

Sabbath Recorder

# PAID IN FULL

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

April 2019

*Jesus paid it all!  
All to Him I owe.*

*"You are not your own;  
You were bought at a price."*

*- I Corinthians 6:19*



## In Every Issue

- 11** **Young Adult**  
FOCUS  
by Sarina Villalpando
- 12** **CROSS Conference**  
Pursuing Holiness  
by Micah Crandall
- 13** **The Significance of the Church in Missions**  
by Bethany Crandall
- 14** **Council On History**  
At the Intersection of Genealogy and History:  
John Clarke and John Crandall  
by Janet Thorngate
- 16** **Testimony**  
A Goodly Heritage  
by Gary Wade Coats
- 17** **The Beacon**  
God's Hand at Work  
by Holly Probasco
- 18** **Council on Christian Education**  
Reaching Today's Youth  
by Bryan Baker
- 19** **Alliance in Ministry**  
Funding Our Ministries  
by Rob Appel
- 20** **Church Development  
& Pastoral Services**  
Two New Awards for Pastors;  
PULSE; Church Development Network;  
Pastor Search  
by John J. Pethtel
- 22** **Women's Society**  
Crafting with Purpose  
by Pat Williams
- 23** **President's Page**  
People Get Ready  
by Jane Mackintosh
- 24** **FOCUS on Missions**  
God Working in Cuba!  
by Danny Lee
- 26** **Church News**  
Seeking Assistant Pastor  
New Members

## In This Issue

- 5** **Jesus Paid It All**  
By Pastor Bob Babcock
- 6** **Jesus Didn't Die for  
Our Preferences**  
By Pastor Tyler Chroniger
- 7** **Jesus Did All The Things**  
By Pastor Gabriel Graffius
- 8** **Deep in the Heart**  
By Cheri Appel
- 10** **Devotional**  
By Pastor Scott Hausrath

## About The Authors

**Cheri Appel** has been BFFs with Jesus since early childhood. During years of motherhood and a career in Elem. Ed., plenty of opportunities were presented to share her faith and serve in church and SDB roles. Now retired, she enjoys spending time with her husband and family, especially grandchildren! Sewing for others brings new friends into the Appel home for conversations that reveal her belief in God and His Word. She is passionate about writing for Him.

**Bob Babcock** is pastor of the Marlboro SDB church, NJ. In 1973 he moved to Sioux Falls, SD, and attended North American Baptist Seminary and graduated in 1976. He moved to Houston, TX, and helped start a new church. In 1986 he moved to Santa Barbara, CA, to help start a new church there. He accepted a call in 2002 to pastor the Marlboro church in New Jersey and is there today.

**Tyler Chroniger** is married with two kids. He works as an estimator at a construction company. He is an assistant pastor at Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, NJ.

**Gabriel Graffius** recently relocated to Rhode Island with his wife (Adrienne) and daughter (Abigail). He currently serves as associate pastor of the First Hopkinton SDB church.

**Scott Hausrath** has been pastoring the North Loup, NE, Seventh Day Baptist congregation since 2012. He seeks to walk with Jesus every day and share the journey with others.

# Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

April 2019

Volume 241, No. 4

Whole No. 7,056



Patricia Cruzan  
Editor

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

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Clinton R. Brown, Katrina Goodrich,  
Barb Green, Nicholas J. Kersten, Jane Mackintosh,  
Isaac Floyd/Rachael Osborn, John J. Pethtel,  
Sarina Villalpando

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

POSTMASTER:

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

This is the 174th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published June 13, 1844.



Member of the Associated Church Press.

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

WRITERS:

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

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis.

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

Paid advertising is not accepted.

## WHO ARE SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS?

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

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

## THE SEVENTH DAY

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Seventh Day Baptist Center

3120 Kennedy Road,  
PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Phone: (608) 752-5055; FAX: (608) 752-7711

E-mail: [contact@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:contact@seventhdaybaptist.org)

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

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

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

cell: (818)-468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:

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

## SDBs ONLINE

<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists>

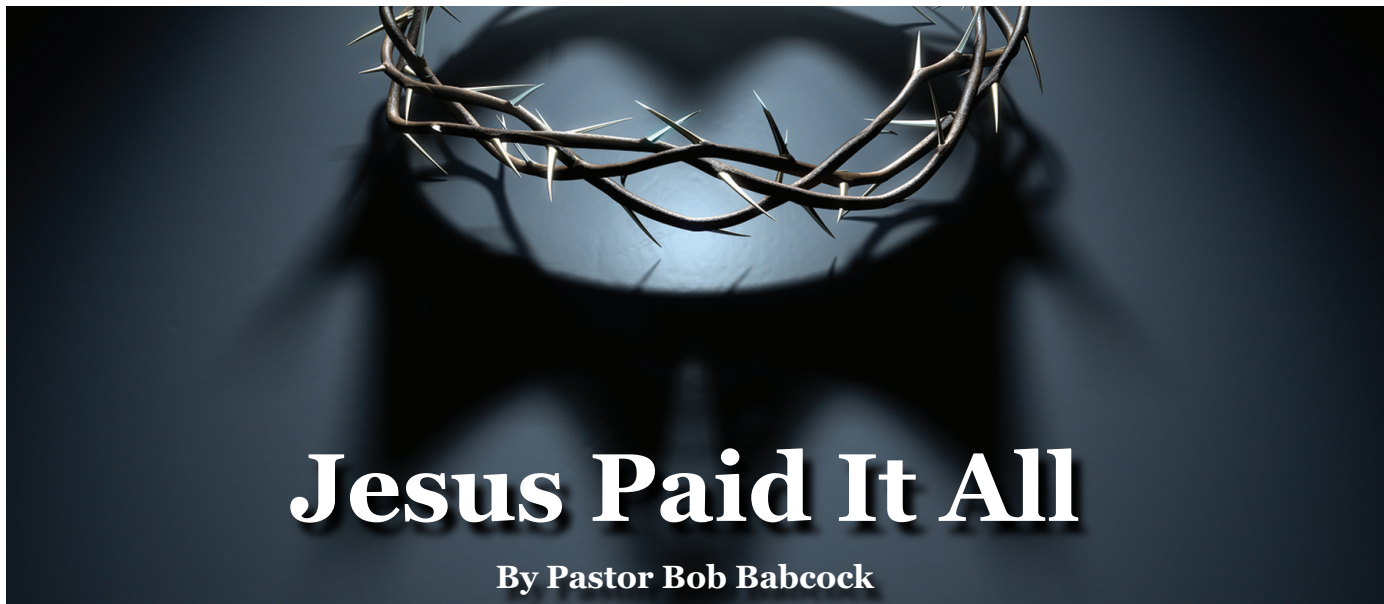
<http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://gplus.to/7thDayBaptists>

<http://7thdaybaptists.tumblr.com/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/7thdaybaptists/>

<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>



# Jesus Paid It All

By Pastor Bob Babcock

A few days ago someone posted a note on Facebook that said the words “*Jesus paid it all*” do not appear in the Bible. I commented, even if those exact words were not there, that very message is clearly there and seen throughout the whole New Testament. Thinking about it later, I realized I should have said that the message not only is reaffirmed many times throughout the New Testament, it is confirmed in the Old Testament as well. Probably the clearest prophecy about Jesus is the entire 53rd chapter of Isaiah. Isaiah 53:3-7 is especially unmistakable: *“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds, we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.”*

I am sure that there is no question in our minds that “all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God,” that there is “none righteousness among us, no not one.” It must be equally clear that we all deserve death as payment for our sin, but our loving God was not willing that any should perish. “He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting Life.”

***Tetelestai!*** The shout of victory Christ uttered as He died on the cross is usually translated, “It is finished!” But it had another meaning. It was an accounting term. When a bill was paid, it was commonly marked with the word “*Tetelestai*,” meaning “Paid in Full.” And that is precisely what the death of Christ accomplished.

“[He] bore our sins in His own body on the tree,” says Peter (I Peter 2:24). “He Himself is the propitiation [the full satisfaction of God’s justice] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world,” (I John 2:2). The groaning weight of all the world’s sin was laid on Christ at Calvary. He bore it in our place. In Hebrews 10:14 Paul puts it this way, “For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” See it is true: “Jesus paid it all.” Jesus has died, and He has died for us all. The stain of sin that marred our lives has now been washed white as snow. He has paid our debts. All of them! All that is left for us to do is to believe and accept His payment for our sins.

The message of our celebration at this time of year is that Jesus did not just die for our sins, but He also rose from the grave. He “was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead.” In that way, the resurrection proves who Jesus is and demonstrates that He reigns in power. Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Romans 4:25). By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father was in effect saying that He approved of Christ’s work of suffering and dying for our sins, that His work was completed, and that Christ no longer had any need to remain dead. There was no penalty left to pay for sin, no more wrath of God to bear, no more guilt of liability to punishment—all had been completely paid for, and no guilt remained.”

When Jesus rose from the grave, He rose as “the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20). That means that His resurrection ensures ours.

Praise the one who paid our debt and raised our lives up from the dead!

