

Sabbath Recorder

January 2022
A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

Can two people
walk together
without agreeing
on the direction?

—Amos 3:3 NLT





Stand where
the roads cross
and look.

Ask where the
old way is, where
the good way is,
and walk on it.

If you do,
you will find rest
for yourselves.

Let's
Walk
Together!

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Sabbath Recorder

A monthly journey into the mind and heart.

January 2022

Patricia Cruzan, Editor

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

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WHO ARE SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

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

THE SEVENTH DAY

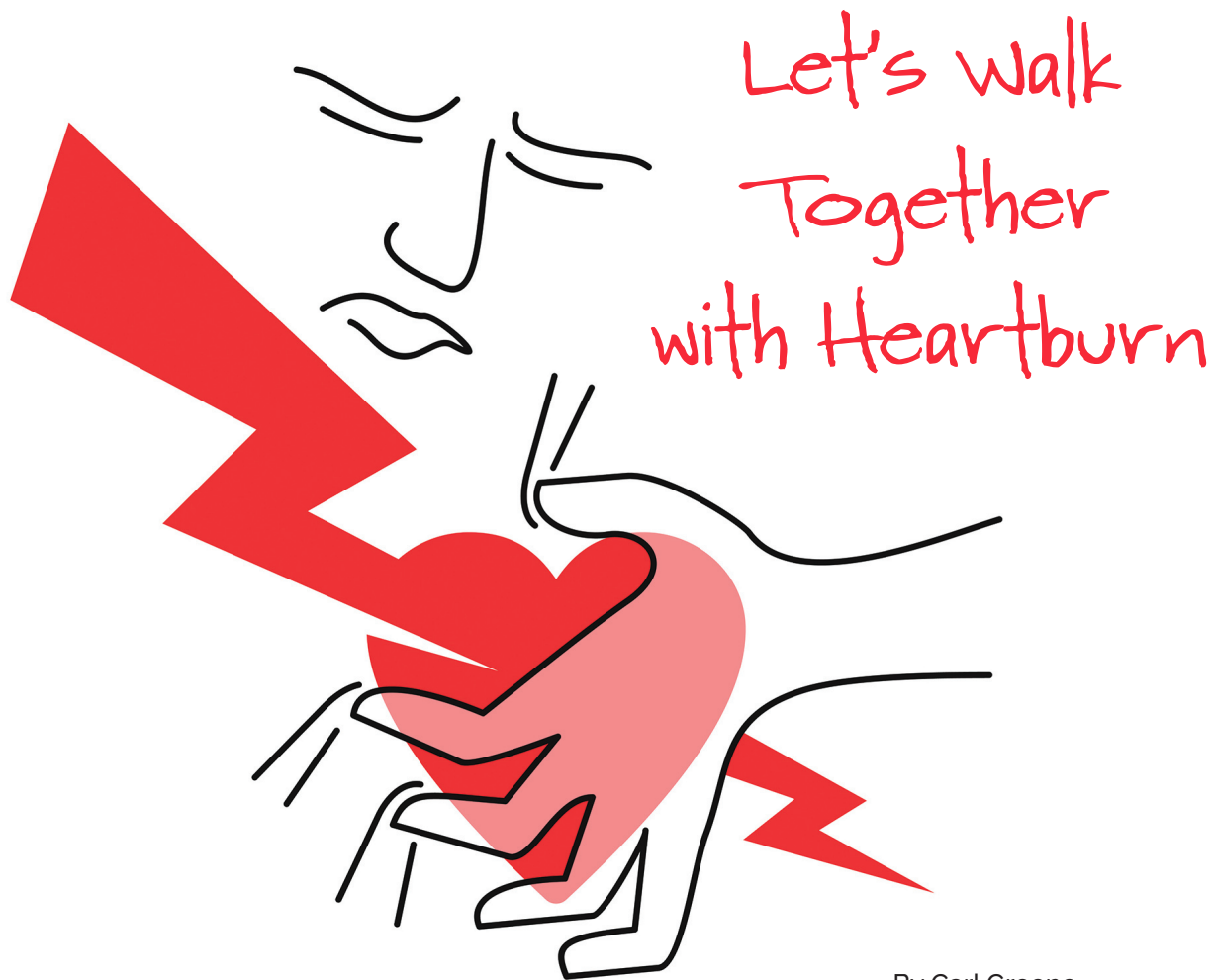
God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the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

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By Carl Greene
SDB Executive Director

Our family of six had traveled 1000 miles and were ready for a well-deserved break. We sat down for a taco night feast when "it" happened. One of our sons had immersed his taco with so much hot sauce that he declared it was no longer edible. In an effort to avoid food waste (and to reassert my alpha male status), I pounded down the taco. It was...a warming experience.

The next leg of the journey was not so pleasant. The heat of heartburn was not what I longed for—and my incessant whining was certainly not what my family had signed up to endure. We were together, but the intermingling of heartburn and complaining was a pain-filled journey for everyone.

The confluence of heartburn and journey has Biblical precedence. Sort of. In Luke 24, two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-15, ESV).

"That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them."

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The Wrong Heartburn

Two disciples are walking together, replaying the incidents of the crucifixion. They are so weighted down with grief and disappointment that their slow gait allows Jesus to catch up with them simply by walking at a normal pace. They are together, but it is not overly helpful. They are consumed in a heartburn-worthy discussion of hopelessness when they tell the resurrected Jesus, "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened." (v. 21)

The disciples are so focused on replaying what is wrong that they miss that Jesus is with them. They have the wrong kind of heartburn. This is the type of figurative heartburn that we often settle for when we walk together. We deconstruct situations to define how bad things are, but we do not move on to intentionally listen together for Jesus' leading.

Fortunately, there is more to this story.

The Right Heartburn

After Jesus revealed Himself to these two disciples, they recognize the right kind of heartburn. "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (v. 32) Rather than focusing their conversational journey on what was wrong, they now recognize that Jesus Himself has been with them and, together, they rediscover hope and mission.

These two disciples who were exhausted and dragging their way home, now immediately returned to Jerusalem with news they could not help but share (v. 33). They had the right kind of heartburn.

