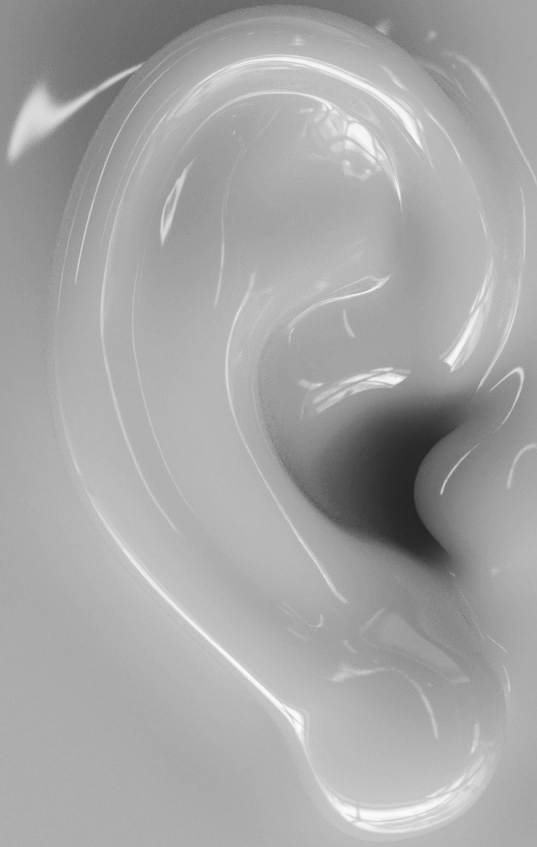


Sabaoath Recorder



LISTEN!

November 2019
A Seventh Day Baptist Publication



...a great and strong wind tore into the mountains
and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD,
but the LORD was not in the wind;

and after the wind an earthquake,
but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

and after the earthquake a fire,
but the LORD was not in the fire;

and after the fire a still small voice.

13	Alliance in Ministry
	Intentionality by Carl Greene
14	FOCUS on Missions
	Christmas Gift List 2019 by Andy Samuels
16	Christian Education Council
	The Power of Connection by Nicholas J. Kersten
17	President's Page
	FIX your eyes! by Kevin Butler
18	The Beacon
	Childlike Faith by Kayleigh Mackintosh
19	Young Adult
	Though the Mountains May Crumble, You Will Not by Sarina Villalpando
20	Council On History
	Reprint: A Golden Wedding... by Nicholas J. Kersten
21	Women's Society
	Consistent Thankfulness by Katrina Goodrich
22	Church Development & Pastoral Services
	Pastor Searches by John J. Pethtel
23	Church News
	Daytona Beach SDB Church by Rick Crouch
24	Devotional
	My Disease Keith McCall II
25	Church News
	Obituary New Members
26	Church News
	Obituaries

5 Can you hear Me now?

By Tyler Chroniger

7 Hearing God's Voice

By Cheri Appel

10 Just by Your Being You

By Nicholas J. Kersten

AboutTheAuthors

Cheri Appel is a retired elementary teacher, living in California with her husband, Rob. She calls herself an "artist with a sewing machine" and also loves to write, especially about her Lord, Jesus Christ.

Tyler Chroniger is married with two kids. He works as an Estimator at a construction company. He is an Assistant Pastor at the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, NJ.



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.

Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

November 2019

Volume 241, No. 11

Whole No. 7,062



Patricia Cruzan
Editor

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Kevin Butler, Carl Greene, Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green, Nicholas J. Kersten, Isaac Floyd, John J. Pethtel, Andy Samuels, 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 175th 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.

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

SDB Website: seventhdaybaptist.org

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (818) 468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

SDBs ONLINE

<https://seventhdaybaptist.org>

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

<https://twitter.com/7thDayBaptists>

<https://7thDayBaptists.tumblr.com/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/7thDayBaptists/>

<https://www.sabbathrecorder.com>

Can you hear Me now?

By Tyler Chroniger



By the title, you can assume one of two things. You can assume I am referring to an old Verizon commercial or you can assume that I am speaking to you directly. This works in how we listen to God our Father's voice. I am sure that at times He is sitting on His throne asking this very question of us. Can we hear Him? What does His voice sound like? How does this all work? The only response to these questions is to try and explain how I hear God's voice. Hearing His voice first happens in my mind.

I have come to learn that most of the time something speaks to me. This isn't an audible voice I hear but it is thoughts that course through my mind. There are thoughts of insecurity, fear, doubt, anxiety, worry, depression, and even frustration or anger. There are thoughts to do certain things or say certain things. Thoughts of happiness, remembrance, sorrow, or empathy are present also. Where do these thoughts come from? Why do I have them? What do I even do with them? In order to understand my thoughts, I must search scriptures.

Romans 12:2 talks about the renewal of your mind. Philippians 4:6-8 talks about not being anxious about anything. Romans 8:5-6 talks about living by setting our minds on things of the flesh or the things

Continued on next page...

I need to "listen" to thoughts that remind me I am loved by God,
I am His child, and I will be taken care of.

Continued from previous page...

of God. Matthew 22:37 talks about loving God with heart, soul and mind. There are more verses like these, but the reason I give them is because it sets up this idea that my mind is a battlefield. Philippians said don't be anxious, but I get anxious. Matthew said love God with my mind but sometimes I don't. The point is that there is a conflict taking place in my mind. I am warring against myself. If God is good, faithful, and true, then why do these thoughts overtake me at times? I have to weed out the bad thoughts. I have to make a decision not to "listen" to the thoughts of anxiousness, depression, fear, etc. I need to "listen" to thoughts that remind me I am loved by God, I am His child, and I will be taken care of. Most Christians should relate to this struggle. Let me take this a step further—when I think about what to do or what to say.

I try to use this rule when I have a thought to do something or say something. If it is good and there are no extreme consequences, go for it. I start with weeding out the good and bad thoughts. The example I like to give is having the thought to jump off a bridge. Most of us can clearly determine this isn't good. What about a thought to compliment someone? That seems good. I speak up and try it. The more I focus on these good thoughts and step out in faith, the more God reveals Himself. The more I step out in faith, the more I understand how He "speaks" to me. This is the primary way God speaks to me.

I have thoughts in my mind that come from somewhere. It is either God, the devil and his demons, or something else. I have to weigh the good and bad

thoughts against Scripture. When it comes to doing or trying something, I weigh the good versus the bad, and then act. The more I act, the more my faith grows in learning to trust what I "hear." This isn't the only way God communicates with me. He "speaks" to me through dreams as well as through other people.

When I have a dream that I believe is from God, I write it down. Through prayer or seeking someone who is more spiritually mature with dreams, I try seeking what it means. A lot of the time, weeks or months later, I am reminded of a dream that applies to my current situation. I have had people tell me they have dreams about me. They tell me their dreams which usually apply to a future situation I will be going through.

Finally, God "speaks" through people to me. People, whom I trust, say God told me to tell you this. I simply write these thoughts down and pray God will reveal the truth in what they are saying. This idea is from 1 John 4, which says test the spirits. I don't trust every word as "gospel." I take them to heart in order to weigh them against what I know about God and what I know about the person.

God "speaks" to me through my thoughts, Scripture, dreams, and other people. I test what I hear or at least write it down. I might not always respond in the proper way or I might miss something. I even might get it totally wrong. I am even sure that God is still going to ask the question, "Can you hear Me now?" as I continue to grow in my relationship with Him. SR



HEARING GOD'S VOICE

By Cheri Appel

START WITH PRAYER. PRACTICE LISTENING.

Years ago, I heard a speaker talk about hearing God. She emphasized *listening* for His voice. She directed us to pray about it, sincerely and often. Thereafter, driving to work each morning, I asked the Holy Spirit to help me hear my Father's voice, recognize it, and know what He wanted to do through me (John 14:26). God had put within me a desire to be used this way.