We look forward to that day when we will stand before His throne, repeating our joy in the knowledge that *Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, but His blood has washed it white as snow.* SR





## Jesus Didn't Die for Our Preferences

There is an on-going problem in a lot of churches. This might come as a shock to you—or maybe you have not even considered that this is a real thing. Let me provide an example for context. You go to a church business meeting or even a conference business meeting. In that meeting, someone has a “great” idea to change the way things are done. Maybe the organization of committees is “muddy.” Maybe some fundraising effort “needs” to happen. Maybe the “vision” is presented to move the church to a more appropriate neighborhood. Maybe the color of the carpet in the church needs to be changed. Whatever the case may be, what usually happens in these circumstances are arguments and division. Let me pose this question to you. Did Jesus really die for these things?

Did Jesus die for us to argue over budgets, organizational structure, or even carpet color? The answer is an empathic NO! Clearly, most of us, during this season of the year, take a step back and reflect on what Jesus did on the cross. Our eyes are fixed on His sacrifice and the complete work. The problem is that come the day after Easter we step back into our routines and get comfortable again. We focus on what is best for us and when someone interferes with that, we get mad. We try to be open-minded for new ideas—or at least we say we will. However, when they are presented, we complain and argue against them. What changed? What happened? Jesus didn't die for our preferences.

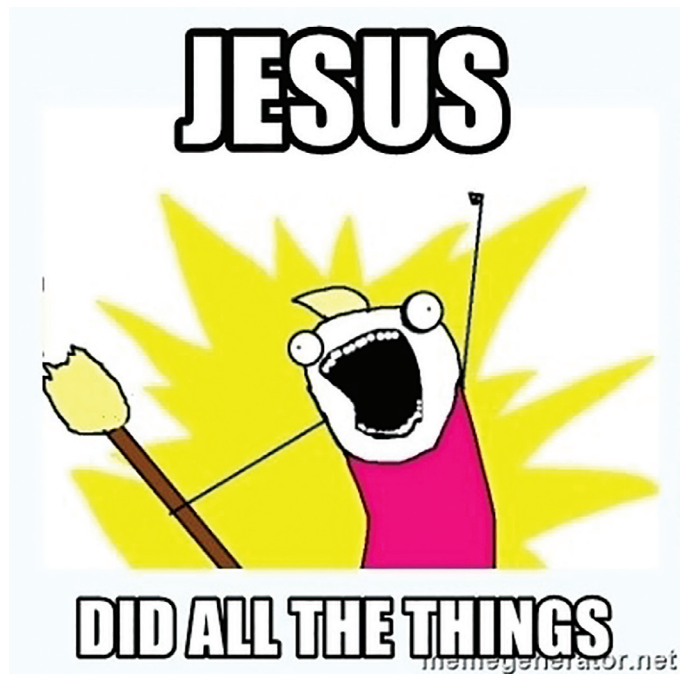
When everyone takes it upon themselves to stay focused on the cross of Christ, things change. You grow. You become more and more like Christ. You stop worrying about whether your needs are being met or whether the carpet color really matters. You stop looking at the way things conflict with what you desire. You relax. You realize that preferences don't really matter. What matters is the will of God. What matters is our desire to become more and more like Christ. What matters is that we grow and change into better versions of ourselves. What matters is what Paul says in just about every letter he wrote in the New Testament: “Everything I do, I do for Christ.” This concept is flowing through his letters. There is a difference between thinking we are doing something for Christ and doing something for Christ.

Most of our arguments come from the fact that we *think* we are doing something for Christ. We *think* we are protecting something that simply doesn't matter. We *think* we need to because it is righteous and honorable. Let me challenge that by saying that it doesn't matter. Our goal for ourselves should be growth—becoming more and more like Christ. If we aren't growing, then what's the point? What's the point in going to church? What's the point in reading our Bibles or praying? The goal is growth to become more and more like Jesus. When we grow, things don't matter. When we grow, people around us grow. When we grow, we change our narrow focus on the “stuff” to the big things God wants to do in our lives, in the lives of those around us, and in our local and global body of believers. God wants His will to be done.

So while it is Easter time and we start to reflect again on Jesus, don't let it stop there. Evaluate yourself: Does what I do measure up with what God wants to be done? Get to know Him more through worship, praise, petition, intercession, and whatever else you can think of. The more you lean into Jesus, the more you will grow. The more you learn from the Master the more you will grow. The more you meditate on Him the more you will grow. The more you let go and let God, the more your focus becomes not on preferences, but on His work, and what He can do through you. [SR](#)

By Pastor Tyler Chroniger

An internet meme is a humorous image, video, piece of text, etc., that is copied (often with slight variations) and spread rapidly by Internet users [Dictionary.com]. A recent one began when a millennial blogger spoke of her initial enthusiasm to complete daily tasks by declaring that she would “clean all the things!” The internet expanded it using the picture and the general format “X all the Y.” I realize that those who cherish the English language might be a little appalled by the way that this meme is phrased, but there is actually a reason for it. This meme is laced with hyperbole. When I declare that “I am going to do all the things,” I am fully aware that this is not possible. If I triumphantly state that “I did all the things,” I say it knowing that tomorrow will bring a whole new set of challenges to tackle. To say “I did all the things” acknowledges that one can never finish all of his work.



*This work by Allie Brosh is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License.*

When I was reading Hebrews recently, this meme came to mind. The author of the book of Hebrews discusses the relationship of Jesus to the priesthood and the temple sacrifices. On the Day of Atonement each year, beyond the typical daily sacrifices, the high priest would perform an additional ceremony to purge the priests, the temple, and the people of their sins for one year. A priest might then consider declaring to the people of Israel, “I did all the things” or “I cleansed all the sins.” In these statements, there is hyperbole. He’d be back to sacrificing tomorrow because the cleansing is only temporary. The next year, a different priest would be repeating the task. Moreover, we must even acknowledge that the ceremonies were not what cleansed our sin. In Hebrews 10:11, the author wrote, “And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.”

The temporary and purely ceremonial work of the high priest can be contrasted with that of Jesus. Continuing to verse 12, we read: “But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God...<sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” When Jesus had finished all of His work, He died on the cross and rose again having done all the things. Unlike the typical understanding of the meme, when I say “Jesus did all the things,” there isn’t a hint of hyperbole. His sacrifice is the propitiation for all of our sins and was completed once for all of eternity. It IS finished.

“Jesus did all the things” goes even further. The high priest was the representative of the people of Israel to enter into God’s presence in the temple to advocate for His mercy and grace. Jesus is our eternal high priest, sitting at the right hand of God to advocate for us (Hebrews 9:24). In order to enter the holy places to be in the presence of God, the priests made blood sacrifices to cleanse themselves for this work lest they die. When Jesus died on the cross, He entered the holy places [Heaven] once for all by His own blood (Hebrews 9:12) so that we too can approach the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). The priests used two goats to cleanse the people and take on their sins. Jesus took on the sins of the whole world and shed His blood for the forgiveness of sin (Hebrews 9:22-26).

There is much more, but I do not have the pages to enumerate it all. One might more simply say that Jesus, the founder and finisher of our faith, did all the things. SR

By Pastor Gabriel Graffius



# DEEP in the Heart

Struggling to put a small necklace ring through a jeweled heart, I realized it was not going to work. “If only I could get the ring to go **deeper into the heart**,” I mumbled to myself.

“Yes,” suddenly the voice of Almighty God spoke, “We need to get deeper into their hearts.”

*It seemed as though I had been immediately transported to a time, long ago in order to eavesdrop on the following conversation:*

*By Cheri Appel*

God continued, “We need to get **deeper into their hearts**.” Speaking as Creator, He said, “These people—We gave them a free will, and I wouldn’t do it any other way—but most of them just don’t let Us **deep into their hearts**.”

“Yeah,” Jesus the Son agreed. “**Deep** enough to stick. **Deep** enough to stay. **Deep** enough to...”

“...allow Me to flow **deeply** into every part of their being,” the Holy Spirit intuitively finished Jesus’ sentence.

“It’s going to take a sacrifice,” our God Jehovah quietly stated. “Not just any sacrifice—a sacrifice of **deep** spiritual, physical, mental and emotional measure. It must go **deeply** into the heart, be **deeply** moving, and be **deeply** life changing.”

“Blessed be the martyrs of old, who gave **deeply**—everything they had. And those who will sacrifice for Us in the future!” proclaimed Jesus the Son of Man.

“Yes!” God beamed in all His glory. “We love them dearly for giving their lives in Our name. They will always and forever have honored dwellings in Our Heaven. It is appropriate,” He concurred from His mercy seat. “Those who have dedicated their lives to Us deserve Our mercy, even though they, too, had sin in their lives,” He concluded in Judgment.

“I know,” the Holy Ghost reminded them all. “I had to speak to their respective consciences on those occasions, so they would repent.”

“Mmmhmm,” Jesus the Word mused. “Humans are sinful, that’s for sure. ‘Course ever since the fall of Adam, whom We spoke into existence, they’ve been born that way.”

“And that is why We planned this sacrifice from the beginning!” God thundered in His omnipresence. “The time has come to get **deeper** into the human heart. This generation of sinful humans requires a sacrifice that is outstanding, drastic, and





miraculous! It will transcend the test of man's time. It will **deeply** affect and be **deeply** embedded in the heart, changing the history of the world. "

"Yes!" Jesus the Lamb of God observed. "The ultimate sacrifice of God in human form, without sin."

The Holy Spirit (interpreting the Bible) agreed. "It will be the One Who is so **deep** into Our word, that it is His whole being."

"The One," began God, the Alpha, "Who knows and understands the purpose of Our whole story, from beginning to end," God, the Omega, concluded.

"Someone Who so loves the entire world's people that He is willing to die for them, once and for all. He will take on the wrath of God, paying for ALL their sins with His blood!" Jesus the Messiah cried out.

