground. It’s harvest time.

If you want to reap a rich harvest, you must sow. You must sow the right crops. You must sow in the right quantities. You must sow in the right places. You must sow at the right time. And you must sow for the right reasons. SR

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Living in Our Home Away From Home

By Pastor Steven Crouch



Morning Devotions
on July 31, 2018

Let's think back to the exile, when Jews were taken to Babylon. At one point, the prophet Jeremiah wrote a letter and sent it to the Jews in Babylon. I'm going to read the first part of his letter—four verses—from Jeremiah chapter 29:

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters. Take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

In other words, make yourselves at home there in Babylon. You're going to be there a while.

I can imagine that it was hard for them—after all, Jerusalem was home, Judah was home—they didn't belong in a foreign country.

Today, I'm thinking of our homes and our families and our jobs—I'm thinking of them as our "Babylon." Just as God put the Jews in Babylon, he put Seventh Day Baptists in the USA and Canada—but for a very different reason:

- For the Jewish people, it was God's judgment for their unfaithfulness to Him.
- For us, it's to glorify God and do ministry for His Kingdom.

And His word is the same: Settle in, live in your homes, make families, find useful work to do. As it says somewhere, "work heartily, as for the Lord, and not for men." We're going to be here a while.

Later on, Jeremiah followed his own advice: he bought property there in Judah where he lived. He really meant it, that the people in Judah and in Babylon were to live meaningful lives in the cities and towns where God had put them, for as long as He should choose.

Notice that God instructed them to have sons and daughters—and *they* should have sons and daughters. That sounds like a generation or two. Jeremiah had said it would be 70 years—and so it was.

Our time on this planet is about the same—as the Psalm says, "70 years, or by reason of strength 80 years." It's almost like we're "home"—and we should live that way.

But Jeremiah wasn't finished. I'm allowed five verses, so here's one more, from chapter 32:

Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.

The exile to Babylon would end. The Jews would leave the homes they had built, they would resign from their jobs, and Jewish families would return to Judah and Jerusalem. And we know from Ezra and Nehemiah that the city was rebuilt, the temple was repaired, and life went on in the Promised Land.

Our "exile" is also temporary. We are to work and build and raise families and be faithful in all the things that God has for us to do. Let's remember the other command in Jeremiah's letter: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you."

Let's be faithful and effective servants in the towns and cities where we live—knowing that one day God will bring us to our true home. [SR](#)

**LESS TALK
MORE ACTION**
More of Conference



Katy, Clara, and Eric

Enduring Patiently

Eric Bofinger's Testimony at his Baptism

Hi, my name is Eric. Believe it or not, I've been attending Shiloh for the better part of 13 years since Katy and I first starting dating in September of 2005. Mainly in church and in Sabbath school, I've kept to myself as I've never quite figured out how to fit in. While the church has always been a welcoming and inviting place, the Shiloh culture isn't what I grew up in and has always just felt different. I went to a normal elementary school with a classroom for every grade. I didn't go to Shiloh school and I wasn't in Tyler Chroniger's class. My last name is Bofinger—it's not Davis or Bond. I've never driven a tractor. I've never been hunting because my grandfather was too old to take me when I was of age. It took until I bought my own gun before I shot one. I fell my first tree in 2018. And like Pastor Phil, I bought a Ford pickup truck to fit in. Don't assume someone is comfortable because their spouse's family has been attending the church since the 1800s. Invite someone you don't know to dinner on Sabbath. If you want community, invest in lives of those involved in your community. Make yourself uncomfortable. Don't be afraid to "step out of the boat." Since for the majority of the last 13 years I've been driving 65 miles each way to attend Shiloh, I thought it would be appropriate to live in an adjacent zip code before becoming a member of the church. Last August, Katy and I prayed and took a leap of faith. We sold our home, packed most of our belongings into a storage shed, moved in with my in-laws, and continued to pray as the Lord revealed His plan. As of May, I'm now officially a taxpayer in the Peoples Republic of South Jersey (which is surprisingly less than I was paying in PA) and you can reach me by first dialing 609. Come September, you'll be welcome in our home to share in fellowship.

Ten years ago a friend asked me to get a tattoo with him. While I was reluctant at first because of its permanence and the lack of approval from my girlfriend at the time, I went along with it. Now almost a third of my life has passed since I got inked and I'm left trying to figure out its meaning and moreover, its application to my life. Usually when someone catches a glimpse of it they ask if they can see it. When I show them, they look at for a few seconds, trying to read it, recognizing some of the letters before saying, "that's not English is it? What is it?" "It's Greek," I say. "Are you Greek?" "No it's scripture from the New Testament written in Greek: *Oligopistos eis tis distazo.*" (You of little faith, why did you doubt?) I've spent a decade trying to decide if I'm going to let this statement be a self-fulfilling prophecy or am I going to have faith?

The latter part of Matthew Chapter 14 reads:

²⁵ *Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.* ²⁶ *When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.* ²⁷ *But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* ²⁸ *"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."* ²⁹ *"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.* ³⁰ *But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"* ³¹ *Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"* ³² *And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.* ³³ *Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

About two years ago for 18 months, I went through a terrible time, where I struggled in many areas of my life—which included physical, emotional, spiritual, and occupational sickness. I found myself in a hospital room in November of 2016 with a frail body, a weakened spirit, and the choice to have faith. I opened my Bible and began to read. First, Matthew 14:31. Then my favorite verses, James 1:2-4: *"Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, knowing that the testing of your faith develops perseverance, and perseverance must finish its work, so that in the end you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* I struggled to find the joy in the situation. Recently, I had lost my part-time job as the cross-country coach at Cairn University, a position in which my family and I poured our hearts into the lives of young men and women for nine years. In addition, I had a series of serious infections in my body, which caused me to lose 35-40 lbs. on two separate occasions, leaving my body weakened and unable to do the simplest of tasks. Joy? *"Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, knowing that the testing of your faith develops perseverance and perseverance must finish its work, so that in the end you may be mature and complete not lacking anything."*

The author of James refers to testing in this verse. However, the testing that is discussed here isn't the type of testing that we're accustomed to—where previous rehearsed information is simply regurgitated. This is real testing where learning takes place. Where your faith is forged and you develop perseverance. In this verse, the Greek word for perseverance is *hupomoné*, a remaining behind,

a patient enduring, especially as God enables the believer to "remain under" the challenges He allots in life. With all of my running experience, you'd think I'd know a little about endurance. When you properly train for a marathon, surprisingly you feel good for the first 18 to 20 miles—but no matter how hard you train or how much you want to finish, you must endure the remainder of the race patiently until you cross the finish line. There is not a thing you can do physically to make your body move any faster. Not to get too scientific, but there are specific physiological restrictions regarding glucose metabolism that cause this. It's called "the wall."