About the same time, a wise friend and mentor told me that each night she sat on her bed with her hands out, palms up, open to receive. She prayed, then *listened quietly and expectantly*. She believed God would speak to her. She was ready and willing to hear Him. Like her, I practiced *listening for God's voice*. I wondered, "How would I know it was His voice?"

As an early childhood educator, I had learned that infants know the sound of their parents' voices by listening, both in the womb and after birth. Pediatricians look for this in the baby's growth. At just a few months old, an infant will respond in a measurable way to this familiar voice. The young child will look around the room for their mother's face. It makes sense then, doesn't it? We are able to recognize and respond to our Father's voice by listening and memorizing it.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

READ GOD'S WORD. STUDY THE PROPHETS.

My journey in this endeavor continued with Scripture. A Christian co-worker told me to reread all about the prophets in the Bible, not only what they said, but how God spoke to them. It didn't take long to realize God got their attention in various ways. Samuel heard his name being called (1 Samuel 3); Moses was drawn to a burning bush (Exodus 3); Elijah recognized God's whisper in the quiet (1 Kings 19); God made Jonah listen by arranging extreme circumstances (Jonah 1-4); and John time-traveled in a vision (Revelation 1).

I learned that, with the exception of Jesus, God's prophets were normal people like us. They did not hear God's voice all the time. They were capable of sin, but tried to live a life set apart. They loved God and were very familiar with Him. Although imperfect humans, for the most part they desired to serve God and were obedient. They aged. (Moses was old!) They worked, married, and had families. And, except for Elijah, they died. Because they were faithful and engaged with Him, God used them as messengers, visionaries, and examples. (Hosea 1)

As an illustration of how we can know our Father, Jesus spoke of sheep (John 10:1-4). Each flock of these truly dumb animals know and respond to their individual shepherd's voice. The shepherd counts them as they leave their pen each morning. They hear him prodding them forward to graze in new pastures. He speaks to them throughout the day. When he gives commands to his dog and calls a lamb that is straying from the group, they learn the inflections of his voice. At day's end, he counts them again as they enter into the pen. This relationship between sheep and shepherd can mean the difference between life and death! If we are listening, it is possible for us to know our Shepherd's voice!

LOOK FOR GOD AT WORK IN EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, AND EVERYONE.

A seasoned pastor, who I spent ten years learning from, professes NOT to believe in coincidences. He only sees God-incidences. This taught me to *look for God* at work in every circumstance. When you change how you observe life's happenings, it will become second nature for you to see His orchestration, control and perfect timing all around. Your praise and thanks to God will go on all day!

KNOW GOD'S TRUE CHARACTER.

The prophets knew that God would only tell them to do things that were according to His perfect and pure character. He will not go against His own Holy Righteousness. When Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days, He knew His Father's character. He refused to "fall" for the offerings of Satan, even though they were plucked from God's Word and made sense in an earthly view. Jesus, the Word, knew the Eternal big picture and would not undermine it. (Matthew 4)

One afternoon at summer camp, a young girl asked, "How does God speak to people?" Her youthful strong faith and desire to hear God inspired and spurred me on in my own quest for the same! I took this as a sign, brought by this most unexpected messenger, that we were both on the "right track" to fulfill the desires of our hearts. Desires put in place by our Creator, Father.

When I did hear God, it was audible. Alone in my car, I heard His Words distinctly. He broke through my everyday thoughts and commanded my attention. It was very clear. He spoke in brief sentences, specifically. He repeated the same words two times, and when I questioned it, He repeated the command word for word a third time. I realized this was not my speech pattern, nor my "inner" voice used for talking to myself.

It was not a combination of words I would use, nor how I put sentences together. Interestingly enough, I only heard the voice in my left ear. Each time He spoke, I heard nothing in my right ear, only in my left! This was my first experience. Yours may be very different.

HAVE NO DOUBT. CONFIRM WITH GOD. TAKE HIS PEACE.

Although what God commanded me to do was odd, there was no doubt in my mind that He had spoken to me. I have heard people say, “I *feel* like God wants me to do this.” or “I’m *not sure*, but I think God is telling me to say that.” I have not found a Bible reference for *feeling like* God spoke to you, nor one indicating not being sure of God’s voice. God does not lead us by feelings.

God’s words will stand out in your mind. You may have questions. Moses, Samuel, and Gideon did! Put out a fleece (Judges 6:36). Pray that the command either continues on the forefront of your mind or that it fades from your thoughts within 24 hours. There may be others, even strangers, who speak to confirm what you heard. Ask respected Christian mentors—sometimes without prompting, the advice of others will be almost word for word what you are hearing! Within seven days you may have as many as three clear confirmations.

The scriptures tell us that it is okay to respectfully confirm His commands and then be obedient. **DO NOT** allow Satan to get in the way. Use the powerful name of **Jesus!** Tell demonic doubt to “**Get out!**” (Matthew 16:23). Memorize His voice and how He speaks to you. Tell others your exciting story! SR



When you are willing,

*He will bless you
in ways you never imagined!*



Just by Your Being You

*A summary of
Sabbath morning's message*

By Nicholas J. Kersten

Text: 2 Kings 6:8-23

When I was asked to preach on the topic of identity by our Conference President, my first impulse as a preacher was to search for cultural references I could use for an introduction. Because I'm a child of the late 1980s and early 1990s, I remembered many seminal moments from my early life that drove the point home, but as I continued to think of examples, I realized there was one example that was best: the life and work of Fred Rogers.

Mister Rogers has had a second boom of popularity recently, years after his death in 2003, which seems to correspond to a cultural desire for kindness and civility. A new movie starring Tom Hanks is in production, and a recent documentary film released two years ago did surprisingly well. The documentary film and the interviews have driven home to me one overarching theme of Fred's life and work: he believed that God had made each child in our world special, and they had important work to do which he believed he aided best by affirming that he valued them. This valuing was expressed often by him as he spoke into a camera to tell his audience that they each made the world a better place, "...just by your being you."

Mister Rogers is not the only historical person to act from his biblical convictions to deliver this message. In the text of 2 Kings 6:8-23, the prophet Elisha seems to act from a similar conviction for his own life. We also

discover that Elisha is a conduit for the work of God by being who God made him and called him to be. When a follower of God grasps their identity, the power of God can be unleashed in a place—and the power of God is released in His Church when His people both know and live from their identity. Elisha will teach us about our identity in four specific ways in this text.

In it, we find Elisha is caught in a bit of international intrigue between the nations of Aram (Syria) and Israel. Elisha is receiving information from God about the military actions of the Syrians and he is giving it to the King of Israel. In this way, the King of Israel is being repeatedly saved from certain destruction (6:8-10). This understandably frustrates and angers the King of Aram, to the point where he accuses his own advisors of treason (6:11-12). When he is informed that Elisha is "the leak," the King makes plans to locate and capture him (6:13).

Having discovered his location, the King of Aram sends troops to surround the city of Dothan at night. In the morning, when Elisha's servant goes outside, he discovers the city is surrounded and is understandably alarmed (6:15). Elisha then informs his servant that, "...those who are with us are more than those who are with them." He prays for God to grant sight to his servant to see the armies of God, who are encamped in the area. God grants this request (6:16-17). When the Arameans attack Dothan to capture Elisha, he prays again, this

The power of God is released in His Church when His people both know and live from their identity

time for the advancing soldiers to be struck blind, and again, God answers Elisha's prayer. With the now-blind army seeking guidance, Elisha leads the entire force straight into Samaria, the capital of Israel (6:18-19). In Samaria, Elisha prays for the soldiers' sight to be restored, and this prayer is answered. The King of Israel, upon seeing the enemy soldiers delivered to him, asks what he should do, ostensibly because he expects to destroy them (6:20-21). But instead of commanding destruction, Elisha suggests that the King of Israel hold a feast, and send the invading troops home. The King of Israel does this. When the King of Aram gets his attacking force back unharmed from the party, the raids on Israel stop temporarily (6:22-23).

