

SDB General Conference 2018 Issue

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**LESS TALK  
MORE ACTION**



17	<b>Focus on Missions</b>
	<b>My Heart Melted in Africa</b> by Pastor Bill Shobe
18	<b>Young Adult</b>
	<b>Team Breathe</b> by Sarina Villalpando
19	<b>Conference Business</b>
20	<b>The Beacon</b>
	by Rachael Osborn
22	<b>Women's Society</b>
	<b>Women in Action</b> by Katrina Goodrich
25	<b>Awards</b>
26	<b>Church News</b>
	Obituaries

*Thank you!* to Madge Chroniger and Sarina Villalpando, Official Conference Photographers, and to Jeremiah, Valerie, Patty, and all the others who took photos we used!!

**The sermons are available online!**

You can hear the entire message from each of the speakers. Follow this link for the list of video messages:

<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/conference-2018/>

Worship Speakers	6
The Elephant in the Room	7
By Rev. David Stall	
Real Talk About More Action	10
By Rev. Johnmark Camenga	
Children in Action	14
Shipwrecked	
By Keli Watt	
Music in Action	15
Gospel Feet 5K	16
By Dorothy Noel	
Youth in Action	21
Robe of Achievement	23
by Karen Payne	

# Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

September 2018  
Volume 240, No. 9  
Whole No. 7,049



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

## POSTMASTER:

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

This is the 172nd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published June 13, 1844.



Member of the Associated Church Press.

*The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.

## WRITERS:

Please email your manuscript as a Word document to the Editor at [sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org).

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No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication.

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## WHO ARE SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS?

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

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

## THE SEVENTH DAY

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

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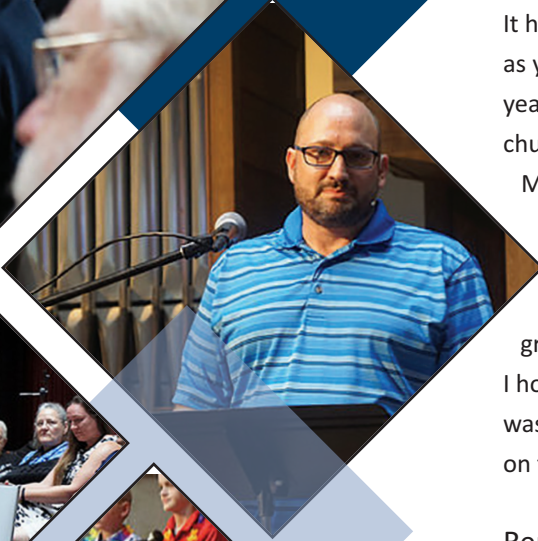
# SDB General Conference 2018

July 29 - August 4

Carthage College

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Rev. David Stall  
Conference President



It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your Conference president during this year. The travel and connections with churches and associations were awesome.

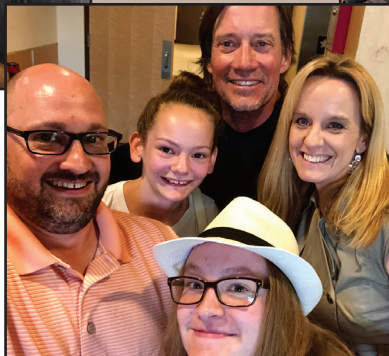
My family has been blessed by hospitality, generosity, and fellowship among

Seventh Day Baptists around the US and Canada. I worked hard to plan a great week at our Conference in Wisconsin. I hope for those able to attend that the week was memorable and fulfilling. Highlights are on the following pages.

**Remember: Less Talk. More Action!**

—Pastor Dave Stall

# Worship Speakers



The sermons are available online so you can hear the entire message from each of these speakers. Follow this link for the list of video messages: <http://seventhdaybaptist.org/conference-2018/>

1

To summarize some of what we heard during the week, I will give some highlights. Garfield Miller asked if we are ready to answer the call to be true followers of Christ. Wayne North challenged us to get out there and actually minister to people, and remove obstacles that are in the way of that happening. Kevin Sorbo inspired us as he shared his testimony about standing up for truth and Christian values in a difficult environment, like Hollywood. Andy Samuels reminded us that we will have a harvest in accordance with what we have sown. Leith Anderson shared how God is moving and how we can be involved if we will be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Those are just some of the things we have heard. In addition, Lori Roeleveld inspired us throughout the week and talked about the art of hard conversations. All of this has been a good lead-in to a hard conversation that we need to have now about hard conversations in our churches.

2

We need to address a significant and serious threat to our SDB churches and our future. I believe we have a silent killer, sort of like carbon monoxide, that has snuck in nearly undetected to our churches and put us in danger. This silent killer is our failure to address sin, accountability, apathy, and divisiveness through church discipline.

3

Somewhere around 150 people have come and gone through our church (in Ashaway) in the last 8 years. About 50 of those people have left our church under some kind of negative circumstances like a difference in doctrine/theology, hostility or conflict, church discipline, or being asked to leave. Those numbers might sound extreme by SDB standards, especially since we started with just about 25 people in the church. How can a small church suffer that kind of loss, and still be growing with more than 100 active participants currently?

4

There are two significant factors here. The first is that we steadily bring people in through outreach, evangelism, and active gospel ministry. The second is that we let people go, often through church discipline and defense of the integrity of the church. Oddly enough, both bringing people in AND letting people go are contributing to the numerical and spiritual growth of the church. I am talking about becoming a church that draws people in by being a church that lets people go. This concept may sound strange and foreign to us, but it shouldn't. I believe it is Biblical and it is an idea that I learned from Seventh Day Baptists.