God the Father continued prophesying: "It will be a tortuous, drawn out, horrifying, unjust death. Satan will work to make sure the leaders tell lies, the people are confused, and even those who love the sacrificial Lamb will turn away and betray Him."

"Satan will want to be assured that it is a REAL death. Three days in the grave minimum." God glowered in His omnipotence.

"Yes, but Satan doesn't know all things like We do, now does he?" the omniscient facets of God glimmered.

"No he doesn't!" the Holy Spirit's breath of life cheered. "I can't wait to see him shake and watch his demons quake when We raise You from death back to life! Jesus the Christ is victorious over sin and death!"

"Forgiveness through belief in the Son of God will reign!" proclaimed Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

"Yet, it will take faith, **deep** faith, to believe, especially for those who don't see these events with their own eyes," the indwelling Holy Spirit moved.

"The stories of My people in the past and My people in the future may differ in the details, but the access method to salvation remains the same," spoke God, the unchanging I AM. "**Deep** faith, in Who We are, accompanied by **deep** commitment."

At that, Jesus, Savior of the world, stood and vowed, "Knowing the outcome, the gift of mercy, the victory over death, the opportunity for millions of Our beloved to join Us in Heaven for their eternal lives, makes Me willing to give that **deeply** and be that sacrifice for all mankind!"

"Remember, as always, We are IN this together!" agreed the Trinity. Rising as Three in One, their voices thundered through the heavens, "We are in **deep** so that We may be **deep in their hearts!** SR



# DEVOTIONAL

---

By Pastor Scott Hausrath  
North Loup SDB Church, NE

## *Is a part of your life feeling stark, or cold, or even dead?*

Perhaps your marriage, though it began on a warm spring day, is now feeling the bitter chill of winter. Perhaps your job is no longer the source of excitement and joy that it used to be. Maybe even your relationship with God lacks the fire that it used to have.


In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul talks about resurrection. He says that bodily resurrection happens in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). In contrast, the resurrection of our marriage, our job, etc. is more likely to happen over time, through a series of actions. And guess what—we are responsible for the first of these actions.

Proverbs 16:3 identifies this first step in the process of resurrection: “*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*” Before you do anything to resurrect your marriage, etc., commit that part of your life to God. Sounds good, Pastor Scott, but what does this actually mean? The surrounding verses give us an idea. Verse 2 tells us to check our motives. *Why* do we want a resurrection in this area of our life? Verse 4 reminds us that God has His own purposes for every part of our life. Are we willing to accept, even embrace, God’s purpose for our marriage, our job, etc., instead of our purpose?

The first step in bringing about resurrection is to let go of our expectations. This is what it means to commit *to the Lord* whatever we do. When we accept *His* purpose for this area of our life, we automatically succeed, because God *will* bring about His purpose. Allow Him to bring that resurrection *in His way*, *in His time*. He will do it, one step at a time, *in partnership with you*. He wants you to be intimately involved in the process.

Please let me know if you’d like to talk more about this, or if you’d like to get together and pray about a situation in your life. I would be honored to take that first step with you.

I’m praying for all of us.

God bless,  
Your traveling companion on the journey together,  
Pastor Scott 

**FOCUS** is vital in our Christian walk, but most of the time it is the hardest thing to do. Lately I've been very bad at focusing on pretty much everything, but most importantly my walk in faith and putting everything to God. When you get caught up in life, it's hard—you forget the important and to put a majority of your focus onto God. My keyword lately is *focus*. I am not here to tell you how to focus or how to bring your focus back to your walk with God because I am still working it out myself. In a sense I am here to say you need to work on your focus just like me because it most likely isn't at the level God wants. It's tough, but we're in this together and with the guidance of God we will come out achieving it.

I wanted to bring forward a resource of what focus is, what God says about it, and some sermons I found. I sure need it and I know there's someone else out there who needs it as well.


#### Definitions of **FOCUS**:

- Focus (noun) – the central point of attention
- Focus (verb) – to concentrate on something in particular

#### Bible verses on **FOCUS**:

- "Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame." (Psalm 34:5)
- "...we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." (2 Peter 3:13)
- "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." (Colossians 3:2)
- "My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end." (Psalm 119:112)
- "Fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest." (Hebrews 3:1)
- "Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming." (1 Peter 1:13)
- "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:2)
- "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee." (Proverbs 4:25)
- "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)
- "Commit thy works unto the Lord, thy thoughts shall be established." (Proverbs 16:3)
- "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5)
- "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." (1 Peter 3:17)

#### Sermons/Articles on **FOCUS**

- "What does the Bible say about focus? A Christian Study" by Crystal McDowell
- "Keep Your Focus" by Jeffery Anselmi (sermoncentral.com)
- "Fine-tune Your Focus – 2 Corinthians 4" by Andy Cook (lifeway.com)
- "Fix Your Focus" by Pastor Steven Furtick (Elevation Church)
- Sermon Illustration.com: "Focus" 



Young Adult

By Sarina Villalpando  
Maranatha Community  
Church, Colton, CA



*CROSS exists to mobilize a generation to lay down their lives in pursuit of the glory of Jesus Christ among all the unreached and unengaged peoples of the world.*

*Twenty-four people traveled with Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church to Louisville, Kentucky, January 2-5, 2019, for this missions-focused conference for young adults. What a blessing it was!*

- 7,500 in attendance
- 24 sent by Milton SDB Church to experience great worship, great preaching, great prayer for the unreached
- Serving one GREAT GOD!
- As a result, 9 of the 24 are prayerfully considering a call to missions.

*To experience the panel discussions and main speakers, including David Platt and John Piper, go to: <https://crossforthenations.org/>*



## PURSUING HOLINESS

By Micah Crandall

January 2-5, a group of us from the area surrounding the Milton SDB Church went to the CROSS Missions Conference. The conference exists to equip a generation to lay down their lives in pursuit of the Glory of Jesus Christ— and that is what it did. I came away from the conference with a strong internal urge to pursue *Holiness*. Holiness is something that is often neglected by people my age. In fact Kevin DeYoung, one of the speakers at CROSS, actually described us as being allergic to holiness. Being holy is to be set apart from what is common; to be different or unique in comparison to this world. Working with this definition, it is easy to see why such a thing that is constantly talked about in Scripture has often been neglected—being different can be utterly terrifying for most people. Yet this is what it is to be holy: people set apart from the world in how they live, speak, act, think, and view the world around them. This is a high calling, but as Christians we are called to be holy as God is holy.

***“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”*** (1 Peter 1:14-16)

What does God’s holiness look like? If we are to be holy like God, what are we striving to be like? God’s holiness is hard to describe; as imperfect beings it’s hard to fathom perfection, but you can think of it as somewhat like the sun. It is unique, at least in our solar system; it is powerful; and it is the source of life. You can go even further and say that like the area around the sun is hot, the area surrounding God’s presence is also holy. Like the sun is a good thing, so is the holiness of God. But if you get too close to the sun, you will burn up and the same is true of God’s holiness. Because we are sinful beings, impure and unholy, we cannot stand in His presence. Not because His holiness is bad but because it is that good. In order to be near to God, we need to become holy, but that is a process we cannot undertake on our own. This is why we need Christ. When He died on the cross, He took our unholiness upon Himself and imputed His holiness onto us.

Becoming holy is not something that we can avoid as maturing Christians, and pursuing holiness further is essential for Christian growth and mission work. Mission work is incredibly hard, and not for the spiritually weak. You will face persecution, spiritual warfare, loneliness, sickness, strain with your teammates, and so much more. If you’re not spiritually mature, you will fall and fall hard. The best way to grow as a Christian is through a commitment to pursuing holiness in all areas of your life. Make no mistake, this is a battle for purity of mind, heart, and body. It is the battle against sin and not one to be taken lightly if we want to be good witnesses for Christ. I am reminded of a quote from John Owen, *“Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you.”* I implore SDBs to make the pursuit of holiness our goal as we ask God to use us for His glory. *Soli Deo Gloria.* SR

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHURCH IN MISSIONS

By Bethany Crandall

At first it seemed a little counterintuitive; to not just mention, but to spend generous amounts of time on the local church at a missions conference geared towards sending young people out into the world. But as the mentions of the local church grew in number and culminated in a sermon by Trip Lee, I realized that in my love, research, and experience with missions I had fundamentally skimmed over its key: the church. Over the course of the CROSS Conference, a young-adult missions conference that a group from Milton SDB attended in January, the Lord began to correct and refine my love for the local church and its role in the global mission. The church is not only important in spreading the gospel, but is inextricably connected to missions.

The church is not as popular today as it once was. Too often members walk away from their church bodies, not to walk away from the Lord, but due to division within the church. College students never find a home church, families hop churches every couple of months, members attend churches for years and never fully invest their time or talents. Music taste, relational disputes between members, and minor theological disagreements create division and lead to half-hearted service or giving up all together. Our churches are made up of broken people, and broken people coming together, even redeemed broken people, can be messy. But the body of Christ builds itself up together.

Ephesians 4: 13-16: ***“until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”***

However messy, often difficult, and mundane the local church can be, she is the bride that Christ has chosen—the means given to keep us, grow us, and glorify God through us.