For me, I can relate this to the long suffering or enduring patiently that the author of James is talking about with one exception—there is no finish line. You see, where there is an end to the suffering, there is hope. Where there is no end, there is no hope. Therefore, do not place your hope in an end to suffering; place your hope in the Lord who gives you Joy—for "the Joy of the Lord is my Strength." Then you will be mature and complete not lacking anything.

When I was a cross-country coach, I tried to lead as I was called. I often looked to the Bible for examples of leadership. There isn't a better example of leadership than Jesus. Jesus had his 12 apostles and, as we have recently been learning in Sabbath school, these 12 were hand chosen and being set up to lead in their own right. In the sport of cross-country, a team is a group of seven runners, with the first five as scorers. But the reality is, in a dual meet, the top three are the most important. With a sweep in a dual meet of 1-2-3 you can win the meet with a score of 27-28 no matter where or how your 4-5 runners finish. In 2014, the men's team made it a goal to win the conference championship—something that had never been done in any sport as long as Cairn has held a sponsorship in the NCAA. And thus, the "big three" was formed. As silly as it sounds, I can draw comparisons from the way Jesus mentored his "inner circle," Peter, James, and John, and the type of mentoring it took to win a conference championship. If you haven't figured it out yet, Peter is one of my favorite characters in the Bible. Peter, or Simon as he was originally called, means "the listener." Jesus spent particularity more time mentoring his inner circle, as noted several times in the Bible, with a lot of time specifically challenging Peter's faith in order that it would grow. God doesn't call us based on how others see us; rather He calls us based on whom He wants us to become. Simon Peter had the skills

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*Place your hope in the Lord who gives you joy—for "the Joy of the Lord is my Strength."
Then you will be mature and complete not lacking anything.*

*God doesn't call us based on how others see us;
rather He calls us based on whom He wants us to become.*

Continued from previous page...

to listen and, while he had faith, his faith needed time to grow—so that he would become mature and complete not lacking anything. In Matthew 16:14, Jesus charged him with the following, *“And I tell you, that you are Peter (meaning rock or stone), and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

Consider this: if Peter didn't sink in Matthew chapter 14, what would that have proved? It would have shown that he was mature and ready, but he was not. In Matthew chapter 26, Jesus predicts Peter's denial of him. Peter debunks it. Later in the chapter he disowns Jesus three times.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, in Mark 16:7, a young man in a white robe who was in the tomb tells Mary Magdalene and Jesus' mother Mary to go, tell his disciples and Peter (*and Peter*) that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.

In John's account (chapter 20): She ran and found Simon Peter (*Simon Peter*) and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, *“They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!”*

³ *Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb.*

⁴ *They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.* ⁵ *He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in.* ⁶ *Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there,* ⁷ *while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings.* ⁸ *Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—* ⁹ *for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.*

Matthew 28:16-20:

¹⁶ *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.* ¹⁷ *When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.* ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* ¹⁹ *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

“Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance and perseverance must finish its work so that in the end you may be mature and complete not lacking anything.”

“You of little faith, why did you doubt? Verily I say unto you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

After Jesus' ascension, Peter addresses a crowd of God's “chosen people” in Acts 2:

³⁸ *Peter said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* ³⁹ *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”* ⁴⁰ *With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”*

⁴¹ *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

So I leave you with this:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. SR

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PLANS UNPLANNED

Everybody has a testimony. No matter how big or how small, it exists—because we exist and God exists and we are where we are for a reason. Today I will share a part of mine.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." —Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

There are so many moments in my life I could discuss and so many ways I could say God has saved me or has worked in my life. God sightings are everywhere. My life is a beautiful broken mess, and every day I'm on my feet is a testimony. But I'll bring it to just these past couple of years, more specifically school years.

God is my strength. 1 Samuel 2:4, *"The bows of warriors are broken but those who stumble are armed with strength."*

He is the reason I can get out of bed. The reason I can go through everyday life. The reason I can be here in front of you and the reason I am on a path to loving myself.

A little background on me. For years I have dealt with anxiety, depression, and panic attacks. It is something I have learned to accept and function with but not let take over me. Sometimes those things can take over and ruin all your plans and progress. I used to wonder why God placed these things in my life if He loved me. But I learned He believes in me, He knows I'm strong, and He wants me to be there to help others through it. I've had many journeys with my bundle of stuff and if you want to know more, you can always ask me—I'm an open book.

A majority of my school life I was constantly busy because my end goal was always to get into a top university, graduate in four years and be in the career I wanted as soon as possible. But last summer, God decided to change that around.

After high school I did make it into a top university, the University of California San Diego in California. Also to emphasize how hard I worked in high school, I was top 20 out of about 620 students. I was the president of a bunch of clubs, captain of my academic decathlon team, cross country and track teams. I was also a major part of my school theater's tech program and taking multiple AP courses.

I loved it in UCSD. I made great friends, found an amazing sorority and even made a connection with a professor of my degree. Near the end of the semester, I honestly

could tell I wasn't where I should be—but I was in denial because it was something I worked so hard for. I most especially did not want to be a disappointment, both to my family and those who depended on me at school. I felt stuck and my mental health progress faded. Even though I loved the school, my anxiety and depression were at their worst, no longer part of me but taking over me. I could no longer find strength in the things I used to and was giving up on myself. I no longer felt or heard God. Well, mostly I just wasn't listening. By the end of the school year I was crying to my mom, feeling useless and overtaken. Her response was that basically I needed a break—I needed to focus on myself for once and pray and understand. My life and health needed to come first.

That was the first time the thought of leaving school became an idea. I immediately pushed it to the side because I had other things to worry about. I thought, "I've gotten through this before, I'll do it again. God must really hate me if He put me through high school with only three hours of sleep for nothing. I'm not changing my plans." And then I let it go, because I had other things to do.

Then I came to SCSC last year(2017) and decided to use the summer to focus on fixing myself. I spent a lot of last year feeling like God left me, until during worship, God ripped down the brick wall that I used to separate us and said "I'm not giving up on you." I spent the whole summer praying, asking God to make me better, to help me gain control again because I was tired of fighting the pain.

Throughout the summer God was giving me little signs that showed me that I shouldn't go back to school. But I didn't feel I had it in me to quit something I worked so hard for. I remember crying at night, begging God to come up with a different plan. But He didn't. Finally I surrendered. It was a night after a long day and I was checking emails and messages and I remember reading a groupchat with my future roommates. We were having a hard time finding an apartment—it was then I decided I didn't want to go

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*God puts challenges
in our lives for a reason.*

*He changes up things
for a reason.*

Young Adult

By Sarina Villalpando
Maranatha Community
Church, Colton, CA

Continued from previous page...

back. When I finally accepted it, I instantly felt this relief, a comfort and a happiness. I was still on project but I felt a change in my mood and wasn't covering up my feelings—I was actually feeling.