By Rev. David Stall, Conference President

*Continued on next page...*

5

For many years, I heard SDBs talk about covenant community, church covenants, and covenant membership. I learned from SDBs about living the Christian life together in covenant communities for the good of individual Christians and for the growth, strength, and purity of the church. As I understood this idea, it made great sense to me. It involves love, commitment, accountability, discipleship, and growth. I have been involved here at the Conference level, as an adult, for just over 20 years. It took me about 10 years to understand what SDBs were teaching and saying about covenant living. It took me another 10 years to realize that most SDB churches don't actually do it. Imagine...there is something that we talk about as important and central to our Christian life, but we don't actually do it.

7

Read Matthew 18:15-17

Most of us are familiar with this passage about how to respond when someone sins against another person in the church. Though this may seem to address conflict between individuals, when it is not properly dealt with, this issue will become church conflict and church sin. Being faithful to carry out this "Matthew 18 process" is very hard but very important. In my experience, most people repent after the first or second step in this process. This brings resolution. If they don't, and you arrive at step three, people often choose to leave the church rather than being forced out. This also brings resolution. Ultimately, the unrepentant person must go in order to protect the integrity and unity of the church. The love and hope in this is a love for Jesus and His church, and a hope that individuals might eventually be won back into good fellowship with Jesus and His church.

6

Our failure to address sin, accountability, apathy, and divisiveness through church discipline is slowly killing many of our churches. It's a hard thing to do. Nobody wants to address the elephant in the room. Many people in our churches believe that the "worst thing ever" would be someone leaving the church. So, we let sin and bad behavior run free and even rule in the church—until the church becomes a place that repels new and true believers. Trying to keep the wrong people in our churches drives the right people out.



If you get this right, you will grow, others will grow,  
and your churches will likely grow as well.

Less talk. More action.



# 8

## Read 1 Corinthians 5

In this familiar passage, Paul addressed sexual and relational sin in the church. We have all seen sexual sin in churches including sex before marriage, sex outside of marriage, homosexuality, sexual abuse, and other deviations from God's plan. We often jump to making judgments about things going on in the outside world, or the world outside our own church. However, we fail to pass appropriate judgment inside the church and deal with the sexual sin issues among us. Paul wasn't just addressing the sexual sin in the church, he was also addressing the church's sin in not properly addressing the sexual sin! Like the church in Corinth, we must learn to deal with these issues in the church lovingly and swiftly. It seems that we often worry about how people will respond to loving church discipline. It is important to remember that their response is not up to us and cannot dictate the process by which we address their sin. Years ago, in our church, we had to address two different couples with very similar sin situations. Although our process was the same with both couples, we experienced nearly opposite results in the two cases. One couple was restored and has thrived, and the other couple rebelled and left. In both cases, I believe that biblical church discipline won and that the church acted according to biblical principles. The love and hope in this is a love for Jesus and His church, and a hope that individuals might be won back into good fellowship with Jesus and His church. The result of the process is always up to God.

# 9

## Read Titus 3:9-11

This passage is a favorite of mine because it holds a simple truth that can greatly simplify church life. I'm sure that I'm not the only one who has run into a divisive contrarian within the church body. Some people just want to argue, create strife, and divide people. Some are absolutely trying to destroy the church or its leadership. Some are just sinful and difficult people who are unaware of the problems caused by their own actions. In some cases, a person has a different theological or doctrinal belief than those which the church holds. Other times a person just has problems with certain practices or processes that the church has adopted. Other times they have an issue with the church leadership or church culture. There is nothing wrong with lovingly and appropriately sharing a different view or respectfully raising a question. That's not what I'm talking about. When a person decides, because of doctrine or some other issues, that they are not compatible with the church they are in, they have a decision to make. If their choice is to be divisive or destructive by continually creating arguments within the church, then church leaders should warn them...twice. If the person continues their divisive behavior, they should be thrown out of the church. The love and hope in this is a love for Jesus and His church, and a hope that individuals might be won back into good fellowship with Jesus and His church.

# 10

This is so hard for us to do, especially in our small churches.

Unfortunately, our reluctance to carry out biblical church discipline is what will keep many of our churches small and will eventually kill them. This is a culture change back to living out our faith in a culture of real covenant communities. SDBs never lost the idea of the importance of this, we just have not been doing it. We have said it and taught it, but have not lived it. In this essential area of church life and health, it is time for less talk and more action. Some of you will return home after Conference and find that the elephant in the room is still there. Perhaps you will notice the smell, and be more aware of how the church has been working around the elephant in the room rather than addressing it. Maybe some of you ARE the elephant in the room. My friends, it's time to take action and do the right thing. Biblical church discipline is hard, but making this cultural change will fill your lives and churches with the love and hope of the gospel. If you get this right, you will grow, others will grow, and your churches will likely grow as well.

**Less talk. More action.** [SR](#)

# Real Talk About More Action

By Rev. Johnmark Camenga  
SDB Church, Lost Creek, WV

## Are we willing to follow?

Do you ever get the sense that you have arrived at a moment that is somehow too big for you? Do you ever get the feeling that somehow the task that lies before you is greater than your ability? But as you face that moment—as you engage the task—you discover that, though you are too small, God is not.

Seventh Day Baptists have arrived at just such a moment and have been presented with just such a task. Though we may feel too small for it, our God is not. God is going to grow us and He is going to strengthen us and He is going to cause amazing things to happen within us and through us, but *only* to the degree that we are willing to follow where He leads. The question, then, is this: are we willing to follow?

The answer to this question, however, must be founded in reality and the reality is that following where God leads is *not* easy. Following where God leads is difficult and trying and unswervingly counter-cultural. This is the truth that is presented in 1 Peter 4:12-19. I encourage you to take a few moments to read that passage and come back. Go ahead—I'll wait.

Welcome back.