This is an incredible story in which God uses his servant, the prophet Elisha, to achieve an amazing and improbable result: a ceasefire is achieved without a drop of blood being spilled or a single person being hurt. How? Through a single obedient man, the prophet Elisha. But how does Elisha facilitate this result? Look at the list of things that Elisha does in this story:

- He relates messages from the Lord to the King of Israel.
- He rolls out of bed.
- He prays 4 times.
- He walks to Samaria.
- He attends a feast (assuming he stayed for the party).

Nothing that Elisha does in this story gives any indication that something great would be achieved through him by his actions—nothing he does screams, “HERO!” All of the things he does are standard parts of what it means to be an Old Testament prophet. That is precisely the point—God (the actual hero of this story) achieves a God-sized result through one single man doing what God gave him to do. God does the heavy lifting in this story. The only thing that was necessary to achieve this outsized result was for Elisha to be who God made him to be.

The truth that we only need to be what God made us to be—to do what God has made us to do—has powerful applications for our lives. But in order for us to fully apply this truth and live it, we need to know our own identities. As you think about this truth for your own life, who has God made you to be? What is your identity?

To aid us in understanding our identity, I have devised four self-tests we can use to help us find or recover our God-given identities in Christ.

TEST #1: Can you clearly articulate your identity? Is it distinguishably yours?

If you can't articulate your identity, you probably don't understand it. Likewise, if your identity isn't clearly yours, you probably haven't dug deep enough to discern it. Obviously, there are parts of our identity that we share with all people made in God's image. Likewise, as followers of Jesus Christ, there are aspects that we share. Can you articulate those from the Scriptures? Beyond those things which are true of us broadly as humans and believers, what is most true of you specifically? If you can't articulate it, it's time to go back and study and pray. Begin there! In our text, Elisha clearly lives from a clear sense of identity. He does what a prophet does—which is what his calling is!

For SDBs particularly, this is an area of struggle. Out of fear, many of us (both individually and corporately) have retreated from a strong sense of identity for fear of who may not share it. This is a hopeless strategy. Our identity as Seventh Day Baptists can't be that we don't have one. The same God who called the first SDBs is still operational and has saved us and called us so that we can be us—not so we can pretend to be someone else! But a strong sense of identity requires us to articulate it clearly.

TEST #2: Is your identity distinctly yours, or just you coveting someone else's?

Too many of us think it is holy to covet someone else's identity or calling. While few of us would say outright that we wish we were someone else or had their gifts, there are clearly identities and callings that some Christians never seem to want. Our real identity in Christ is always something we want once we have it. Many of us spend our lives seeking our identity and purpose by trying to approximate someone else's, all the while blind to the fact that seeking God honestly and obediently will lead us to the identity that will bring us the greatest sense of fulfillment and purpose, as well as the one which leads to us having the greatest impact for God's kingdom in the world. It's tragic to seek purpose, fulfillment, and impact by looking at another person or thing when all we really need to do is to seek God. When we do that, we find our real selves in Him and we get everything else along with it. As we find ourselves in God, the world can also find God through us in our obedient service to Him.

Continued on next page...

Just by Your Being You

Continued from previous page...

One day, all of us will stand before the throne of God and we will have to give an accounting of what was given to us. But we will not have to give an accounting for something we were not given—a gift we weren't given, a ministry we weren't appointed to, a resource we never had. In our text, Elisha doesn't attempt anything outside the normal roles of a prophet: he gives no military orders; he doesn't pick up a sword; he doesn't try to rule a kingdom or install himself as a leader. He just does his job. In Christ, we aren't saved by what we do, so our salvation isn't at risk here, but the power of Christ's church to reach the lost depends on us playing our part.

TEST #3: Does your identity describe you now, or the way you want to be?

Identity is never aspirational—it describes what you are now in God. It's not wrong to want to be sanctified in the Lord, but if you're not fully sanctified now, you need to own that reality on some level—not that being a sinner fully defines us as redeemed followers of Jesus, but we have to acknowledge we're not perfected yet. This is especially a problem in the realm of competition and comparison. Too often, we talk about our identity and claim an identity we wish we had or one we will have in the future, while we judge other people by a single thing they've done in their past. Elisha in our story very clearly acts from a strong sense of what he already is. We should do the same.

TEST #4: Does your identity point towards your eternal future or does it keep you bound up in your painful past? Does it needlessly reduce you to less than God made you to be?

While identity is never aspirational, our future eternal reality is an important part of who we are. We aren't less than eternal beings at this point. Perfect? No. Eternal? Yes! Anything that keeps you tied to a painful past

or reduces you to the sum of your worst moments is not your identity. Our painful pasts and brokenness are precisely what Christ died for when He made us eternal. The mercy and grace and love in that forgiveness are not only the most important parts of our identity, they are also the primary things we have as a church to offer a broken world. This world constantly reduces people to less than God made them to be, and sometimes far less. As believers in Christ, we shouldn't join the world in that behavior, either for ourselves or others. Two main temptations are culturally the most obvious examples of overreduction at this point: our politics and our sexual ethics. No person made in God's image who Christ died for should be reduced to how they vote. No person made in God's image who Christ died for should be reduced to how they use their sexual parts. We need to keep the first things (and the first Kingdom) first in how we engage our world. We are not reducible to sins we commit. If you claim something as your identity that Christ died for, you are saying that the sacrifice of Christ is of no value.

Our witness to the saving work of Christ is tied to our willingness to own both our sins and our redemption in Christ. We don't have to be trapped in our past and present sins because our present reality is also to be fully redeemed and restored and empowered in Christ. Too many Christians attempt to fight sin in their lives by focusing on their sin—that's exactly backwards. If your identity is in Christ, you don't fight sin by focusing on it—you run from it to Christ and let Him obliterate it.

Jesus is the source of our true identity. We are most us when we are with Him and He's already at work in the world. Like Elisha, we can see God-sized results independent of our size or sin simply by being what God made us to be. When we do that, we will be able to do what we are called to do individually, in our churches, and as a Conference. Jesus Christ is waiting for you in His Word, in prayer, and in the world. Seek Him and find yourself in that seeking so that we can actively advance God's kingdom together. SR



Jesus is the source of our true identity

Be careful who you travel with. I wish my mother had taught me that lesson more thoroughly. Traveling with Nick Kersten, SDB Director of Education and History, can be...interesting. While one can use "interesting" on a number of levels when traveling with Nick, I want to focus on intentionality and evangelism.

Nick had lined up our flight arrangements. Nick intentionally selected a window seat and an aisle seat—with an open seat between us. The goal was two-fold. First, we might end up with a vacant seat between us to be able to sprawl outside of our economy-sized seating. Second, to intentionally create space for someone whom God might send who is looking to talk about Jesus.



My intentionality preparing for the flight was to take my Dramamine (traveling with me can be interesting without motion sickness tablets). I was getting all cozy in my seat, preparing for a two-hour nap when Nick's intentionality kicked in. The full flight did indeed place someone in the seat next to me. A very talkative person who had no care about my drowsy plan for sleep. After some small talk about state of residence, family, and travel, we entered into a conversation about work. When I mentioned the word "Baptist," I received the reply, "OOhhh, Baptist." There was not a positive vocal inflection with that statement. It sounded more like I had just sucked all the joy and enthusiasm out of the plane cabin by stating the word "Baptist."


This presented an open door for some deeper conversation. I said that I would love to hear about why "Baptist" has that connotation. This led to a conversation about faith, Jesus, life struggles, and questions about God. Powerful two-hour conversation thanks to the leading of the Spirit leveraging Nick's intentionality. And one more thing.

What happened to Nick in this story? Nick got moved at the beginning of our flight to make space for someone who needed that aisle seat. Nick spent the two-hour flight praying for the conversation that had been seeded. Once again, intentionality the whole way through. Intentionality reminiscent of the Book of Acts.

