



Sabbath Recorder

Lord, teach us to pray...

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

January 2024



This, then, is how you should pray:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.*

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Sabbath Recorder

A monthly journey into the mind and heart.

January 2024

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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“When you pray...”

By Liam Probasco



When believers recite prayers, whether in corporate worship or individually before the Lord, perhaps none has been recited more than the Lord’s Prayer. Whether you say “Forgive us our debts” or “Forgive us our trespasses,” most believers know how to recite the Lord’s Prayer. Although believers of all denominations pray the Lord’s Prayer, different views exist regarding its purpose and proper use in the Church.

When trying to understand something in the Bible, it is usually helpful to understand its wider context. The Lord’s prayer and its contexts are found in the Gospels of Matthew (6:5-15) and Luke (11:1-4). In Matthew, Jesus emphasizes the importance of meaningful, personal prayer, in contrast to the hypocrites and pagans. The “hypocrites,” likely some religious leaders, would pray in public for show, missing the important intimacy that occurs in personal prayer. The pagans, as polytheists, would pray long prayers hoping that they would be heard. As Christians, we have true hope in Jesus and can pray meaningfully, confident that the Lord knows what we need and hears every word. In Luke, Jesus’ disciples ask Him to teach them how to pray after He returns from a time of prayer. Jesus then teaches them an abridged version of Matthew 6:9-13. Although Jesus likely gave these two similar versions of the Lord’s Prayer in different situations, their importance remains the same.

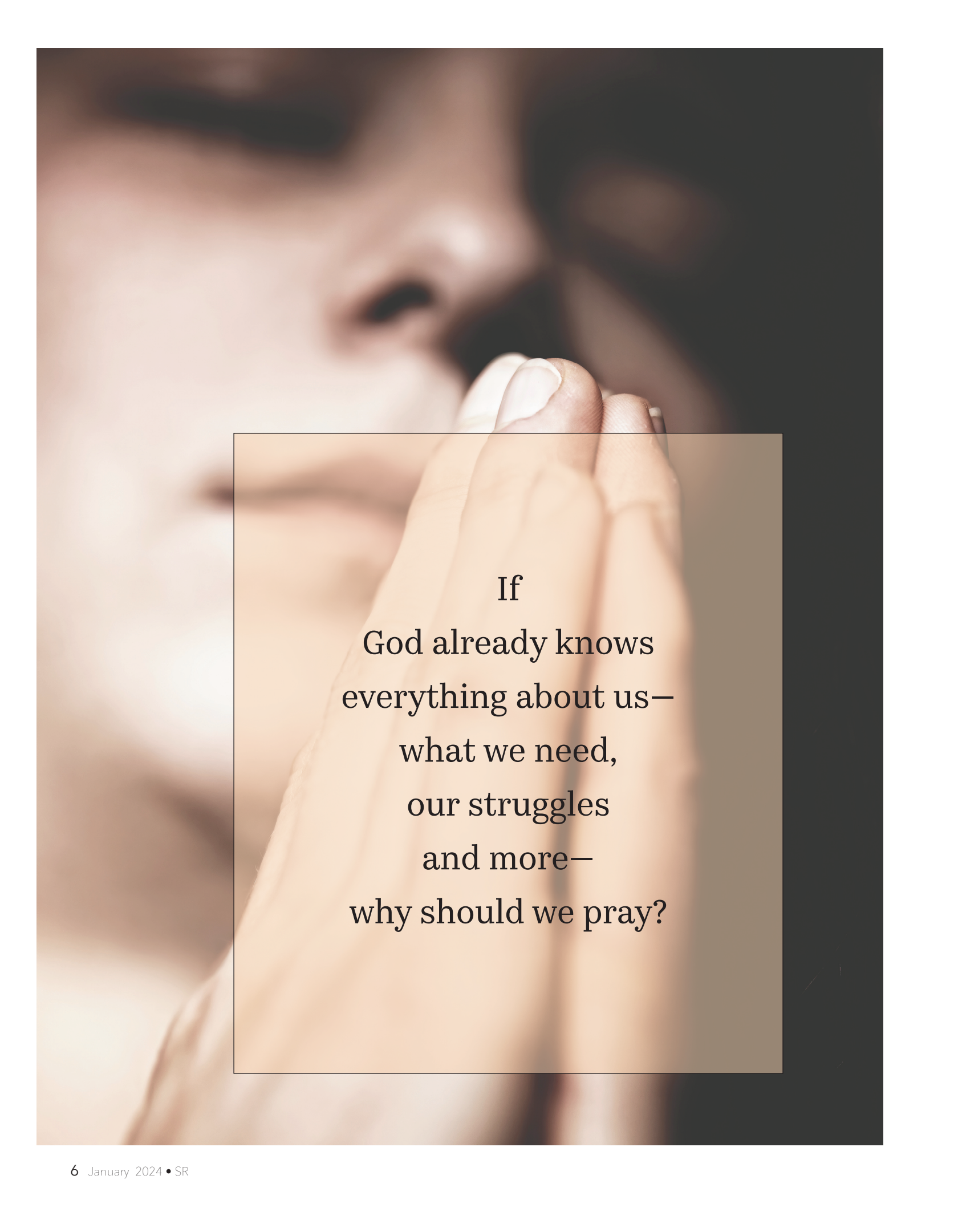
From both passages, which both have to do with teaching, Jesus intended His followers to use the Lord’s Prayer in their walks with Him. How believers are to use the Lord’s Prayer, however, is a more debated topic. Some use the Lord’s Prayer on a daily or weekly basis in personal, individual time with God or in church liturgy. Others see it as a prayer outline, which tells believers to thank God and pray for His will, provision, forgiveness, and deliverance in one’s prayers. This must not become a hotly contested topic. The issue does not reside in the frequency of one’s use of the Lord’s Prayer or if one recites it verbatim; rather, going back to Matthew 6, the issue resides in one’s heart and pur-

