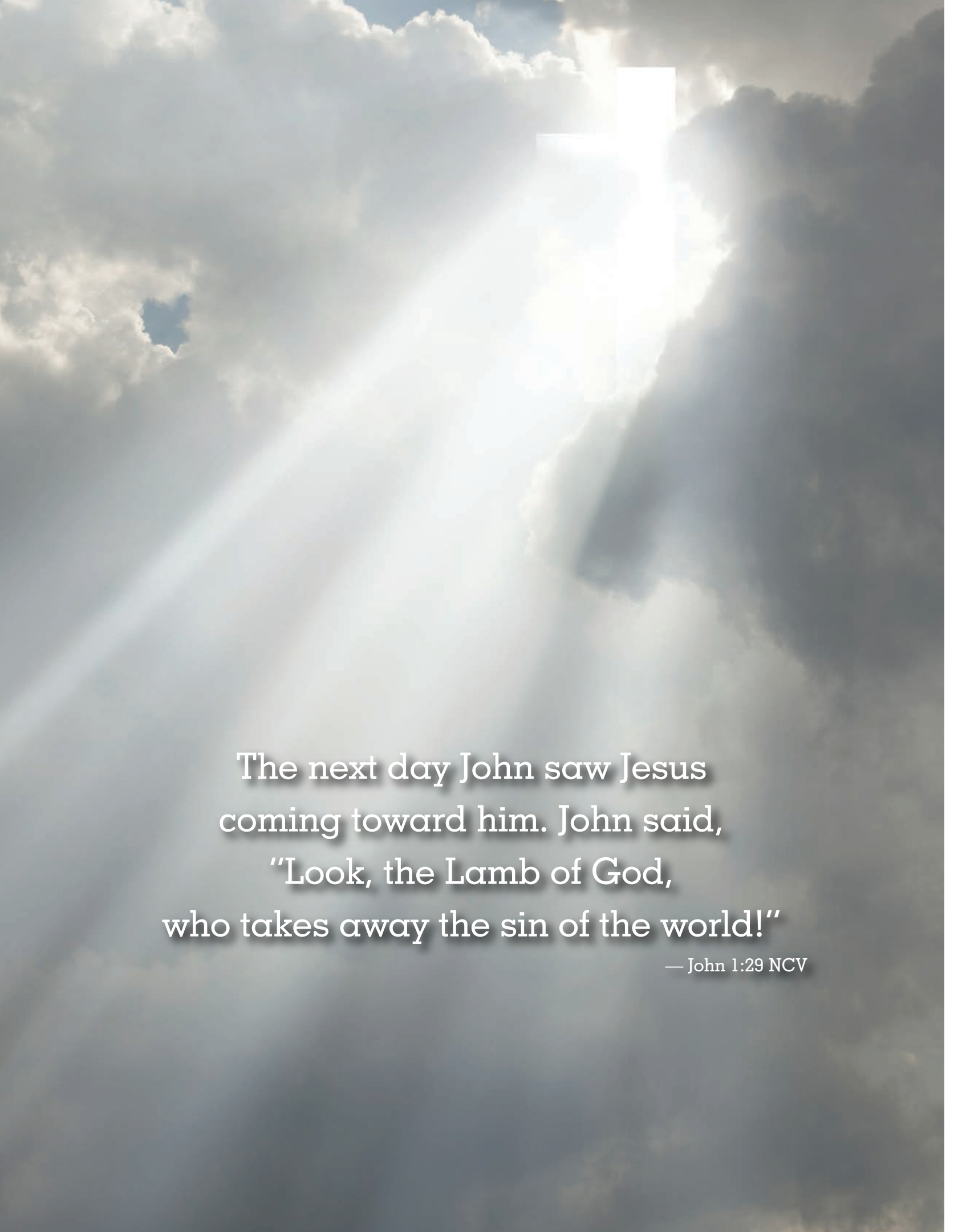


Sabbath Recorder

Behold
the Lamb
of God!





The next day John saw Jesus
coming toward him. John said,
“Look, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!”

— John 1:29 NCV

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God sent him to die
in our place to
take away our sins.
We receive forgiveness
through faith in the
blood of Jesus' death.

— Romans 3:25 NCV

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, write: 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: sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org; SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

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Patricia Cruzan
Interim Editor
sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Clinton R. Brown, Elianna Chroniger,
Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green, Nicholas J. Kersten,
Rebecca Olson, John J. Pethtel, Bill Probasco, William
Villalpando

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“Doesn’t He Know?”

Daniel Lovelace
Metro Atlanta SDB Church



“Shut your mouth, the Teacher doesn’t want to waste his time with sinful fools like you!”

Doesn’t he know who he is?

I hear a harsh response to someone on the side of the road. I’m not quite sure what’s happening as I stumble through the middle of a crowd following the Teacher on his stop through Jericho. But then I see the Teacher pause and say something to two of his disciples. The crowd parts as the disciples walk to the street side and lead a filthy blind beggar back to the Teacher.

“Hey, that’s Bartimæus,” I hear someone comment.
“He’s that lazy scoundrel who is under God’s punishment of blindness. Why does the Teacher want to talk to him?”

Doesn’t he know who he is?”

A few moments after he meets the Teacher, Bartimæus is looking around in absolute amazement and shock, then he lets out a loud shout of joy.

Didn’t he know to leave them alone?

The first day I saw the Teacher I knew there was something very special about this Man. He taught regarding the things of God and the Scriptures, and explained those things in ways I’d never heard before. He taught with such authority—in such a way that made me believe he was speaking directly from God, not based on the ideas of other teachers. There were times when he made me uncomfortable. Even so, I still hungered to hear more of what he said—about God, His Kingdom, and how we can enter it.

Who would have believed what we heard? Who saw the LORD's power in this?

While I was amazed at this Teacher, there was another aspect of his ministry: one of powerful miracles and healings. But why did he have such a pull towards people most others stayed away from? ***Didn't he know*** there was a reason to leave them alone?

Why was he talking with her?

One of his disciples once told me a story:

"Our Master had a long conversation with a woman who had had affairs with several men. We were traveling through a city, and had just come back from buying food, when we found him sitting by a well talking with this woman. We didn't mean to interrupt whatever he was doing, but we didn't understand either—***why was he talking with her?*** She was a Samaritan woman. Besides that, she had a disgraceful lifestyle—to speak with her was shameful! What if people saw them talking and accused him of participating in sin with her? But this is the kind of thing our Master tends to do. He has openly talked with, and blessed, other adulterous women—at other times, even prostitutes. However, after meeting Jesus, she was a new woman. Where there was once despair and gloom, she was now filled with hope and joy."

Another time there was a man with a son who suffered oppression from an evil spirit, which not only made the boy unable to speak, but quite often would throw the boy around in seizures, sometimes into deep water, and sometimes into fire pits. The boy suffered from numerous injuries and burns all over his body. I was with some of the Teacher's disciples (while he had gone away for a time) when the boy's father asked them to help his son.

Doesn't he know better?

"This boy was probably cursed for the sins of his father," a nearby woman commented to me. "The father just feels guilty. That must be why he is desperately trying to help him."

I thought that was a bit callous remark to make, but I continued watching as the disciples laid hands on the boy and prayed. I had seen them pray for others with various diseases and demons to be healed and delivered, so I figured this boy would be set free shortly as well.

Nothing happened.

The disciples prayed again. Still nothing.

Once more—same results. They started to look puzzled and started asking some questions.

"I knew it!" The lady beside me commented again, "It's not God's will to heal that boy!"

The disciples' questions and conversation started turning into an argument amongst themselves and some others.