So, reading these words and trying to understand how we should respond and how we are supposed to reach out to people who are lost in sin, we start to formulate questions. We ask things like, "Do you understand your desperate, soul-deep, gut-wrenching need for God?" Or, "Do you recognize the utter calamity that will befall your life apart from God?" These are the types of questions that we ask of non-believers, but we never get around to asking the real question: "Have you come to grips with the fact that the same calamity you have in your life as a non-Christian may very well befall your life even if you are in relationship with Jesus?"

The reality is that suffering comes to all of us. We will either suffer in life as a result of our sinful choices or we will suffer in life as a result of choosing to follow Jesus. It's suffering either way, but we Christians do a pretty terrible job of explaining that to each other let alone those on the outside peering in. We have a tendency to complain about prosperity preachers—especially when they seem to be prosperous—and we say that their teaching about wealth and health and happiness is non-scriptural. Here's the problem with that: when we withhold from a potential convert the fact that there is suffering and trials and difficulties



in the life of a follower of Jesus, we become prosperity preachers.

Yet, because we are guilty of this evangelistic malfeasance, most folks who cross the threshold from agnostic to Christian have very little idea what they've actually signed up for. Beyond this, I fear that most churches fail to preach the truth of what the life of a Christian is all about in large part because we don't know ourselves. Instead, what we do is we present the new Christian with a poorly worded job description that goes something like this:

- As a follower of Jesus and a member of the church you will receive love, joy, and peace.
- As a follower of Jesus and a member of the church you will be expected to serve on a committee, you know, if it's convenient (this is negotiable).
- As a follower of Jesus and a member of the church you will be expected to bring a casserole to the church once a month (this is non-negotiable).
- As a follower of Jesus and a member of the church you will have other duties as assigned.

So, people read the job description, sign up for the gig, and then proceed to get blindsided by life over and over again and then we wonder why we're having a hard time recruiting new members and why we're struggling to retain current members. It's quite simple: people don't really know what they've signed up for because we don't really tell them and we don't really tell them because we don't really know ourselves.

I was at Walmart recently, walking along the back aisle past the electronics department, when I was stopped by a salesman. He asked me if I was interested in hearing about their current cell phone specials. I said I wasn't interested, moved on, and overheard as the salesman asked the same question of the man walking behind me. The man responded by saying, "Son, if you can tell me how to get my wife out of this store, I will sign any contract you want."

A lot of times, we sign up for things without really understanding what the conditions of the contract are. I mean, has anyone here actually read the entire Facebook user agreement? Who's got time to read about privacy and security when I've got all these cat videos I need to share? Where's that agree button? Click!

I am telling you that this is exactly how we treat the church—this is exactly how we treat our Christian faith. We sign up without reading the fine print—we sign up without counting the cost—then, at the first sign of trouble, what do we say? “Wait a minute, I didn’t sign up for this! This wasn’t in the job description!”

I don’t know about you, but as for me, I am tired of hearing excuses and I am tired of making excuses for why we cannot get and keep members in our churches. So much of what the church thinks, what the church says, and what the church does is straight up inexcusable. These are not things that are happening to us, these are things we are doing to ourselves and now is the time for it to stop.

In order for this to happen—in order for us to move on—we must come to God, seeking His guidance, and allowing His Word and His Spirit to weed out the nonsense that we’ve adopted. We need to allow His Word and His Spirit to reveal the challenging and glorious truth of the matter: if this life we are called to live is truly about actions, then what have we actually signed up for?

Going back to the scripture (1 Peter 4:12-19) we need to understand that this letter is being written to people who seem to be confused about why they are facing persecution. They have become Christians, life is hard, and they don’t understand it. So, in the midst of this persecution and confusion, Peter gives them this great pastoral advice: stand up and stand firm in your faith. And, though this is the primary encouragement, significant themes emerge within the letter, and especially within the cited passage:

- **The inevitability, necessity, and desirability of trials and suffering**—that it’s going to happen, that it needs to happen, and that you should want it to happen.
- **The importance of doing good in the face of trials and suffering**—that we must persist in love and good deeds in the midst of trials and suffering.
- **The role of the church in the process**—that the church is supposed to be involved.

First, then, is **the inevitability, necessity, and desirability of trials and suffering**. Let’s pull this out of our passage:

In verses 12 and 13 Peter writes, *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”* What’s being said here? Well, if you go to 1 Peter 1:6-7, this thing that Peter is talking about really comes to life.

“In this you rejoice...”

Stop there for a moment. What is Peter referring to here? If you refer further back in 1 Peter 1 you’ll discover that the “this” Peter is talking about is your hope for the future. So, we can read “hope for the future” into the passage like this: “In [your hope for the future] you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials...”

Peter is a little bit lighter-handed here than he is later. When talking about trials, here he says “if necessary” but in chapter 4 he says “don’t be surprised *when* the trials come.” It seems that the purpose of the trials reveals their inevitability; that it is not a matter of “if” so much as “when.” In fact, this assertion is made clear as these verses continue:

“...you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” So the purpose of trials is both to prove the genuineness of our faith *and* that we might share in the glory of Jesus. If we were to flip that over, what we realize is that without testing, there is no genuineness. Without trials, your faith cannot be known to be real. As such, trials are necessary to prove your faith. So it is not just that trials are going to happen, but that they *need* to happen.

When I was a kid, living in Shiloh, New Jersey, our family had a couple of small gardens where we grew lots of good stuff. We grew green beans, lima beans, corn, melons—lots of good stuff—but we also grew Brussels sprouts. Here’s the thing about Brussels sprouts: I don’t like them. So, when those stalks grew and those Brussels sprouts began to form, this wretched inevitability began to sink in: those wretched little green spheres were going to be on my dinner plate. Now, I was assured that they were good for me—I had learned at an early age that if it tasted bad, it was probably good for me—but just because they provided necessary nourishment and vitamins didn’t make me want them on my plate, in my mouth, or in my belly. The sprouting stalk assured me of their inevitability and my parents assured me of their necessity, but I still did not want them.