pose when praying. Jesus gives the Lord’s Prayer here in contrast to the selfish, empty prayers of others in New Testament times. Prayer is often likened to a conversation, which is accurate given prayer is a conversation with God. If you have a conversation with someone only about yourself, the other person will likely lose interest. Thankfully, God in His love does not lose interest in us, but through the Lord’s Prayer, we see that we should talk to Him about Himself, ourselves, and others. Our prayers also are to have meaning, unlike the empty prayers of pagans. This does not mean we need to have eloquent prayers, but rather have the faith that even when we do not know what to pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).

The verses after the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:14-15) display one of the major purposes of prayer, which is to be like the Lord. Jesus tells His followers to forgive others because the Father forgives people. If we ask God to do something for us that we are not willing to do for others, how can we expect God to do it? This does not mean God in His grace will not do it, but we are to be the light, as Jesus is the Light (Matthew 5:14-16; John 8:12).

As we have seen, the primary concern for prayer is not in the mouth, but in the heart. For any prayer, whether it is a written prayer, liturgy, or new, believers must mean what they say and have confidence that God hears them. If you feel led to pray the Lord’s Prayer individually or as a church, do so for the strengthening of the body with confidence and hope in the Lord. If not, still pray with faith, as individual and corporate prayer is powerful because we have an all-powerful, all-loving God. He wants you to meaningfully talk with Him. SR

Liam Probasco is from Shiloh, NJ, and is a member of the Shiloh SDB Church. He is a Seahawks fan and tries to play brass instruments and the organ. Liam is currently studying Business at Asbury University in Kentucky, and he hopes to work in New Jersey when he graduates.



If
God already knows
everything about us—
what we need,
our struggles
and more—
why should we pray?

Why Should We Pray?

By Denovia Mckenzie

Prayer can sometimes be reduced to bringing our checklist before God, but it is much more than that. Prayer is communication with a Holy God—the same God who spoke creation into being. I am reminded of the verse, “what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?” (Psalm 8:4 NLT) The same God who is seated in Heaven calls us His children. John wrote, “See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1 NLT) God is a loving Father who desires a relationship with us. As humans, we do understand the concept of relationships and what it takes to make a relationship work. One of the keys to a thriving relationship is communication between both parties. Prayer is how we communicate with God, which means it is not just us making a request to God and waiting for Him to fulfill our order, but instead, it is us speaking and listening to God.