Since we can clearly see the importance of the local church, we must directly apply this to missions. Our goal in missions must be the establishment and growth of the church. In making disciples and discipling believers, the church must be the goal. If we are excited about going into the world to bring people to Jesus, but not excited about our local churches, then we are misinformed and misleading those to whom we preach. Likewise, if we are dedicated to the growth and vibrancy of our churches, but not concerned with bringing people to them and sending our members out, we are not fulfilling Christ’s mission for the church. The local church grows, trains, supports, and gives people to go. It is our duty as the church to teach the importance of missions. It is our duty to provide support and opportunities to members interested in global missions for whatever length of time. It is our duty to encourage the spread of the gospel in the local context as a body and as individual members.

Invest deeply in your church. Seek mentorship from older members, encourage younger members, give of your gifts and talents freely, and understand that in this you glorify God and honor Christ’s bride. Make it your mission to go out and make disciples, bringing them into the loving community of your church. [SR](#)

Invest deeply  
in your church.

Make it your mission to  
go out and make disciples.

# At the Intersection of Genealogy and History: John Clarke and John Crandall

By Janet Thorngate, Chairman, SDB Council on History

People sleuthing their family history often discover that in the process of building that endless genealogy chart, the quest for illusive details draws them deeper and deeper into an ancestor's world. Suddenly they are "into history" (though they never "liked history") and the name on the chart becomes a real person.

As the names on the chart expand into biographical sketches, patterns emerge: ideas, attitudes, values. An identity. A culture. Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle wrote that history is the essence of innumerable biographies. If so, historians have much to offer genealogists and genealogists have much to offer historians.

Nothing illustrates these points better than two recent publications of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society, which also document many intersections with Seventh Day Baptist genealogy and history. The original plan of the co-authors was a new look at the life of John Crandall (1617/8-1675/6), a member of John Clarke's Baptist church in Newport, Rhode Island. Happily, however, their ballooning research also spun off a full-length, very readable history book exploring John Clarke's world.<sup>1</sup> That world was also the world of Samuel Hubbard and all the first American Seventh Day Baptists, including, of course, Clarke's nephew Joseph, who was key to the development of the Sabbatarian movement in Westerly and Hopkinton.

## John Crandall's Story

Like many early American immigrants, John Crandall was baptized as an infant into the Church of England and worked hard to help create a vastly different religious culture and society in New England. His descendants, many of whom were Seventh Day Baptists, benefited from his contributions to the fight for religious liberty and the formation of colonial government in Rhode Island. In a series of four articles in *Rhode Island Roots* (journal of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society), Judith Crandall Harbold and Cherry Fletcher Bamberg gather and greatly expand on what is known about John Crandall and his family while carefully disproving many "erroneous facts."<sup>2</sup>

Part 1 covers Crandall's origins in Gloucestershire, England, noting that "the fanciful but persistent myth that John Crandall was the son of Sir John Crandall and Elizabeth Drake, a myth still alive and well on the Internet, has been put to rest." Although little is known of his life between his

1 Cherry Fletcher Bamberg FASG and Judith Crandall Harbold, *John Clarke's World* (Hope, RI: Rhode Island Genealogical Society), 2018. 10x7, hardcover, dustjacket, 462+xxxiv pages. Illustrations, genealogical charts, maps, bibliography, index. ISBN 978-0-9827665-4-5.

The book can be ordered from Rhode Island Genealogical Society (RIGS), P.O. Box 211, Hope, RI 02831 or at [RIGenSoc.org](http://RIGenSoc.org), for \$50.

2 *John Crandall's Story* by Judith Crandall Harbold and Cherry Fletcher Bamberg FASG, is published in these four 2018 and 2019 issues of *Rhode Island Roots*:

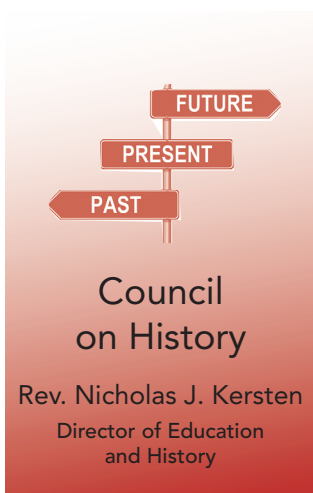
"Waterleigh to Rhode Island," Vol. 44, No. 1 (March 2018), 2-16.

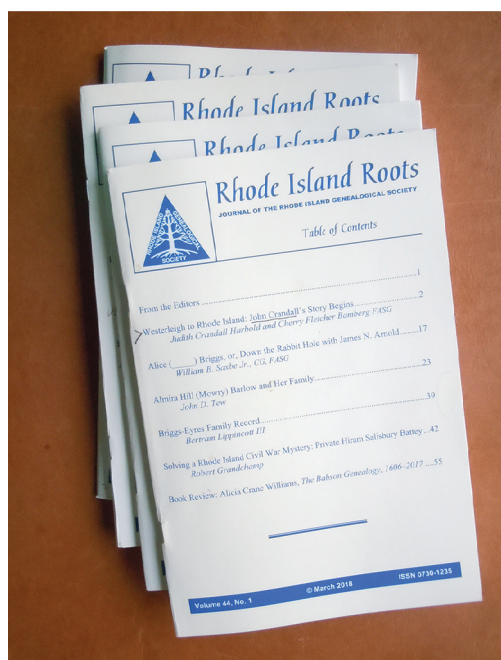
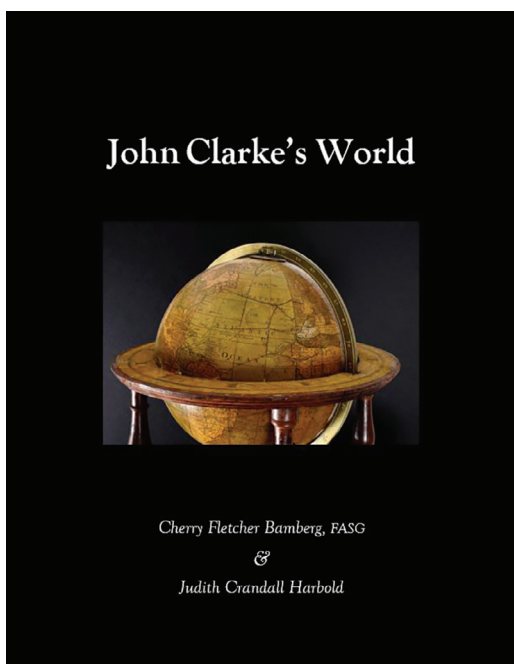
"John Crandall (Part Two): Stepping Forward," Vol. 44, No. 2 (June 2018), 87-109.

"John Crandall (Part Three)," Vol. 44, No. 3 (September 2018), 129-147.

"John Crandall's Family (Conclusion of Series)," Vol. 45, No. 1 (March 2019), 18-47.

Back copies of *Rhode Island Roots* can be obtained several ways: Rhode Island Genealogical Society (RIGS) members can view pdfs on the website [RIGenSoc.org](http://RIGenSoc.org). Anyone can order paper or pdf copies from RIGS, P.O. Box 211, Hope, RI 02831 or at [RIGenSoc.org](http://RIGenSoc.org) for \$3.50 postpaid. Issues older than five years can be read at the New England Historic Genealogical Society website [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org). RIGS membership for \$25 includes a full subscription plus other benefits; see [RIGenSoc.org](http://RIGenSoc.org).





ritual baptism in 1618 and his appearance in Newport in 1643, their description of how the “winds of religious change blew briskly through Gloucestershire” sets the stage for the contentious world of colonial religion and politics that welcomed him in the American colonies.

Part 2 describes attempts to document the still-unknown identity of Crandall’s first wife and his civic and church involvement in Newport as the Baptist church was evolving there. Well documented, however, is his part in the famous 1651 incident of Baptist persecution in Lynn, Massachusetts, which “seems to have changed him into an activist for Rhode Island and its toleration of religion.”

Part 3 chronicles the known facts about Crandall’s property and his years of public service, particularly his involvement in the struggle over the border between Rhode Island and Connecticut colonies and in the settlement of Misquamicut, incorporated in 1669 as Westerly. The authors portray the persistent conflicts between Rhode Island and its neighbors over land as extensions of the initial conflicts over freedom of religion. In this tumultuous world John Crandall became an important figure, one of two conservators (justices) of the peace for a large territory, representing Rhode Island law.

Focus in Part 4 is on Crandall as a husband and father of nine children, documenting what is known about each of them, verifying what is not known, correcting previously published errors, and, presenting it all in the form of a compiled genealogy (18 pages) with full documentation. Noting his complicated relationship to Seventh Day Baptists and the often-published error that John Crandall was a Sabbatarian, the authors express regret that, despite their “diligent efforts to find clues, the identity of John Crandall’s first wife, whom we know to have been a Sabbatarian, remains lost to history.” She was the mother of the first

seven children, several of whom became Seventh Day Baptists. These included Peter Crandall, who donated the property in 1705/6 on which the first Seventh Day Baptist meetinghouse was built, and Joseph Crandall, the third pastor (elder) of the Newport SDB Church. It is only in a letter from his longtime friend Samuel Hubbard that John Crandall’s death is documented. It was while he was in Newport as a refugee in the middle of King Phillip’s War, the decisive early conflict between the English colonists and Native Americans. He died not knowing the outcome, whether Westerly, or even Rhode Island Colony, would survive.