This is the same thing we face when we deal with what Peter is talking about here. Just because suffering and trials are inevitable and necessary does not mean that anyone wants them. And this is why—calculatingly and, perhaps, dishonestly—when we write that job description for the new Christian, we skip that part. We gloss over it by saying there are “other duties as assigned.” But the reality is that even though the process is **undesirable**, the result is not. We want what is on the other side of trials and suffering, we just don’t want to have to clean

*Continued on next page...*

***“Wait a minute, I didn’t sign up for this! This wasn’t in the job description!”***

## Real Talk About More Action

*continued from previous page*

our plate to get there because the plate is full of Brussels sprouts, right? We want dessert, we just don't want the dinner.

But what Peter is saying is that we must "rejoice insofar as [we] share Christ's sufferings, that [we] may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed." The implication here is so significant. If we don't go through suffering—and even more, if we do not *rejoice* in suffering—then we do not get to share in the rejoicing and gladness of the glorious return of Jesus.

You need to wrestle with this truth: when we fail to tell people the truth about the trials and suffering of the life of a Christian, we are robbing them of the rejoicing and gladness that Jesus came to give. The trials and sufferings of the Christian life are inevitable, necessary, and desirable—and it is inexcusable for us to present the Gospel without presenting this critical element of the Gospel-shaped life.

Second is the **importance of doing good in the face of trials and suffering**. Looking now at 1 Peter 4:19 we read, "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."

The suffering we endure is God's will. Just let that sink in for a moment. The suffering we endure is God's will, which means it is for God's good purposes. What good purpose could possibly come of it? Well, the suffering we endure puts us into contact *with* God. Do you ever get the sense that you have arrived at a moment that is too big for you? When this happens, we must reach out to Him who is greater than any moment we face. We have been given access to the Sovereign King of the universe and He is telling us that He will empower us to do His work if we would just turn to Him. As such, the suffering we endure must not prevent us from doing good.

To a great degree, our response to the difficulties of life shows the world whom we think they should worship. If trials and suffering defeat us as Christians...if the things we come up against as followers of Christ prevent us from doing the work of Christ, Satan takes credit. He will point at you as you fall. He will laugh at you and proclaim to anyone who will listen, "Look what I did to that Christian!" But if trials and suffering refine us as Christians—if we persevere through our trials in the power of the Holy Spirit—then God gets the glory.

So, this is where the context of this passage hits us: it isn't just our faith that is at stake, it is the faith of those who observe our suffering and our response. There are evangelistic implications to this, sure—the things we say and do present a witness to the outside world—but if we follow where this passage is leading us, it is leading us to the role of the church in the process. Read these words from 1 Peter 4:8-11 and ask yourself if this passage describes the way your church works:

*"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without*

*grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*

Would you say this describes the way your church operates? Is your church just nailing it in all of these areas?

Let's approach this differently. Do you sometimes dread going to church on Sabbath morning?

Look, I get it that admitting this kind of thing in the past might have been thought of as taboo, but the movement of the Holy Spirit at Conference tells me that we are in a new era as Seventh Day Baptists. The Holy Spirit spoke through our Conference president and has proclaimed a new day for Seventh Day Baptists so, there's no more pretending, no more hiding, no more sugar-coating, and no more lying. Let's just open up here a little bit, shall we?

Is there some part of going to church each week that you dread? It seems like that's the truth for most of us, right?

You know, there's that person who always talks too much.

There's that person who always has an awkward prayer request.

There's that casserole your kids always make an embarrassing comment about.

Maybe there's that person whose presence makes you feel unsafe.

There's that person who seeks you out to suck you into negative attitudes and emotions.

Maybe you're the person who is discontent and you want everyone else to feel that way.

Maybe you no longer pray and you no longer study, and you have been overcome by a spirit of division and you feel compelled to tear the church apart.

Oh yes, we know that these people are out there. We know that these people are among us. So, whoever or whatever it is, there is something that you have come to detest about your church and that feeling is preventing you from giving yourself to the church community in the way that Peter describes. And more than that, it prevents the church from *being* the church.

What thing can we do that is going to make the biggest difference in our churches and in our communities? It is the very thing that we struggle so greatly with: that we would love God and love each other.

We have a very small egg-producing operation in our side yard. There are two groups of chickens, one about three years old and the other about a year old. Several months ago a couple of our one-year-old chickens had gotten out of the fence and were

attacked by a dog. One of them died due to a broken neck, while the other suffered a gaping wound on its back—she was hobbled, but still alive—leaving us with just two from the one-year-old group. I treated her wound, made a bandage for her, and placed her in isolation. So, she sat in the chicken coop, huddled by the waterer, barely moving and the one remaining chicken from that group sat outside the coop, as close as she could get to her injured friend.

After a couple of weeks, the wound had healed some and I decided to let her out of the coop to wander the yard. As soon as I did that, the chickens from the three-year-old group ran after her, trying to attack her. I grabbed those chickens and put *them* in isolation and then I watched as the other chicken from her group walked up beside her and, together, they walked around the yard, scratching, eating, and clucking.

Now, I don't know much about chicken sociology, but I can tell you that this is a great example for us in the church. If there are those outside the church who are looking to pick off the weak and wounded among us, does it make sense for us to be doing the same thing *inside* the church? If chickens—literal bird-brains—are smart enough to know how to come alongside each other in support, do you think maybe we ought to be able to figure that out too?

There is warning in these words from Peter, but there is also encouragement. The warning is that trials are inevitable, but the encouragement is that the trials are good for you. The warning is that suffering is coming, but the encouragement is that there are good things we can do in the power of God. The warning is that difficulties are headed for us, but the encouragement is that we are a church that stands ready to support each other.

I am imploring you. Don't turn your excitement and resolve over the Conference theme into a lie. Don't turn back into the church we used to be, a church that smiled and pretended and talked but never did anything. Don't waste this movement of the Holy Spirit!