Suddenly, I see the Teacher, who has just walked up beside me, looking at the quarreling chaos. In that moment I noticed a radiance about him—an amazing peace which seemed to come from him, a peace I've never known anywhere else.

"What are you arguing about with them?" the Teacher

Continued on next page...

“Doesn’t He Know?”

Continued from page 7

calmly yet firmly asks one of his disciples. Then the father of the son steps forward to explain the situation.

The woman now criticizes the Teacher, “**Doesn’t he know better?** It isn’t God’s will to heal this boy.”

A few moments later, Jesus spoke to the evil spirit, commanding it to leave, and the boy was instantly set free and healed!

Didn’t they deserve the consequences?

I also heard a story about two demon-possessed men who ran through the wilderness graveyards naked, terrorizing the nearby city and villagers. There was nothing the city council could do to stop them, not even restrain them with iron chains! Someone said they heard those two men had practiced sorcery at times before their possession, inviting the demons of Satan into themselves, which now took control over their bodies. But when the Teacher met those men, he freed them from the demons that day! It didn’t make sense, didn’t they *deserve the consequences* of their evil works?

Doesn’t he know?

A crowd is walking with a woman in bitter anguish. Her son, a young man who had died in a tragic accident, was now being carried down the road to be buried. It was an unfortunate sight to see, this young man was probably rebellious as a younger child and now had died an early death as a consequence of it. The truth was that the mother’s heart ached because, not only was he rebellious as a child, but he openly disregarded the ways of God as he grew older. Her heart was broken not only by his sudden loss, but even more deeply at the thought of what would result on the Final Judgement Day. Then the Teacher approaches the procession. I

realize he has healed many people before, but **doesn’t he know** what this is? The man is dead, he can’t receive healing, his fate has been sealed by God. But then suddenly, blaring shouts of wonder and praise fill the air!

The blind man’s sight was restored.

The woman with a past was given a future and a hope.

The oppressed boy was given liberty.

The demonized men were set free.

The dead son was given another chance to live.

Good news is preached to the poor,

liberty offered to the captive,

recovery of sight to the blind.

The unworthy are deemed worthy.

Shame is removed.

Hope is given.

The Truth is taught.

He does know.

I’m beginning to understand.

Isaiah 61:1-3:

(a prophecy written regarding “this Teacher”)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,

because the Lord has anointed Me

to bring good news to the poor;

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. SR

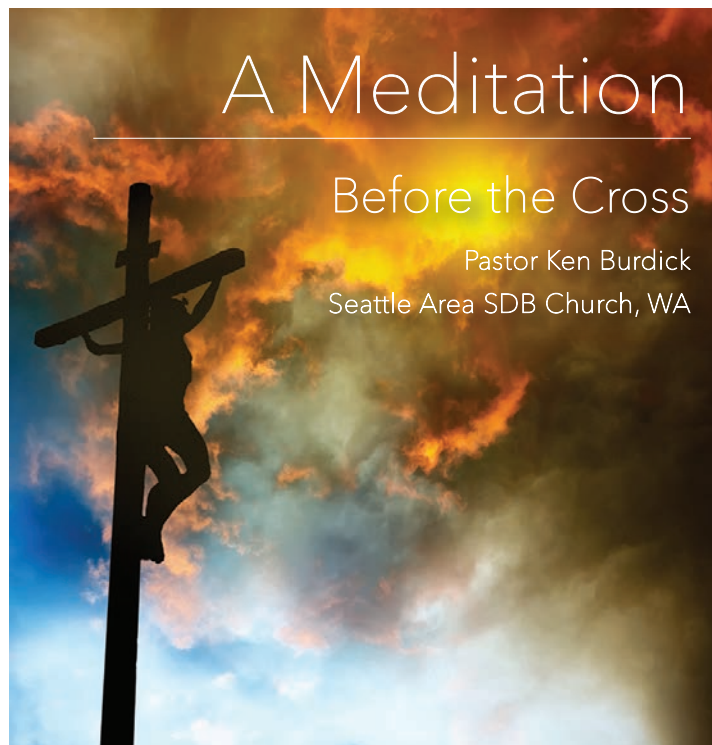
As we come to the season for remembering Christ's death and resurrection, what's a good subject for some personal meditation? Begin by thinking about the significance of the Cross itself.

That Jesus would suffer and be killed was a shocking idea to his disciples, though he had foretold this on four separate occasions (Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:2 and see Matt. 17:12). The first time, Peter rebuked him and said, "This shall never happen to you" (Matt. 16:22 ESV). Later, Peter would even draw his sword in an attempt to prevent it. In shocking detail, Jesus told them that the spiritual leaders of his own people would, "condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified" (Matt. 20:18b-19a). This would happen to him at the hands of the godless Gentiles? The disciples did not understand any of this (Luke 18:34, Mark 9:32, Luke 9:45). They didn't know what to think of it.

What about us? What do we think of it — of Christ going to the Cross? If we are believers, we know that it is the basis of our salvation. But let's not pass too quickly over the significance of the event itself, in our haste to celebrate what it accomplished!

I think of the Cross and wonder at the extent of Christ's sheer, physical suffering. I'm also reminded of the call to bear my own (lesser) cross in dying to self and welcoming Christ's life in me. But when I think more deeply about who it was that hung on that cross, it leaves me kind of stunned. It makes me shrink a little, inside. Then I am not so far removed from the shock of those first disciples, and I should not be.

The Son of Man was going to be killed by "men" (Matt. 17:22). Afterward Peter told the people, "You killed the Author of life" (Acts 3:15a). Here is one who is nothing less than "God with us" (Matt. 1:23), being put to death by those who are his creatures and bear his image. Peter added, "You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you" (Acts 3:14). Here is the Son of Man, sinless, pure and one with the Father, yet he suffered the full penalty of sin and was nailed to a cross as one cursed by God



(Galatians 3:13). The very nature of things cries out against such an event as this ever happening!

Crucifixion was the most disgraceful way for anyone to die, yet all its scorn and shame was heaped on the only sinless person ever to live. We know about the great transaction by which, "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6b). But we need to think more about the injustice of the fact that, "they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth" (Isaiah 53:9). We ought to wince when we read Isaiah 53:4-9 and recognize what it was ultimately speaking about.

On the Cross, Jesus cried out with words from Psalm 22:1 to express his sense of total desolation (Matt. 27:46). Though he was one with the Father, he experienced in that moment of bearing our sins, the separation from God that is their nature and their penalty. Before I can fully embrace the love and grace of God shown on the Cross, I must first understand the significance of who it was that suffered there. Only then will I truly understand the terrible, costly nature of mankind's sin (of my sin) and recognize the shocking event of the Cross for what it was. SR

All Scripture references are to the English Standard Version

Clueless Together

Though we don't know
what surprises we will face
tomorrow or next year,
we do know Someone
who will take those surprises
and make something wonderful
out of them.



In this world, things don't always go the way we think they "should" go. A child should not get a brain tumor; a 23-year-old should not have a stroke; the son of God should not be nailed to a piece of wood. We make these assumptions because that's the way our minds work. In order to make sense out of life, we look at overall patterns and make assumptions based on those patterns.

Sometimes, however, a person's experience will be the exception to the pattern. We cannot escape the truth that expectation and outcome are often very different pictures. Life is full of surprises. Sometimes they are wonderful surprises of financial blessing or career opportunity. We have no problem accepting these surprises. Sometimes, however, life surprises us with unfathomable loss or unspeakable injustice. Is there a way that we can prepare for surprises like these?