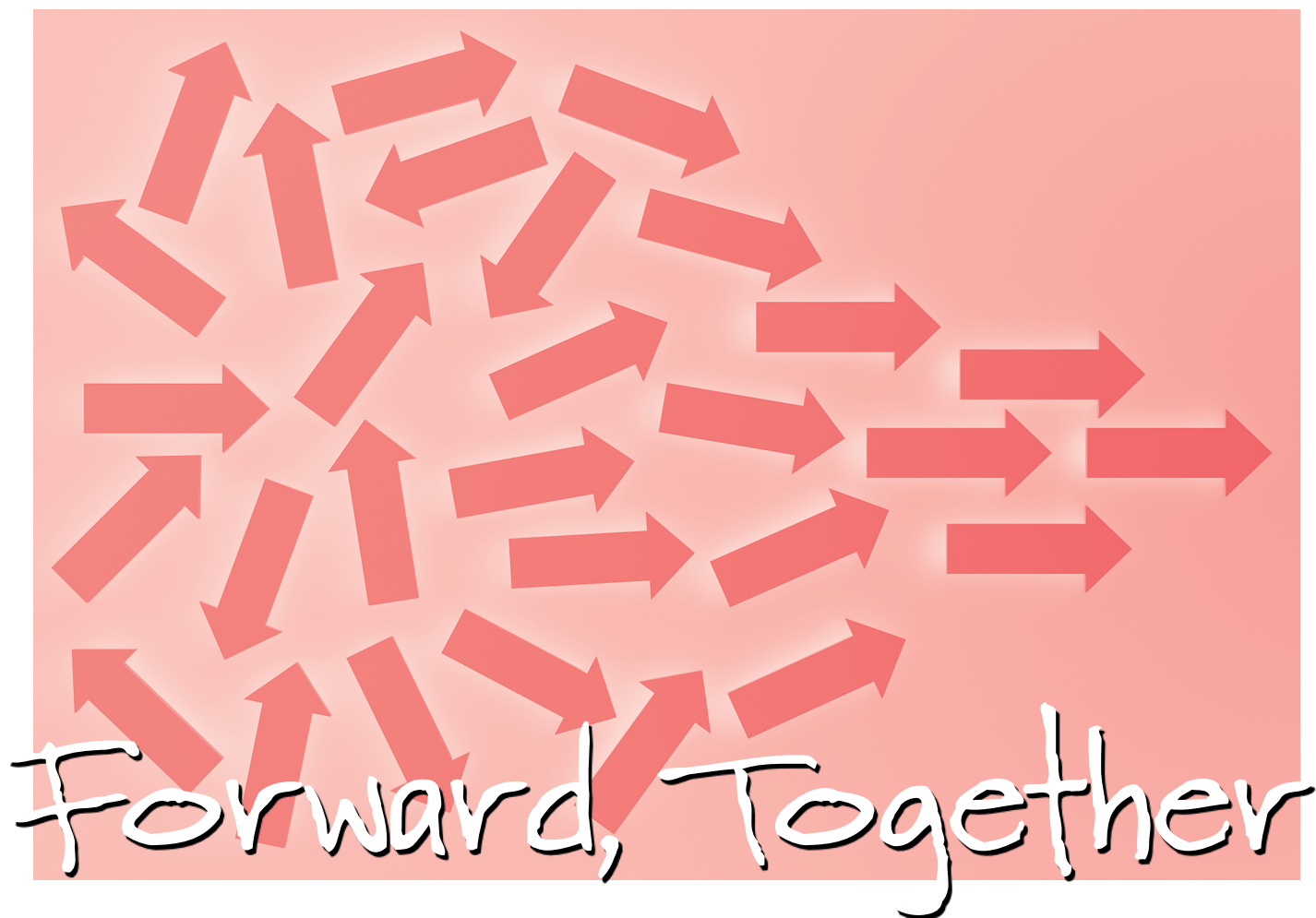
Our Call to Heartburn

We are not called to a solitary journey. We are called to walk together, in community with one another. But how we walk together matters. Without intentionality, we walk together with a focus on what is not good and what is disappointing. Healthy criticism has its place, but our focus all too often lands on describing what is not good, without offering a solution. We complain that the traffic has been miserable, that we had to wait for a delivery, that the weather is not goldilocks perfect, that the sermon was too long, that our neighbor uses our parking spot...our conversation on the life journey focuses on the wrong heartburn.

We have the opportunity to walk together with the realization that Jesus is with us on the journey. We can focus our conversation on the reality of His presence with us, no matter our circumstances. The conversation we have on the journey together takes on new dimensions.

What heartburn do you and I have as we walk together as Seventh Day Baptists—heartburn of idle complaints or the realization that we are walking with Jesus? I am thankful to be on our missional journey together—and I look forward to being all the more intentional about how we walk. Exuberant that we have the privilege to participate in actively advancing God's Kingdom through joining Him and one another in His work. Let's talk about it as we walk. [SR](#)

We are
not called
to a
solitary
journey.



By Pastor Charles R. Meathrell

*we're not
all the same—
and that is
exactly how it is
supposed to be.*

I've done some 'rithmetic in preparation for this article; I did some long division, geometry, new math, and calculus—and the answer is five. Five! Over the years, my wife and I have been members at five different SDB churches: Salem, WV, Middle Island, WV, Metro-Atlanta, GA, Jacob's Well, SC, and Pataskala, OH! We also served at Park Street Baptist in Columbia, SC, for a spell. Is that a lot? I feel like it's kind of a lot for any thirty-something not aiming for Olympic church-hopping gold. All this has been in pursuit of God's calling on my family and me, and we've been honored over the years to meet, love, and serve alongside a lot of different people—different beliefs, various specific doctrines, a spectrum of weird, from vaguely normal to crazy as an out-house rat.

That's kind of how it is sometimes. You move around and start interacting with people from different places who have lived in ways and through things of which you can hardly dream. That's not even an SDB thing. That's a people thing.

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We were designed by our Maker
to live with a purpose.
We're not accidents.
We're uniquely designed and gifted
to live and work in His Kingdom.

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1. We Are Not All the Same, But...

Seventh Day Baptists consider liberty of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to be essential to Christian belief and practice. You can talk about it (in fact, you should talk about it) but also be ready to listen. You listen to what others are saying. You pray. You seek wisdom and guidance from the Spirit (James 1:5). Several months ago we had a visitor to our church in Pataskala who had a lot of odd things to say. Although we regularly have folks wander through whose theology is, shall we say, off the beaten path, this guy was just plain strange. He had "prophetic words" for us and wouldn't say his name. He was just Brother Peter (the name was changed to protect the unusual). After some time he gave up on us and shook the dust from his feet—which was alright with us. I'm all for words of prophecy but they've got to be in line with Scripture. He didn't make the cut on that score. It's such an important detail! **We are not all the same but you need to defend what you say with Scripture.** If you're going to assert that Christ was delivered to earth by aliens or that Moses was a secret agent from the CIA, your assertion should be challenged. Those can only be found in the book of 1 Imaginations, verses 3-10.

We are covenant-based churches. When we join our churches, we are making a promise to look after one another in lots of different ways. That includes when we go astray theologically.

On the other hand, we must make that effort to love one another regardless of the lesser differences. In my family, we've loved and served alongside vegetarians, holy day keepers, speakers of tongues and prophecies, and many other things. We're not all the same—and that is exactly how it is supposed to be.

2. It's Not a Sin to Disagree with You!

Here is a truth that we seem to be slowly forgetting in the West: a person with an opposing opinion is not victimizing you. He's just not. In our house, we have a great deal of disagreement about what the greatest Christmas movie of all time is. I say it's "White Christmas." My wife, Jessica, says it's "Ugh, Turn the TV Off." (Must be new...?) I'm not offended though. She dislikes television altogether and I love media (generally speaking).

I'll say this: the "safe space" culture we're developing is doing us no favors. It may well be that you'll not need to change or adjust your beliefs. It may also be that the people who come into your life are there to refine you. Maybe you're NOT 100% right about EVERYTHING. Maybe you've still got some growing to do. Imagine that! I often feel the prompting to urge my church family to keep growing, regardless of their age or condition. If you're here, if you're breathing, you must keep growing.

3. Go Forward Together

We were designed by our Maker to live with a purpose. We're not accidents. We're uniquely designed and gifted to live and work in His Kingdom (Ephesians 4). What we must do, then, is to make the decision to go forward. We have our own convictions but we can not let them be an impediment to doing the work that we have been called out to do. Put a bit more forcefully: if it's not an essential, get over yourself. Focus on shining the light of Christ into the dark corners, 'cause folks—they're everywhere.

Just one last point here: we don't just go forward. We go forward "together." We must be a united front, loving and serving in the communities where we live and work and worship. That is how we make a difference in this world. When you make the decision that your priority is **sharing the gospel**, our lesser differences will be put into perspective and that is something we could all use more of. [SR](#)

Pastor Chuck Meathrell is thankful and humbled to serve as the pastor of the Pataskala SDB Church in Ohio since spring, 2020. He lives in Pataskala with his wife and three sons.

we don't just go forward. we go forward together.



It's an Attitude of the Heart

By Pastor Michael Spearl

Ephesians 5:21 directs us to *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ*. This instruction is directed to all believers, whoever you are: man, woman, boy or girl, child or parent. God expects you to have a spirit of gentle submission one to another.