This is a new era for Seventh Day Baptists! We must understand that the theme of this past Conference year stands now as a signpost. It stands now as a marker that God has placed upon Seventh Day Baptists. It is evidence that He has moved among us. It is a work of God within each of us and it is a work for which we all will be held accountable.

*"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."* SR

**LESS TALK  
MORE ACTION**



## Lori Roeleveld

shared  
morning devotionals,  
a writer's workshop,  
and herself with us all week.

# Children in Action – Shipwrecked!

God was at work in Kenosha this year as He brought staff and children together to remind us all that in every situation—JESUS RESCUES! Using a VBS program from Group Publishing called “Shipwrecked,” we explored how Jesus rescues us no matter what our situation or what we have done. Between 42 and 47 children per day rotated in centers that allowed them to discover situations in the Bible, sing and dance, use their imaginations, use their bodies and snack on yummy creations, all of which focused on reminding them that Jesus is there to rescue them.

The program ran smoothly, despite some unexpected challenges at the beginning and the reminder that, even when adults are feeling stressed, JESUS RESCUES! Many people answered the call to work with the children this year and we are grateful to

Ellen Olson, Samantha and Bill Fick, Abigail Noel, Elianna and Madge Chroniger, Keli Watt, and SCSC workers. The director, Emily Watt, was always present to guide, troubleshoot, and make us laugh.

In the afternoon, the adventure continued with two trips to an indoor water park called RecPlex, a pond study at the Pringle Nature Center, and yummy sweetness at the Jelly Belly Factory Tour. Yay Host Committee for arranging

transportation, with special thanks to Jon Cruzan whose calm assurance that everything would work out was contagious and helped us all remember that, when there appears to be way more children than seats—JESUS RESCUES! Gratitude to Steve Moncrief and the Shiloh bus for being there for us every afternoon!

We finished our week with a program (at the crack of 8:00 a.m.) that allowed the children to showcase what they had learned during the week. Many people were there to show support. The children were reminded that, when we’re nervous—JESUS RESCUES!

Special thanks to the families who supported the program in many ways: supplying curious and eager children, being responsive to the remind texts you received throughout the week, encouraging and showing your appreciation to the staff, and for helping make this an awesome experience for all of us! SR

—By Keli Watt





# Music in Action



# Gospel Feet 5K: Hit the Grounds Running

By Dorothy Noel

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Gospel Feet 5K: Hit the Grounds Running! It was a wonderful evening with 79 participants raising \$5,502.41 in support of the Missionary Society's work to spread the gospel across borders. The first male finisher was Joshua Coleman of Shiloh SDB Church in New Jersey. The first female finisher was Gabi Osborn of SDB Church of Boulder, CO. First place in the junior runner category went to Aaron Barbee of the German SDB Church, Salemville, PA.



Josh Coleman & Gabi Osborn



Aaron Barbee

Thanks especially to all the race volunteers who encouraged the runners and kept them on track along the course. They were Zack Floyd, Keith McCall, Paula Reynolds, Gabriela Parra, Susie Lamphare, Leigh Anne Crouch, Nathan Crouch, Aaron Crouch, Scott Paulin, Chris Paulin, Samantha Fick, and Bill Fick. And thank you to the additional volunteers who helped with registration, timing, and race setup: Becca Uhlich, Jessica Pradetto, Katrina Goodrich, Melissa Noel, Jon Cruzan, Beth Brown, Deva-Ann Levy, and Victoria Richards.

Kids enjoyed the coffee-themed obstacle course where they acted the part of a K-Cup making coffee. [SR](#)

## More Fun!







## My Heart Melted in Africa

My first impression of Africa took place in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. After long flights from Minnesota, we were greeted by the leaders of the local church and escorted to our hotel. The next morning they came for us and we arrived for Sabbath worship over an hour late. I hate to be late! We entered the building to find the congregation completing their first hour of worship, and were led to our seats with the elders. As I sat down and looked around the room at these strangers, my ears caught the melody of the song they were singing. I knew that melody, and I knew the words! My heart melted! I had sung this song in the church in Bordeaux, France, where I had received Christ as my Savior 42 years earlier. And the Holy Spirit was using it to welcome me to Africa! When I stepped to the pulpit to preach a half hour later, I no longer saw strangers; I saw the faces of my family, brothers and sisters, each reflecting love for Jesus.

My heart melted several times in Africa this summer, but not due to the heat. (I did gain the nickname "Uncle Sweaty" during the trip!) My heart melted as I saw God at work in the lives of these people whose experience of life is so different from mine. It melted as I heard the biblical knowledge and wisdom that came from men and women who had less than a high school education. It melted as I heard their passion for taking the Gospel of Jesus to different regions of their country and into neighboring nations. It melted when we finally were able to meet with people who had walked many miles to Goma, DRC, and waited two days to greet us. What a sacrifice for people who work one day to purchase the meal their family will eat the next! The median income in the nations of Ivory Coast and Democratic Republic of the Congo is \$600-\$800 a year. Electricity and running water are luxuries that are lacking in most homes. When electricity is available, such as in our hotels, it is available sporadically—no constant access to internet, phone charging or even lighting.

I found in these new family members a heart to love and

honor God, and to represent Him well in all they do. For these churches the Sabbath is a new conviction—and they desire to know how to properly honor and respect the Lord's Sabbath. They asked for wisdom about common areas of concern for them. "Is it acceptable to cook on the Sabbath?" This was a big concern, as their cooking requires kindling a fire in their charcoal braziers, and the Scriptures forbid that. They also have no means of keeping food cooked the previous day fresh or cool. Yet as we talked they saw the benefit of making Friday a day of preparation for the Sabbath, a day of gathering bread, fruits, vegetables and nuts to eat on Sabbath. This could be done without the need of a fire! My heart melted as I witnessed their sincere desire to follow the Lord without compromise.