The great thing about our God is that we do not have to pray as if we are speaking from a thesaurus dictionary. Prayer is not just for the eloquent of speech but for everyone. When we pray, we can do so out loud, kneeling, through writing, and with others. There is no set way that we should always pray, but it must all be done in reverence since He is a holy God. You can go to God in prayer about your deepest struggles and most intimate thoughts—you can be vulnerable before God. Let us never be ashamed or afraid to bring before God the things we struggle with and ask Him for help. The Bible assures us, “But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.” (Matthew 6:6 NLT)

When we became Christians, we did not lose our immunity to this life's struggles. There will be times when you feel alone. There will be times when you lose a loved one. There will be times when you are overwhelmed by school or work. There will be times when you feel like giving up. There will be times when you would rather not pray. There will be times when you may not have the words to pray. Rest assured, God understands our pain and struggles. No matter what you go through, still pray! The word comforts us, “And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.” (Romans 8:26 NLT)

Lord, thank you for Your daughter/son who has taken the time to read this article. Lord, You know everything about them. All their weaknesses are known to You. Lord, I ask that You comfort those who are grieving. Give peace to those who are anxious or are feeling overwhelmed. Strengthen those who feel like giving up so they can push forward. Lord, for those who need Your healing, may they experience Your healing. Lord, please help us as Seventh Day Baptist people to desire a personal relationship with You. Help us to not just bring our bucket lists to You, but that we will listen to Your instructions. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen. SR

Denovia Mckenzie is a member of the Open Arms SDB church in Toronto, Canada. Her favourite verse in the Bible is John 15:5 because it reminds her that she must be dependent on God. She is a university student pursuing a degree in English, Professional Writing & Communications and History.

Abiding Prayer

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." (John 15:4)

By Pastor Nate Crandall

Prayer is to abiding in Jesus as oxygen is to breathing. Prayer is our constant relational connection to the Lord. Without it, we are not abiding in him. The quality of our spiritual life, its fruitfulness and vibrancy, depends on this connection. Unfortunately, we often replace abiding in Jesus with spiritual activity or knowledge. These are an important part of our relationship with Christ, but they are not the source of life. He is the source of life, and abiding prayer is our primary connection to that life.

Abiding prayer is conversational. A conversation requires both talking and listening, and such is the nature of our conversation with the Lord. Think with me about the talking aspect of conversation first. Only particularly one-sided conversations are filled with asking for wants or needs. It gets old very quickly when all we hear are requests for help or money. In order to practice abiding prayer we must learn to be conversational with the Lord. We can talk to him about our day. Ask for his advice. Thank him for something good that happened. Tell him when we are nervous or afraid. If we are going to abide in him, then we must go beyond formulaic religious prayers and get to real conversation.

In terms of the listening aspect of conversation with God, it is not always easy just to say nothing while we wait to "hear" something from the Lord. He speaks to us, but the means of his talking to us comes in many forms. The Bible is the most important means. The key to listening to the Lord speak to us from the Bible is to quiet our mind and heart before him, let go of our inclination to study the Bible, and learn how to wait for the verses of Scripture to grab our soul. This does not mean that our mind is inactive. It means that we stop the active work of our mind and allow the Spirit to act upon our minds.