I find tremendous comfort in the aphorism, "I don't know what the future holds, but I do know Who holds the future." The first clause reminds me that I don't know exactly how life will unfold in the next year, 5 years, 20 years. The only one who has access to this knowledge is God, for He is not stuck in time, as we are. God transcends time. From His perspective, there is no future or past. It's all the present to Him.

In my ignorance about the future, I join every other human on the planet. This lack of knowledge actually forms a bond between us. There's a sense that we're all in this together. Let's embrace our cluelessness. Link arms with one another and together make our way through the darkness, one step at a time. Let's lift those who have fallen, and let's allow others to lift us when we've fallen.

The second clause of the aphorism, however, reminds me that I'm not as clueless as I might think. I do know Who holds the future, and I believe that He is a benevolent entity. For example, He sent a letter to His people who had been kidnapped and taken to Babylon. In this letter He told them that He had plans to bless them, to give them hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). I believe that His love for

me and you is just as strong as His love for them, so of course He'll bless us too. He will also give us hope and a future.

Not only is God benevolent, wanting to bless His people, but He is also infinitely powerful. In other words, His ability to bless us matches His desire to bless us. This means that God can take any surprise, whether wonderful or tragic, and He can use that surprise to benefit us, and those around us. No, five years ago I was not expecting that I would need shoulder surgery. But because of that operation I was able to work with some wonderful people in the Physical Therapy department of my local hospital. These are precious connections that I probably would not have otherwise experienced. What I had expected my life to look like last year, and how it actually did look, were radically divergent. What came out of this surprise, however, was a richer life than I had expected.

Another truth that helps me move through life's surprises is seen in Romans 8:28-29: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Many of us have memorized verse 28, with its encouragement that God works out all things for our benefit. How many of us, however, also include verse 29 in our thinking? God's purpose for each of us is to take those "all things" (often surprises) and use them to shape us more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. This is an amazing truth! God uses uncertainty to bring about certainty. He uses the unknown to make us more like the known.

Though we don't know what surprises we will face tomorrow or next year, we do know Someone who will take those surprises and make something wonderful out of them. The Someone we do know always trumps the something we don't know. [SR](#)

—Pastor Scott Hausrath
North Loup SDB Church, NE



Before the Cross: Prepared For the Work

— Pastor Matt Olson
Berlin SDB Church, NY

I am, by nature, a procrastinator. My motto is: *Never put off until tomorrow what you can put off until next week.* I justify my actions (or inaction, as the case may be) with the misguided idea that I work best under pressure. The truth, of course, is that rushed work is never my best work, and so over the years I've made efforts to change my habits. I've made some pretty good progress, too! Today, I rarely feel that my work is shoddy because I didn't devote enough time to it. Instead, I know that shoddy work is caused by a lack of talent (take, for example, most of the home "improvements" I've done).

While nailed to the cross at Calvary and just before giving up His spirit, Jesus spoke of the work that He had been given by His Father: He said, "It is finished." (John 19:30) Jesus did not rush His work (John 7:1-9) — it was accomplished in the fullness of time, at just the right time — and it was perfect (Hebrews 9:14), taking away the sins of the world and removing the curtain that once separated us from God.

Prior to His death on the cross, Jesus revealed truths that would prepare His followers for the work to which they are called. He was clear in His declaration that the Son of Man had come to serve — to suffer and to die — so that those who belong to Him would know His deep love and would share that love with others in return. Our work is to love one another as we have been loved. It is work that we are to accomplish today — not tomorrow or next week or next year — and for which we have been prepared through our Savior's sacrifice, which made it possible for the Spirit of the Father to reside in us, revealing His love and filling us with His joy.

Every believer is called to understand what "It is finished" means for them, and to respond to that truth. While we do this, we need to remember that it wasn't only for the sins of others that Jesus died, but for our sins as well; His death finished the work of reconciliation and made it possible for each of us to carry on the work for which He prepared us. [SR](#)

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Deuteronomy 7:19

You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the Lord your God brought you out. The Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

Stories

Stories are everything. They help us to understand this convoluted and complicated world. Everyone is rooting for the protagonist, God, and opposing the antagonist, Satan. There are so many other characters that fall into this story: like you and me.

At the beginning, all the way back to the time when Adam and Eve took the fruit, everything changed. Just like every story, this one also had sadness, happiness, love, pain, and death.

Why does God give us the idea that we are a story? We are a chronicle of life, death, pain, sorrow, happiness, and joy. What is the point behind our story? Why is it so important? There's always an ending anyways. Why does every single individual, or character, matter in this complex story? What do emotions have to compare to other emotions? Why do depression, pain and endless horrible thoughts get thrown into someone's thoughts? Is it so they can relate to someone else, and help them to not feel so alone in the world? Does it happen to someone to give them the chance to become closer with God so that their story can encourage others? Can their story help someone else be overtaken by the grace of God and help them to overcome?

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

I wonder sometimes, will God write another story? He could give it a different title, a new meaning, more beauty. Has he already made other stories that are different from the ones we see now? He can do unimaginable things.

I am just another character in this beautiful mess of a story. Not many know of me, but somehow we all connect beautifully. I may never understand why all the events and plot points that seem insignificant are valued in His story. From dropping a glass of water to undergoing a horrible experience, everything happens for a reason, for a purpose.

The smallest glitch is all part of the story. We may never know why, but we can imagine, and know that He knows our story. [SR](#)

— Annie Lloyd

Alfred Station SDB Church, NY

The Beacon

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education for and by members of SDB Youth Fellowship





A Pure Gift!

The month of March is a changing time. We're heading out of winter and starting to look toward a spring thaw. Yet as I write this, the Northeast is bracing for a major snow storm. My state's governor has declared a State of Emergency; roads are being treated for icy conditions; businesses are shutting down; and snow is falling. But the really cool part for my family is school is cancelled in the morning. That means my kids, as well as my wife (who provides speech services at a school), all get off tomorrow. It's a "free day." Even I might not have to go to work, meaning that I get a free day also — and I don't have to take a vacation day to do it. Awesome!

We haven't done anything special to deserve our free day. I can't save up and turn in enough box tops to get snow. My wife can't get out the calendar for next month and say, "Here, I'm going to have a snow day here." No matter how hard my kids think "snow," it's beyond their control to make it snow (which is a good thing really, or we'd be snowed in weekly from December through March!).

Thinking about our unexpected free day got me thinking about how awesome it is to receive something unexpected, something you haven't necessarily earned. As Christians, does anything in particular come to mind? Certainly God has shed His grace on us, despite our being unworthy. It's how He shares His steadfast love with each of us. We're sinful, imperfect — woefully inadequate

of anything God should bestow — yet He offers redemption to all. Being truthful, we should be punished for our imperfections, our "less than impressive" lives. We deserve nothing less than punishment. But instead we receive God's mercy. We deserve punishment, but don't get it (His mercy), and instead we get forgiven when we deserve damnation (His grace).

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) says "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." We receive the gift from God. It's given to us, unearned, as it says, so no one could boast. As much as my kids might pray for a snow day, they know they can't take credit for getting off from school. "Hey, you know that snow day yesterday... that was me." ... That's not how it works.

The Message Bible sums it up this way in Romans chapter 3: *Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.* I like the way that passage states it. Why does God do this? Out of "sheer generosity," i.e. mercy. And how does he do it? "By means of Jesus Christ," shedding His grace on us.