So, how are we supposed to do that? How can someone submit to everyone else? Wouldn't that just be confusing and create disorder? For example: have you ever been around two unassertive people trying to decide where to go to lunch? Imagine their conversation:

“Where do you want to go to lunch?”
“I'll be happy wherever you choose.”
“I just want to go wherever you want.”
“But I don't want to choose because you might not like the food.”
“Okay, let's go to your favorite place.”
“I don't have a favorite place. I'm not hungry anyway.”

The conversation is annoying.

Fortunately, being submissive is not about being indecisive or directionless. Rather, being submissive is an attitude of the heart that has a direct effect on your actions. It's about losing your need to always be right, losing your ego. Have you ever been in a meeting where you just knew you had the answers and so you didn't try to understand the other person? I've been there. It's an attitude issue. A heart of submission, however, is different. A heart of submission allows people to walk together even when they disagree. But it's not easy. In fact, it would be impossible without Holy Spirit power. Sweet submissive talk? That's just talk; no substance until the Holy Spirit moves in your life and makes it real. Things that formerly irritated you and upset you or caused anxiety will no longer have that effect. You begin to enjoy the peace of God. Submission is all about having a commitment to one another.

Submission doesn't mean we should have the same opinion on every subject. That would be boring. We don't need or want everybody to agree. When we put our opinions ahead of God's principles, then we have a problem. We over commit to our own interests and end up fighting over things that don't really matter at all.

But don't we love the same Lord? Don't we have the same goal to share the Gospel with those who will listen? Yes, and we must stand together united on the things that define us—and understand that it's okay to disagree about things that don't really matter, the peripheral things. With a submissive attitude, we aren't focused on our own interests or opinions.

The words of 1 Peter 3:8 say: *be like minded, ...be compassionate*. Compassion is a profoundly moving word that connotes the ability to suffer together with other people. Paul wrote in

As you learn to walk together with others you will become more and more like the person your Savior wants you to be.

Romans 12:15-16: *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.* In other words, you can feel another person's pain as well as their joy. We are a family; we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We should not be arguing, especially about small matters. It's a wonderful thing to be in a family. God first loved us and then we loved Him and now we love one another. We are family. Most of us would do anything for our earthly families, not just our immediate family, but also our extended family. Part of being in a family is to love one another—and when you love one another you walk together.

Without submission, a family would be in turmoil. I grew up in a small home with one bathroom and two older sisters. The operating principle was this: I waited. I submitted. I didn't like it, but I submitted. Then, when I got a little older, and a little smarter, I figured out that if I got up a little earlier, I could get into the bathroom before my sleepy sisters got out of bed. I learned to submit by figuring out how to live together with them.

Compassion is a feeling deep down below the surface. The words of Paul from Ephesians 4:30-32: *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

The Holy Spirit is grieved not only when we are unkind but also when we are so wrapped up in our own goals and plans and worries that we end up overly focused on ourselves. We never feel another person's grief nor offer any priceless little acts of kindness. Are you too busy to write a note to a broken-hearted dad whose son is in trouble? Then you're too busy. Are you too busy to send flowers or a card to the family that has suffered the loss of a loved one? Then you are too busy. Are you too rushed to stop for a moment to encourage a friend who has a heavy heart? Then you are in too big a hurry. Are you flexible? Are you willing to change your plans to place someone else's needs before yours?

The moment you invited Jesus to be the Lord of your life, a portion of God's Holy Spirit entered within you, and you started down a road to become what God envisions you can be. God knows you well and He wants to guide you down life's road to

become far more than what you have always been. And along the way, as you yield to the Holy Spirit in more and more areas of your life, you will be filled with the Spirit—when you say to God each day, “Father, take my life and may it be consecrated to you; help me to be more and more like Jesus.”

And little by little, your attitudes change as you grow in the Spirit of God. One of the attitude changes is that you will become characterized by longsuffering, also known as patience. A longsuffering person has a long temper. What's the opposite of a *long* temper? Uh-huh, a short temper. Someone who is filled with the Spirit has a long temper. This person does not explode in anger when something goes wrong. This person has self-control over their emotions. We've all been around people with short tempers. When something goes wrong, they go ballistic, and people are hurt.

But when the Holy Spirit within you controls your temper and disarms it, then before you say something you'll regret, your words die in your throat. You might write an angry letter, but you put it through the shredder. You're under Holy Spirit control. The Spirit of God can give you the strength you need to keep your cool at the very moment when everybody around you is losing theirs. The spiritual fruit of longsuffering will be very, very evident.

And along with your long temper, you will be moved by a spirit of kindness even in our angry world that's always in a big hurry, with a chip on its shoulder. Kindness is rare today. Kindness is a Jesus characteristic. Jesus was always kind, and the Holy Spirit was sent in His place to teach us to live a life of patience and kindness. When you are filled with the Spirit of God your relationships with others are long-tempered and they are filled with compassion and kindness. Jesus wants you to be kind in your home, to be kind in the workplace, and even to be kind when an arrogant, aggressive driver cuts you off in traffic. And as you learn to *walk together* with others, you will become more and more like the person your Savior wants you to be. It's an attitude of the heart. [SR](#)

Pastor Michael Spearl lives on the west coast of Florida in Safety Harbor with his wife, Laura. They enjoy his role as pastor at Union Station SDB Church in Dunedin, FL, a warm, wonderful place to call home, to raise a family, or to retire.



We have God to go ahead of us and our identity is in Him. This is the essence of living in the kingdom.

Family Living in the Kingdom of God

Recently, Shiloh church presented a sermon series on the topic of “Kingdom Living” and what it means to be a citizen in God’s kingdom. Pastor Don Chroniger opened the series with the message “Who’s house are you living in?” and then additional messages were shared from Deacon Dennis Coleman on “the Great Commission” and Pastor Tyler Chroniger on “working in the kingdom.” The following message rounded out the series with a focus on “family living in the kingdom of God.”

What is family? According to the dictionary, a family is “a group of one or more parents and their children; and all the descendants of a common ancestor.” As Christians, we believe we are part of the family of God. When Jesus taught us how to pray, He opened with the words “Our Father...” This indicates there is a parental relationship between the Lord and His people. In addition to that, in the New Testament there are 136 examples of groups of Christians being referred to as “brothers and sisters.” Paul’s letter to the Colossians, which we will be reading from today, begins by addressing “the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.” So when we are talking about family living in the kingdom of God, we are talking about all of us who are believers.

The message of family starts with a foundation of love. Let’s start in Colossians 3, verse 1.

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Paul says we are “hidden with Christ in God.” When I read this, I think of Captain America moving into battle with his shield protecting him. He is hidden behind the stars and stripes. When the enemy sees him coming, they see the shield first, then notice the person behind it. In the same way, as Christians, we have God to go ahead of us and our identity is in Him. This is the essence of living in the kingdom.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

By Frank Mazza

Frank serves as moderator and deacon at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ.

There are sins that are outwardly visible and obvious. Being greedy and lustful is behavior that is transparent and difficult to hide. These things should be “put to death” when we put our faith in Him. Also notice the language used here. Put to death is final and absolute. It also gives the impression that there may be a battle initially to move past these things when you become a believer.

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Now the bar is raised. To be a part of the family, we must continue to be more Christ-like. This means addressing things like anger, rage, slander, and language in our lives. I want to point out here some more language that Paul uses when talking about sin. In verses 8 and 9 he uses the phrases “rid yourselves of” and “you have taken off.” He is comparing sin to a bad piece of clothing. When I first started working on airplanes I had a job at the airport at the same time I was going to school. I would go in early and sample the fuel trucks daily to make sure nothing was contaminated. This means using glass quart jars filled with jet fuel and looking for water and dirt inside. Inevitably, between the trucks and tanks some fuel would get on my hands or jacket sleeves. The smell is terrible. No matter how much I washed and cleaned, it wouldn’t go away. I would then go to the classroom and everyone immediately noticed when I walked in. I had to leave my coat outside so the stink wasn’t a distraction to everyone else. This is how Paul talks about sin. It stinks. And it’s our choice to decide when to take it off and get rid of it. We are not victims who are helpless. Many times, when these behaviors come up, we look for someone else to blame for our bad attitude.