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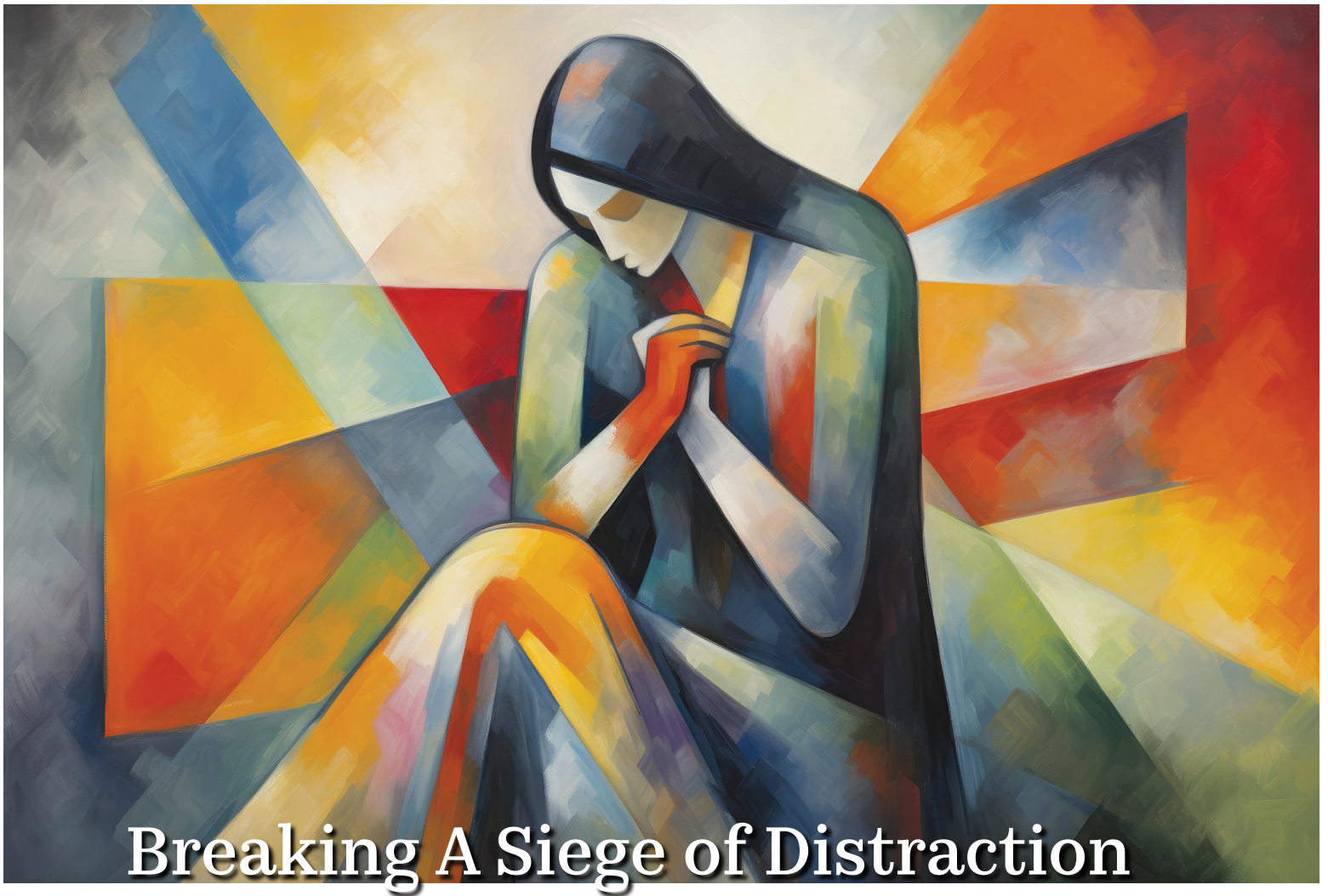
How does this work? Practically speaking, the first step is to ask the Lord to speak to you as you read the Word. Then, after reading a section of Scripture, go back over it and notice which part of the text is grabbing you. Thinking about or meditating on that verse or section will pinpoint what the Lord is trying to say to you. At this point, I write down the verse or verses in my journal so that later I can come back to it and allow the Lord to further deepen my understanding of what he is trying to tell me. In fact, I find that memorizing a section of Scripture allows for even more deeply embracing the truths which the Lord is impressing on my heart. These are aspects of abiding in the words of the Lord, and it is where the life of Jesus works in us to bring life to us.

With the most meaningful relationships in our lives, oftentimes it does not matter what you do together, just so long as you are together. You hate to be apart. My three children live away from home now. When they were all home for Thanksgiving, it was a joy just to be together. Those times are most precious. In the same way, it is the desire to be with the Lord that drives us to abide in him. Abiding prayer is not for the sake of obtaining something from the Lord and being on our way. It is the place we want to stay because the Lord means so much to us. He is our joy. He is our life. We want to be close to him because we know that life comes from being with him.

If abiding prayer is not a key aspect of your life in Christ, let me encourage you now to ask the Lord to teach you how to abide in him. Try a few of the steps I suggested. Consider the fact that being with the Lord is both the source of your best life and the greatest joy you can have.

Lord, may we abide in you every day. Teach us the joy and beauty of abiding prayer. SR

Nate Crandall is the lead pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Milton, WI, where he does life together with an awesome group of Christ-centered people. In his 27 years of pastoral ministry he has served churches in Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin. He is entering the final year of his Doctor of Ministry program at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is writing his dissertation on making disciples in the local church. Nate and his wife, Michelle, take great joy in their three grown children and son-in-law and are blessed to see God's work in and through them.



Breaking A Siege of Distraction

By Rev. Nick Kersten

*Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Your life is under siege. But not in the way you may think.