So, the next time there's a winter storm warning rolling through your hometown, think of it as an opportunity to share about God's steadfast love for all His children. Without even having to cite scripture, reference a Bible story, or share a memory verse, the lesson of a snow day stands out as a quick and easy example for explaining to kids (of all ages) what it means to receive God's grace: "You know, instead of going to school (or work) today and worrying about homework, tests, and what the teacher will make you learn, you don't have to worry about any of that! Stay home, sleep in, relax, play with toys... and you know what you did to deserve this? Nothing...but that's OK. Sometimes we get wonderful things we haven't done anything to earn. That's sort of like God's love for us..." [SR](#)

A Way Has Been Prepared

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: (and recounted in the Gospel of Mark) "BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY; THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'" *Isaiah 40:3*

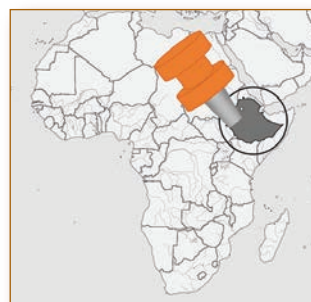
For centuries, Seventh Day Baptists have been part of making ready a way for the LORD to reach the lost for His glory. They have invested their lives in training new believers to carry the Gospel forward to generations to come. They also invested the assets that had been entrusted to them towards the work so there would be finances available to assist messengers of our living Savior to reach communities around the globe.

This year we are excited that the Missionary Society has the privilege to help several teams carry the Good News across the country and out to other continents. Among the missions in 2015:

A youth team, primarily from the Berlin SDB Church in New York state, is headed to Puerto Rico in July. Rebecca Olson, Melissa Brown, and siblings Casey, Wyatt, and Katie Greene are practicing speaking Spanish. They are also learning about missions and some Caribbean culture in preparation for their short term service in San Sabastian.



Originally slated for late February, our hope now is that later in this year, we will get David Stall, pastor in Ashaway, RI, back for follow-up training of SDB ministers in Ethiopia. John Pethtel, our conference Director of Church Planting and Pastoral Services, is raising funds to go and assist. They are looking to take Thouk Bol, a native of South Sudan, as translator and guide. Thouk is a deacon of the SDB Church in Anchorage, AK, and is anxious to help peoples of the upper Nile region, particularly of the Nuer tribe, to have a closer walk with Jesus.



Kory and Amanda Langley of Texarkana, AR, are teaming up with Caroline Snyder of Daytona Beach, FL, to help Steve James, on his return to work with the SDB leadership in Kenya. This time Steve, the pastor of the Verona SDB Church in NY, is making plans for his wife Debbie to also go to work with the lady leaders and pastor's wives.



We have other SDB individuals or teams making plans to minister this year in the U.S., Haiti, Jamaica, India, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Zambia, Brazil, and Guyana. The LORD has and is preparing a way, and often that way is through someone as unassuming as a person who read a *Sabbath Recorder* article to the last paragraph. It may be that the someone He is preparing a way through... is you.





“Well, there’s no backing out now,
and I know this will be good
for me...”

by William Villalpando

I have told this story so many times — but it means so much to me, get ready to hear it again ;). There are going to be times in our lives when God issues us a challenge: a challenge to take a leap of faith and full-heartedly trust him.

It should be said that the idea of SCSC was a big jump for me. Before my first summer of SCSC I had never ridden on a plane, I had never been out of California (except for a three day trip to Phoenix, Arizona), and I had never been away from my family for more than three days (and even then I had my sister with me). So back when applications were due and Pastor George suggested the idea, I was a little reluctant to apply. Yet after some coaxing, I eventually applied. That being said, I still had not fully committed to the idea of doing SCSC. So it was somewhat of a relief that my school’s final schedule seemed to be conflicting with training. Needless to say, God had another plan. I walked into all of my classes and in each class I received a syllabus. Every one of my professors had decided to either have an in-class final the week before finals week or to have us turn in a final essay the day before SCSC training would start. So at that point in time, the idea that I would actually be doing SCSC became more realistic.

I honestly was scared. I could not even conceive of the idea of being away from my family, friends, and church family for a week, let alone an entire two months. Yet

even though I was afraid, I continued to plan and prepare for the trip. At that point I had decided, “Well, there’s no backing out now, and I know this will be good for me...”. Although just because he is awesome, God decided to provide a third sign. The SCSC committee asks all SCSCers and Stained Glass Members to raise a certain amount of money in order to help cover some of the costs. Our goal was to raise 500 dollars each. A week and a day before funds were due I had about 300 dollars. I had decided that I would take 200 dollars from my leftover Financial Aid to cover the rest. The next day, out of the blue, I had about 250 dollars donated to me. Not only had the goal been reached but it was surpassed. God had provided the rest. This third sign confirmed to me that I needed to do this and that I was meant to be there.

After all of this, when I finally got to training and everything got started, the fear began to vanish! I was surrounded by people who loved God and placed all of their trust in him. I realized I must not be doing that if I was so afraid. Psalms 71:1-3 says, “In you, Lord, I have taken refuge...be my rock of refuge...for you are my rock and my fortress.” This verse really expresses what I needed to do. I needed to stop being afraid and worrying about being homesick and rather lean on God and allow him to be my fortress. I’m glad I decided to, because this ended being one of the best and most spiritually fulfilling summers I have experienced. SR

Young Adult

Who is your Cornelius?

Acts 10:1-48



Cornelius is a centurion commander and a devout man. He and his entire household pray and give to the needy; however he is still considered a Gentile, common, non-Jew. He is not a Christian as he has not received the gospel (the gospel has been circulating among the Jews but not much further). Cornelius has a vision: a divine messenger comes to him and tells him that God has noticed him and wants him to invite a man called Peter to his home. Cornelius doesn't know who Peter is — but he obeys and sends his people to go find Peter and invite him to come to their master's home.

Unbeknownst to Cornelius, Peter was a Jew. Jews did not associate with Gentiles. A Jew would not go over to a Gentile's house, eat food with them (especially not if they had prepared it), and certainly wouldn't evangelize them. Rabbis were supposed to strenuously try and dissuade anyone attempting to join the Jewish faith three times. There was a major separation here, put in place to help keep the Jews away from idolatry and idolaters, to keep them pure and set apart for God. From a strictly Jewish perspective, Cornelius (even in his ignorance), was enticing Peter to sin.

Meanwhile, Peter is out praying on the rooftop of the place where he's residing. This is the disciple Jesus called a Rock and said he'd build his church upon. Peter doesn't know exactly what that means but he's doing his best to spread Jesus' teachings.

At this point in the day Peter is hungry and he has a vision with all kinds of animals both pure and impure. Then God says kill and eat. Whoa! Jews do not eat meat that is impure. That means the animals are kept separate. You never mix pure with impure.

Peter's natural response: *No I would never do that, it's a sin, it's common. I won't defile myself eating things which are impure.* But the voice continues and tells him to eat because God has declared the meat clean.

About that time Cornelius' men find Peter and ask him to come with them to their master's house. Vision in mind, Peter goes with them bringing some of his friends. He approaches the Gentile camp, enters Cornelius's home, eats with him, and begins to share the gospel. And the Gentiles receive it and are baptized with the Holy Spirit. This is a big deal because like everything else we've talked about in this story it's taboo! Peter says it himself — he shouldn't be there according to Jewish law. But now Peter has perspective. It is not up to him to say what is pure because God is the one who has control over sanctification. Through Jesus it was no longer necessary to keep oneself ritually pure to draw others to the Father because they had been brought to the Father by another means — through Jesus. The Gentiles in attendance believed in the gospel and were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Gentiles could come to God through Jesus, too.