The Book of Acts is a powerful story about the work of the Holy Spirit: in, through, and among the early church. The church was taking steps with great intentionality to advance God's kingdom through mission and evangelism. The church clearly had a strategy in their outreach, care, and communication—yet a sensitivity to the disruptions and interruptions of life that the Spirit uses to open doors for mission and evangelism. In the end, intentionality involved wise planning, sensitivity to the Spirit, and prayer.

As a General Conference, we are likewise seeking to move forward with intentionality. Our planning surrounds the mission to equip churches to actively advance God's kingdom. We follow the Spirit's leading by joining God in the work that He is already doing catalyzing church planting, inspiring church revitalization, stirring up leadership development, and prompting gospel saturation. We are intentionally praying for our churches, our pastors, our church leaders, our SDB Directors and staff, denomination volunteers, and faithful ministry leaders.

It is with intentionality that we are seeking to communicate as a General Conference. This intentionality is through sharing about the ministries we focus on, and increasingly utilizing a variety of modes for our communication. From the standard-bearer *Sabbath Recorder* publication to blog posts you can follow at <https://seventhdaybaptist.org/blog/> to upcoming on-line events such as "Giving Tuesday" (which will take place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving), there is intentionality in what we communicate, how we communicate it, along with why it is being communicated.

As we seek to be intentional in our next steps as a General Conference, let's take a page from Nick's notebook. Keep space in the figurative seat next to you so there is time and energy to communicate and listen well. Be ready to communicate with intentionality—both in speaking as well as reading and listening. Finally, press on praying. 



By Carl Greene
Executive Director

Seventh Day Baptist Missionary

Please consider discussing with your family about adding some of these to your Christmas gift list. Some of our SDB families have made it part of their year-end tradition to select items from our suggested gift list to support the ministry work of our SDB brethren around the world. During this season, let us celebrate the greatness of our Father's love, with the greatest gift of all, Christ Jesus, by sharing a gift with our SDB brethren around the world.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider how the blessings you have received may help you be involved in God's ministry through the Missionary Society.

Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart..

—1 Chronicles 29:9



FOCUS on
Missions

Andy Samuels

Chief Executive Director
SDB Missionary Society

Society Christmas Gift List 2019

Children's Relief Support

- 1 - Helping orphans transition into new homes (Suggested gift: \$30)
- 2 - Aid for children distressed by war & conflicts (Suggested gift: \$50)
- 3 - Buy seeds for food gardens in Uganda (Suggested gift: \$25)
- 4 - Dengue-and-malaria-preventing mosquito nets (Suggested gift: \$10)



Community Outreach Ministries

- 5 - Shoes and clothing for the sick and poor (Suggested gift: \$25)
- 6 - Life-saving medicine (Suggested gift: \$12)
- 7 - Bibles and Gospel tracts for developing world congregations (Suggested gift: \$20)
- 8 - Food and water in communities facing disasters (Suggested gift: \$45)



SDB Discipleship & Training

- 9 - International TIME Program books & leadership Bibles (Suggested gift: \$25)
- 10 - Ship SDB *Helping Hand* overseas for a year (Suggested gift: \$22)
- 11 - Share in short-term mission trip expenses (Suggested gift: \$100)
- 12 - Pastors' assistance (Suggested gift: \$40)



Sustainable Development

- 13 - Freshwater wells (Suggested gift:\$400 / Share the cost: \$40)
- 14 - Buy seeds for an orphanage garden in Uganda (Suggested gift: \$25)
- 15 - Pregnant heifer (Suggested gift:\$500 / Share the cost: \$50)
- 16 - Sponsor sustainable family Chicken Project (Suggested gift: \$350 /Share the cost: \$35)



The Power of Connection



Over the past several years in my work in Christian Education, I have become impressed with two core truths about our work as Seventh Day Baptists in this area. The first truth is that our people and congregations uniformly care deeply about producing mature believers in Jesus Christ. The second truth is that no two of our churches undertake this work the same way (nor should they!). These two truths create something of a challenge, however, for the person attempting to coordinate our efforts as a confederation of churches because there is (1) incredible passion for this work and (2) many of us are committed to the way we are doing it!

As we at the Christian Education Council have considered how we might encourage our local churches in this core work of the Christian life, we have therefore tried to take our cue from local churches. So many of our local churches have dedicated people who are working in discipleship, education, mentoring (either formally or informally), leadership development, and spiritual formation who are working alone, apart from the fellowship of others with similar callings and passions, that the situation cries out for a network of SDBs who can regularly connect and discuss these sorts of issues.

It is, no doubt, that reality which drove the Christian Education Interest Committee at Conference in 2017 to suggest the creation of an online forum which could be used to facilitate these conversations.

As we explored options to create the forum, we were persuaded that rather than a forum, we might be better off creating a community of educators and disciplers using the online chat program *Slack*. We started an online community before Conference 2018 in response to the Interest Committee's recommendation, but that


community has not seen enrollment and engagement as we hoped—perhaps in part because it was not promoted successfully.

This month, I would like you to consider joining the community of folks having conversations about Christian Education among SDBs on *Slack*, so that we can all benefit from one another's experience in these things! Are you a Sabbath School teacher or Bible study leader in an SDB church? Do you work in the children's or youth ministry in your local SDB church? Are you trying to reach people with the Gospel? Do you care about spiritual formation and spiritual disciplines? Do you have a passion to minister to SDB young adults? If the answer is "yes" to one or more of these questions, please send me an email, and I will add you to one or more of the communities having these discussions on *Slack*!

If you think there is room for a conversation that we aren't having yet, we can always add additional conversations, so please email me with your suggestion for the conversation you'd like to participate in! It is important for us to share our experiences with one another as Seventh Day Baptists, as what God is doing in one place may help what God wants to do in another place! The relationships we have with one another are exceedingly important, and the availability of this online conversation community is just another way for you to be equipped to serve our Lord!

Channels Currently Operational:

- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Evangelism
- Sabbath School/Bible Study
- Spiritual Disciplines

To participate in the online *Slack* discussions among SDBs or to see a list of the channels that are currently available, please contact Nick Kersten by email: nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org. 



Christian
Education
Council

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education
and History

Glaring at me with a no-nonsense look, she asked, “When was your last eye exam?”

The Department of Motor Vehicles is not known for its sense of humor. But I still joked, “Um, next week??”

I knew that I had botched the vision test to renew my driver’s license. Even after all that studying. Then I remembered, “Oh, I do have my distance glasses with me.”

“Well, why don’t we put them on and we’ll try again,” the DMV worker wearily suggested.

Whoa! There were actual letters in the viewer! I passed, but needed to have the corrective lenses restriction added to the license this time. At my last renewal, they let me squint and squeak by without using those specs that I’ve worn for years while driving.

I definitely need to fix my eyes.

Is that what Hebrews 12:2 is saying? That we need to wear corrective lenses?

Well, spiritually, for sure.

There are so many Bible translations out there. I’m rather partial to the earlier New International Version. It was heavily in use soon after I became a born-again believer, then I learned that a former president of the Christian college I was attending (Houghton) served on the editorial board for the NIV.

In seminary, one exercise we did at our Greek class was to translate a verse or passage, then compare how various Bible versions interpreted it.

The NIV renders Hebrews 12:2 as “fixing our eyes on Jesus” (as does the New American Standard, the Good News Translation, and Phillips). The KJV, English Standard, and Revised Standard say “looking to Jesus.” **Fixing** our eyes on Him carries the idea that we “keep our eyes” on Jesus, which is how the Holman, Living, Contemporary English, New Century, and Message versions portray it.

After wrestling with the text, our Greek class would read (and sometimes laugh or groan at) other translations on the market. The Amplified Bible was always a treat. It’s like a team of translators wanted to squeeze out every nuance and meaning of every verse—hence, “amplify.” It’s basically a Bible on steroids.

But I think they really nail the meaning of this part of the verse in Hebrews: “[looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus...”



It’s keeping our eyes and heart away from the stuff that can drag us down, and to focus, look, fix our eyes on the Lord.