The threats to our physical bodies in these times are real. Jesus' promise that there would be hard times is fulfilled in every generation, and our generation is no exception. War, pestilence, plague, and disaster are ever-present today. Beyond global threats, there are threats closer to home, with cultural violence and abuse increasingly prevalent. There is no denying the pressure we are under, but that is not the siege you and I face as followers of Jesus in these times.

The threats to our minds and our mental health in these times are real. Technology and communication “advances” have magnified our access to the world at such a rate that we are bombarded with media messages constantly. Many of these messages are negative, and the proportion of negative messages is growing. As it turns out, it is not only sex that sells—hate has also found a significant market. The fallout of abuse and trauma leaves many people in our world in a constant state of distress with their minds and bodies unable to leave a state of fight or flight. Mental exhaustion, depression, and anxiety are at all-time highs in North America, even as we live with unprecedented financial and technological advantages. There is no denying the mental and ideological perils we face today, but this is also not the siege that you and I are facing.

In prayer, we receive what we most desperately need: growing relationship and familiarity with God and His great love for us.

The goal of a siege is to deny crucial resources to something that cannot be destroyed outright in its present state, either to weaken it until it can be taken or destroyed, or to cause it to surrender. The most common usage of this word relates to military actions which are meant to isolate and choke a fortified city or military installation. For the Christian, the greatest threat we face is a spiritual threat that weakens us individually and corporately to every other threat: disconnection from God. We are eternally more than conquerors because of Him who loves us (Romans 8:37), but in the present that reality plays out only to the extent that we are in connection to Him.

God has, in Christ, given us all His authority (Matthew 28:18-20) and has made the love which holds the universe together available to us. The power of this love is something no force in our world can withstand, including the formidable challenges of our present situation. It annihilates strongholds, destroys boundaries, ends wars, brings healing, and sets captives free. It needs only to be unleashed to change the world. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:39). And you are being tempted every moment to ignore that reality in the form of distractions.

The temptation to distraction comes in many forms, and paradoxically can come from both good and bad things. Depending on our bent, each of us can be tempted on any given day to ignore God for any number of reasons. It is the easiest thing in the world to wander off. Comfort can lead us into thinking we are doing well without God. Pain and struggle can make us doubt God's love for us and tempt us away from the lessons that suffering teaches and the pathways to deep love it opens. Work (and maybe especially work most in line with God's purposes for us) can distract us from the God who empowers us for it as the list of tasks grows. Rest (and maybe especially Sabbath rest) can distract us from the God who gives it when we focus more on ceasing our physical body's activities than why we are ceasing and with whom we should be fellowshiping once we have ceased. And that does not even take

into account the many temptations of the flesh we have available in the name of entertainment.

Ultimately, the enemy of our souls will use anything to distract us, attack us, redirect us, or lull us to sleep. But above all else, he will not have us focused on God and connected to Him. Once we've been disarmed by distraction, he is quite content to leave us to our own devices (digital or otherwise). Overcoming this siege of potential distractions requires us to remind ourselves and one another regularly about the greatness of God in His truth, love, justice, and mercy. When we see God as He is, the other things of our lives are put into the proper perspective. A short glimpse of God as He is will utterly break the fragile webs which hold us back from Him.

Sadly, the evidence of our distraction as individuals, as churches, as a Conference, and as Christians more broadly in these times is everywhere. We can know this because of the evil at work in our world and the focus too many of us have on those evils rather than God's power at work in us. Too many of us seek to marshal our own strength to try and fight the world's evils, not realizing that relying on our own power to change our situation is itself a profound distraction. We tilt at fleshly windmills in politics, economics, and geopolitical conflict because we think ourselves warriors—but the minute we call on the Lord of Hosts, the real siege lifts and we are invited back into the world on His mission to seek and save the lost and to make disciples of all tongues, tribes, and nations, and we are equipped and resourced to that end. We default to fear, react in the world with our fight or flight instincts, and then try to whitewash our actions with theological language to justify them. Ironically, the worldly evils we would battle are often most effectively ended when we forsake the fleshly methods and cede earthly battlegrounds and do the work of the Kingdom. There is little hope an army of frightened and overstimulated saints starved of God's power will accomplish God's will until they return to Him.