Jesus made the path for everyone. He made it so anybody could come to him, he would sanctify anyone who called on his name, be they Jew or Gentile. Peter's vision was clearly showing him where the new lines lay. He received the divine message that there is no discrimination in Christ, everyone was welcome, even the scum of the earth is eligible.

Think about the Gentile in your life. Who is your Cornelius and what are you doing about it? Peter stood against thousands of years of discrimination and exclusivity to go share the Gospel with a man who in his society's eyes was disdained and viewed as common. Will you choose to do the same? SR

Women's Society page
Katrina Goodrich
www.sdbwomen.org



Maturity is Leading by Following

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” — the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1

What is the purpose of our lives in Christ?

What is it that God desires of us after He has saved us by His grace?

If we believe the Apostle Paul, the goal of the Christian life after our salvation is our sanctification — that we would become mature in Christ. Paul’s life as a follower of Christ was spent proclaiming the Gospel so that others might believe first in the power of Christ to redeem from sin, and then to grow His followers in Christian maturity.

Our efforts as a Conference to stimulate and encourage this growth towards maturity and sanctification in Christ is now the work of the Christian Education Council. This new council has picked up the responsibility of this work from the SDB Board of Christian Education, who faithfully carried the torch for this work for many years. The Council is currently comprised of five SDBs for whom Christian Education and spiritual maturity are a passion: Peggy

Chroniger (Chair; Alfred Station, NY), Rev. Paul Andries (Washington, DC), Charlotte Chroniger (Shiloh, NJ), Rev. Bill Shobe (Dodge Center, MN) and Omari Rhoden (Toronto, ONT). They are actively working to aid you and your local church as we all journey to completion in Christ.

This area has also been added to my responsibilities in my new role as the Director of Education and History. Much like the members of the Council, Christian Education and discipleship are areas of passion for me, and I look forward to serving you!

I am committed to encouraging all of us to aspire to become Christian leaders. As I understand it, God’s purpose for all of us as we follow after Jesus Christ is to grow and thrive and serve. As we follow after Christ and mature in Him, we become a leader to those who are new to the faith. Each of us in Christ has a responsibility to those who will follow after us — all of us are called to be leaders, even if we do not always think of what we do as leadership.

The Apostle Paul gives lofty tests for those who would serve as leaders in Christ’s church — tests both of character and of proficiency. We are to be people of a certain kind, by God’s power through the indwelling Holy Spirit. We are also to use our spiritual gifts from Him by that same Spirit so that the work of the body is fully achieved. Ultimately, successful passing of these tests are dependent on one thing: a leader’s relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who wish to lead must first follow, and in that vein, Paul offers himself up as an example in 1 Corinthians 11:1. ^[SR]



Christian Education

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education and History

¹ See *Ephesians 4, Colossians 1:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

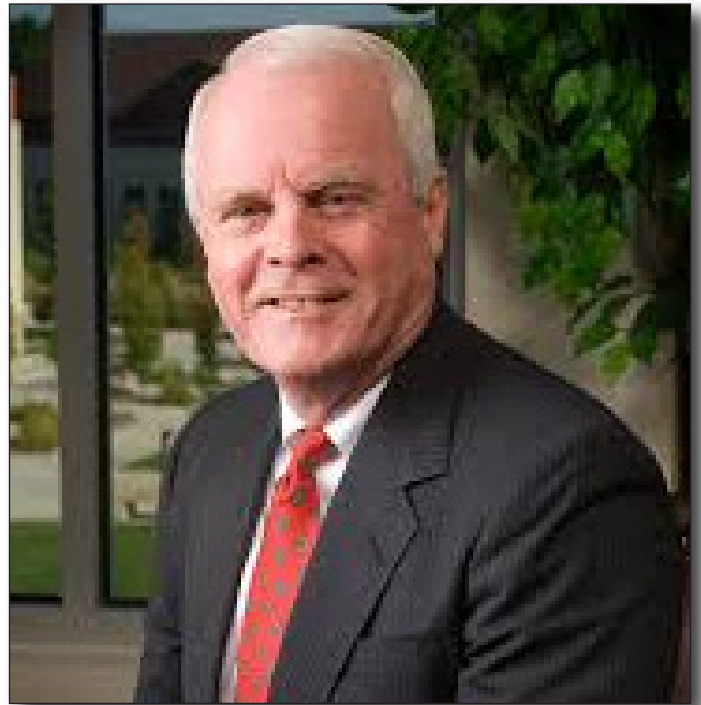
² *The Pastoral Letters (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) give insight into the kind of leaders Paul was expecting the church would produce.*

Pastors Conference 2015

Our biennial Pastors Conference takes place this year from April 21 at 9 am until April 24 at 12 pm and is hosted by the Boulder SDB Church and pastors from the Mid-Continent Association. The theme for this year's event is "Pastor as Leader" and will be focusing on the various ways and means that pastors are called by God to shepherd people in their churches. There will be opportunities for fellowship and informal sharing in between class sessions, panels, and forums. We encourage all of our pastors (or those called to be pastors) to spend this time with God and with one another being refreshed, renewed, and recharged for service to our churches.


Our special guest speaker on Wednesday, April 22, is Dr. Gordon MacDonald. Dr. MacDonald is a well known pastor, author, and teacher for over 40 years who has served in a variety of roles including President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and Chancellor of Denver Seminary. His books, *Who Stole My Church?* and *Ordering Your Private World*, have won awards from *Christianity Today* and the Evangelical Christian Publishing Association. Dr. MacDonald was also the guest speaker during our Pastors Luncheon during the 2013 General Conference sessions.

Registration is available online at sdbministry.org (you may register online or print out a form) through the end of March. If you are a pastor, we encourage you to visit beautiful Colorado for a week that will challenge you yet



Dr. Gordon MacDonald

inspire you in your service to your church and the Kingdom. If you are a church member, we encourage you to find a way to support your pastor in their attendance at this key event for SDB pastors.

For further information or for any questions, please feel free to contact John Pethtel, Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services, at 304-629-9823 or jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org. 

Robe of Achievement Nominations

The Deadline is **March 31** to submit nominations for the Robe of Achievement award from the Women's Society. The woman you nominate must be a member of an SDB church who has had an influence or contributed beyond the limits of her own community and church. A complete resume must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities.

A nomination form is available at SDBWomen.org

A paper copy of the form is available from:

Karen Payne, 13528 595th Street, Claremont, MN 55924 or email karen.payne1127@gmail.com

MARCH

Youth/Adult

... be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

– 2 Peter 3:17

Junior

... be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

– 2 Peter 3:17

Primary

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

– 2 Peter 3:18 a

The Full Gospel Seventh Day Baptist Church Cumberland, Maryland

By Pastor Ron Higson

The Full Gospel Seventh Day Baptist Church first met together as a group in January 2007, but the story begins farther back with a seed that lay dormant for many years.

As a young married couple, we attended a Seventh Day Adventist church and heard someone mention SDBs, but I didn't think much about it (the seed was planted). We stopped going to church for a few years and then started attending a Methodist church where we received Christ and became actively involved. A wonderful pastor there encouraged us to become involved in lay speaking. I served as a lay preacher for nearly three years and recognized God's call on my life to preach. After this, we attended an Assembly of God and then a Baptist church for a while. Looking back, I think all these things helped us grow and prepare for where God was leading.

The seed sprouted when God reminded me about the Sabbath and SDBs. I found the denominational website, discovered the Central SDB Church in Maryland, and went to visit. That led us to the closer Bell SDB Church of Salemville, though still too far for weekly attendance. Our grown children and their families moved back to the area and we met for about ten months at home on Sabbaths for Bible study.