### John Clarke’s World

John Clarke (1609-1676)—physician, Baptist preacher, colonial agent, one of the founders of Rhode Island. We cannot really grasp the significance of his life without stepping into his 17th century world, so different from our own. Authors Bamberg and Harbold tell “the story of Rhode Island’s founding and slow evolution into a unique place with a guarantee of religious liberty in relation to the people who lived through it, using their own words whenever possible.” One of the voices quoted liberally throughout is that of Samuel Hubbard, who, as a member of both churches, chronicled so much of what is known about the origins of John Clarke’s Baptist church and the Seventh Day Baptist Church that emerged from it.

John Clarke’s world was Samuel Hubbard’s world. They were born in nearby villages in Suffolk, northeast of London in East Anglia, Hubbard a year before Clarke. Suffolk was being “buffeted by winds of puritan controversy.” Both became part of the great migration from England to Massachusetts Bay Colony and both experienced the religious persecution in its neighbor colonies that led to

*Continued on next page...*

## TESTIMONY

---

### A Goodly Heritage

By Gary Wade Coats

I was sitting in church last Sunday (I attend an Independent Baptist Church as there are no Seventh Day Baptist Churches near where I live in South Carolina.) listening to the Youth Choir singing: “I have a Goodly Heritage, I’m blessed with things you can’t see. I have a Goodly Heritage, and that is worth far more to me.”

These words got me thinking about my Goodly Heritage. Most, but not all, of my Goodly Heritage is Seventh Day Baptist. In the book “*The first 100 years of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church 1840- 1940*,” I find so many of my Seventh Day Baptist direct ancestors. There are Babcocks, Burdicks, Clarkes, Crandalls, Greenes, Greenmans, Hubbards, Langworthys, Maxsons, Potters, Rogers and Witters.

I started with my great-grandmother, Edith Green Hubbard, and went back 11 generations to Samuel and Tacy Cooper Hubbard. I am a direct descendant of 105 people who were Seventh Day Baptists. This does not include their brothers and sisters and their families that were Seventh Day Baptists. From the 4th to the 10th generation, I have 10 or more direct ancestors in each generation. In the case of Rev. John Maxson, Sr., I am related to him on both my mother’s and father’s side of my family.

When I look at obituaries taken from the *Sabbath Recorder* I am excited by what I read.

5th great grandfather, Augustus Kenyon: “*The meritorious atonement of Christ supported him in sickness and death.*”

5th great grandfather, Weeden Witter: “*He was a devoted and faithful Christian.*”

4th great grandfather, Ambrose Coats Jr.: “*Left evidence of his acceptance with God.*”

4th great grandmother, Mary Kenyon Coats: “*Died Trusting the Saviour.*”

3rd great grandmother, Polly Maxson Kenyon: “*Respected as one of a good heart and strong faith in God.*”

I look forward to meeting them in Heaven.

Thinking about my Goodly Heritage I know that I am saved because I accepted Christ as my personal savior. I often wonder if God gave me the opportunity to be saved because of the prayers of these saints for their future generations.

Do you have a Goodly Heritage? If not, why not start one today? If you do, then generations from now your grandchildren down to the 11th generation can talk with pride about how they had relatives who showed the right path to follow for a true relationship with God. <sup>[SR]</sup>

## At the Intersection of Genealogy and History: John Clarke and John Crandall

*Continued from page 15*

the founding of Rhode Island. Clarke was back in England securing the Charter of 1663 that guaranteed religious liberty for Rhode Island during the decade that Seventh Day Baptists were emerging there. He was back in Newport during the Sabbath controversy in his church and worked to implement the hard-won charter. Like John Crandall, he died as King Phillip’s War was devastating New England. Personal vignettes are sprinkled throughout the book.

A section on Samuel Hubbard provides no new biographical facts but certainly an enriching of the context, particularly the Suffolk years. Included are a picture of the church in Mendelsham (the town of his birth), a map locating his property in Newport, and a photograph of his gravestone, unearthed in 1988. The book provides a greatly expanded background and setting for Janet Thorngate’s *Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists*, which the authors frequently cite and to which they both contributed.

Bamberg and Harbold have distilled the essence of John Clarke’s biography. They do also include his genealogy—down through him and his seven siblings with new information on his three wives. The ten children of his brother Joseph (1618-1694) are listed. John himself had no biological descendants, yet a legacy.

Concluding sentences highlight the symbiotic relationship between genealogy and history: “Roger Williams, John Clarke, Obadiah Holmes, John Crandall, Samuel Hubbard, their wives, and their friends had all come to Rhode Island ‘on the wing’...The legacy of these stalwart men and women survives in the Baptist and Sabbatarian churches of the present and in America’s commitment to freedom of religion. In a certain sense, whether or not we carry their DNA, all Americans are descendants of John Clarke and his companions.” <sup>[SR]</sup>

#### *About the authors:*

Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG, has been editor of *Rhode Island Roots*, quarterly journal of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society, since 2002. As a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, her long list of publications is on their website ([fasg.org](http://fasg.org)).

Judith Crandall Harbold, RN, BS, MA, is President of the Crandall Family Association. Her family history interest has led to articles on early Rhode Island, especially the descendants of her immigrant ancestor John Crandall.

#### TO ORDER SDB PUBLICATIONS:

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

Phone: (608) 752-5055



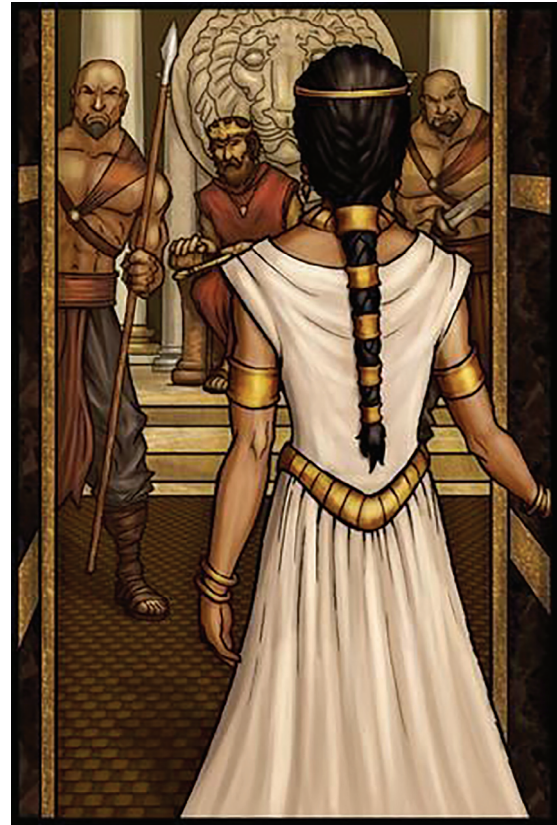
## *God's Hand at Work*

The story of Esther has always been my favorite Bible story. A couple fun facts about this book would include that the longest verse in the Bible is in Esther. Esther 8:9 contains 78 words. Another fun fact would be that the book of Esther does not mention God by name at all. However, the presence of God undoubtedly radiates throughout the book.

That is why it is my favorite story. Like Esther, sometimes we don't fully realize how involved God really is in our day-to-day lives. Even on the days when He seems absent, His hand is at work. On her toughest days, in her most difficult decisions, when she put her life on the line for her people, God knew, and had His protective hand over her.

Esther was forced to leave the life she was living. At that time, she probably was not thinking about whether or not this event was God's plan for her life. While, yes, she became Queen Esther of Persia, she had to leave Mordecai, the only person in her life that was family to her, as well as her home and friends. However, as we know from reading the book, this change was God's plan to save His people. When we go through big changes in life, it is stressful at times. Do we stop and pray to God about these stressful times? I don't always immediately turn to Him in hard times, although I know I should. Like Esther, when we have to face uncertain circumstances, we must have faith.

If you're thinking that nothing you do will ever compare to saving an entire people, let me ask you something. Whose scale are you using? God has a plan for your life, and His plans are always perfect. SR



### THE BEACON

By Holly Probasco  
Shiloh SDB Church  
Shiloh, NJ

# Lost?

## Reaching Today's Youth

By Bryan Baker

### ***If You Build It They Will Come***

Who remembers the old style of youth ministry? You know, the *let's start playing basketball in the park every Tuesday and use that as our way of outreach*. That approach, while effective, kind of got thrown to the wayside a little bit in the last couple of decades. Then we got started down the path, and I'm sure we all know this one, of *don't forget, kids, bring a friend next week*. While I'm not downing this way of outreach I feel it has led us down a path of lackadaisical ministry. I am not trying to talk down any church or group that is working towards youth outreach. I am just trying to see if we can rejuvenate or give this old style a punch in the arm. I've been praying and have had a couple ideas revealed to me. This is gonna sound familiar—I understand that—but I think that they're such simple ideas that we kind of forget about them.

### ***Find A Way To Be Involved***

If there are members of your youth group, (or if members of your youth groups have friends) that don't have positive role models, try to be one. This can take form in a variety of ways. Perhaps they don't have anyone who comes and supports them at sporting events or hobbies they are involved in. Personally this one is my favorite—I can remember what it was like when someone I knew that wasn't family came to an event. It makes you feel loved and it's nice to know that people support you even when they don't have to. One of the speakers at *Multiply*

this year gave an example of this and how shocked he was to see someone there, as no one ever went to his games. Just showing up and supporting them and encouraging them could leave a lifelong impact—not just for your church and community but also God's Kingdom! I have done this personally through my involvement with Camp Joy, part of the Appalachian Association. One of the campers that always had a special place in my heart, I took

interest in his interests and through that helped him accept Jesus. When he decided to get baptized he asked me to be the one to baptize him. Let me tell you that was awesome and I had no idea I was making that kind of impact.