Continued on page 26

SDB Visiting Instructors Program

By Carl Greene, Executive Director

After much prayer and preparation, the inaugural SDB Visiting Instructors Program (VIP) is in the history books! Pastor Kingsley Gauti, National Youth Director of the Malawi SDB Conference and Pastor Quistin Chalwe, General Secretary of the Zambia SDB Conference taught at a number of SDB churches and gatherings while they were in the Midwest (October 19 to November 3) and the South-east (November 3 to November 15). They also visited a number of SDB families with a very busy social schedule.

Pastor Kingsley and Pastor Quistin are currently participating in the SDB Africa Bible College, and brought their academic experience to life alongside sharing their tremendous insights from lived experience. Themes throughout their interactions surrounded “Kingdom Living in an African Context.” They worked through discussion questions such as: How do we view God? What does the gospel mean for society? What does the gospel mean for the world?

The following pictures bring to life some of their interactions over the four weeks that they were in North America. Please continue to pray for the ongoing impact from their visits, as well as their respective ministries in Malawi and Zambia.



Pastor Kingsley preached on a number of occasions, including at the Milton SDB Church and South Atlantic Association. Pastor Kingsley also provided the keynote address at the South Atlantic Leadership Training Graduation Ceremony on November 10.



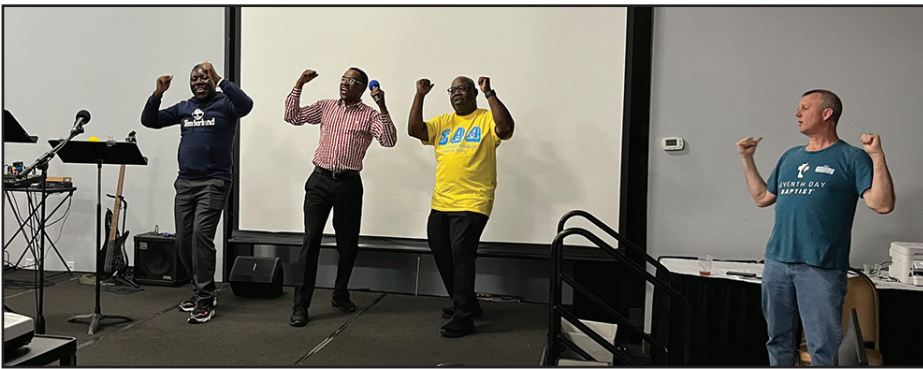
Pastor Phil and Bethany Lawton of SDB Chicago hosted the Visiting Instructors for a full day in Chicago, IL, on October 24. Pastor Phil provided a walking tour of their ministry context, discussed the church planting efforts underway, and sought out opportunities to join God in His Gospel work while Visiting Instructors were there. Pastor Kingsley has been instrumental in church planting in Malawi, the largest SDB Conference in the world. Pastor Quistin has been involved in the rapid expansion of churches taking place in Zambia. Their interaction with Pastor Phil and Bethany offered encouragement and also some great dialog about evangelism and church planting efforts.



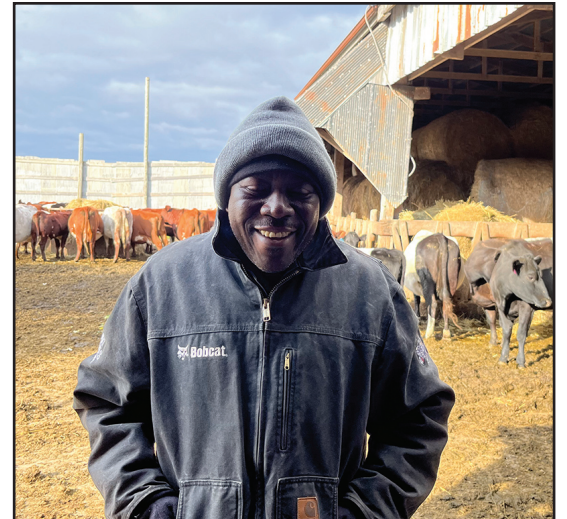
Pastor Quistin led Sabbath School classes at the Milton SDB Church and South Atlantic Association. Pastor Quistin also preached at South Atlantic Association and provided a presentation about his work with *The Feeding Spoon* in Zambia on a number of occasions. Both Instructors met with a number of the South Florida SDB Churches, including worship at the Fort Lauderdale SDB Church.