When you give in to slander, rage or anger, it is not someone else’s fault. We have the choice of what attitude to put on.

11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Paul tells the Colossians that the message is for you. All of you. All of us. Regardless if you are a new believer or have been around a while (Gentile vs Jew), if you follow traditions and rules or if you don’t (circumcised vs uncircumcised). It doesn’t matter what country you are from or what you look like (Barbarian vs Scythian). At some point in history, the Barbarians, Scythians, and Greeks all had turns conquering each other. When this letter was written they were all under Roman rule. The point is that one group of people used to have power over another and now they were equal. That is a challenge for people to accept but Paul tells them that to God it doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter who you work for or who has authority over you. CHRIST IS ALL AND IS IN ALL.

We should therefore clothe ourselves in compassion, kindness, and humility with gentleness and patience. Again, see the language of clothing? Instead of old rotten stinky clothes, the family of God should choose to wear the attitude of grace and mercy. This is how family treats each other—with dignity and respect. If you look at people in the church with an attitude of disrespect or bitterness, it is time to take that off. I know times are tough. There is an overwhelming feeling of stress and anxiety. People are frustrated and exhausted. In a recent study, the American Psychological Association found that 84% of adults are experiencing prolonged periods of stress. Of the 84%, the most common side effects were anxiety, sadness, and anger. I understand that most of us feel emotional pressure in some way. It is normal to experience these emotions. It is not ok to take it out

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on family. You are not alone. Ask for help if you need to. You are part of a family; family takes care of each other with gentleness, compassion, and kindness.

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

We are called to bear with each other. We are called to forgive each other. In fact, we are called to forgive each other the way the Lord forgave us.

Romans 5:6-8: “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

If someone has sinned against you, we are called to forgive them. Even if they are not remorseful, or don't seem to be genuinely sorry. Jesus died on the cross long before I asked for forgiveness. We should have the same attitude towards our brothers and sisters.

Colossians 3:15: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This passage concludes with the message of peace and unity. Paul also teaches that we are to hold each other accountable. Verse 16 says we are supposed to teach and admonish. Admonish means to “advise someone earnestly or to firmly warn of something to be avoided.” Family looks out for each other. Most importantly, whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus. When our focus is on Him, there is much more room for grace. The less we focus on Him and concern ourselves with our own preferences and struggles, the more problems we have.

When I prepare a message, I start with writing out an outline. I start with studying the Word and writing down the main ideas that I believe the Lord would have me share. From there, I'll break down which verses support each main idea. I really liked how this sermon's outline highlights how family should live together in the kingdom. Take some time this week to pray with and for your family—both under your roof and in the body as a whole. Thank you and God Bless! SR

- We are hidden with Christ
- We are to “get rid of” sinful attitudes and behaviors
- We are to “put on” attitudes of compassion, kindness and gentleness
- We are all equal, regardless of tradition or ethnicity
- We are to forgive and bear with each other
- We are to be thankful and encourage each other



our task:
keep looking
upward and
forward to
that time when
He returns!

where, How, when

By Rev. Darwin W. Steele

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:3-4)

As I write this small missive for the *Sabbath Recorder*, the Bell SDB Church is beginning an abbreviated recovery with many challenges ahead for the New Year. We had a “mini” COVID-19 epidemic that ran through our folks—we buried one, Deb Kagarise, who was a prayer warrior of some note. The challenges continue.

So, what is the prognosis for our ministry, our church and our vision for the future? As the end of 2021 approaches, we can look back with some trepidation but also a bit of comfort—knowing that we weathered the year and are still here. Maybe on our knees, true, but still looking forward to His return. Our sermon series on Isaiah has brought us to focus more and more on Christ’s return—yes, Isaiah does note and anticipate the birth of the Savior, but reading closely one can see he also focuses on the culmination of the end of time and the return of the King.

The Bell church now has options laid out before it: slowly die or reach out to grasp a new lease on ministry. How are we going to do that? Isaiah gives us two things: a promise of peace and an instruction on how to obtain that peace. With such choices laid out before us, it would seem like a simple thing to reach for the “right” choice—yet even what we think may be right, may not even come close to what God has planned for us. First up is the instruction of trust. My Evangelical Theological Dictionary has no entry for “trust,” just a simple note saying, “go look at the word ‘faith!’” Wow...If peace is what we long for then Isaiah’s instruction is telling—we cannot move forward without faith in the Lord. Peace of this kind gives one a platform to stand on, a secure footing that allows the Christian to do the work that lies ahead without fear.

Secondly, for us to obtain that peace through faith, we must be grounded in Him. The only way to begin that process is to stay focused on the Word of God. That means an onus for me—I (as pastor and teacher) must seek truth in Him through the Word and live that “trust” out so my charges have an example to follow. To do that, I need prayer warriors—losing even one, as we did this fall, hurts. Peace through faith—God is a rock, He cannot be moved. so my anchor will hold—but I still need prayer to help me do this. So do my folks. That plays, then, into the larger community and brings to the fore the necessity of praying for and supporting congregations we are not part of locally. Our Associations and Conference play an ever increasing, and hugely important, role in that support.

Our last point is simple, going forward in this time of COVID and political unrest, we need intentional commitment by everyone to be the Christ-follower we each claim to be. We need to be “stayed” on Him. Period. That means going when He calls. That means doing what He says needs doing—even if we do not like it. That means having the trust and the faith to yield to His will—no matter what.

Tough choices, tough times—but no less than many who have gone before have done. Charles Spurgeon once said, “*Wait a little longer. Ah, beloved! How despicable our troubles and trials will seem when we look back upon them! Looking at them here in the prospect, they seem immense; but when we get to heaven, they will seem to us just nothing at all...Let us go on, therefore; and if the night be ever so dark, remember there is not a night that shall not have a morning; and that morning is to come by-and-by.*” Our morning, the return of Christ, is still ahead. Our task: keep looking upward and forward to that time—when He returns may we be found with faith, doing the task set for us to do. Marantha! [SR](#)

The Rev. Darwin W. Steele is a graduate of the Liberty University Theological Seminary with a Master’s in Biblical Studies and with a Homiletics Cognate. Native of Boulder, Colorado he has served as the Associate Pastor of the Boulder SDB Church, Lead Pastor of the Springs Life Church, and is currently the Lead Pastor of the Bell SDB Church in Salemville, PA. He and his wife Cheryl have just celebrated 28 years of marriage.



FOCUS on Missions

By Andy Samuels

Chief Executive Director
SDB Missionary Society

WALKING TOGETHER IN ECUADOR

Towards the middle of November, our mission team headed to Ecuador. The three-person team comprised of the Missionary Society President Danny Lee, Douglas Marianno from Brazil, and myself. Our in-country hosts and chaperones were the dynamic and devoted pastoral couple, Fabian Loachamin and Andrea Pozo. For more than three years, these two servants of the Most High, have been providing pastoral leadership for two churches in the Quito area, and oversight leadership for an additional church in Riobamba, approximately 100 miles south of Quito.