### ***Be Involved More Than At Youth Group***

I know, especially in our denomination, that most of us are not fortunate enough to be full-time youth leaders or youth pastors. We have jobs that we have to support our families and ourselves. Speaking of families, we have those to spend time with and to help grow spiritually as well. I'm not saying that if you're a youth leader that's all you should focus on, but we shouldn't take it lightly either. Being a youth leader myself I'm not ashamed to say that I don't always stay as involved as I should. Remember back in the old days when we had to send letters or emails just to get in touch with people, without having to spend long distance to call? I barely do as I'm 26; however, when I did receive mail it was almost like Christmas. So the idea here is to stay involved, not always face to face. Don't be afraid to start that Facebook group or group text message—just stay in touch with the kids as they go through their week. You'd be surprised what kind of impact it could make.

My hope and prayer is that this will give us a not-so-new but a rejuvenated look at how we do youth ministry. I love the idea of growing the next generation of believers. It's something that we should all feel proud about doing and something we can all take part in. Something about helping a young believer see the light is just so amazing. I encourage you all to go out and see if you can find yourself a Timothy, someone whom you can mentor and help in his Christian walk. You may even be the one who gets him to begin his walk. It may seem at times that you aren't really making an impact but stay steadfast and keep the faith!

God Bless and may He bless us as we grow His kingdom. SR



Christian  
Education  
Council

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten  
Director of Education  
and History

## FUNDING OUR MINISTRIES – WITH MR. ANSWER GUY

### Q. HOW DO WE FUND OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MINISTRIES?

**A. LOCAL CHURCHES:** Tithes and offerings received from local churches who give to special appeals. Many churches tithe their local church budget to the work of the SDB Ministries.

**ASSOCIATIONS:** Offerings at Association meetings. Most Associations have an assessment per member used for Association needs.

**INDIVIDUALS:** Gifts from persons directly and designated tithes through their local churches.

**MEMORIAL FUND:** Gifts from the Board and receipts from invested funds.

### Q. HOW MUCH DO WE NEED TO RECEIVE EACH MONTH TO FUND OUR MINISTRIES?

**A. IT TAKES ABOUT \$45,000 PER MONTH.**

This might seem like a lot, but what if we broke it down this way: if 1,000 Seventh Day Baptists committed to give \$45.00 per month for a year, we would meet our budget! That is only \$540 a year or \$1.48 a day! What item, or items, do you spend \$1.50 on each day—maybe a cup of coffee or a soda? Can you imagine with me for just a minute that it is as simple as that? One thousand Seventh Day Baptists committing to support our agreed-to ministries by giving \$45 per month!

### Q. WHAT DO THESE MINISTRIES OF THE CONFERENCE DO FOR MY LOCAL CHURCH?

**A. LET ME GIVE YOU JUST A FEW OF THE AREAS OF MINISTRY THAT EACH OF THESE BOARDS AND AGENCIES DOES FOR THE WORK AND SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL SDB CHURCH:**

#### **Christian Education**

- *The Helping Hand*
- Lay Leadership Seminars

#### **Council on Ministry & Church Development**

- New Pastor Training & Pastoral Search
- Pastor Ordination & Accreditation

#### **SDB Missionary Society**

- National & International Field Work
- Short Term Mission Trips

#### **Tract and Communication Council**

- *The Sabbath Recorder*
- Tracts & Website

#### **Women's Society**

- SCSC
- Support of Pastor's Wives

#### **Council on History**

- Safe Keeping of Church Records
- Writing and Research of History

#### **General Services**

- Coordination of ALL Conference Work
- Mailings to Churches and Individuals

#### **Memorial Fund**

- Scholarships
- Matching Funds and Church Loans


*Look around your church sometime and see what the Conference has done for you and your church. Where did the support of your pastor's training come, or the funding for your building, or the addition to your existing building? Are your Sabbath School materials from the Conference, or do your young people serve in dedicated service over the summer? These are just some examples of our Alliance in Ministry with the local churches. Some of you might be able to give \$100 per month. Others might be able to give \$50 per month. Still others may only be able to give \$25 or even only \$10. The key here is to see that regular giving is what is needed to support not only the Conference's ministry, but also the ministry and mission of each local church and group.*

### Q. HOW CAN I HELP SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MINISTRIES AND HOW AM I ABLE GIVE EACH MONTH?

**A. E-GIFTING:** E-gifting is a sure way to ensure that your giving is done each month. It is simple to do and only requires a cancelled check showing the routing number and account number. You let us know how much you want to give each month. Enquire to [jan\\_ehlers@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jan_ehlers@seventhdaybaptist.org)

#### **GIVING THROUGH YOUR ON-LINE BANKING:**

Send a check each month through your on-line checking account. You simply set up your automatic payment and it comes out of your checking account.

**GIVE YOURSELF A REMINDER:** While planning your monthly calendar, select a date that month and send a check. 

*Thank you for your questions and remember:*

**Together We Can!  
We can make a difference!**



By Rob Appel  
Executive Director



## Two New Awards for Pastors

The SDB Council on Ministry is pleased to increase the recognition of our local church pastors by initiating two new annual awards: **The David L. Taylor Pastor's Heart Award** and the **Excellence in Preaching Award**.

**The David L. Taylor Pastor's Heart Award** will be an annual recognition award established in honor and memory of Pastor Dave Taylor, who is a beloved pastor to many SDBs. This award honors Pastor Dave's legacy by recognizing a pastor who consistently exhibits a pastor's heart and is a blessing to others.

Whenever we speak of the pastor's heart, we normally think of a pastor who has a genuine calling on their life to shepherd God's people. We would normally think of them as having a gentle spirit and as one who has the spirit of being able to sit with a person and listen to them unfold their lives. They would be a person who could be trusted with confidential information yet helpful in counseling others biblically. They would celebrate wildly with those who saw God's blessings and favor and commiserate with those who experience suffering and loss.

- The recipient of the David L. Taylor Pastor's Heart Award must be a called pastor of a member church or a retired pastor in a member church in the SDB General Conference USA & Canada and over the age of 18.

- Anyone can nominate a candidate for the David L. Taylor Pastor's Heart Award. The submission should include a brief biography of the candidate (including but not limited

to contact information, SDB church service, and family information) as well as a summary of how they exhibit a pastor's heart. Submissions may be sent to the Director of Pastoral Services anytime.

**The Excellence in Preaching Award** will be an annual preaching award established to honor a commitment to excellence in the preparation and delivery of sermons to a congregation, as well as his commitment to instilling the desire for excellence in preaching in a generation of other preachers, evangelists, and pastors.

- The recipient of the Excellence in Preaching Award must be a member of a member church in the SDB General Conference USA & Canada and over the age of 18. The sermon used for entry in the competition must have been preached in the calendar year previous to when the award will be given (i.e. 2018 for the 2019 award).

- Anyone can nominate a candidate for the Excellence in Preaching Award, including the candidate. The submission will include a brief biography of the candidate (including but not limited to contact information, SDB church service, and family information) as well as a sermon submission (preferably video) from the calendar year previous to when the award will be given (i.e. 2018 for the 2019 award). Submissions may be sent to the Director of Pastoral Services anytime. Submissions will be judged on faithfulness to the Biblical text/context, gospel connection, clarity/understanding, application to today's audience, and delivery.

If you have any questions about these awards, would like to contribute a gift to the winners of these awards, or need to know more about the nomination process for these awards, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services. ([jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org))

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2019. SR

## Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Each year the SDB Christian Education Council solicits nominees for the **Sabbath School Teacher of the Year**. This year we are changing the guidelines to include more opportunities for other leaders. Any member church (or branch church) of the General Conference may nominate a Sabbath school teacher, Bible study leader, or small group leader.

The CEC encourages all churches to honor someone for their work in the Christian Education ministries of the local church.

Selection for this award shall be based on the following criteria:

The Sabbath School Teacher of the Year shall exhibit:

- the qualities of faith and teaching found in the life and teachings of Christ;
- serve as a Sabbath school teacher, Bible study leader or small group leader
- and be a member of the nominating church.

Other Christian Education service shall contribute to a fuller appreciation of the nominee's Christian service.

The Christian Education Council selects a person from those nominated to be honored at General Conference. This person receives a certificate of award and a crystal apple.

**The deadline for nominations for this award for the 2018-2019 Conference year is May 31, 2019.** The nominations form can be downloaded at the link below. Upon completion of the nomination form, it should be sent to Peggy Chroniger either by e-mail ([chroniger@gmail.com](mailto:chroniger@gmail.com)) or by postal mail (5940 St Rt 21, Alfred Station, NY 14803). **Nominations sent by postal mail must be postmarked by May 31 to be accepted.** SR

*Sabbath School Teacher of the Year Nomination Form*  
(fillable PDF)



One of the things that happens when we go to the doctor’s office for a checkup is that we get our pulse taken. They like to know that our heart is still beating—but also they want to know how fast or how slowly it is beating. They want to know the factors that might lead to our heart beating abnormally (illness, anxiety, stress, etc.).

One of the things that needs to happen in your church is for you to be able to check your church’s PULSE. The SDB General Conference desires for all of our member churches to be pursuing the best health for their churches. To aid this pursuit, the Church Revitalization Task Force has created the PULSE process to help guide churches in a continuing examination of their health.