I am now home taking online classes and working a part-time job—I am so much happier than I was. I didn't feel exactly full of peace right away when I got home. I had a really hard time coping with my family as I was in school and they were going on with their life. I was feeling useless at home having nothing to do. When I first announced my decision to people, I got so much reassurance. God even placed a couple of people in my life who went through similar situations and they were my rocks—because it assured me God had a plan and it worked for them. Funny how God works like that.

I've taken this past year to reflect on myself and build my confidence. God took my broken pieces and glued them together. The year before last I was gone. I was this physical person with no emotion. I wasn't myself or anyone I recognized. I was able to hold up a front but I knew that I wouldn't hold it for much longer. I felt so much pain and self-doubt and weakness. I was weak and gave up on myself—but luckily God didn't give up on me. I am still learning to stand back up,

to put the glue where needed, but I am so lucky for God's strength. God has convinced me to be alive twice now and I hope, in this sense, two times is the charm and not three. God is my hero because He is my strength and my comfort and the reason I am alive.

*"Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.
I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
Praise be to God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!"*

—Psalm 66:16-20

God puts challenges in our lives for a reason. He changes up things for a reason. If you take anything from my testimony just remember: you are not alone and there is always a reason. You just have to find it. SR

—Sarina Villalpando

CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Don Richards recognized for 60 years of ministry

11 August 2018 – Milton, WI

The Rev. Donald E. Richards, better known as Pastor Don, was presented a certificate recognizing 60 years of accredited service as a Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) minister. Senior Pastor Nate Crandall presented Pastor Don with a certificate from the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of the United States and Canada. When asked if there was anything he wanted to say on this occasion, Pastor Don led with, "To God be the glory!" He said his life is still rich and full thanks to God and recalled that the sermon at his ordination service was on the ending of the LORD's prayer, "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Pastor Don's life and ministry have reflected this commitment.

Pastor Don has served as pastor in SDB churches in California, West Virginia, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. He also served as Director of SDB Camp Joy in West Virginia.

Prior to becoming a pastor, Don Richards was in the army during World War II and a printer in California.

Pastor Don has been widowed 3 times, has 4 children and 2 step-children, 12 grandchildren, 9 step-grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren. SR



Pastor Don Richards with Senior Pastor Nate Crandall

Want to see your church's news in the Sabbath Recorder? Go to this link for a form to submit your news!

<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/church-news-submission/>

The Body of Christ

Over the course of my 17 years of life, I have had two knee surgeries, both for ACL tears on my left leg. So, as the second surgery rolled around for me, I sort of knew what to expect. Huge brace, one month on crutches, no running for nine months. Therefore, as I woke up from my anesthesia, I lay on my hospital bed wondering if they had already put the brace on me. I moved my right foot over and tried to feel for it; however, they seemed to have put something in between my two legs. I tried moving it. No luck. That's when I realized it's not moving because it's my foot. There was never anything in between my legs. My left foot was just so numb I couldn't feel it.



I think the church is like that sometimes. Hear me out. When my body underwent surgery, it had to heal fully before I could run. If I had tried to run two weeks after surgery, while I was supposed to be on crutches, I would have ended up hurting myself even more. Similarly, we are the body of Christ. Are we noticing those who are numb? Are we recognizing those who are hurting? If we try to push those hurting people before they are healed, even for a good purpose, we risk hurting the body as a whole. On the other hand, if we ignore those people, or pretend they don't exist, they will just hurt more and more as time goes on. If I had ignored the tear in my knee, I would've been fine for a while, but as time went on, I wouldn't have been able to walk without pain. Why would I want any of those things for my body? Why would we let these things happen to Christ's body?

I guarantee that there are hurting people in your church. You might be one of them. And it's okay to hurt. Pain is what tells the brain that something is wrong with the body. So, while it is the church's job to come alongside the hurt, they have to recognize that pain exists. Are we, as the church, looking to heal the hurting? Or are we so caught up in our own hurt that we don't have time for anyone else's? I encourage you to get to know the members of your church. Because when life gets hard, they, or you, might need a little help to keep going. SR



THE BEACON

By Holly Probasco
SDB Church, Shiloh, NJ

In August of 2018 I had the opportunity

to travel to Cuba to meet with Sabbath-keeping believers in the city of Santa Marta. Manuel Marambio, a leader of the Chilean SDB Convention, met me there to translate. The Cubans had initially made contact with the Chileans through the Chilean SDB website. Because of this connection and to help continue to foster a global mindset for the Chileans, we agreed that a Chilean should partner with me in this mission.

I had some concern that as an American I might have trouble with entry into Cuba or be treated with apprehension because of the historic and current political tensions between the USA and Cuba. However, entry was relatively easy and my experience was that the Cuban people do not hold the political struggles of our earthy governments against the American people. I was welcomed warmly by people from all walks of life, but especially by our brothers and sisters in a small town three hours east of Havana.

Norge Jesús Peña Hijuelo is currently the leader of the fledging group of families meeting in his home in Santa Marta. Years earlier, he had been a headlining illusionist in the premier tourist hotels along the beautiful Varadero beach. He was well compensated financially for his work, but the distractions of the lifestyle cost him in his walk with Jesus and consequently his relationship with

his wife, and their young daughter and son. During a painful separation from his family Norge poured himself into prayer and studying God's word. It was then that he became convicted of the Sabbath and God's desire for him to forsake the traditions of men and follow God's will for Norge's life.

Since then Norge has reconciled with his family and given up his career in entertainment in order to focus full time as a father and minister of the Gospel of Christ. His vision is, with God's help, to continue to make disciples of Jesus in his community. Those disciples will then make disciples in the surrounding communities—changing lives little by little, until through their obedience, God is glorified throughout Cuba.