As I looked ahead to Conference 2020, I had always felt that it should pertain to vision. Several people made that suggestion to me as well.

My first thought was Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” True, but pretty negative for a rallying theme.

It was our son Matthew, a pastor of liturgy in North Las Vegas, who immediately thought of Hebrews 12:2. I’m so glad he did. It’s a positive command to fix our eyes on Jesus, followed by reasons we should do that.

A member of our Conference prayer team, Julia Coleman, forwarded a prophetic message having to do with 20/20 and clear vision. Then she wrote, “We might think that people will get the inference of 2020 being vision, or fixing our eyes on Jesus, a ‘clever’ concoction. The risk of ridicule or contempt for what the Lord presents as His revelatory topic is possible.”

She ended with this prayer: “Lord, I pray that Your Spirit will work in the hearts of Your people and the Body of Christ to receive Your fulfilled promised Word. Perfect our vision, O Author and Perfecter of our faith.”

I believe this is God’s idea for God’s Conference for God’s glory. I am humbled and excited to be part of it. Please join us as we rethink and refocus our vision to see Jesus more clearly. [SR](#)



Childlike Faith

It has been over two months since Conference ended. Most everyone remembers that time after Conference. It stinks. Conference is a time every year that the young adults look forward to for a long time. It is a time to reconnect with friends from previous years, meet new friends, and worship together with people our age that worship the same day we do. You wait all year for that time.

You get to spend an amazing week together with your friends, then everyone leaves to go back to their normal lives. But we don't leave everything behind at Conference. The memories we take with us help us grow in our relationship with God and our relationship with each other.

Going into Conference this year, I thought it was going to be like last year. I go, see my friends, find things to keep me busy, then go home missing my friends like crazy. Man was I wrong!

This last year at Conference I was in charge of the children's musical. When my grandma first asked me about writing and directing the musical I was nervous to say the least. But it turned out to be one of the most amazing experiences ever! I had heard the phrase "faith like a child" multiple times—but before Conference I had never really gotten to experience it for myself. While teaching the music during Children's Conference I got to watch the kids worship. When the music would come on it was like a switch flipped in them. They suddenly weren't watching what was going on around them or what their friends were doing. In that time you could see that it was just them and God. All they wanted to do was spend time with God.

I want to worship like that. To just close my eyes and be transported to my place where I can have time—just me and God. What does your quiet place with God look like? These kids taught me so much about faith in worship. So my challenge to you is to look at the children around you, in your home, in your church, etc. Watch them worship. Look for that childlike faith they have. Then learn from them.

Last year's Conference theme was "People Get Ready." Are you ready? Are you ready to work on your faith and the way you worship? Are you ready to be like a child in your faith? Are you ready to ignore the world around you and be with God? So as we prepare for next year's Conference let's turn our eyes towards Jesus and let Him change our faith into that of a child's. So that when God says "Go," we don't ask questions or doubt. We trust that God's got it covered and we GO! SR



THE BEACON

By Kayleigh Mackintosh

Though the Mountains May Crumble, You Will Not

Sometimes we are hit with something and it doesn't make sense why it is going on in our lives. We are constantly told as Christians that God's timing is everything and to trust it. But let's admit it, we all have trouble trusting the timing and it takes us time to admit defeat and submit fully to God's plan.

Today is Tuesday, October 1, 2019, and for the past couple of days I have been dealing with a very annoying eye infection. Monday morning I woke up with my eye swollen shut and had to call off work and race over to the doctor's office to find out what happened to my eye overnight. Something I simply thought was a bug bite ended up turning into a contagious eye infection that is going to keep me out of work for four more days. Four days of missing work means four days of not getting paid, which means a much smaller paycheck.

I am a newlywed, which to some may indicate money is pretty tight. Life goes paycheck to paycheck—so finding out I was going to be out of work really made me question things. Thoughts of why this had to happen now when money was already tight began to go through my head. Questions of why God decided this moment was the moment for me to get “sick” ran through my mind. I don't have the answer for that fully yet. Maybe He wanted me to slow down and catch up on things. We never know—God's ways are mysterious to us. This situation brought me to a conclusion: why not turn lemons into lemonade and write an article about it?

I've been reflecting a lot lately on God's timing and wondering why He does the things He does. Why we wait for certain things and why some things come sooner than planned? I admit it: lately my trust and faith in God has been on the ice—but I'm working on it; none of us are perfect. Anyone who believes your trust in God is unbreakable, send a message my way.

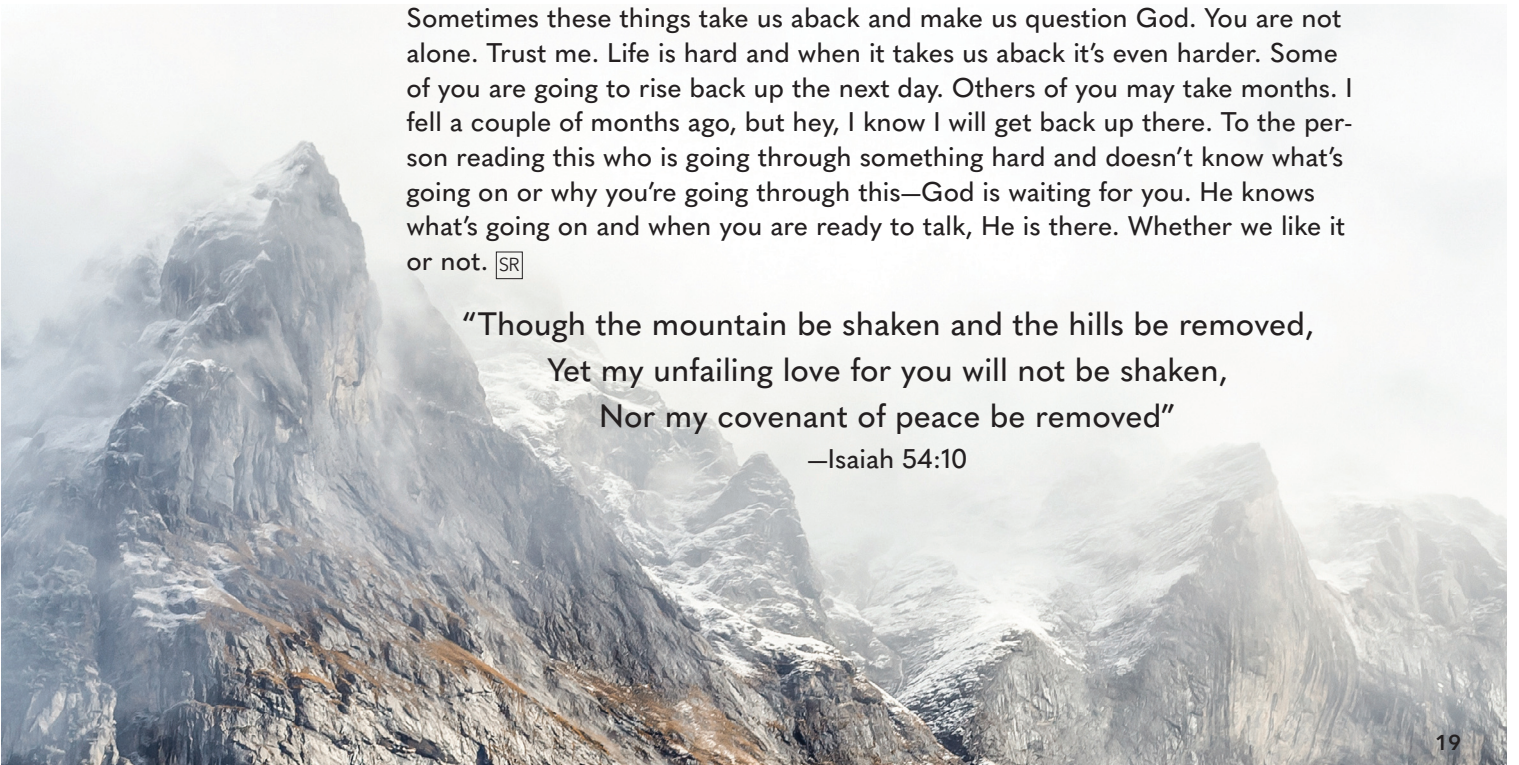
Young Adult

By Sarina Villalpando

The moral of this is faith takes some people more time to grow than others. Sometimes we fall and it takes us a moment to rise back up. Sometimes we hit a road bump that we did not plan on hitting and it throws us to the curbs. Sometimes these things take us aback and make us question God. You are not alone. Trust me. Life is hard and when it takes us aback it's even harder. Some of you are going to rise back up the next day. Others of you may take months. I fell a couple of months ago, but hey, I know I will get back up there. To the person reading this who is going through something hard and doesn't know what's going on or why you're going through this—God is waiting for you. He knows what's going on and when you are ready to talk, He is there. Whether we like it or not. [SR](#)