As in just about every country in the world, COVID-19 has affected life in the South American country sometimes referred to as the Republic of the Equator. We were privileged to worship and fellowship with our Ecuadorean brothers and sisters on Sabbath—and it was only the fourth Sabbath since they had resumed in-person worship, in accordance with government-directed pandemic regulations. The remaining restrictions include an attendance limit of a maximum of 50% of the occupancy capacity of the worship facility. So, about 60 grateful worshippers gathered in the beautiful and spacious sanctuary. Danny taught the adult Sabbath School class; Douglas contributed a solo piece on the clarinet; Pastor Fabian and the worship team led the congregation in the praise and worship segment; and I had the privilege of delivering the sermon. Pastor Andrea served as our very proficient translator. The worship service was livestreamed, as are all their Sabbath services.

The church in Ecuador goes by the name, “Evangelio Eterno Iglesia Cristiana” (Eternal Gospel Christian Church). They have had an affiliation with Seventh Day Baptists for quite a while with Pastor Andrea leading the ministry of translating our quarterly Bible study guide, *The Helping Hand*, into Spanish for more than 12 years. Pastors Fabian and Andrea are medical doctors who have both given up their medical practice to serve together in full-time ministry. What a step of faith!



Pastors Fabian and Andrea



The mission team and the host pastors



Pastor Fabian leading the worship team

The church facility in Quito is quite extensive. It was donated by Pastor Andrea's parents and was their home at one time. Pastor Andrea's father is the former Pastor of the church. The facility consists of the sanctuary, several classrooms, a fellowship hall which used to be an indoor swimming pool, a library, an office, a parking lot which used to be a tennis court, a children's playground, and a small grassy field where, led by Pastor Fabian, soccer is played on Sunday mornings, as a part of the church's outreach ministry. Danny and I can say that we played soccer in the high Quito altitude of almost 10,000 feet, and lived to tell about it.

On Sabbath afternoon, we engaged in teaching leadership principles to a group of about a dozen church leaders. The leaders were very attentive, asked good questions, and provided feedback indicating that the content of the teaching was relevant and timely for them.

We were also blessed to share in the house-to-house distribution of bags of groceries to 26 needy families in the Caspigasi area on the outskirts of Quito, the location of the second Evangelio Eterno Iglesia Cristiana. Our vehicular transportation was the church-owned 15-passenger van. That ministry also included giving Bibles to those who needed them, and praying for the families. What a blessing it was to see the joy on the faces of the recipients of the provisions, who were mostly mothers functioning as the primary breadwinners for their households. The church in the Caspigasi area has not yet reopened for in-person worship, and they are also praying for a dedicated pastor/leader for that ministry.

Our brethren in Ecuador are enthused about the ministries they are able to engage in, they are seeking to continue to equip themselves for more ministry, and they are serious about reaching their communities for Jesus Christ. They are truly people who are dispensing the eternal gospel. And we are walking together with them on that journey. SR



Handing out Bibles and groceries house to house



Danny playing soccer



Remembering Jenni Wangsness

by Beth Brown



Many of us lost a beautiful friend in Jenni Wangsness recently. And even though I have known this was probably coming since late this summer, when messages came through various digital grapevines of family travelling to see her in time and sending last messages to her, my heart sank. I had no words. I couldn't comprehend. I am sure my reaction was not unique.

Though my heart aches, I know Jenni has no pain or sorrow. We are sad, but she is where there is no more crying. My head and my heart are conflicted and still processing. But I do know we miss you Jenni. Sometimes there are just no words.



How Great Is Our God!

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness.”

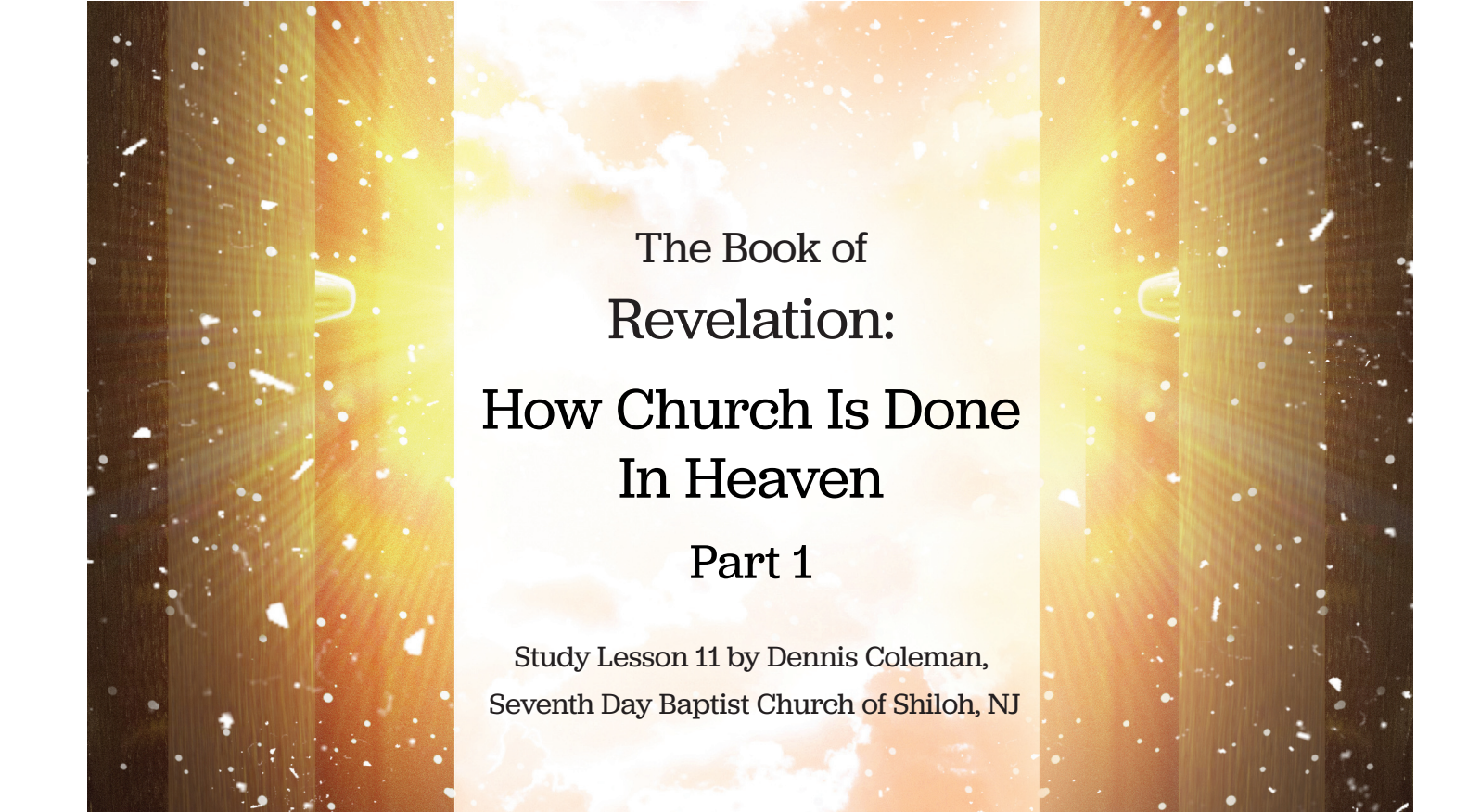
—Lamentations 3:22-23

Happy New Year! With a new year comes new adventures; new challenges; possibilities for new friendships or new job opportunities; new ministries to be involved with; new ways our great God can speak to us; new life experiences for our churches and our families. What new things does God have in store for your church in 2022? What new adventures will you and your family enjoy in 2022? What struggles and challenges will be a part of your life in 2022?

One of the adventures Don and I have had in 2021 involved purchasing a house. Throughout our ministry years we have lived in parsonages. With Don retiring the end of 2021, we needed to find a house. As we looked at several possible homes, we always asked God to show us which house He had in store for us. He was faithful and showed us the perfect one. He provided some funding for the down payment and for all the updates (new paint, new curtains, etc.). It’s a new home with new tenants—us!