As we were leaving, Norge wanted to make sure I let everyone know how honored they were by our visit, and how it had given them new strength to continue their labors for the Lord. He wanted to share his appreciation to those who support the Missionary Society and the Chilean SDB Convention for the sacrifices made for this visit to build our relationship and encourage them in their work for the Great Commission. Please, join me in praying that God will bless them as they bring the Light to dark places in the tropical island nation of Cuba. SR



Cuba: The SDB Experience

Left: Norge with family. Below: Santa Marta rooftop



**FOCUS on
Missions**

By Clinton R. Brown
Executive Director



I Did It God's Way

And now the end is near
 So I face the final curtain
 My friends, I'll say it clear
 I'll state my case of which I'm certain

I've served my God and it seems
 I've traveled each and every highway
 And more, much more than this
 I did it God's way

Regrets, I've had a few
 But then again, too few to mention
 I did what I had to do
 And saw it through without exception

Each charted course and each
 Careful step along the byway
 Oh, and more, much more than this
 I did it God's way

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
 When I bit off more than I could chew
 But through it all when there was doubt
 I knew that God would work it out
 I faced it all and I stood with you all
 We did it God's way

Lately I have had the song "My Way" running through my head. I guess there is a good reason that it has been cycling through my thoughts now and again. With my pending retirement, from the position of Executive Director, I have been thinking about the past 14 years, and planning the next few months until September 2019. And there are so many to thank for their support through the years—too many to list here in an article, and I fear I would forget someone.

One of the reasons I knew it was time to step down from this position was the fact that I needed to be home more now than ever before. Some of you might have read my article in the July/August Sabbath Recorder and saw a snapshot of what my wife is going through. It is hard for me to be gone too much and too long anymore with her health issues. And the irony of all of this is that I have been asked to travel even more (my swan song) than in previous years. In fact, from July 15 to October 29 I will be at home a total of 27 days. But, I do understand the reason for asking me to get out and see more people before I depart from this role.

And so I would like to take the liberty of changing the lyrics of Paul Anka's famous song, and made a hit by the legendary Frank Sinatra, to fit "my way." If you young people don't know the tune, go to YouTube. SR

I've served, I've laughed and cried
 I've made new friends, and some of them losing
 And now as tears subside
 I find it all so sad and yet amusing
 To think I did all this
 And may I say, not in a shy way
 Oh, no, no not me
 I did it God's way

For what is a man, what has he got
 If only himself, then he has not
 To be in touch with how he feels
 And not the wisdom that God reveals
 The record shows, this is how it goes
 I did it God's way



By Rob Appel
 Executive Director

Slaves or Free?

African-Americans in the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church

by Janet Thorngate

*Fourth in a series of spinoff articles from recent research on
the Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists¹*

There were at least eleven of them. Their stories hide in the records over a period of 123 years. Discovering them elicits emotions from shock and shame to awe and fascination—then admiration.

Forty-nine years after the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church was organized in 1671, the church record book contains a list of people recently baptized and received into the church. Tucked in the middle of the list is this one:

*March 6 1719/20 Pegge Arnold negro woman baptized
and added to the Church ye 19 day*

We immediately look for other Arnolds and find Sarah (c1668-1746) who had joined the church before 1708 and in 1746 left a bequest to be invested and the proceeds paid to the church Elder or minister. From other sources we learn that “The Negro woman Peggy” along with 200 acres and buildings ..., 200 sheep, 14 head of “neat cattle,” etc. were willed to Sarah Arnold by her husband, Benedict Arnold (1642-1727), son of Gov. Benedict Arnold, and grandfather of the Revolutionary War traitor.

That was fifty years before the next recorded African baptism. Pegge Arnold may have died a slave. The slave trade was an important part of the economy in Pre-Revolutionary War Newport. By the time Africans next appear in the church records, nearly twenty percent of Newport’s population was African-American and one-third of the Newport middle class owned at least one slave. They lived in the home and worked as house servants or worked in the shops of craftsmen making furniture, masonry, spirits, barrels, ships, gravestones, etc., often working for wages.

Five years before the Declaration of Independence, two entries jump from the pages of the record book:

*June ye 12th 1771 this day meet at Greene Ende after sermon
by Elder Maxson Sipio a young negro man servant of Deacon
Tanner was baptized and passed under [hands] and admitted
a member of the Church*

*Aug. ye 7th [1771] meet at Greene End After a sermon by
Elder John Maxson Arthur a negro man servant of the widow
Mary Flagg was baptized and passed under hands and admitted
a member of the Church*

“Servant” was a euphemism for “slave.” Were they slaves? Owned by Deacon John Tanner, silversmith responsible for placing the Ten Commandments above the church pulpit, Trustee of Rhode Island College? Owned by Mary (Ward) Flagg, daughter of Governor Richard Ward (church member and benefactor) and sister of Governor Samuel Ward, member of the Continental Congress?

For the next several decades, long after the deaths of John Tanner and Mary Flagg, the names of Scipio Tanner and Arthur Flagg appear regularly in the church records, usually attending meetings or signing letters along with others. Arthur’s wife, Flora, and their five children who lived to adulthood were baptized and joined the church. Flora Flagg’s gravestone in God’s Little Acre, the African-American section of Newport Common Burial Ground, declares:

*She was a worthy member of the Sabbatarian Baptist Church
& was faithful to the cause of Christ.*

*Depart my friends wipe off your tears
Here I must rest till Christ appears.*

¹ Sources for most 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). 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 or Mercer University Press, 501 Mercer Univ. Dr., Macon GA 31207.

Additional information, not in the above book, is from two sources: *The Proceedings of the Free African Union Society and the African Benevolent Society, Newport, Rhode Island 1780-1824*, edited with an Introduction by William H. Robinson (Providence: The Urban League of Rhode Island, 1976); and John Eylers Sterling, Barbara J. Austin, Letty R. Champion, *Newport, Rhode Island Colonial Burial Grounds* (Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2009).



Council
on History

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education
and History

Newport African-American SDBs

1. March 6, 1720 Pegge Arnold
2. June 12, 1771 Scipio Tanner (d. 1819)
3. Aug. 7, 1771 Arthur Flagg, aka Arthur Tikey (c1733-1810)
4. June 17, 1776 Ann Rodman
5. Nov. 27, 1776 Flora Flagg (c1745-1802), wife of Arthur
6. April 15, 1783 Pegge Flagg (Tanner?), daughter of Arthur
7. Nov. 16, 1786 Violet Flagg, daughter of Arthur
8. May 7, 1796 Rosanna (Flagg) Taylor (c1772-1847), daughter of Arthur, wife of Simeon
9. May 7, 1796 Phoebe Flagg (Benson?), daughter of Arthur
10. Dec. 7, 1806 Cuffe Benson (d. 1812)
11. Dec. 7, 1806 Arthur Flagg Jr., son of Arthur

Arthur's less inspiring stone reads:

*The sweetest remembrance of the just
shall flourish while they sleep in dust.*

Scipio Tanner and Arthur Flagg, and later Arthur Flagg, Jr., were early members of Newport's Free African Union Society, the first black cultural society in the nation. Flagg, often using his African name, Arthur Tikey, served as Judge and Treasurer for many years and Tanner as Secretary. Meetings of the Board were often held in either Tikey's or Tanner's home. (Few members probably owned their own home or had one large enough for the board meeting.) The Society's annual Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, held in one of the Baptist or Congregational churches with a minister speaking, was often hosted in the Seventh Day Baptist meetinghouse with Elder William Bliss bringing the message. One year they voted to take money from the Society treasury to purchase a pair of gloves and some tea to send with the thank you letter to "The Reverend Dr. Parson Bliss." When the African Union Society became the African Benevolent Society in 1808 "for the exclusive purpose of establishing and maintaining a charity school, the African Free School," Tikey and Tanner were again on the board and Arthur Flagg, Jr. served as a teacher in the night school. Their friend Cuffe Benson had joined the Society in 1796 and on December 7, 1806, he and Arthur Flagg, Jr. were both baptized and joined the SDB Church.