“Though the mountain be shaken and the hills be removed,
Yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken,
Nor my covenant of peace be removed”

—Isaiah 54:10



A GOLDEN WEDDING, WITHOUT GOLD OR SILVER, BOTH BEING STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Shiloh, NJ, August 7, 1871

In the year 1844, Geo. R. Wheeler and Hannah, his wife, and nine children, came to America from Olney, England; landed in New York; and from there they came to the City of Salem, South New Jersey. He was of the occupation of a watchmaker and jeweler. ... [He] opened a small shop for repairing and job business. He had for many years been acknowledged as an itinerant or village preacher by the Baptist church to which he belonged. ... In 1846, after prayerful investigation, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler came to the conclusion that it was their privilege and duty to remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. They changed their membership from the First-day Baptist church at Salem to the Seventh-day Baptist church at Shiloh. ... The Shiloh church soon called brother Wheeler to ordination. Since that time he has been known by his preaching, writing, and his general associations, as a reputable minister of the Seventh-day Baptist denomination.



A few weeks ago, we received a letter from them, informing us that the fourth of August, 1871, would be the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, and inviting some of their old friends at Shiloh and Marlboro to come to Salem and spend the day with them, stating that silver and gold would be strictly prohibited; they did not need it, neither did they want it. Arrangements were made to go. The day was very warm, but at ten o'clock carriages began to arrive, until they numbered sixteen. The guests, numbering over forty,

were cordially received and had a hearty welcome to the marriage festival. ... At one o'clock dinner was announced, and we were escorted into the dining room. ... The table was loaded with common necessities, and with many luxuries. There were two large bride's cakes, one of them marked August 4, 1821, the other August 4, 1871. The table was adorned with three beautiful bouquets, one of

them containing fifty different varieties of flowers. After all the company had dined, they were invited to engage in some religious exercises. Various select pieces were sung. ... The ninetyeth Psalm was read by W.B. Gillette, followed by a short address; then an address from Eld. Morton. Eld. Wheeler then arose and told us that he would give us a brief history of himself and family, which he did in a feeling and intelligent manner. ... It will long be remembered by those who heard it. He was followed by his son Caleb...who paid a becoming tribute to his parents, who had done their duty faithfully to their children, and were worthy of their highest esteem and affection, especially for the religious training they had given. He was

followed by Mrs. Wheeler, who spoke very understandingly of the happy life they had lived as man and wife. ... After a few remarks from others, the lateness of the hour admonished us that we must close, when Dea. Hummell led us in prayer, while we commended this aged couple and theirs to our covenant-keeping God. Soon after, the company departed to their several homes, feeling gratified and profited that they had lived to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Rev. George R. Wheeler and Hannah, his worthy companion. They are now seventy-three years old—and yet their sight is not dim, and their youthful vigor is scarcely any abated. May they yet live long, to comfort each other, and to honor God, and bless the world. ^[SR]

—ONE OF THE GUESTS

Reprinted from *The Sabbath Recorder* 27, no. 34 (1871): 134. url: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/sabbathrecorderscan/SR+Vol+27+\(1871\)/Sabbath+Recorder_1871_27_34.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/sabbathrecorderscan/SR+Vol+27+(1871)/Sabbath+Recorder_1871_27_34.pdf)

Online access to the full *Sabbath Recorder* archives is free by going to <http://www.sdbhistory.org/resources/sabbath-recorder-archives/> but to access the index for locating such gems as the above, become a Friend of the Library by going to <http://www.sdbhistory.org/our-mission/library-sponsorships/>



Council
on History

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten

Director of Education
and History

Consistent Thankfulness

...And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3: 15b-17

Colossians 3 begins by telling us to throw off our old selves for we are new creations in Christ and we should fix our minds on things above. Paul then gives us a fantastic list of things we should avoid in order to accomplish this. Then he gives us a list of things we should do and replace those things in the avoid category. He ends the positive “do these things” list with thankfulness.

Paul begins verse 15 with “let peace rule your hearts” and ends it with “...and be thankful.” Okay, Paul, sounds good...we’re moving on. He then writes to let the word of Christ dwell in you, teaching and admonishing one another in wisdom... singing psalms, hymns, etc.—basically do church together. Sounds good. Then we’re back to thankfulness. Why did he choose to structure these verses that way?

Typically, when I’m writing I try to keep like items together, keeping the organization and ideas flowing nicely into one another. This is very different from the way I speak, chasing rabbit holes and the like. But I try not to disappear down rabbit holes when I’m writing something for another person or I am trying to get an important idea across in writing. If you can accept that Paul, more or less, wrote in the same manner, even with his fondness for run-on sentences, then the thankful sandwich here means he wants us to be thankful for something.

I would argue that something he wants us to be thankful for is the church and not just the music. For many, the music in church is a highlight—there is an emotional connection with the hymns and songs we sing together at church. It’s easy to be thankful while we’re singing, especially while we’re

singing songs that highlight the goodness and mercy of God. But that sentence doesn’t only call out music as a time to be thankful.

How many of you feel thankful when you’ve just finished an awesome time of praise and maybe even prayer—and the pastor gets up to give his sermon which can last anywhere from 20 minutes to three hours? How many of you find it a time to be thankful when you have to spend time “admonishing” one another in the spirit of brotherly love?

Maybe it’s just me, but that is not really my typical experience. Three-hour sermons don’t typically make me thankful, even if interesting and well given. Either side of admonishment hasn’t stereotypically been related to thankfulness either. Thankfulness for these might come in retrospect but most often that takes time. The way these two pieces of church life are linked in this verse seems to suggest that we aren’t called to be thankful after retrospect has set in.

Being thankful to God isn’t constrained to when we are singing songs about His awesomeness. Certainly we absolutely should be thankful in those moments, instead of turning it off as soon as that time has passed. What if we carried that thankfulness to God throughout life’s moments that weren’t spiritual highs? I’m not saying we should be happy when we have to come to one another with burdens of sin on either side of that scenario, but rather that we should be thankful to God that He made a way for us to be renewed via His mercy and thankfulness.

So be thankful. Even when things are messy because—God is Good. All the time. [SR](#)



Women's Society

By Katrina Goodrich

PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION

Dear Friends,

We're planning Pacific Coast Association for Sabbath, November 16, 2019, at the Riverside SDB Church.

All are invited to sing in the choir as long as you come to practice that Sabbath. The Foothill Church will be our praise team. The Riverside folks will be serving a full Thanksgiving luncheon from 12:45-1:45 only. Pastor Bob Peet from Kingman, AZ, will bring the message during the morning service.

9:00Choir practice

9:45Set up praise

10:00Sabbath school

10:45Fellowship on the bridge

Praise practice

11:30Church service

12:45Thanksgiving luncheon

2:00Missions presentation

Cuba and the Middle East

3:00Pacific Coast executive meeting

3:30End of the special day

Folks, we hope to see many of you on PCA Sabbath at 5901 Chicago Ave., Riverside, CA 92503.