I continue to be in communication with my new African family as they minister in their communities and begin to relate with our Seventh Day Baptist family around the world. I also continue to process all that the Lord is speaking to me as a result of my experiences in the third world. I trust that He is using them to mold me more into the likeness of my Savior, and that I will seek more passionately to faithfully represent our King, just like my African family. [SR](#)



**By Pastor Bill Shobe**  
Dodge Center, MN  
Seventh Day  
Baptist Church



**FOCUS on  
Missions**

Clinton R. Brown  
Executive Director

# Team Breathe

Step back and take a breath. Inhale. Exhale. Now, didn't that feel great? Did you do it? No? We will try again. Inhale. Exhale. Good.

This year the SCSC team name was *Breathe*. For those who don't know, every year all the students of SCSC agree on a general team name made up of the amount of letters of how many teams there are. We decided on *Breathe*—for multiple reasons, but let's break this down.

We were created by a single breath. Genesis 2:7: "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." One single breath helped bring the world into creation. Billions of people populate the earth because of a breath. It just shows how powerful God is. Imagine having so much power in one breath. Well guess what? You do. When it comes to the "overwhelming-ness" of life, it can be solved through breathing because breathing is what keeps us alive. God gave us this power of breathing and we need to take advantage of it.

The main reason our team chose the word *breathe* is because we needed to be reminded to do so when our projects got overwhelming. We were going out into action and needed to remember to pause and not let moments go by—but stop, take a second, and breathe in what is going on and see where God is working. We learned to not just see moments as busy, overwhelming, or too much to handle. Instead, we were taught to take that challenge as a God-working moment. Because in those most challenging moments, God is working.

Another reason we appreciated the word *breathe* is because a good handful of us deal with anxiety, panic attacks, or even just stress. It's times like those that we forget to breathe. But just being able to look back at our team name brought this reminder to us to breathe. When you are having a panic attack, an anxiety attack, are panicked, nervous, or stressed—remember to breathe. Take a second and breathe. Breathe in the air that God created for you. Breathe in the air that was created because you are loved.

Remember to breathe. Inhale and exhale. Take that moment and make it your own. You are a child of the one true King and do not forget that.

*For the purpose of this article and my own general curiosity, I decided to ask people what the word **breathe** means to them. I need to share the responses I got in their words, not mine. So enjoy.*

## What does the word "Breathe" mean to you?

*For me, most of the time, "breathe" simply means to empty and fill the lungs.*

*Sometimes, in emergency situations, "Breathe!" is a command given to help someone realize they are overwhelmed and overwrought—and they need to focus immediately on regaining a basic degree of composure.*

*Every now and then, as asthma kicks in, "Breathe" is what I tell myself, bringing deliberate focus to a system that is not automatically working correctly.*

*Once or twice a year, "Breathe" is a call to peace—recognizing that action, activity, decisions, and decision-making are not necessary—a call to simply live, watch, and enjoy the activity of God and His people without feeling the compulsion to add to what is already complete." — Andrew Camenga*

*"Breathe" is one of things that keep us alive. —Amanda Barbee*

*I think it's something that we say to people when they need to take a sec and rest. Like when people are feeling like their lives are out of control—we remind them to "breathe." — Michaella Osborn*

*To me it means stop. Stop being afraid, stop stressing, or feeling like you want to give up. To me it means stop and just "breathe and move on...God's got it" — Neda Carr*

*It's a reminder we are human. Nobody is superhuman—we all have needs and desires that need to be fulfilled. All of us. We are all here attempting humanity together." —Willy Villalpando*

*"Breathe" means to pause, inhale what God gave us...life. To embrace it and exhale the negativity and chaos that this world has made us believe we have to live by. It's a difficult thing to do...because, well, we are human." — Angelita Garcia*

*To pause and collect yourself. To pause what you're doing so you can come back to it with a clearer mind and more understanding." — Rachael Osborn*

Young  
Adult

By Sarina Villalpando  
Maranatha Community  
Church, Colton, CA

**As you go into action this year, remember to breathe.**

**When it gets tough, remember to breathe.**

**When it's easy, remember to breathe.**

**Inhale in the moment and exhale out the word of God.**



## Conference Numbers

<b>Total Registration</b> .....	493
Registered Delegates (less 1 duplicate) .....	234
Churches Officially Represented .....	54
Ministers and Pastors .....	49
Seminary Education Students .....	3
Visitors .....	8

### Associated Conferences

Junior High.....	17
Grade 5 .....	11
Grades 2, 3, and 4 .....	13
Grades K and 1 .....	10
Preschool .....	7
Nursery .....	3
Non-Nursery under 3 .....	7
Youth Conference .....	Youth .....23
Staff .....	7

**Conference Program and some reports are posted on the SDB LINK app.**

## Accredited Pastors

### New Accreditations:

Rev. Ericessen Cooper (New York City SDB Church)  
 Rev. Paul Marquez (Redemption Evangelical Church)  
 Rev. Enrique Sandoval (Redemption Evangelical Church)  
 Rev. Victor Hernandez (Redemption Evangelical Church)

### Accreditation Renewals: (with years of service)

Rev. John Camenga (retroactive to 2017—40 years)  
 Rev. Paul Andries (15 years)  
 Rev. Jerry Vaught (15 years)  
 Rev. Steven James (20 years)  
 Rev. Robert Van Horn (20 years)  
 Rev. Stephan Saunders (30 years)  
 Rev. Gordon Lawton (40 years)  
 Rev. Dale Thorngate (40 years)  
 Rev. Russell Johnson (45 years)  
 Rev. Mynor Soper (55 years)  
 Rev. Donald Richards (60 years)

### Awards for Service:

Rev. Ericessen Cooper and Rev. Matthew Olson for COM  
 Rev. Dale Rood for Faith & Order

## Churches or groups searching for pastoral leadership:

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

## Conference Business

**Churches and pastors** are encouraged to participate in denominational sponsored benefits for pastors, including the retirement plan, educational savings for pastors' children, and the disability plan. Contact the Director of Pastoral Services, Rev. John Pethtel, for more information.