Twenty-four years after the seed was planted, it bloomed! We met with leaders of Bell Church and received their blessing to become a branch, stepping out in faith to plant a church. God really provided as we found a very nice building at an unbelievably low rent to hold regular worship services (January 2007). Our second location was a church for the same rent. After four years we longed to have our own place where we could meet beyond Sabbath mornings. God led us to our current church, which we were able to buy, where we have been meeting for over three years.

Though it may sound like everything went smoothly, it really didn't. With each move we explored new locations and the doors kept closing. Then we would wonder if we really heard God right. But sometimes the "no" was

really "not yet" and the door that seemed firmly shut suddenly opened!

Like any new church plant we have our ups and downs. We've lost some people and gained some. The blessing of being able to worship God on His Sabbath with people of the same convictions has far outweighed the struggles.

One surprise has been realizing that, though small, we are meeting the needs of people who might not otherwise be in church. One woman looking for a Sabbath-keeping church found us online. She said one of her main concerns was whether her son would be welcome, as he has intellectual disabilities. We said, "Of course he would. Why would he not?" She said, "You'd be surprised," recalling some past experiences. She has since become a member and continues to marvel at how comfortable her son is with our church family.

With God's help and blessing we'll continue to grow and expand even further. Last year we invited Patty Petersen to come and help us do more evangelism and outreach. She has us reaching out in new ways and often reminds us God is more interested in our availability than our ability.

For those who have heard the Holy Spirit's leading to plant a church, please do not become discouraged when things do not seem to be happening in the time frame you think they should. God may have something even better awaiting your church. Remember how God promised Abraham that he and his wife Sarah would have a child and they did, in His timing. SR



Spotlight on Church Planting



Ordination of Pastor David Fox

Rev. John J. Pethtel

Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services

SpringsLife Church (Colorado Springs, CO) celebrated the ordination of Pastor David Fox to the gospel ministry on February 7, 2015 at 3:30 pm.

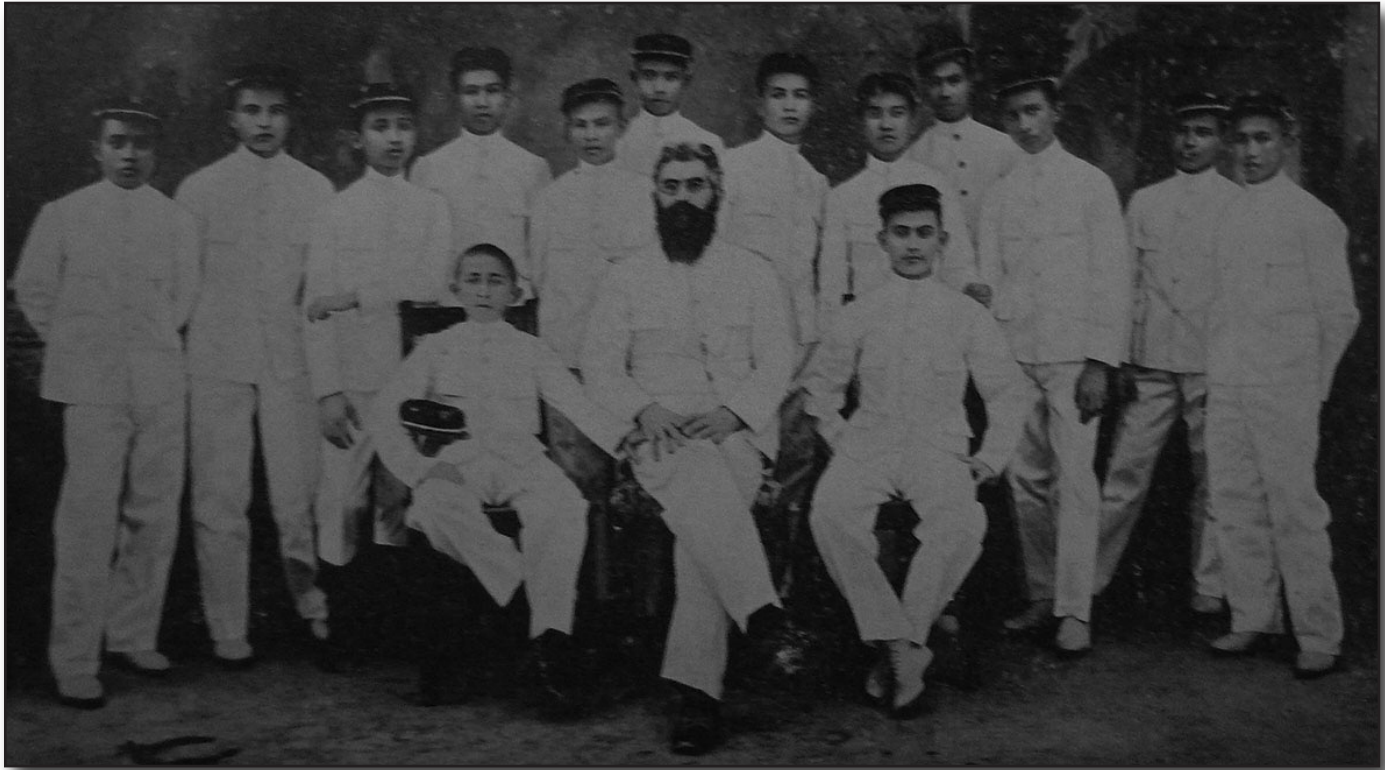
Pastor David's ordination council was held during Mid-Continent Association meetings on October 11, 2014 with representatives from seven different SDB churches and the Council on Ministry in attendance. Pastor David presented his Christian testimony along with papers representing his reflections on the SDB Statement of Belief and his ministry experience. After this presentation, the floor was opened up for questions from the council. Pastor David answered questions for around 70 minutes to the satisfaction of the council. The council then voted to recommend to SpringsLife Church that Pastor David be ordained to the gospel ministry. The council also voted that Pastor David's beliefs were in accord with the SDB Statement of Belief. On November 15, 2014, SpringsLife Church voted to move forward with the ordination service.

The ordination service was led by **Rev. John Pethtel** (SpringsLife Church). Included in the service were: **Pastor Darwin Steele** (Boulder SDB Church) reading the Call to Gathered Worship; **Timothy Rood** (Moderator of SpringsLife Church) giving an affirmation of the candidate;

Rev. Luis Lovelace (Metro Atlanta SDB Church) preaching the ordination sermon, titled "Christ in Me" based on Isaiah 53:1-5 and Philippians 2:5-8; **Rev. Rod Henry** (Next Step Christian Church, CO) presenting a charge to the candidate; **Rev. Dusty Mackintosh** (Next Step Christian Church) presenting a charge to the church; and **Rev. Steve Osborn** (Boulder SDB Church) leading the consecrating prayer over Pastor David and his wife, Rachel. The newly ordained **Rev. Fox** gave the benediction.

An Ice Cream Social was held after the ordination service with friends, family, and church members in attendance.