In love,

Jeremiah Owen and Pastor Gabe

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & PASTORAL SERVICES

Rev. John J. Pethtel, Director

jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org

office: (608) 752-5055 ext. 702

cell: (304) 629-9823

COMMUNICATIONS

Jeremiah Owen, Director

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

office: (608) 752-5055 ext. 700

cell: (818) 468-9077

EDUCATION & HISTORY

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten, Director

nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org

office: (608) 752-5055 ext. 701

cell: (608) 201-4850

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

Carl Greene, Executive Director

3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678,

Janesville, WI 53547-1678

cgreene@seventhdaybaptist.org

office: (608) 752-5055 ext. 703

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Andrew O. Samuels, Chief Executive Director

129 Main St. #156, Ashaway, RI 02804

info@sdbmissions.org

office: (401) 596-4326

PASTOR SEARCH

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

Shepherd's Fold SDB Church (Johnson City, TN) Assistant

Bay Area SDB Church (Pinole, CA)

Covenant SDB Fellowship (Hungry Horse, MT)

Pataskala SDB Church (Pataskala, OH)

Remembrance SDB Church (Ft. Worth, TX)

Edgewater SDB Church (Oak Hill, FL)

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 or call 608-752-5055 ext. 702



Church
Development &
Pastoral Services

By John J. Pethtel
Director

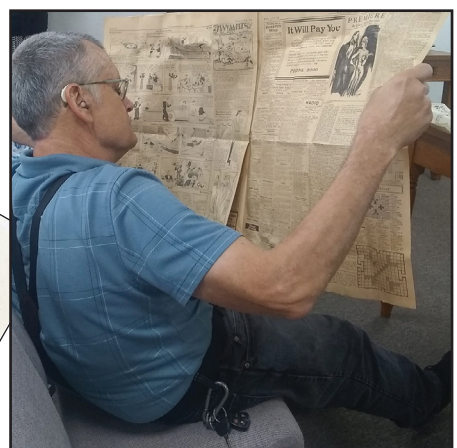
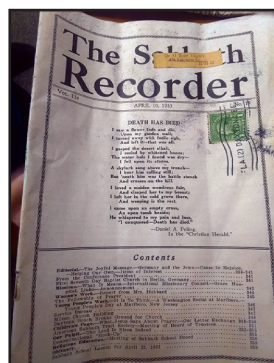
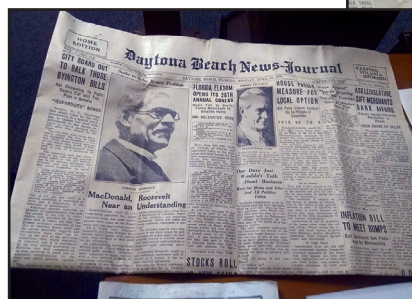
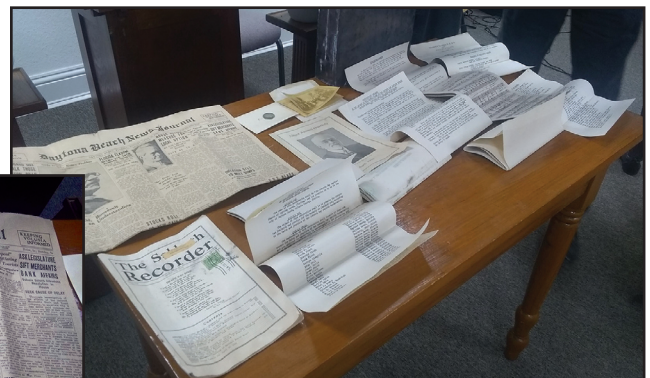
On September 21, 2019, the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, FL, hosted Central Florida Churches Day. Any time the Seventh Day Baptist churches in the Central Florida area gather together for worship is a special occasion. But this day was extra special for two reasons.

The first reason is that it was the first opportunity for several of the people who came to see our new facility. After being in the same location for 86 years, our congregation moved a mile across town into "The Mansion," an old home that was renovated to contain our worship facility downstairs and the parsonage upstairs. We held our first service in it and dedicated the building on August 17, 2019. This was our first attempt at hosting an event after getting somewhat settled in.

The other reason that this day was extra special is that we opened the time capsule that had been placed inside the cornerstone of our old building when it was built in 1933. We had just received the cornerstone and time capsule the day before, so God's perfect timing enabled us to share this special event with our sister churches.

Our church history book contained information about the time capsule, so we knew that it was there and what had been placed inside. However, in addition to the historical church documents that had been listed in the records, there was the bonus of finding a newspaper and some pictures. It was also interesting to find out that the currency of the day that was included was a 1909 liberty quarter.

If you would like to see our new facility and the items from the time capsule, come and see us. We love to have visitors. We would also welcome new members. So if you are tired of shoveling snow, come when you can stay a while. [SR](#)



My Disease

I have a disease more deadly than any knife.
It has filled me with demons, anguish and strife.
They call it addiction; it took over my life.
My mind, body and soul were in constant pain.
Depression consumed me like cold winter rain.
On the t-shirt of society, I was considered a stain.
Everything I worked for slipped down the drain.
So I began to pray, and was reminded what's to gain.
My unclear thoughts were all instantly slain.
My depression and fear both began to wane.
The Holy Spirit reminded me of all I'm worth
Because, from a virgin, came my Savior, a birth.
He was perfection, never sinned on this earth.
He was mocked with a crown of thorns, furthermore.
When His soul left His body, the temple curtains tore,
As the ground beneath began to rumble and roar.
I remembered how I'm the one Jesus died for!
I knew not what God had for me in store.
Then, out of my body, my demons did pour,
And I have learned, and now know for sure,
For my disease, Jesus is the only cure!
Thank God for my Savior and His heart so pure!

by Keith McCall II
son of Pastor Keith McCall
Edgewater/Oak Hill, FL, SDB Church

OBITUARY

WHEELER—Rev. Edgar Francis Wheeler died peacefully September 17, 2019, at home in Mesa, AZ.

Edgar was born October 28, 1920, in Nortonville, KS, to Ernest Raymond and Marie Edna Wheeler, the fourth of five children who survived infancy. There he spent his entire childhood. Some of his earliest memories were of his wonder at the sights, sounds, and smells of the prairie and farm. His child-like sense of awe inspired by the natural world and Kansas never waned.

About the time Edgar graduated from high school in 1938, he said he was "brought to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and felt called to become a minister." Over the next nine years he worked and attended several colleges including Wheaton (IL), Milton (WI), Alfred (NY), and Salem (WV) from which he graduated in 1947. He graduated from New Orleans Baptist Seminary in 1951. At the time of his death Edgar had been an accredited Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) minister for 65 years.

While in Salem, Edgar met and married Xenia Lee Fitz Randolph with whom he celebrated 71 years of marriage before she died in 2016.

Edgar was the pastor of the SDB churches in Metairie, LA; DeRuyter, NY (where he was ordained); Paint Rock, AL; Salemville, PA; Ashaway, RI; Denver, CO; and Nortonville, KS. In his retirement he was interim pastor at Lost Creek, WV, and Salemville, PA.

Edgar was the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference President in 1970 and served for 18 years on both the SDB Missionary Society Board and the Council on Ministry. During 1948-49, Edgar worked setting linotype for *The Sabbath*

Recorder in Plainfield, NJ (and later for the *Huntsville Times*).

"Pastor," as he was often known, directed many church camps for children, led a boy's 4-H club, served on PTA boards, drove a school bus, and was a volunteer fireman. He intentionally found time to contribute to community activities and made himself available to anyone he sensed had a need.

In retirement, Edgar taught Bible studies, both in church settings and privately; taught art to children; painted, gardened; did carpentry; ingeniously repaired things most would discard; and invented various contraptions such as a black walnut cracker and famously, a bicycle powered jig saw.