PULSE is a process (not a program) that will help guide your church to examine four major areas of health in your local church: Expectations, Discipleship, Outward Focus, and Leadership/Relationships. This process can be used continually to help you discover and live out the mission that God has for your local church as well as continue to gain greater clarity surrounding this process.

If you are interested in checking the PULSE of your church, please contact the Director of Church Development at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org) or 608-752-5055 ext. 1009.



Do you have information about what is going on in your church or group that you want to share? Would you like to gain tips and insight from other SDBs who are serving the Kingdom and their community? Do you like to network with other SDBs from around the country?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then you are invited to join the Church Development Network. We currently have a monthly call hosted by our Church Development Network Coordinator, Pastor Chris Galarneau, on the 4th Thursday of every month at 8 p.m. (Eastern).

The process for joining is simple. Send an email to the Director of Church Development at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org) and you will be added to our list. We send out monthly invitations to our Church Development Network call and other email news and reminders when they are available. Join today! 

## PASTOR SEARCH

The following SDB churches or groups are looking for pastoral leadership. Please keep them in prayer as they search for their next leaders.

- Bay Area SDB Church (Pinole, CA)
- Covenant SDB Fellowship (Hungry Horse, MT)
- First SDB Church of Hebron (Coudersport, PA)
- Remembrance SDB Church (Ft. Worth, TX)

The following SDB General Conference member churches do not currently have pastoral leadership. Please keep them in prayer as they search for God’s more preferable future:

- SpringsLife Church (Colorado Springs, CO)
- Pine Street Gospel Chapel (Middletown, CT)
- Waterford SDB Church (Waterford, CT)
- Agape SDB Church of the South (Kissimmee, FL)
- First SDB Church of God of Putnam County (Palatka, FL)
- Stonefort SDB Church (Stonefort, IL)
- Central SDB Church (Mitchellville, MD)
- Faith SDB Church (Doniphan, MO)
- First SDB Church of Alfred (Alfred, NY)
- Pawcatuck SDB Church (Westerly, RI)
- SDB Church of Albion (Edgerton, WI)

There are other potential vacancies in the near future. If you are interested in one of these vacancies, if you are called to pastoral ministry, or if you know someone who might be interested in pastoral ministry, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services by email at [jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org) or call 608-752-5055 ext. 1009.



Church  
Development &  
Pastoral Services

By John J. Pethtel  
Director



## Crafting with Purpose

A recent article in a healthcare magazine stated that “Creative play is a way to bring more relaxation, creative problem-solving, and focus into our busy days.” Our Craft Fellowship has found this to be SO true. About a year ago, a group of ladies from our church who like to do handwork projects decided to get together to fellowship while we crafted. Our church is in the process of moving to a new location where we are looking for ways to serve and reach out to the community. We are keeping in mind ways we might be able to relate with those we meet in our day-to-day lives and crafting as a group seemed like a good way to start.

As we began, we didn’t have a goal other than to be together while we worked and just see if God had a direction for us. It was suggested that we learn how to make microwave bowl cozies since we all thought we would like to have them to use. A microwave bowl cozy is a pot-holder that a soup bowl fits in so you can pick it up safely when it is hot right out of the microwave. Before long, we accumulated all the supplies from cleaning out our sewing closets and donations from others and began making cozies. When others heard about them and told their friends, we realized it could be our first project. Asking a suggested donation of \$5, it wasn’t long before we had accumulated some funds. It was then we felt this could be a way to support some different needs in our congregation, community, and denomination. As time went on, we met weekly in a basement room at one of our (generous) ladies’ houses which had been turned into a full-fledged sewing shop with large tables for four sewing machines and shelves to display supplies. We were “in business” and ready to craft together.

Over the year we were able to provide two camp scholarships for kids who otherwise would not have been able to have a Christian camp experience, four bicycles for pastors in Zambia, a monetary donation to the local Help Center, and bowl cozies added to Christmas food boxes offered to those in need in our community.

As we were beginning to wonder where we would be led next, a teacher in our congregation asked if we would be interested in making “Feeling and Emotion Dolls” for use in her school where she is a Special Education teacher. Ten-sets-of-eight-dolls later, we are now brain-storming our next adventure. We mostly look for sewing or crochet projects, but could try other things. Ideas we have been considering are a pen holder for a Bible or journal and a project to give to women who are dealing with breast cancer.

Wherever God leads us, I know it will include lots of laughter and blessings in finding ways to serve others. [SR](#)



Women’s  
Society

By Pat Williams  
SDB Church  
Boulder, CO



I believe we all can clearly see the swift decline of our culture that has taken place over a very few years. My experiences working with young adults has helped to shape my view of the need for prayer. Listening to our young people share about what they are up against on the college campuses and in the workplace has convinced me that we are sending them into a very pagan and dangerous culture.

One thing that has become clear is that the old model of my growing-up years that encouraged us to bring our friends to church where they would hear the Gospel is a defunct model in today's culture. I suspect that our model for church must be a training ground to send our people out into the workplaces, the gyms, the schools, the restaurants, wherever people are that we encounter on a daily basis, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We need to be pastors in our corporations, our dorms, our schools, our homes—and our churches need to be training us to disciple the people with whom we come in contact. This may mean becoming foster parents or adoptive parents; it may mean organizing and leading Bible studies during lunch hour at work; it may mean helping our children recognize the neediest, friendless kids on the playground, and risking their own status in popularity, by befriending them and inviting them for playdates; etc.

I believe this is the new reality of what our young adults are facing. We can be assured that they are up against a culture that is frequently hostile to any parameters that are not "inclusive" of all beliefs being equal. The only way the Gospel can penetrate the walls of "inclusiveness" is by supernatural means. Jesus was "inclusive" of all sinners, but clearly was very "narrow-minded" by today's standards with His

insistence that "no man comes to the Father but by Me." I am convinced that the only way anyone can stand against this is through the daily putting on of the armor of God for defense, and picking up our two offensive weapons: the Sword of the Spirit and prayer. (Ephesians 6:10-18) We are NOT fighting against flesh and blood.

When we were going through the spiritual war for our son, Timothy, I watched God assemble a team of warriors to stand with us in prayer. The only way this team was assembled was by us paying attention and recognizing God's choices for this team for us. Each was highlighted in a unique way—the only way I can describe how we and they knew. Before I set out on this journey as President of our Conference, I knew to immediately look for my prayer team. God made it clear and has continued to highlight individuals called to pray for me, my family, and all of you. This is what I want to unveil at Conference 2019 for our young adults. There will be different testimonies throughout each day by young adults sharing what God is doing in their lives and where they believe He is going with them. All of the rest of us, young and old, will be encouraged to listen and trust God to highlight in you which of these you are called to pray for, mentor, support in any way you can. You will be encouraged to join a prayer team for the one or ones God nudges you toward. Yes, this is a leap of faith, but after all, isn't that what we are about?

PEOPLE GET READY! 



By Jane Mackintosh  
Conference President

## God working in Cuba!



As I travel the world, I am humbled to see how God is working in so many ways. Recently I was fortunate to complete a mission trip to Cuba on behalf of the Missionary Society. I was equally blessed to take with me a wonderful Christian, Ricardo (Richie) Sepulveda, member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist church. Richie has an outstanding testimony: he was a former hit man with the Cartel, who was in prison and on death row. Through the grace of God, his life was transformed, he accepted Christ in his heart and the rest is history. As I was looking for an interpreter to take with me, I had checked with a couple individuals who were not able to make the trip. So, I called my good friend Gabriel Bejjani, who instantly recommended Richie. At first, I thought to myself: wait a minute, going into a communist country with an ex cartel hit man? If we get stopped at immigration and they check his background, we are both going to prison! I can't do hard time, my muscles are weak, I don't know how to fight, I don't speak Spanish and not to mention Danita would be upset with me. Well by the next day, I was

given complete peace and knew this was God's plan, so if I had to go to prison at least I was going to be with a great guy.

Cuba currently has a Christian group meeting on the Sabbath led by a Godly man and his family. As we have seen in so many other countries, Christians study their Bible and are led to the Sabbath. Through their convictions of the Sabbath, believers begin to look for a Bible-based denomination they can connect with and ultimately they find the Seventh Day Baptists. When this happens, the Missionary Society will begin to visit with them. When Cuba reached out, the Missionary Society began communications with them immediately. I was humbled and blessed to be able to go and meet with them.

During our trip we were able to take part in a variety of activities. We visited several schools, which gave us a chance to interact with their principals, teachers and students—an opportunity to see how the children are



**FOCUS on  
Missions**

By Danny Lee  
President of  
Missionary Society



**The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society  
is excited to announce  
Pastor Andy Samuels as its  
new Chief Executive Director.  
He assumed the role effective March 1, 2019.  
More information to follow!**





learning. As you can imagine, it was an eye-opener to see students being taught in a communist manner. We were able to deliver a braille machine to one school, for which they were very grateful. Everyone was amazed that the Cuban airport customs eyes were closed and I was able to bring the machine in my suitcase without trouble.

Also, as with most trips, we were able to hold several services. It was a blessing to give a message at one of the services and talk about the miracles of God. Everyone was blessed to hear Richie's testimony—his impact on people is great for the kingdom of God. It was such a blessing to see lives changed by his sharing of going from a dark life to an enriched life with Christ. When he speaks, people cling to every word he shares.