Pastor David and his wife, Rachel, have been living in Colorado Springs since December 2013. He is currently serving as Pastor of Community and Discipleship under the Ministry Staff Development program administered by the Council on Ministry and the Memorial Board. He has been responsible for the creation and implementation of a children's ministry, SpringsLife Kids, that serves youth from the church and community. Pastor David is a graduate of Ashland University and Reformed Theological Seminary and has served SDB churches in Ohio, Washington, Georgia, New Jersey, and Colorado. [SR](#)



The tale of Johannes van der Steur Colonial 7th Day Baptist

By Vilan van de Loo

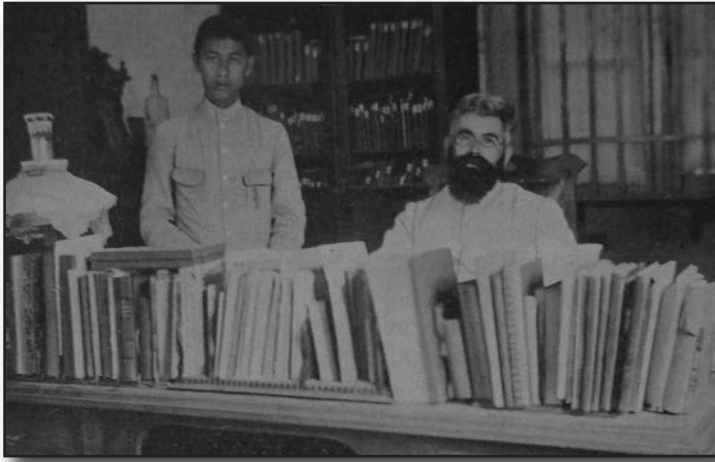
At the end of 1892, two men knelt in a cabin of the boat, “The Conrad.” Gerard Veldhuyzen, Jr. prayed for the safety of his friend Johannes van der Steur (1865-1945), who was about to leave the Netherlands for the Dutch East Indies. Veldhuyzen knew his friend too well to be able to trust in a peaceful future. Van der Steur was stubborn, and too ambitious to compromise on anything. He had never been in the colony, yet planned to live and work there among the K.N.I.L. (Dutch Colonial Army). After months of fundraising Van der Steur had been consecrated in the church at the Parkweg in Haarlem. He was ready to go.

It seems that hardly anyone in the Indies was happy with the arrival of Van der Steur. The press mocked his beliefs and his personality. He was a well known man thanks to his involvement in the anti-prostitution movement. Yet Van der Steur succeeded. He opened in Magelang (Java) a military home called “Oranje

Nassau.” Soldiers in the colony often lived isolated lives. Van der Steur offered them a brotherly love in a Christian environment.

Early in 1893, one of his visitors informed Van der Steur about four children in the kampong, whose Italian father had died. Instead of looking for their relatives, Van der Steur adopted the children. Soon after this a mother came to him asking for medicine for her children. He supplied that, but within a few days he took her children in his home as well. It was a typical colonial way of acting; the European civilization was considered to be superior, the indigenous were regarded inferior. One believed that every child with a European father had the “right” to be part of the European civilization.

More and more children followed, some brought by their (last remaining) parent, others in need of a home. Within a year the life of a single father became too



Van der Steur pictured here with Victor van de Walle, around 1917. Victor was living in Oranje-Nassau and helped Van der Steur with the administration.



Opposite page and above: Children who lived in Oranje-Nassau. (taken before 1917)

much for Van der Steur. He wrote a letter to the Netherlands, asking his mother to come and help him. It was not she who arrived, but Marie van der Steur (1868-1962), his sister.

Conflicts

When Marie arrived in Magelang, the children immediately loved her. The young woman (then 24) loved them too. Even though everything in the tropics was strange to her, she quickly found her way, adapting to the customs, the food, and even the long hours working in the heat. A woman's work was never done here and Marie was a working woman. For the military men, she was the sister they all wanted to have, to the children she was a mother; her brother found in her his confidant. Very soon, she was the head of the girls department.

Marie had arrived just in time, as Van der Steur was having conflicts with the local authorities. They wanted the children at school or at work on Saturdays. For Van der Steur this was the Holy Sabbath. Eventually the matter was solved through intervention from the Netherlands. But this and similar conflicts must have had him reconsidering his position.

In the Netherlands, the Seventh Day Baptists fully supported the Van der Steurs, but only within their means. There was not as much money as Van der Steur needed. Their range of publicity — mostly in their own magazine *De Boodschapper* (The Messenger) — was small. Even though Van der Steur managed to get his fundraising articles published in more Christian magazines, it did not help much. A dominant factor in this was the mistrust he faced being a Seventh Day Baptist. When people asked questions, he refused to answer, stating his beliefs were a private matter. That obviously did not help.

Around 1895 he must have chosen ambition and money above remaining loyal to the church that had nurtured him so dearly. Van der Steur broke his ties with Seventh Day Baptists and started his own magazine, now profiling him self as a “Christian man.” In doing so he was able to expand his fundraising and ask every Christian for donations. That worked well. During the course of his work he raised enough money to care for around 7,000 children and take care of an unknown number of soldiers. He had many helpers, male and female, but he was and always remained the main man.

Intentions

The life and work of John van der Steur is fascinating. It is a tale of colonialism, filled with good intentions from the European point of view. Yet one wonders what the Indonesian relatives would have thought about “disappearing” children. That story still has to be told. [SR](#)



Vilan van de Loo was a Dutch independent researcher from the Netherlands. Her interests are history and literature. Her biography of John van der Steur will be published May 2015 (in Dutch). Contact? Mail: vilan@xs4all.nl



Top Ten Words

for Building Relationship with God and Others

Introduction to a Sermon Series by Pastor Dusty Mackintosh, Next Step Christian Church, Thornton, CO

10 Commandments, old and busted

We are about to embark on a series within a series. This is a landmark in Israel's history, the meat and potatoes of the Mosaic covenant. Just in human history, this stands as some of the oldest written laws known...and certainly the most influential. They hang prominently in our Supreme Court to this day. No bets on how long they stay there, though. At the mention of the 10 Commandments, a whole host of concerns and questions arise. What about freedom from the law? That's old and busted, Old Testament stuff! What about forgiveness and grace? What about a legacy of using these laws to judge...or even abuse people?

We are going through these commandments in detail, but not because they are historically influential or because this was a literal pivotal moment for the people of Israel. We focus in excruciating detail because this portion of Scripture, these commandments, in a unique and powerful way, applies directly to us today. And it does because of the reason the 10 commandments were given, all the way back around 3300 years ago.

Set the Stage - Fear and Trembling

The Israelites approach Mount Sinai and camp out there for three days, waiting to hear the rest of the covenant. What are these commands they are to obey? And while they are waiting, the presence of God is manifesting upon the mountain and the earth is boiling. There is fire and smoke, the ground is shaking, the sky is filled with lightning, imagine the rolling thunder on top of earth-

quakes...and then the voice of God rolls forth from the mountain.

The people are told not to approach too close at the wrong time...or they will die. They cleaned themselves and their clothes, they prepared, they purified. The setting of the giving of the 10 Words (as the Hebrew actually refers to the Big Ten) is one of fear and trembling. Picture less Charlton Heston, more Sauron and Mount Doom. What do they know about God at this point? As Abba, Father...no. This powerful god-being is an entity more powerful than any they had known, who had struck down the greatest earthly power they (or anyone) had known. Now he has been localized for a few weeks as this pillar of cloud and fire...but the pillar is now unchained, it is engulfing this mountain.

And they were terrified.

Founded in Relationship

It is in this context that Yahweh reminds them of what they know so far. Yes, they are terrified (and fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom). Yes, if they get too close, in the wrong way, they will die. The danger is real.

*Exodus 20:1-2: And God spoke all these words:
2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. So before you hear a single one of my Words, my commandments, my laws; know this: I am the I AM, your God, the one who has saved you."*

The Purpose of the Commandments: Relationship

This breathes some life into these commandments, but why did God give them? What was his purpose in all these “thou shalls” and “thou shall nots?”