**The Conference** thanks the many contributing authors who prepared and submitted articles for the Sabbath Recorder. We encourage everyone to submit articles to be considered for publication. Churches are strongly encouraged to respectfully provide requested information and to respond in a timely manner.

**The Conference** continues to strongly urge all associations and churches to take on church planting as a high priority.

**The Bylaws** were changed (by passing the second reading) to recognize 2 delegates from each member church, plus 1 additional delegate for each ten active members. This is a change from total membership.



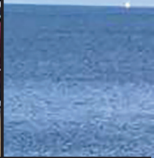
Worship



Youth Banquet



Lesson Time



Youth leading worship



Youth going to business



Youth with Kevin Sorbo



# THE BEACON

By Rachael Osborn  
SDB Church, Boulder, CO

# Youth in Action



# Women in Action

General Conference of the Seventh Day Baptists of USA and Canada 2018 at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, was an exciting time filled with opportunity, fun, and meaning. Many events were attended by all—such as evening worship, workshops, business meetings, meals, and the 5K! Women did have several special events just for them including:

- Women's Choir (every afternoon)
- The annual Women's Society Meeting (Monday evening)
- Women's Interest Committee (Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Women's Banquet (Wednesday evening)

The Women's Banquet Wednesday evening was definitely a highlight of the week. It had a nautical theme which was perfect for our locale, right on Lake Michigan. There was a photo booth and there were sacks of candy for a favors. We were blessed to have the author Lori Roeleveld as our speaker for the evening, sharing an excerpt from one of her books on "Invisibility."



The Women's Society also had the distinct honor of presenting two awards at the awards ceremony on Sabbath afternoon: a new award—W.I.S.E. (Women in Incognito Service Everywhere) to Brenda Rankhorn, and to Amanda Snyder the Robe of Achievement. SR



Women's  
Society

By Katrina Goodrich



# Robe of Achievement

By Karen Payne

The Robe of Achievement committee consisting of Janet Butler, Marcy Kersten, and Karen Payne chose this year's recipient from several worthy nominations. Like many previous Robe recipients, our honoree is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She has been a member of only one church where she serves as a deaconess. Our recipient is a breast cancer survivor. That narrows down the possibilities a little, doesn't it? This lady has served on the Board of Christian Education for 39 years in various roles, including president, vice president, and Youth Committee Chairman.

Amanda Snyder is our 2018 Robe of Achievement recipient. Amanda has been a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church in New York where she has served as organist, choir director, VBS director, Sabbath School teacher, Christian Education Chairperson, Music Worship Chairperson for over 50 years, member of the chime choir, SCSC project director and, as previously mentioned, deaconess for over 25 years. Amanda was also a fair booth witness.



Amanda L. Snyder

The community of Alfred Station would be lost without her being there to be a vocal coach, piano teacher, and participant in community choirs.

Many of you may remember Amanda and her husband, Nelson, directing Youth Pre-Con and also serving on the staff of others. They were Association Youth Directors, and served as association camp directors and staff. She also directed the conference choir, served on the staff of Family Pre-Con, led a workshop at Conference, sang in a trio for the Women's Banquet and participated in the Scripture Memorization Program.

Amanda's amazing grace during her fight against breast cancer was a constant witness to those around

her. The Alfred Station church and community have truly been blessed to have Amanda in their midst for so many years. Thank you, Amanda, for all you contributed to your family, church, community and to us as a denomination. We are very pleased to honor Amanda L. Snyder as our Robe of Achievement recipient for 2018. [SR](#)



You can't say THAT at Conference!

## Now Hiring Executive Director

On March 14, 2018, after many years of faithful service, Rob Appel announced his retirement as SDB Executive Director.

General Council has begun the search in earnest for the next Seventh Day Baptist Executive Director. For details on what the job entails, and how to apply, please contact:

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



Honoring Rev. Dale Thorngate for his many years of service to SDBs.



Rob Appel—Executive Director Report



Conference Pastor—Darwin Steele



..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 worshiping 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](mailto: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.*



**Council on History  
The Gold-Headed Cane Award**



Gold Headed Cane to Ruth Burdick  
Seattle Area SDB Church, Auburn, WA

**Christian Education Council**

**Mary Clare Scripture Memory Bowl**

First Toronto SDB Church  
Toronto, ONT



**Andrew Camenga  
Scripture Memory  
Award**

Bell SDB Church  
Salemville, PA



**3-Year Award in  
Scripture Memory**

First Toronto  
SDB Church  
Toronto, ONT,  
for years 2013-2015

**Crystal Apple for Teacher of the Year**

Larry Lawrence  
Lost Creek SDB Church  
Lost Creek, WV

# Awards

**School of Ministry**

**Alcott Lynch Pastoral Education Scholarships:**



Jayar Smith  
New York City SDB Church,  
Chicago, IL

Johnmark Camenga  
Lost Creek SDB Church,  
Lost Creek, WV

**Seminary Education Loan Forgiveness, following  
completion of required service in SDB churches:**

Rev. David Stall

First Hopkinton SDB Church, Ashaway, RI

Rev. Dustin Mackintosh

Next Step Christian Church, Thornton, CO.

**Missionary Society**

**SDB Missions Global Supporter Award**



First Hopkinton SDB Church  
Ashaway, RI

Conference photos and  
evening worship services may be viewed  
by following this link:

<http://seventhdaybaptist.org/conference-2018/>

## OBITUARIES

**TAYLOR** – Rev. David Lesley Taylor of Bowie, MD, born January 28, 1945, passed away in his home on July 19, 2018, at the age of 73 after a 10-month battle with cancer.