Were they slaves? Deacon John Tanner wrote his first will in 1776 when he escaped Newport just as the British Army began its three-year occupation of the city. (It was not a safe place for a member of Rhode Island's Council on War.) Tanner's will frees and manumits his "Negro man Scipio." But Scipio Tanner did not receive his manumission papers until, back in Newport, John Tanner died in 1784. In Scipio's own will (1805/1819) he says, "I give and recommend my Soul into the hands of that God who gave it...and what worldly estate it hath please God to bless me with...to my loving Peggy Tanner." We must wonder,

The Newport SDB Meeting House (1729) that all the African-Americans after Pegge Arnold would have attended. Now encased in brick for its preservation.

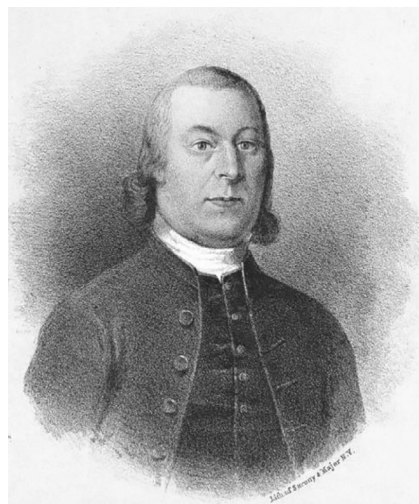


who was Peggy? Possibly Arthur Flagg's daughter Pegge, who joined the church in 1783?

And Arthur Flagg, aka Arthur Tikey? He was a rope maker, "formerly servant to Mr. Ebenezer Flagg" as the church record notes. Ebenezer's rope-making business, Collins & Flagg, closed soon after his death in 1762, but Arthur may not have been manumitted until Mary Flagg died in 1781. By this time many Newport slaves were being freed. In 1774, Rhode Island adopted a limited act "prohibiting the importation of Negroes into this Colony," but not until after America was a nation did Rhode Island's Act of 1784 begin to abolish the ownership of slaves. Even then it was a gradual emancipation, not the immediate freeing of the Emancipation Proclamation in the midst of the Civil War eighty years later.

So what happened to the rest of our Newport African-American Sabbatarianists? Just before the Declaration of Independence, Elder William Bliss, who later preserved the church through the dark years of the British occupation, baptized "Ann Rodman, a Mulatto woman." Then in the War's aftermath, the church

Continued on next page...



Elder William Bliss, Newport SDB pastor during the dark years of the British occupation during the Revolutionary War and its aftermath, supporter and encourager of the Free African Union Society which included at least four SDB members.



Stairway and pulpit in the 1729 Newport SDB Meeting House after 2008 restoration by the Newport Historical Society, owners since 1884. Ten Commandments put up by Deacon John Tanner.

Slaves or Free?

Continued from page 19

dealt with many wayward members including the “unhappy case of our backsliding sister Anna Rodman,”—but she was eventually “received again into fellowship.” Another disciplined by the church was Arthur and Flora Flagg’s daughter, Violet, who had joined in 1786. In 1804, soon after her mother and her seventeen-year-old sister died, she was called to task for “excessive drinking.” Two years later she was restored to fellowship after confession and repentance, but in 1808 was again suspended from communion and fellowship for “unjustifiable conduct” in family relationships. She may be the Violet Flagg (c1765-3 August 1852, age 87) who was buried in Coaster’s Harbor Smallpox Burial Ground adjacent to a smallpox “hospital” where sufferers could be isolated and cared for. (The dates fit.)

And the other Flagg sisters? Both were “baptized and passed under hands and admitted as members of the church” the same day in May 1796. Rosanna married Simeon Taylor and is listed on the last membership list (1843) where her death is recorded as October 24, 1847, aged 75 years, a match to the stone in God’s Little

Acre where Simeon and their three infant children are also buried. Phoebe Flagg seems to disappear—or could she be Phoebe Benson on the 1808 and 1843 lists? The Phoebe who is wife of Cuffe Benson who joined in 1806? Their three infant children, who died between 1801 and 1803, have grave markers in God’s Little Acre. Possibly the Julian Benson on the 1843 list was also their son?

It seems a sad ending. Church records and grave stones are about all we have for clues—a wonder that we have those. After the 1784 membership list, members were no longer identified by race in the church book. That was progress. (We only know that Cuffe Benson was black by his African name—meaning born on Friday—and his membership in the Free African Union Society.) Undoubtedly others made significant

contributions, as did Scipio Tanner, Arthur Tikey, Arthur Flagg, Jr. and Elders John Maxson and William Bliss. They encouraged and supported the freedom, respect, and equal treatment of Africans who became Americans at the same time that British colonists were becoming Americans.

It is clear that these spiritual forefathers and mothers reflected the culture of their time perhaps more than they resisted its evils. But dare we judge them? The records seem to verify that from the time that Tacy Hubbard led out as the first to begin keeping the seventh-day Sabbath—men, women, Native Americans, and African-Americans received equal treatment with regard to baptism and membership in the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church. That was a beginning. SR

What do you want to see in the Sabbath Recorder?

Questions about what is the purpose of the *Sabbath Recorder* are being asked:

Is it a newsletter for SDBs?

Is it an outreach tool?

The Tract & Communication Council will be looking at these questions over the next year as they consider how to keep producing this cherished publication for many years to come – in a way that most effectively generates increases for God’s Kingdom! More funding is needed to keep the *Sabbath Recorder* in its current form.

About MORE church news...

A common theme is a desire to see more church news. It has always been a difficult thing to get churches to submit their news – which is why we’d like to take this opportunity to direct people to:

<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/church-news-submission/>

This is where you can find a form to submit your church news! We can not be everywhere – so we challenge our churches, and you who want to see more church news, to lead the charge in your own church by submitting the news!