In addition to his wife, Edgar was also predeceased by three infant sisters; his sister, Louise Sullivan; brothers Merlin and Charles Wheeler; a son, William Wheeler; and two infant grandsons. He is survived by one brother, Edward Robert Wheeler of Weiser, ID; 10 children: Annita Parmelee (Asahel) Westerly, RI and Savannah, GA; Robert Wheeler (Dawn), North Platte, NE; Ruth Thorpe (Walter), Westerly, RI; Richard Wheeler (Michele), Pinnacle, NC; Helen Brannon (Kenneth) Mesa, AZ, with whom Edgar lived; Leon Wheeler, Washburn, WI; Noelle Fontaine, Tempe, AZ; Catherine Wheeler, Divide, CO; Esther Palmer (Tony), Williston, VT; Ernest Wheeler (Cathy), Pinnacle, NC; 30 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and treasured friends.

The funeral was September 28, at the 1st Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, RI. He will be buried at the Seventh Day Baptist Minister's monument in the First Hopkinton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity he supported to the end of his life, the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, 19 Hillside Avenue, Ashaway, RI 02804.

MORE church news in SR

A common theme from our readers is a desire to see **more church news**.

But it is difficult to get churches to submit their news! Now there is an online form to **submit your church news! Go to:**

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

We challenge our churches and you who want to see more church news to lead the charge in your own church by **submitting the news!**

NEW MEMBERS

BATTLE CREEK SDB CHURCH

Battle Creek, MI
Tim Smothers, Pastor

Joined by Testimony

Trish Terry
Gabe Terry

REMEMBRANCE SDB CHURCH

Ft Worth, TX
Dr. Bill Burks, Pastor

Joined

Cathy Pinder

OBITUARIES

SOPER—Rev. Mynor George Soper, 92, of North Loup, NE, died on Sunday, September 29, 2019, at the Valley County Health System Hospital in Ord, NE, following an extended illness.

Mynor was born on September 11, 1927, to Ralph and Ruth (Rowley) Soper at North Platte, NE.

After the crash in 1929 and then the drought in the 30's, his father decided to sell the ranch and moved the family to New York State. Mynor graduated from high school while there.

Shortly thereafter, Mynor joined the United States Army and served for 18 months, mostly in Italy, with a guard company, towards the end of World War II.

After the service, he went to Salem, WV, to attend college, where he boarded at the home of a professor. In 1952, he married the professor's lovely daughter, Marian Coon, the love of his life. Together they had 7 children, including two infant daughters who died at birth.

Throughout his work as a minister with the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, he served churches in Los Angeles, CA; North Loup, NE; Boulder, CO; and Texarkana, AR. During the years that they lived in Nebraska, Mynor filled the pulpit for a number of churches in the mid-Nebraska area—making many dear and life-long friends in the process.

Even though Mynor enjoyed pastoring, he was drawn to evangelism and served several years as the SDB denominational evangelist, traveling all over the United States and to England and Jamaica. During this time, he also started a music ministry called Lightbearers for Christ, which consisted of a singing team that traveled with him providing musical concerts, in conjunction with his evangelistic services. Several of these young people later became full-time ministers, serving the Lord in churches throughout the United States. In 1992, he served as SDB Conference President.

In 1977, he moved to Texarkana, AR, to be near his aging father, and he served as pastor for the church there for over 30 years. Upon retirement, he and Marian decided to return to Nebraska to live near their oldest daughter.

For Mynor, the most important thing in his life was to share the love of Jesus to as many as possible. He was blessed with a loving wife who shared his vision and ministry, faithfully serving by his side for 67 years.

Mynor is survived by his faithful, loving wife Marian, of North Loup; a son, Mynor Soper II (Cel) of Texarkana, AR; daughters, Ruth Ryschon (John) of North Loup, Dawn Richards (Dan) of Texarkana, TX, Brooke Deaton (Mark) of North Loup, and Corina Davis (Chris) of Texarkana, AR; brothers, Harley Soper of Beaumont, TX, and Herbert Soper of Winston-Salem, NC; a sister, Adeline Barker of Londonderry, VT; 17 grandchildren; and 37 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two infant daughters; granddaughter, Jenna Looney; brothers, Keith, Ira, and Johnny Soper; and sisters, Mildred Rupracht and Margie Davis.

Funeral Services were held October 11, 2019, at the North Loup SDB Church. Rev. D. Scott Smith officiated. Burial was in the Hillside Cemetery at North Loup. Military Honors were provided by the Ralph R. Rich American Legion Post #285.

BOTTOMS—Ruth A. (Buckley) Cartwright Bucher Bottoms, 97, of Scio, NY, passed away Monday, August 19, 2019, at home following a lengthy illness.

Born August 4, 1922, in Pike NY, she was the daughter of Benjamin and Grace Young Buckley.

On June 30, 1938, she married Bruce O. Cartwright in Nile, NY. Mr. Cartwright preceded her in death on December 28, 1952. On June 16, 1953, Ruth married Francis Bucher in Wellsville, NY. Mr. Bucher preceded her in death on February 22, 1974. On March 30, 1975, Ruth married Charles Bottoms, in Richburg, NY. Mr. Bottoms preceded her in death December 16, 1984.

Ruth and her first husband owned and operated Cartwright Jersey Farm in Bolivar prior to his death. Later, Ruth and Francis owned and operated Circle B Charolaise Farm in Little Genesee. She later owned and operated Hillside Leisure Home in Little Genesee until her retirement in 1990. Ruth was also co-owner of Rock City Park, Allegany, NY.

She was a longtime member of the Richburg SDB Church. Following its closing, Ruth became a member of the Little Genesee SDB Church. For her dedication to both churches and to the denomination, she was awarded the Women's Society's Robe of Achievement in 2004. She was a member of the SDB Board of Christian Education from 1970 to 1973, serving on the Family Life Committee. At various times she served her local church as deaconess, Association moderator, clerk, trustee, Sabbath School teacher and willing hostess. She was especially noted for working to keep the Richburg church open, satisfying legal requirements and then submitting records to the SDB Historical Society in Janesville, WI.

Surviving are five children: Mary (Walter) Steesy of Interlaken, NY; Margaret Taylor of Westerly of RI; Martha Jean Cook of Shinglehouse, PA; Gregory (Kathie) Bucher of Savona, NY; and Sue (Denver) Drake of Shinglehouse, PA. 15 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren; two daughters-in-law: Susan Cartwright of Batavia, NY and Pamela (Kevin) Neudeck of Richburg, NY; and one adopted daughter and caregiver, Dorothea Givins of Scio.

She was preceded in death by two sons: Robert Cartwright in 2007 and Francis "Chip" Bucher in 1982; three brothers: John, James, and William Buckley; two sisters: Corabelle Lounsbury and Florence Wonderling; two grandchildren: David Taylor and Grace Drake; and two sons-in-law: Samuel Cook and the Rev. David Taylor.



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.



I AM LISTENING!

I've been struggling to hear what God has been trying to say to me, and I can't even remember for how long. It's a thing everybody struggles with from time to time, but right now it just feels like He's disappeared. I try to find the little things that might be Him speaking to me—like when I'm at work and I've had a rough day and some random person comes up and compliments me on how well I'm doing. I try to think about how God must have known I was struggling right then and put the right person in the right place to tell me that I'm doing okay. There was a while where I was sure that my dad was going to pass away from cancer. Luckily, God gave my dad strength and my dad is feeling better every single day. There are days where I feel like I'm all alone on this earth, but I try to remind myself of the blessings that I'm given every single day. I don't get through every day alone, I get through the days with God by my side, even if I can't see or feel Him. The hard days are just reminders that we're nothing without the help of God. 2 Corinthians 12:10 says, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." I'm going to try to remind myself of this verse, and how by being weak and asking for help from God, I'm actually strong by having an almighty God by my side.

—By Isaac Floyd

Periodicals postage paid
at Janesville, WI
and additional offices

**“Does anyone care, God?
Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?”**

**The point is:
Before you trust, you have to listen.
But unless Christ’s Word is preached,
there’s nothing to listen to.**



Romans 10:14-15 MSG