The prophet Jeremiah in his book Lamentations reminds us that God’s love and compassions are new every morning and God’s faithfulness to us is great. We do not need to be anxious or fearful of what the new year (2022) may bring. We read a lot about God’s faithfulness in the Psalms. Psalm 33:4 says, “For the word of the Lord is right and true, He is faithful in all He does.” Psalm 100:5 states, “For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 117:2 says, “For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.” Psalm 145:13 reminds us that “Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all His promises, and loving toward all He has made.”

If it’s possible, sing the great hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (text by Thomas Chisholm and music by William Runyan) sometime during January. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness during 2021, and ask Him to continue His faithfulness to you, your family, your church, and your community in 2022. Choose to look forward to the year 2022 and all its possibilities. As you make plans for the new year, please consider enjoying a trip to Colorado Springs, CO, to attend our IN-PERSON (Lord willing) General Conference meetings the week of July 24-30. Help us celebrate “How Great Is Our God!” [SR](#)



The Book of Revelation: How Church Is Done In Heaven Part 1

Study Lesson 11 by Dennis Coleman,
Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ

I love how we as Seventh Day Baptists are blessed with a variety of different worship styles. And yet, they all pale in comparison to how we will worship our God when we all get to Heaven. John got to experience just a glimpse of heavenly worship, which he describes for us in chapter 4 of Revelation. Let's join in standing in awe as we read about how church is done in Heaven. But first:

Prayer time

Please join in prayer for our churches. Pray for those who worship in countries where they are still free to do so and for those where Christian worship is a crime. May both honor God in obedience to His will. Pray also for wisdom and understanding as we tackle this next chapter of the book of Revelation.

Revelation 4:1

I do not believe that Revelation is one vision. In fact I think chapter 4 is the start of a second vision which he received after being called to dictate the letters to the seven churches. What is revealed in this next vision and in future chapters is a moment in Heaven: the day of judgment. Through John's eyes we see things unfolding in heaven long before we see the results here on earth. In fact, even today we still look forward to God's will being done here on earth as it was demonstrated before John in this vision.

John is called to enter an open door, one through which he is called up to go into a room where...

Revelation 4:2

...He sees a throne and yes there is someone sitting on the throne.

John tells us that upon being called and at the time of seeing this throne, he was immediately in the spirit. What does it mean to be in the spirit? To find out, I took a look at a few commentaries about this verse. One commentary said that John was made able to ascend up into Heaven. Other commentaries question this but say instead that he was so spiritually absorbed in the vision (and so surrendered to the Holy Spirit) that it was as if he had ascended. Still other commentaries leave it open that either or both might be possible. Then there are the commentaries that don't even try to deal with what this means.

I personally believe that this represents John being so given over to the Holy Spirit that the physical no longer influenced his being. He may have no longer been aware of anything other than the vision and was so surrendered that he was under the full control of the Holy Spirit. I believe at this point he was worshiping in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

Whatever the explanation, John experienced something amazing. He was in a place spiritually (and perhaps even physically) that I suspect was beyond clear explanation and very, very real.

Something to think about: Is your worship in spirit or is it temporal? Is it about being lost in the spirit or is it only about your earthly concerns? Are you worshiping in spirit and truth or are you worshiping out of habit or culture?

A Throne Set in Heaven

What does a throne represent? It represents power and authority, rule judgment, and honor.

This is God's throne, representing the fact that God rules over all. And this throne is not empty. One sits on the throne whom we know to be God. But John uses some unusual words to describe God with each having special meaning for people during the time it was written as well as for us. In order to understand this description I will rely heavily on Matthew Henry's Commentary for this portion of our study.

- Jasper—a transparent stone that comes in a variety of colors. It symbolizes the glory of God, His splendor, perfection and beauty. It was also the stone that represented Benjamin on Aaron's breastplate. (Note: what Revelation describes seems different from what we now think of as a Jasper stone.)
- Sardius (sardine, Carnelian)—represents the justice of God both in punishing sinners and in forgiving their sins. In His justice we see both punishment and salvation. The two cannot be separated and are essential parts of God's nature. This stone also represented Reuben on Aaron's breastplate.
- Rainbow—represents the covenant made with Noah (Genesis 9) that God would never again flood the entire earth. It also symbolizes the everlasting covenant between God and the head of His church. Who is the head of His church? Jesus is the head of God's church. In fact, God made a covenant with Himself and only He can break this everlasting covenant.
- The prevailing color of the rainbow was emerald—a greenish color believed to represent how the new covenant brings restoration of life.
- Lightning, Thunder and Voices—believed to be declarations and announcements, likely commands. We see this on Mt. Sinai when God

gives the 10 Commandments (Exodus 19 and 20). When God gave the commandments, there was lightning and thunder over the mountain. We see the same today, as God gives commands to His church.

- The Seven lamps of fire—Just as in the first chapter we see the seven lamps. What does seven represent in the Bible? Seven often represents perfection. What do these seven lamps represent? They represent the perfect nature of the Holy Spirit, Who gives His gifting to His church according to the perfect will of the Father.

John does not describe God using the terms we would normally use to describe a person. I suspect there are three reasons for this: 1) God is spirit; 2) These symbols help give us a more complete picture of the nature of God, sort of like seeing the heart of a person instead of just their outward appearance, (although in all likelihood the description still falls way short); 3) We are not to see something we could turn into an idol. We have here a word picture that is not easily turned into a painting or into a carved image. It tells of the magnificence of our God and it is here that we should focus our attention.

That opened door was an invitation to John to come into the holiest of holies to stand in the presence of the one true God. It is a place where people are not allowed without invitation and only those who enter by way of the body of Christ will successfully gain admittance.

With this amazing description I ask: are you worshiping the magnificent One described on the pages of the Bible and revealed in the person of Jesus or do you worship someone of your own creation? Do you enter into worship by virtue of your own righteous deeds or do you enter through the promise of eternal life in Christ?

*Therefore, brethren, having boldness
to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
by a new and living way which He consecrated
for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
and having a High Priest over the house of God,
let us draw near with a true heart
in full assurance of faith, having our hearts
sprinkled from an evil conscience and
our bodies washed with pure water.
Let us hold fast the confession of
our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful.*

—Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

SR

Leading as a Follower

By Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education and History

There's a closet industry in our world around making leaders. Seemingly everyone wants to be one. If we wanted to be cynical about the trend around making leaders, we could say that much of the supposed "leadership development" in our culture is really just targeted marketing that convinces people that once they have consumed enough content and attended enough events they will be seen as a leader. The lesson we might deduce from this model is that leadership is something you achieve by convincing others you are a leader.

Recently, I've been thinking a lot about what makes a leader, reflecting on the lives of Biblical heroes, leaders in my own life, and the example of Jesus. But one of the surprises of my reflections has come from identifying the ways that Jesus and the authors of the New Testament connect *following* to *leadership development*.

We are all familiar with Jesus calling out to his first disciples, "follow me." And we all can picture in our minds Peter preaching to a great crowd of people as God works through his preaching to bring thousands to Jesus. It is easy to see the one out front as the leader and assume that's what we should aspire to become. But I've become quietly convinced that the power of Jesus and his disciples as leaders is more about how they follow, and who they follow, than who they led. Jesus says plainly he only did what he saw His Father doing (John 5:19). And the apostles were empowered only by their submission to the Holy Spirit. This isn't because Jesus wasn't able to lead on his own, but because his example of submission to God while he was in the flesh was an integral part of his earthly ministry.

There's a great video online by a man named Derek Sivers about how movements grow. In the original version of his video (which is less than three minutes long!), he spends a significant amount of time focusing on what he calls "the first follower." Sivers suggests that the first follower is very important to any movement because that person changes the leader from a lone nut to movement leader. Sivers further suggests that the first follower is critical because he shows others how to follow the leader. Those following the leader learn as much from the followers as they do the leader, because it is the other followers who teach new ones how to follow the leader and be a part of the group.