TEAM BREATHE 2018

Excerpts from the exit testimonies of SCSC students from Team Breathe

After being told about SCSC, I believed it would be an excellent way to grow in the Lord and serve others at the same time, so I sent in my application.

At the beginning of this summer, I began to question why I chose to do SCSC. I was enjoying being home from college and I didn't want to leave my friends and family for six weeks. However, the reason God called me to serve this summer quickly became clear.

I came in with negative thoughts, but they were immediately changed at training. I was instantly filled with joy. There was a reason God put SCSC into my path again.

God called me to serve in SCSC despite everything I was worried about and the anxiety that came with it. I believe God chose me to do SCSC this summer because He had a purpose for me.

I knew that SCSC would be good for me, both personally and spiritually; however, the extent to which that was true was something I wasn't prepared for. God put me in situations this summer that tested my ability to evangelize.

Two kids had a hard time at first. One in particular needed extra attention due to his mental disability. We were really stressed out about them. That only made it even sweeter when they both improved greatly over the course of the week—enough to the point that they could sit still, listen to the lesson, and ask a lot of questions. Many of the kids really had a curiosity as to who God and Jesus are. God used me as an instrument to tell them.

Just like at camp, God had put the right people in my path over the course of the project to help me grow in Him.

It was the toughest camp I have ever counseled at but it was where I grew the most. Leaning on God became normal for me. I read and prayed more than I have ever done and my faith grew more than I ever thought it could. That kept the struggle peaceful.

There were times that I wanted to pull my hair out—and God was with me then. He was with me when I was tired and felt like I was done, when the day was only halfway through.

Many of the kids came from very troubled backgrounds. Many had been abused and the majority had never been to church. I have such a heart for kids like this. It was amazing to watch the campers listen to the messages, to be able to plant seeds of God's word in their hearts. I felt extremely blessed to have the opportunity to work with these students and to show God's unconditional love to them.

I was really pushed out of my comfort zone. I was placed in situations which allowed me to start conversations to help people understand that Jesus loves them but can't abide with them in their sinful state.

I believe God led me to evangelism this summer. I was fully equipped with the tools and knowledge I needed to return home and continue.

Throughout this summer God has used me to inspire and encourage kids to find joy in Him and to keep on believing that they can do anything with His help.

I thank God for all those who made my SCSC participation possible this year. I was able to serve and grow. My heart is forever changed because of my time in SCSC.

I will continue to do service in my home church and I plan on continuing being involved in visiting people in nursing homes and an after school kids program.

I have learned a lot this summer and I intend to try these techniques and activities at home and help our staff develop these skills as well.

I learned about the beauty that hides in brokenness, in weakness, in differences, in hopelessness, in grace, in love, and in joy. This summer, God taught me He can use anyone to do His work if they're willing.

Although it wasn't what I expected, SCSC gave me opportunities to grow and strengthen my faith. [SR](#)



Women's
Society

By Katrina Goodrich

2018-19 Scripture Memory Program: "People Get Ready"

The Christian Education Council of the SDB General Council is proud to announce the 2018-2019 Scripture Memory Program. This year's program was developed by Conference President Jane Mackintosh around her Conference theme, "People Get Ready."

Local churches who participate in the program are eligible for Conference awards depending on their level of engagement, and all participants receive a certificate of completion noting their successful participation in the program, with additional recognition for significant years of participation.

The program is broken into three age brackets to allow for a wide range of age groups to participate. Likewise, the program runs for 9 months of the year, but is available for both the September-May period or October-June, depending on the usage of churches.



Christian
Education
Council

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education
and History

MONTH 1

Youth/Adult

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:10

Junior

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...

—Ephesians 2:10

Primary

For we are God's handiwork...

—Ephesians 2:10

MONTH 2

Youth/Adult

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

—Ephesians 1:3

Junior

Praise be to the God... who has blessed us in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 1:3

Primary

Praise be to the God... who has blessed us

—Ephesians 1:3

MONTH 3

Youth/Adult

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

—Ephesians 1:4

Junior

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

—Ephesians 1:4

Primary

For he chose us in him... to be holy and blameless in his sight

—Ephesians 1:4

MONTH 4

Youth/Adult
In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...
–Ephesians 1:4b-5

Junior
In love he predestined us for adoption... in accordance with his pleasure and will...
–Ephesians 1:4b-5

Primary
In love he predestined us for adoption...
–Ephesians 1:4b-5

MONTH 7

Youth/Adult
When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,
–Ephesians 1:13b

Junior
When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,
–Ephesians 1:13b

Primary
When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal...
–Ephesians 1:13b

MONTH 5

Youth/Adult
In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,
–Ephesians 1:7-8

Junior
In him we have redemption through his blood... With all wisdom and understanding
–Ephesians 1:7-8

Primary
In him we have redemption through his blood...
–Ephesians 1:7-8

MONTH 8

Youth/Adult
But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions–
–Ephesians 2:4-5a

Junior
But because of his great love for us, God,... made us alive with Christ even when we were dead...
–Ephesians 2:4-5a

Primary
God,...made us alive with Christ even when we were dead...
–Ephesians 2:4-5a

MONTH 6

Youth/Adult
In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
–Ephesians 1:11

Junior
In him we were also chosen... according to the plan of him who works out everything...
–Ephesians 1:11

Primary
In him we were also chosen...
–Ephesians 1:11

MONTH 9

Youth/Adult
It is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
–Ephesians 2:5b-6

Junior
It is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him...
–Ephesians 2:5b-6

Primary
It is by grace you have been saved.
–Ephesians 2:5b-6



Ten Things Every Human Needs to Know about Pastors

There's been a lot of talk about pastors in recent days. Blogs, posts, tweets and major media outlets have been abuzz about the challenges of the pastoral vocation. I lead in several spheres, but one of those has been pastor. For twelve years I have experienced the joy, heartbreak, victory and loss of walking with people through the dark caverns, open roads, and flowery meadows of their lives.

Pastoring. High highs, low lows. There are moments of deep fulfillment and ones that have squeezed the very marrow from my bones. Sometimes these bipolar moments collide in the course of a day—or an hour. This role is a deep privilege and a holy burden. It energizes me and drains me, pure caffeine and pure gut punch.

One of my vocations is coach. I help humans navigate their leadership and personal growth journey through *Stay Forth Designs*. Many of these leaders are pastors. I have noticed trends arise from the coaching table to the fire pit. I talk with pastor friends about them, and I experience them myself. I know them as deep as I know my wife's breathing rhythm in the middle of the night. But in 2017, Barna Research gave us a gift: the best qualitative research about pastors.