David moved to Maryland with his wife, Margaret, in 2007 to assume the pastorate at the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church in Mitchellville, MD. David and Margaret previously pastored Vision Christian Fellowship in Westerly, RI (2001-2007), Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, RI (1990-2001), the Lost Creek, WV, SDB Church (1982-1990), the New Auburn, WI, SDB Church (1978-1982) and the Schenectady, NY, SDB Church (1976-1978), where he took his first pastorate. During his pastoral work, David completed both his Bachelors, then Masters of Theology at Andersonville Baptist College and Seminary via their distance learning program. Before entering the ministry, David worked in electronics for various employers in western New York where both he and Margaret were born and raised. David received his training in electronics in the US Army, enlisting in July, 1963. He served in Korea, assigned to a missile battery for his first 18 months of service. He was then transferred stateside to Fort Bliss, TX, where he served as an instructor until he was honorably discharged in July 1966. During his service in the Army, David received the Expert Rifle Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Basic Missileman's Badge.

David was always active in his local communities. He made a point to be involved with other local pastors and churches in prayer groups, Bible studies, and official organizations such as Evangelical Ministers Fellowship and Promise Keepers. He was deeply involved in his own Seventh Day Baptist denomination, directing numerous years of Youth Pre-Con, church camps and retreats, and serving many years on the SDB Missionary Board. His heart and passion for leadership training in ministry led him to become actively involved in a church leadership training program in Plainfield, NJ. He was also foundational in establishing the TIME Program in Brazil (a Seventh Day Baptist denominational

program for training of ministers and lay-leadership in local churches). This involvement led to several lengthy trips to Brazil beginning in 2009, and Dave and Margaret's last trip in 2017, just 8 months before his diagnosis.

David always had a deep love for music. He learned to play the accordion, bass guitar, and keyboards. Before he became a pastor, he played "country rock" locally in a band with his brother Allan and friends. They could also be found calling square dances at the local grange, where David met Margaret, his wife of 54 years. He told his mother that same night that he had met the woman he was going to marry. He and Margaret were married on May 16, 1964. She was by his side, holding his hand as he passed.

David is survived by his wife, Margaret Pauline Taylor; his children: Dana Bret Taylor and his wife Sally, Dina Beth Mills, and Duane Brian Taylor and his wife Desiree; his siblings: Allan Douglas (Carol) Taylor, Stephen Paul (Sandy) Taylor, Raymond Charles (Rosie) Taylor, Lois May (Gary) Fancher, and Sue Anne Taylor; his grandchildren: Curtis Deverell Taylor, Hansel Kirsten Taylor, Nathaniel Levi Mills, Kyle Anthony Taylor, Isaac Taylor Foster, and David Bruce Taylor. He is also survived by six great-grandchildren. David was predeceased by a son, David Bruce Taylor, and his parents, Glenn Raymond Taylor and Lillian Myrtle Enderle.

Memorial Services were held on August 11, 2018, at the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church, Mitchellville, MD; and on September 1, 2018, at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church, Little Genesee, NY. An additional Memorial Service will be held in Rhode Island some time this fall. Interment will take place in New York State at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be sent to the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church at the address below. All funds will be distributed directly to the leadership training programs in the US and Brazil that meant so much to David in his ministry.

Mark checks "in memoriam - DLT" and send to:  
Central Seventh Day Baptist Church  
1100 Enterprise Rd., Mitchellville, MD 20721

**LAWTON** – Dorothy Glee Lawton, 94, of Westerly, RI, graduated from this life on Thursday, June 14, 2018.

Dorothy Glee Brannon was born November 11, 1923, the second of four children—and the eldest daughter—to Riley Ulrich and Minnie Marie (Davis) Brannon in central Nebraska, near North Loup, NE. She graduated from high school in North Loup, NE, in 1941, and after attending a secretarial school in Lincoln, NE, she moved to Battle Creek, MI, and gained employment with the Battle Creek Equipment Co. It was here that she met her future husband, Leon R. Lawton.

After Leon returned from his WW2 military service in Europe, they connected and became engaged. They were married September 1, 1946, in North Loup, NE, and moved to Salem, WV, where Leon earned his Bachelors Degree. They moved to Chicago, IL, so he could attend the Northern Baptist Seminary, and then to Los Angeles, CA. As a pastor and missionary's wife she lived and served SDB churches in Los Angeles, CA; Kingston, JA; Lost Creek, WV; Brookfield, NY; Denver, CO; Rockville, RI; and Waterford, CT.

She served as choir director, pianist, and Sabbath School

teacher as asked. For 11 years she was Secretary for Leon as the Executive Secretary of the SDB Missionary Society. She was a member of the Missionary Society Board of Managers for 38 years.

In 2011 she was awarded the SDB Women's Society's Robe of Achievement.

They moved to New England in 1970, and called Pawcatuck, CT, and Westerly, RI, home for the remainder of their lives.

She was preceded in death by her oldest brother, Warren Brannon and her husband.

She is survived by a sister, Neva Hunt of Pinnacle, NC, and a brother, Homer Brannon of Colorado Springs, CO. She is also survived by her children: Duane Eugene Lawton (Cheryl), Charlevoix, MI; Gordon Paul Lawton (Linda), Northglenn, CO; Patricia Glee Tauscher (Phillip), Bristol, VA; and Jeffrey Glen Lawton (Nadine) of Bradford, RI: eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held August 11, 2018, at the First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, RI, and interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery, Albion, WI, on August 5.

Memorials may be made to the SDB Missionary Society.

# LESS TALK MORE ACTION

*Conference 2018*



*2019 Conference President – Jane Mackintosh*



## COMING NEXT SUMMER!!

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

July 28 – August 3, 2019

Lancaster Bible College  
Lancaster, PA



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 NIV