*Those we
follow
ultimately
followed
someone else,
all the way
back to Jesus
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those first
disciples.*

When it comes to the way of Jesus, this is highly significant: we follow those who have shown us that way, both through instruction and by their example. But those we follow ultimately followed someone else, all the way back to Jesus himself and those first disciples. This is probably part of what the Apostle Paul means when he writes in 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, as I imitate Christ." (ESV) In many ways, Christian leadership boils down to our own following of not only Jesus, but also the leaders that God appoints for us. As we follow our leader and King, Jesus Christ, we ultimately become leaders—not by standing apart from the tradition of Jesus to say something that has never been said, but rather by following after the cloud of witnesses that has come before us, most notably in those who entrusted the faith to us as it was entrusted to them.

As Sivers ends his video, he concludes by suggesting, "...We're told we all need to be leaders, but that would be really ineffective. The best way to make a movement, if you really care, is to courageously follow and show others how to follow." That should be no trouble for us as followers of Christ: we already have the leader—the rest is just following him and helping others to do the same. So how is your following? Are you growing in leadership by following harder after Jesus and the leaders he has put in front of you? Are you rebelling against any of the leaders that God has appointed for you? If you are

struggling to submit to the leadership of Jesus and his church, your next step as a leader isn't to make a bold new path: it's to return to the ancient way, submit and follow more diligently. SR

January Memory Verse:

PRIMARY

For great is the Lord; He is to be feared above all gods.

–Psalm 96:4

JUNIOR/YOUTH/ADULT

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

–Psalm 96:4



SERVANT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT A SUMMER OF SERVICE: LEADERSHIP FOR A LIFETIME

*Leadership development training for college age students
grants available from Memorial Board Trustees*

DATES AND INFORMATION

- January 15DEADLINE for Student Applications (18 or older by 6/16/22)
- February 15DEADLINE for Church Project Applications
- June 16 – 19Project Director Training
- June 16 – 23SCSC In-Person Training
- June 23 – July 21On-site Projects
- July 21 – 24SCSC Evaluation
- July 24 – 30SDB General Conference in Colorado Springs, CO

*Information and forms can be found under the SCSC drop down tab at:
<http://www.sdbwomen.org/>*



Reflections Through The Looking Glass

As I was pondering how to share my experience as a first year SCSC director, the title of the sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll came to mind along with the movies. Mirrors normally reflect what we can see around us. Normally you can't get through that reflection or change that reflection. It is what it is. But Lewis Carroll asks, what if you could go thru the looking glass, or fall down the rabbit hole, and all the rules change?

As director and staff, we hoped that this COVID was merely a nuisance in how SCSC and Dedicated Service functioned. We would grow leaders through serving God and serving people. We would provide an opportunity to grow known skills, to develop new skills, and to explore strengths and weaknesses, while deepening their relationship with God. This would be in-person because it is easier to teach in person, build relationships in person, read body language as we communicate in person, and have new experiences in person. This virtual stuff was not in person—however, it was a nice temporary solution. We realized that most of our students would not be able to travel, because Canada to the US and Jamaica to the US was going to be extremely complicated, if not impossible. We had to look through the looking glass and adapt.

I was grateful to tap into the experience of the interim director and several of the staff members from the previous year, and the staff God provided this year. We looked through the glass and tried to answer the questions that many have been asking. How do we teach effectively? How do we build relationships through a screen? Can you have a partner when they are not in the same place? What does a project that is both online and in person look like? How do you deal with spotty internet? How do you keep people from being torn between the responsibilities of home with the call to serve? Some of these questions we could merely reflect back to past experience but others we had to travel through the looking glass. I would like share where going through the looking glass opened a world of possibilities, and where I discovered, like Alice, some things are better on this side of the mirror.

Weaknesses of virtual training and projects are varied but the greatest is relational. Building a relationship through a screen is difficult and similar to a long-distance relationship. It is much easier to miss cues and body language, harder to interact in a casual way that builds deeper relationships, and hard to have fluid group conversations. The reality is, sitting in front of a screen all day stinks. The result is that most people just want to get off the screen and check out. When you have problems, you literally just turn them off or don't show up. Typing relationships are subject to missed words and misinterpreted words because you have no inflections or body language or context in which to place them. DID SHE HIT THE CAPS LOCK BY ACCIDENT OR IS SHE YELLING AT ME?

If you are going to bring together a team after just virtual training, you miss the opportunity to learn how they communicate and sometimes work through potential conflicts before the project happens. Projects can be stressful enough without having to build a relationship at the same time. If you do not have a partner and you are doing a virtual project, problems in the project are hard to fix. It is difficult for a virtual project director, mentor, or staff member to help when they are not physically there. If the student does not have a good support system where they are, how do we give it to them? How do we help them if the needs of their local community keep them from their project or make it hard to keep their commitment? These are tough questions to answer and I am still searching.

*We hoped that this
COVID was
merely a nuisance!*

Cultural exchange is very difficult to do virtually. It is difficult to learn and implement new ideas if you have not experienced them. It is harder to understand why a brother or sister does something the way they do until you have been there and done it with them. It may not change what you do but understanding comes with experience.

The final reality is the internet and working platforms are sometimes complicated and unreliable. Even those with good reliable internet can have trouble. For those of us who live in rural places, even our good internet can be slow and cell phones are still iffy. My husband still has a beeper for work. When we add an international component, things can quickly get even more complicated—like PowerPoints not playing on Google drive, or not allowing access to book or phones, not being able to download, or not being able to view certain items—just a few of the real adventures experienced this summer.

But wait, there are some great things to be found on the other side of the looking glass. I look forward to implementing these, trying some new things and finding new uses for the virtual interactions. We found that the virtual concert was a great way to introduce people to our SCSC students. Students were able to create digital media that included devotionals, mentoring groups, camping programs, vespers, and vacation Bible school. These are things that would have been sidelined in a traditional in-person project. Students used digital savvy to help connect members of their churches with online services, scanned and cataloged information remotely, taught life skills virtually (table setting, style, cooking, dancing) and linked written music to preexisting videos. There are many potential digital projects that your students could have.

Students were more involved in putting together projects. It allowed them to invest their skills in activities that were a strong suit while at the same time exploring new things. It forced them to reach out both locally and to the wider community to find things to fill their projects. You might think that having the power to choose more of their projects would result in participants sticking to safe activities. However, a number of students said they had discovered a new skill or found a new interest, which was very positive. They learned about networking and got to spend time with virtual mentors. Mentoring at times was difficult or impossible without virtual platforms at our disposal.

We discovered that the virtual platform was a great way to bring in people that it would not be feasible to

bring to in-person training. This included meeting executives of the different conference boards and agencies. It also allowed us to create virtual roundtables to talk about teaching virtually, missions, church culture, and following God's call. These roundtables brought together many people from many places. It also allowed students and people to hear from those who would not normally have been able to be involved or participate. It allowed us to have Bible study weekly with all the students studying the same topics together. It forced us to consider what things could be done asynchronously and what needed to be done together.

What would I like to bring through the looking glass to the future of SCSC and Dedicated Service? Although virtual is not a perfect solution, virtual platforms can streamline the time spent in person. Things that students can do virtually and asynchronously ahead of time can free up in-person time for training and relationship building. Project directors can also get pretraining to help build better projects and shorten in-person training time. This could allow new and different people to be project directors. This could allow a Dedicated Service worker to virtually participate in some of training. This could help Dedicated Service leaders meet their training requirements for their students. I hope to continue the virtual mentors because introducing our young adults to people across the denomination and begin building relationships is a good thing. I hope to continue the group Bible study as there is value in everyone studying together, praying together, and talking together on a regular basis. I look forward to continuing the round tables. It was a great way to talk and think about ideas and topics. Visiting with our leaders, even virtually, helps our students better understand how things work at a denominational level, where they can get involved, and how they might implement changes.