It took me a few months to comb through "The State of Pastors." I'm not the sharpest tool in the shed when it comes to research, but I panned the gravel for shiny gold nuggets. Every bullet point and graph is phenomenal research from over 14,000 lead pastors, but some sentences glimmered more than the rest.

I believe this has massive implications for all of us. You know a pastor. You're related to a pastor. You are a pastor. You work with pastors. You understand pastors steward a crucial role in our culture. You are curious about what pastors experience. You are burdened for pastors.

- *More than 1/3 of pastors are at significant risk of burnout*
- *Most pastors feel deep fulfillment about their work, but regularly battle emotional exhaustion and feelings of inadequacy*
- *42% of pastors say they wish they had spent more time with their children*
- *Only 1/3 of pastors are highly satisfied with their friendships*
- *Pastors report feeling lonely more often than most adults*
- *On the whole, the higher the friendship satisfaction for pastors the lower the burnout risk*
- *Pastors with a mentor or coach have a lower risk of burnout*
- *One of the greatest burnout risks is having an unhealthy leadership or elder team*
- *The most unfulfilled pastors live in a reactive posture, functioning as managers, counselors, referees and administrators while the most fulfilled pastors live in an active posture, functioning as entrepreneurs, coaches, doctors and leaders*
- *Pastors who are involved, known and respected in their communities are more satisfied*

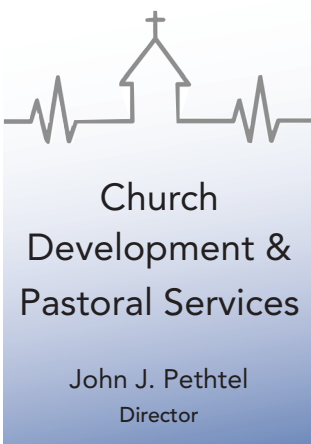
Take a minute to respond before you move on...

Which statement burdens you the most? Why?

What is one tangible way you can serve a pastor you know?

What are the implications of these findings on the future of how we must lead in the Church?

Alan Briggs is a pastor, author, coach, and the director of Frontline Church Planting in Colorado Springs, CO.



Pastoring is NOT Easy

Pastoring a church is NOT an easy job.

This Pastor's Appreciation Month (and every day) I wanted to share 9 ways you can encourage your pastor (or pastors).

1. Thank them.

It's not easy to preach every week. It's not easy to carry the burden of ministry every day. A pastor rarely hears "thank you." A good pastor isn't in the ministry for a thank you from the congregation. But a thank you can go a long way. My guess is you appreciate the work they do. Tell them.

2. Be specific in your thanks.

A general "thank you" is more than what many pastors hear week after week, but a specific thank you is life-giving. Specificity implies gratefulness.

3. Submit to their leadership.

If God has placed you in a church, He requires for you to submit to her leaders (Hebrew 13:17). Most of the time, that's an easy call. Do it joyfully, understanding that God is leading this church. If the gospel isn't being thrown out and sin isn't being glorified, submit.

4. Honor them.

Pay them well, if you are in a position to make such a call. Speak well of them to outsiders and insiders. Tell them how you see God at work in their lives. Use your words to build up, not tear down.

5. Squash gossip.

Leaders take a lot of heat. Let only their actual words and actions be discussed, not feelings about such words or actions, especially if you disagree. Be slow to speak. Don't be the wind on the flame of gossip. Be the water.

6. Come to church.

Pastors love the people of their church and want to see them. Come and be present. When you are absent, your pastor(s) notices. They have committed to God to care for your soul.



7. Engage in the life of the church in the way God has gifted you.

Don't wait for them to ask for your help. Offer it, and be satisfied with the answer of yes or no to follow. Even if you don't love the job, do it joyfully. Most likely, you won't do it forever. If you can help, help!

8. Trust them.

They are leading you the best they can as they follow Jesus. Give them the benefit of the doubt.

9. Pray for them.

Nothing means more than this. Every day is a spiritual battle. Satan hates what pastors do. He wishes for nothing more than a great fall into sin. Every moment, the battle is waged. [SR](#)



**The following SDB church has called
new pastoral leadership:**

First SDB Church of Hopkinton (Ashaway, RI)
Gabriel Graffius, Assistant Pastor

**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.**

Middle Island SDB Church (New Milton, WV)
First SDB Church of Hebron (Coudersport, PA)
Covenant SDB Fellowship (Hungry Horse, MT)

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.

OBITUARY

BAKER – Esther Baker, 93, of Waterside, PA, died on July 3, 2018, at her home per her wishes.

Esther was born June 14, 1925, in Piney Creek, Martinsburg, PA, the daughter of the late Heaster and Eva (Isenberg) Smith. She married Robert Baker April 5, 1947. He preceded her in death June 7, 1996.

She was a graduate of Morrison Cove High School. Esther was an active member of the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, PA. Along with her husband, Esther owned and operated a farm in Waterside for many years. She also was the Waterside correspondent for the *Morrison Cove Herald* for more than fifty years. Esther was a life member of the Southern Cove Volunteer Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary. She was an avid gardener, having won numerous awards at the local farm shows. She was also an avid baker, known for her strawberry rhubarb pies.

Esther is survived by two daughters: Sara Kavanagh and her husband, Norman, of Fresno, CA; and Anita Jubas and her husband, John, of Duncansville, PA; five grandchildren: Melanie, Ryan, Erica, Lauren, and Maren; four great-grandchildren: Caitlin, Ryan, Ethan, and Alexis; and a daughter-in-law, Becky Bechtel and her husband, Jerry, of Martinsburg, PA. Esther was preceded in death by two sons: Wayne and Roger; and two brothers: Paul and Wilson.

A funeral was held July 6 at the Todd T. Thompson Funeral Home, Inc. with the Rev. Darwin W. Steele officiating. Interment was in the Fairview Cemetery, Martinsburg. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church, 1411 Salemville, Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664, or to the Gideon Bibles.

BIRTHS

DAVIS – A son, Teagen Ray, was born to Taryn and Dustin Davis on August 17, 2018, of the SDB Church, Texarkana, AR.

MATTUS – A daughter, Molly Grace, was born on July 25, 2018, to Courtney (Uhland) and Dave Mattus of the Shiloh SDB Church, NJ.

RICHARDS – A son, Tucker Lakes, was born to Brittany and Tyler Richards on June 18, 2018, of the SDB Church, Texarkana, AR.

UHLAND – A daughter, Avery Mae, was born June 25, 2018, to Emmily (Harris) and Travis Uhland, of the Shiloh SDB Church, NJ.

WALZ – A son, Wells Patrick, was born to Alicia and Eric Walz on June 25, 2018, of the SDB Church, Texarkana, AR.