The Pastor invited us to an idol-breaking party. First for me—however nothing surprises me on mission trips. There was an individual who was heavily into witchcraft and idols, who had recently given his life to Christ. So, with hammer in hand, we went to his location and busted dozens upon dozens of idols. I was amazed at the dead animals within the idols that had been sacrificed. We then burned the idols and prayed with the young man. Please continue to pray for him: his wife is still trapped in the Satanic cult that God saved him from.

On our last day we were blessed to attend the baptisms of two local individuals. We went down to one of the beautiful beaches to participate in the baptisms. The young man I mentioned, who had given up his idols, and a blind girl, who attends the church, were baptized. With tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat I was humbled, as was Richie, to witness these two wonderful individuals' baptisms.

During this trip, I was reminded once again what an awesome God we serve. Missions is so much about building strong relationships and loving on people you meet. This trip was no different. Richie and I made lifetime friends for whom we will be praying every day. We need to understand the government attempts to control the churches and makes it very difficult for them to meet and grow. For example, one night when we were near a park, I asked if we could go over and do street evangelism with some of the youth. It was quickly explained to me that in their country that would have ended up with someone possibly being arrested by government officials. I ask that we all pray for the Cuba group as they grow and now earnestly want to be a part of the Seventh Day Baptist family. SR



## Come to JERSEY OAKS CAMP

If you have completed grades 8-12 this year, you are invited to attend Jersey Oaks Senior Camp near Shiloh, NJ. Senior Camp begins at 4:00 pm on Sunday, July 21, and ends on Sunday, July 28. We will provide transportation from the Philadelphia International Airport to Camp and, on July 28, from Camp to Conference in Lancaster, PA. The cost for the camp is \$130, which covers all expenses for the week.

Please visit [www.shilohsdb.org](http://www.shilohsdb.org) for more information and forms.

**Register by June 22 to avoid late fees.**

You can also contact Debbie Bond @ 856 498-9710 (call or text) or email at [wdbond@rocketmail.com](mailto:wdbond@rocketmail.com).

Hope you can join us for an exciting week of worship, study, games, swimming, and other fun activities. See you there! SR

## SEEKING AN ASSISTANT PASTOR

Shepherd's Fold is looking for two Assistant Pastors. Our church is passionate and committed to training up generations of leaders. We are seeking anyone who is considering and believes they are called to Pastoral Ministry and/or Church Planting. The ideal candidate has a familiarity with social media and technology. Ability to play an instrument and lead worship is a plus!

### Responsibilities

The Assistant/Associate Pastor is responsible to assist the Senior Pastor with ministerial and support needs as they arise. The Assistant/Associate, like the Pastor, is not responsible for doing all the work of ministry in the church, but for seeing it is done and done properly. The Assistant/Associate Pastor may be assigned specific tasks to perform or areas of ministry to administrate, like religious education, or on-going age group ministry of a church like Youth or Recreation.

### Duties

- Run Social Media Ministry (Creating Content, Answering Questions, and Community Outreach)
- Serve as the point person between Shepherd's Fold and the Good News SDB church plant in NC (This may require travel to NC to preach, teach, and encourage)
- Preach on a regular basis
- Serve as the Sabbath School Superintendent
- Coordinate coverage for Sabbath School teaching
- Select Sabbath School curriculum
- May be assigned a specific ministry target group to oversee
- In absence of Pastor/Interim Pastor, receive his ministerial phone calls, lead staff meetings, oversee and lead worship services, and other ministerial duties
- May be assigned to oversee all ministry counseling needs from church membership and requests from the community
- Pray with church members and guests who express difficulties in their life
- Teach regular Bible study classes
- May be asked to visit nursing care facilities and home-bound individuals/age group specific members
- Conduct weddings and funerals for church members as requested
- Visit grieving church members as requested
- Represent the Senior Pastor at committee and ministry team meetings as requested
- Cooperate with all staff to promote the entire ministry plan of the church
- Serve as an effective liaison to church committees and team ministry efforts
- Maintain a continued growth of personal calling and walk with the Lord through Bible study and prayer
- Maintain personal priorities with home and family as the spiritual leader
- Develop and exercise Personal Evangelism within and outside the church
- Give graciously to the church through tithes and offerings
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor

If you are interested in this position or know of someone who should be considered, please contact Pastor Shay Rankhorn for more details at [PastorShay@hotmail.com](mailto:PastorShay@hotmail.com).

## NEW MEMBERS

### FIRST HOPKINTON SDB CHURCH

Ashaway, RI  
Pastor David Stall

#### Joined in 2018

Bonnie Powell  
Gabe Graffius  
Adrienne Graffius  
Bonnie Shawn  
Bob Isaacson  
Judy Isaacson

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & PASTORAL SERVICES

#### Rev. John J. Pethtel, Director

[jphtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jphtel@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
cell: (304) 629-9823

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Jeremiah Owen, Director

[jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
cell: (818) 468-9077

### EDUCATION & HISTORY

#### Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten, Director

[nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
office: (608) 752-5055  
cell: (608) 201-4850

### SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

#### Robert Appel, Executive Director

3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678,  
Janesville, WI 53547-1678  
[robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org)  
Phone: (608) 752-5055

### SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

#### Andrew O. Samuels, Chief Executive Director

129 Main St. #156, Ashaway, RI 02804  
[info@sdbmissions.org](mailto:info@sdbmissions.org)  
office: (401) 596-4326



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

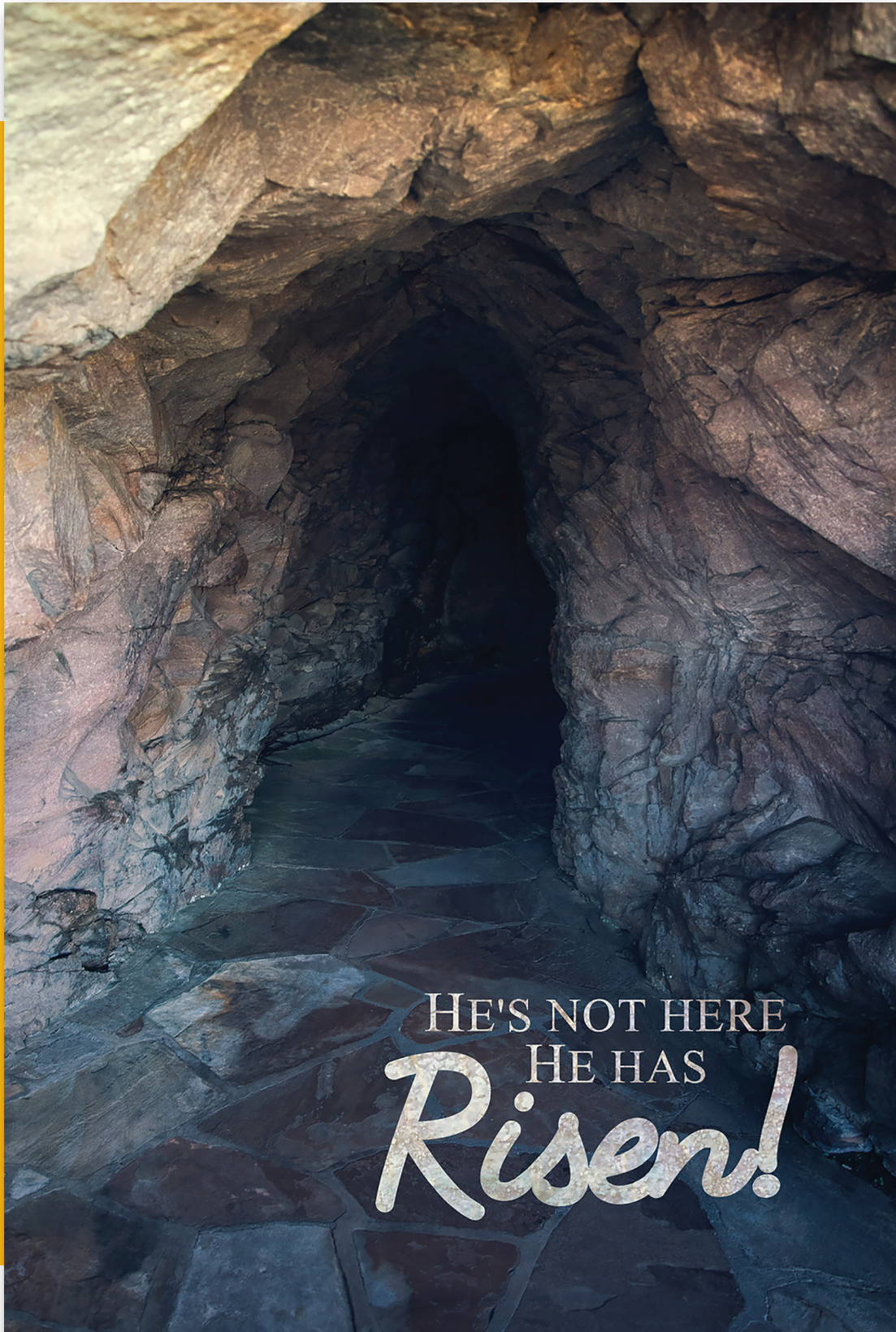


*Sin had left a crimson stain;  
He washed it white as snow.*





Periodicals postage paid  
at Janesville, WI  
and additional offices



HE'S NOT HERE  
HE HAS  
*Risen!*

H  
A  
L  
L  
E  
L  
L  
U  
J  
A  
H  
!