Another aspect of virtual training that is tantalizing to consider is how it could expand in the future. I was continually amazed by the thought that we were interacting with students in three countries. There were strengths, weakness, and concerns, but maybe this is a part of a future through the looking glass experience.

Until then, I would ask that our body of believers pray for our students and encourage them to be involved as SCSCers or Dedicated Service workers. Consider partnering with us as mentors, project directors, and financially, as we grow leaders through serving God and serving people. ^{SR}

By Amanda Barbee

Passionate Pastor with Heart for Outreach Sought for SDB Church in WV



The Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church at New Milton, WV, is praying and seeking a pastor who is passionate about God and the ministry. We are looking for solid Biblical teaching and an interest in evangelical outreach in the community.

We are currently active with Sabbath services and Sabbath school along with continued support of the SDB Missionary Society, local food pantry, and SDB fund requests for special projects and needs including the Christmas Wish List. We wish to return, under pastoral leadership, to such activities as Bible study, VBS, and community outreach. We are open to new activities and programs, and to the discussion and development of said ideas.

We do not require a specific number of hours per week devoted to church-related work. We trust that God will send a pastor who will see needs and address them as they become visible. We trust that a new pastor will pray for the church and the community and the congregation will be willing to support and assist with outreach and meet church needs.

Middle Island is a small congregation and would therefore be able to pay a supplemental salary. A pastor who is employed outside of the church or a pastor who is retired and receiving retirement and/or social security would work best.

Those interested in this position can make that interest known by emailing or calling:
Clara Glover: grannyglover@frontier.com or call 304-758-4243;
or
John Pethtel: jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org or call 608-752-5055 x702

PART-TIME PASTOR WANTED

Who are we?

The Good News Seventh Day Baptist Church is a church plant in Apex, NC. We are passionate about God, people, and the Sabbath. Our mission is to engage our community by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and meeting the needs of the people. The Good News SDB Church is currently made up of a small core group of committed disciple-makers with the vision of raising up leaders to transform our community one life at a time. We are proudly a part of our Seventh Day Baptist Denomination.

Who are you?

We are looking for a passionate, relational leader who is called by God to plant churches for Him. Do you have a love for the Word of God? Are you Christ-centered and seeking opportunities to point others toward Him? Have you completed formal theological training? Are you relational and community oriented? A servant shepherd?

What's Expected?

In this role you will be expected to lead in our efforts toward reaching our community and creating disciples. This is a part-time position of 20 hours per week. We will expect you to spend time each week:

1. In prayer for the church and the community
2. In the community building relationships outside the church
3. Preparing a sermon and preaching
4. In visitation/member care
5. Being disciplined and discipling

If you are interested in this role, please email goodnewssdbchurch@gmail.com with your resume and cover letter. We are excited to meet you!

DEATHS

WANGSNESS—Jennifer Beth (Osborn) Wangsness passed away at home in Decorah, IA, on November 29, 2021. She was born on January 8, 1979, in Decorah. "Jenni" served the Seventh Day Baptist denomination as Women's Society president for six years, representing us to other Baptist denominations. Memorial services were held in Dodge Center, MN on December 6, 2021.

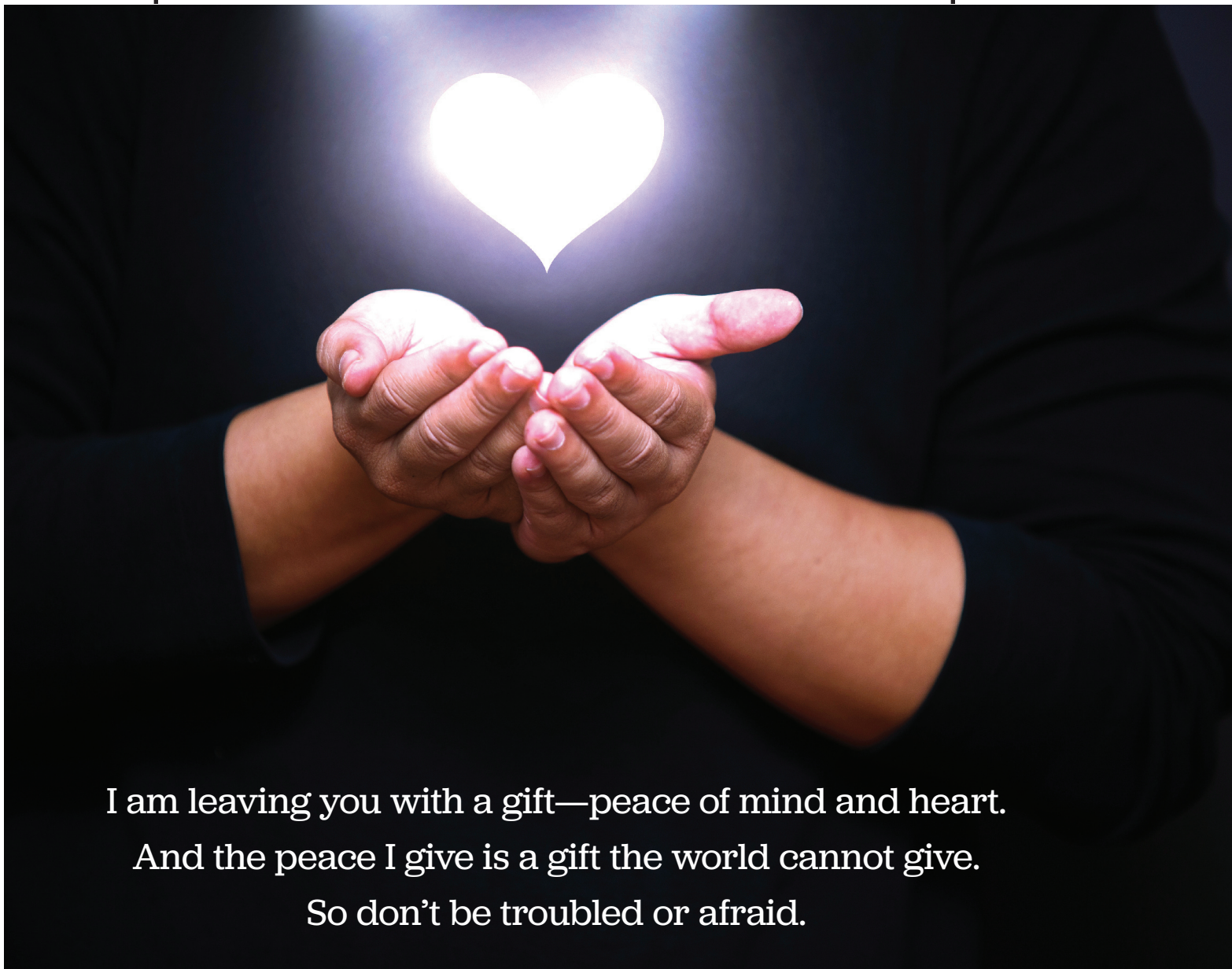
RAHN— Kerry Louise Rahn was born June 26, 1949, to Menzo and Audrey Fuller. She lost her battle with cancer and passed on October 9, 2021. Kerry was a deacon of the 1st Seventh Day Baptist Church in Houston. She grew up in the North Loup, NE, SDB Church and has been an SDB member since. She moved to Texas in 1972 and became a member at the Houston SDB church soon after.

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I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.
And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.
So don't be troubled or afraid.

-John 14:27 NLT

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