NEW MEMBERS

SHILOH SDB CHURCH

Shiloh, NJ
Donald Chroniger, Pastor

By Baptism
Eric Bofinger

TEXARKANA SDB CHURCH

Texarkana, AR
Dan Richards, Pastor

By Transfer of Letter:
Beth Brown
Clint Brown
Melissa Brown
Keneisha Scott
David White
Craig Mulvaney



..exists to see our generation live for the most loving cause in the universe: bringing people from every tribe, tongue, and nation into the everlasting joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus.

Our time. Our call. Some send. Some go. All pray. All rejoice.

Milton SDB Church Cross Conference Sign Up

- **What:** Cross Conference is a missions focused young adult conference. Great speakers, great small group discussions, great exhibitors. David Platt and John Piper are among the speakers.
- **For whom:** 18-25 year olds; high school seniors (even if you are not 18 years); and adult ministry leaders who attend with students
- **When:** 2019 - Wednesday, January 2 (4PM Kickoff) – Saturday, January 5 (done in morning)
- **Where:** Louisville, KY, a 6 ½ hour drive from Milton
- **How will I get there?** We hope to caravan together.
- **Deadline:** ASAP. Keep in mind that tickets need to be purchased, rooms reserved and fundraising needs to be done. Rooms at the recommended hotel are limited so...the sooner the better. See ticket rates below*
- **Cost:** Ticket cost plus the cost of food and hotel at \$115 per room (rooms can be shared) – if rooms are still available at the hotel. We currently have a limited number of hotel rooms reserved to receive this discounted rate and to hang out together. If you are undecided but considering going, contact Linda anyway so we can reserve extra rooms just in case.
- **For more information:** go to <https://crossforthenations.org/>
- **To Register and for Questions:** See Linda Lyke for questions: lykelinda@miltonsdb.org or 608-314-5953 (text or call) or on Facebook – Linda Risse Lyke

*Ticket Rates:

- \$109 until 10-5-18
- \$119 until 11-30-18
- \$139 until 12-18-18

Note: If you register with the Milton SDB Church group, there is a \$20 per ticket discount for being a part of our group.



People Get Ready!

By Jane Mackintosh
Conference President

“Okay, God, You are the One who got me into this, so what do You want to do next year?”

This was the question I asked after I had officially been elected as President Elect and I now had to face the fact that this was real. If you had ever asked me if I would be willing to take on the presidency of our Conference, you would have gotten a snicker and a comment like, “Are you kidding me? I appreciate all those who are willing to do this, but no, thanks!” I guess God has the last laugh.

What I was reminded of that night as I asked the question was something God had so clearly spoken to me 25 years ago, and then sent me on a journey of probably five more years as I sorted through what I thought He meant by what He said—and as He unfolded pieces of the “puzzle” of these seven words that He said, “The Church is returning to the Sabbath.” That was it, but it was so clear as to what He said that it may actually have been audible. I don’t remember how I heard it, just that I heard it, and I knew more surely than if you had been in the room and said it, that this was God’s voice. Usually, when God speaks to me, I will say, “I believe He is saying this, or I sense that this is what He is saying,” but this was different. I knew these were His seven words and it startled me so much, the first thing out of my mouth was, “Yeah right, God! How is that going to happen?” That was a holy response to the King of Kings, wasn’t it? Fortunately, I did recognize immediately that I was way out of line, repented, and then respectfully rephrased my response—and a five year-journey of piece-by-piece God unfolding what I think He means by what He said. Now, please understand that what I actually heard in those seven words was unquestionably God’s Voice. The direction I “sensed” Him taking me on what He meant could be wrong. So, I challenge you to see what direction He takes you with the interpretation of what those seven words mean.

What I first noticed was a phenomenon, to me, of the Church’s shifting attitude toward Israel. I was raised in the era of many in the Church calling the Jewish people “Christ killers,” so seeing the Church returning to blessing Israel was new to me twenty-five years ago. My father was quite a student of the Old Testament, so cursing Israel was not allowed in our home, but I certainly heard it elsewhere. The more I observed of this switch in the Church’s attitude toward Israel, the more I questioned God as to whether this was significant in my interpretation that the return to the Sabbath was speaking of the Church as a whole, not Seventh Day Baptists. I continued to observe, while asking God lots of questions about this, and finally one morning,

I awakened with the Scripture running through my brain, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you...” I sat up in bed and exclaimed, “Oh God, did the early Church curse Israel?” I would encourage you to look up Samuele Bacchioni, the author to whom I went to find the answer to that question. What you will find is shocking.

When I was a young child, raised in a Southern Baptist family, with our family pedigree full of Southern Baptist pastors, missionaries, deacons etc., I was taught all the Scripture of the Sabbath regularly, only told that the Sabbath was Sunday. Because my dad was a student of the Old Testament, he shocked me with the truth that the Sabbath was actually the seventh day, not the first. And because every good Southern Baptist was taught to brag that everything we do is according to Scripture, I was flabbergasted that we were doing this and no one was correcting anyone. I was all of six or seven years old, and I knew that something was way off and told everyone so. My parents and others tried to explain patiently to me that we worship on Sunday because Jesus rose on the first day of the week—but even my young, childish self knew that didn’t fly Scripturally as an excuse to ignore the Sabbath. I remember feeling very betrayed, but in my small town piece of the world in Southern California, I had no idea that anyone was keeping the Sabbath, so I was a lone voice. Imagine my surprise when I got to college and the first week, met my now brother-in-law in Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, and heard there were Sabbath-keeping Baptists! I struggled my whole life trying to understand how this truth of Scripture was not blatantly obvious to everyone—so the question of “what happened?” was always close in my thoughts. When the Scripture about blessing and cursing, and my research findings of the early church fathers’ cursing of Israel, became blatantly evident, all those years of wondering what had happened began to fall into place. My question then became—would the Church returning to blessing Israel reverse the curse and blindness about the Sabbath be undone in the rest of the Church? I strongly suspect this is what God meant by those seven words. So my new questions then became, “Is this the reason Seventh Day Baptists have been preserved all these years? Are we in a place to serve the Church in this? Are we ready?” Thus, my theme, “People Get Ready!”

I have a couple of ideas as to what we need to do to get ready, and I will share them in next month’s *Sabbath Recorder*. What are your ideas? What is God saying to you about *People Get Ready*? [SR](#)

Periodicals postage paid
at Janesville, WI
and additional offices



INSIDE:

- Reaping the Harvest
- Enduring Patiently
- Unplanned Plans
- I Did It God's Way
- Pastoring is NOT easy!
- 2018-19 Scripture Memory Program



COMING NEXT SUMMER!!

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

July 28 – August 3, 2019

Lancaster Bible College
Lancaster, PA