How about to **arm the judging-spirit** within all of us with a way to condemn those around us? A little measuring stick to assert my religious moral superiority over you: “I keep 8/10 and you only keep 7/10.” That’s great for us Sabbath keepers because we get that X factor, plus 1 to all 10 commandment tests. This was the law of the Pharisees and we have all been tempted, and probably have used these 10 commandments that way, at least in our internal monologues. But this was not their purpose.

How about: To **kick the ant hill**? To watch humanity struggle and fail miserably so they’d be really happy when Jesus came? Ouch! Just to set an impossible standard – that’s kind of sadistic.

I think these ideas sit in the back of our minds. “Yeah, that’s kind of why he did it,” we think. But it’s okay now because of “Jesus.” Because Paul puts so much focus in Romans on the way the law can and does operate in preparing the way for God’s grace, it is really easy to take that as the whole purpose of the law. But, the purpose of the commandments of God were actually understood correctly by that first generation of Israel – as if God successfully communicated his intent – imagine that.

Having just reiterated all 10 commandments, Moses at the end of his life included these parting words to the people of Israel. They said it over and over again, every day, in summary of the Big Ten:

Deuteronomy 6:4-6: ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Jesus, when asked which commandment was the greatest of all, clarified the connection by quoting this verse. He added another quote from Leviticus as the 2nd greatest commandment “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Then he said this – and this is the most important thing to understand in any reading or study of the Law:

Matthew 22:40: All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

It all “hangs.” It all “depends.” I have a few “dependents” in my house. I get to claim them on my taxes. The government lets me keep some money because it understands that these three little people depend upon me, they hang upon me, for life (for food, safety, security), for the stuff of their life. In the same way, all the Law, and everything the Prophets said in applying that

Law and redirecting the people to keep that law appropriately, all of it depends upon this love-relationship. Love of God. Love of one another. Which is to say that the purpose, from day one, was to show us what love is. What it looks like when applied to morality. How do I love God? How do I love my neighbor.

Just as the **law was founded in relationship**, so it was for the **purpose of relationship**. The 10 commandments were founded in **relationship for the purpose of relationship**.

Commandments: the forever course of righteousness

What does that look like? How do I love God and one another? The Apostle John, who always called himself the “disciple that Jesus loved” connected our relationship with God and our keeping of His commandments in this way:

1 John 2:3-5: ³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Jesus kept every one of those 10 commandments, all the time, and lived a perfectly righteous life.

The commandments then become signposts marking the way. Screaming warning signs that say “Uppp, you’ve gone too far, this is not what love looks like.” Or “Yes, do this, this is the kind of thing love for God does.” This is the kind of thing love for neighbor does. Is it optional? No – these are precisely the sorts of things that love always does. These “shall nots” are the things love never does. If you are doing these things, it is ludicrous to say that you are loving God with all your heart, mind and soul, or your neighbor as yourself.

The law is never the source of righteousness, it is forever the course of righteousness.

The law marks out the course, it gives directions at the turns. I raced in a triathlon, and at every turn, especially when we were out on the streets on this long bike turn, it would say, “Olympic triathlons, straight ahead” or “turn right here” all the way. So at the intersections I would know which way to go. The law, the 10 commandments in particular, in a special way, forever mark out the course of right relationship, of love relationship with God. That is simply what loving God looks like, what loving each other looks like. It doesn’t cover every step, every moment, every instance, but it is a blazing very clear sign at the major intersections of life. As we hear each Word of God, each Command, let us look for and hear **the love language of God**. He tells us this because he loves us, because He wants us to love him and love each other. [\[SR\]](#)

(To be continued)

BIRTHS

MATTUS – A son, Jacob Ryain, was born to Courtney (Uhland) and Dave Mattus of the Shiloh SDB Church, NJ on January 30, 2015.

RAYBURN – A son, Parker Alexander, was born to Shawn (Wagner) and Joe Rayburn of the Texarkana SDB Church, AR on February 1, 2015.

NEW MEMBERS

BOULDER SDB CHURCH

Boulder, CO

Pastor Steve Osborn

Joined by testimony

Gordon Lawton

Linda Lawton

Eric Fox

OBITUARY

OWEN – Paul James Owen was welcomed into heaven on January 12, 2015 at the age of 81.

He leaves his wife of 64 years, Floy; 5 children: Viva Moehnle (Johannes), Paula Billings (Jim), Elva Sherman (Jym), Paul James Owen III (Jan), Brian Owen (Leslie); 18 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, 2 nephews and a niece. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Micah Owen.

President and founder of Pacific Coast Roofing Corp., a contractor for over 50 years, he was well known as an industry innovator and for the sheer scope of his work. He created Pacific Coast Roofing Corporation as a family business and many of his family worked with him. Paul loved the Lord and set an example for his family. He was legendary for his generosity and loyalty. Paul was originally a member of the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist church, and later a member of Foothill Community Church. A memorial service was held on January 24th, 2015 at Forest Lawn in Glendale, CA. Pastor Jim Schorr (Foothill Community Church) and Dr. Ralph Mackintosh (Foothill Community Church) officiated. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SDB Missionary Society for the roofs in Zambia and Congo in Paul's memory.

OBITUARY

KING – Eddie Hugh King of New Enterprise, PA, went to meet his Lord and Savior February 2, 2015 after an extended illness.

Mr. King was born February 6, 1936, in Salemville, PA, son of the late Lloyd King and Floy (Diamond) King. He married Grace Lillian Snyder on November 27, 1958, in Salemville. Surviving are his wife; a daughter, Katrina King Gentsch and husband, Kevin, of Salemville; a sister-in-law, Ruth King; and two nieces: Barbara (King) Jennings of Atlantic Highlands, NJ, and Kathy (King) Wampler of Harrisburg, PA. He was preceded in death by a brother, Eugene; and a sister, Mary.

Eddie graduated from Replogle High School in 1954 and Shippensburg State Teachers College in 1958, earning a B.S. in business education. He received his master's degree in business education from Penn State University in 1962. He was employed by the Northern Bedford School District for 42 years, teaching business education. He coached varsity baseball for 42 years, and attained induction into the Bedford County Sports Hall of Fame in 2008. Upon retiring, he was given the title NBC Coach Emeritus. He developed youth baseball programs in Northern Bedford and served the NBC Athletic Association. He loved all sports at all levels, especially baseball.

Eddie was a licensed insurance agent for more than 45 years. He was a member of the German Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, where he served as a teacher, chorister, treasurer, trustee, deacon and elder. His love of the Lord was evident in his everyday life.

The funeral service was Saturday, February 7, 2015, at the German Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville. Contributions may be made to the Southern Cove Volunteer Fire Company, Southern Cove EMS Service or Bedford County Humane Society.

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<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>

Did you know that a last prayer Jesus said
before being betrayed was for you?

(excerpts from John 17)

"Father, the time has come...

I showed what you are like

to those you gave me from the world...

I gave them the teachings you gave me,

and they accepted them...

I am coming to you;

I will not stay in the world any longer.

But they are still in the world.

Holy Father, keep them safe

by the power of your name...

I am not asking you to take them out of the world

but to keep them safe from the Evil One.

I pray for these followers,

but I am also praying for all those

who will believe in me because of their teaching."



Who was that Lamb of God?

A man gathering crowds of people.

Healing, Loving, Forgiving.

Claiming to be the Son of God?

Upsetting the Jewish Leaders.

Well, that didn't last long.

Said he wanted to die for everyone's sin...

Got what he asked for on that cross!

Now he's put away in a tomb.

He said it himself: "It is finished."

End of story.

End of story?

Continued next month...