The first ever SDB Emerging Leaders Seminar Series took place in Janesville, WI, from October 27 to 29. Twenty young adult leaders from twelve Seventh Day Baptist Churches spent the weekend sharpening one another's call to mission in the local church, in surrounding communities, in the SDB General Conference, and to the ends of the earth. Pastor Kingsley and Pastor Quistin led a full weekend of teaching throughout this event. For more information, see the December 2023 issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*.



The Visiting Instructors led a rousing song with the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society's own Andy Samuels and put the South Atlantic Association on their feet. The Visiting Instructors participated in a full weekend of activities in Daytona Beach, Florida, which was organized by Pastor Keith McCall, President of the South Atlantic Association. During Sabbath worship Pastor Kingsley, Pastor Quistin, and Carl Greene (Executive Director, SDB General Conference of USA and Canada) team preached from the weekend's theme text of Psalm 127. The theme of joining God in His missional work as Kingdom Family was highlighted by the content of the sermon and by presenting the sermon as a team.



The Instructors visited a number of families and shared life together in special ways. Pastor Quistin and Pastor Kingsley had their first experience with snow on the day they visited the Hoffman Farm in Illinois!



SDB Kingdom Family

The VIP program represents a new level of global innovative partnership. This initiative was a collaborative work that included the SDB Missionary Society, SDB Africa Bible College, SDB University, the SDB General Conference of USA and Canada, and the SDB Memorial Fund! The Emerging SDB Leaders Seminar Series that was also initiated during VIP was made possible through generous donations to the new Rev. Alton and Ethel Wheeler Leadership Development Fund. What a blessing to join God in His work of multiplication. Together. There is more yet to come. SR



UNEARTH THE CHURCH



By Johnmark Camenga
Conference President

There's a little something that I've been working on over the last year. It's not really a secret, but not a whole lot of people are aware. So, in this brief article I am going to unbag the cat.

As you are aware, the theme for our Conference year is "Unearth the Church." This theme arose out of a vision that the Lord placed upon my heart for the way that my Church, Seventh Day Baptists, and the world-wide Church needs to approach the next epoch: with humility, a willingness to admit our faults, and a desire to follow ever more closely after Jesus.

These are hardly ground-breaking ideas, but when you compare the image of the early Church to the image of the modern American Church, the differences are stark. A simple question, in light of those differences, goes something like this: which image of the Church more closely aligns to the Scriptural image of the Church?


Though the answer is obvious—the early Church—it carries significant nuance. Yes, of course, the Church should resemble the Scriptural image of the Church as closely as possible. And, while that is absolutely true, we also have to acknowledge that culture is markedly different, communication style is markedly different, and our interaction with power and authority is markedly different. These differences will change some of the ways in which the Church interacts with society, absolutely; the danger, however, is when these differences change the way the Church understands and teaches the Gospel.

Many of these changes become part of "the way we've always done it" and get so entrenched that, without thinking, we sometimes find ourselves more beholden to the practice than we are to the God we serve. Said a little differently, we often serve our habits in place of our Savior. And this is manifest in many ways that are harmful to the Church and, most devastatingly, to the people and communities the Church was built by Jesus to love and serve.

With humility, then, we need to come face to face with the way we are perceived by society (where have we caused harm) and the ways in which we have upheld tradition in the place of truth (where have we sidelined Jesus), and then we need to admit our wrongs, repent, and follow Jesus more closely.

So, back to the unbagging of the cat.

In conjunction with the Conference year, themed around the idea of "Unearth the Church," I am writing a book by the same title. In fact, as you read this article, the manuscript is in the hands of the publisher for editing and fine-tuning and publishing. There will be more bits and pieces about this project revealed over the coming months, but that's where we are right now.

I am excited about this announcement and I hope that you are too. I believe that there is so much that Seventh Day Baptists have to offer and this book is an attempt to step outside of the SDB bubble and present something that isn't "by SDBs, for SDBs" but is, instead, "by an SDB for the world." 

Hay algo en lo que he estado trabajando durante el último año. En realidad no es un secreto, pero no mucha gente lo sabe. Así que, en este breve artículo, voy a destapar el asunto.

Como ya sabrán, el tema de nuestro año de Conferencia es “Desenterrar la Iglesia”. Este tema surgió de una visión que el Señor puso en mi corazón sobre la forma en que mi Iglesia, los Bautistas del Séptimo Día, y la Iglesia mundial necesitan acercarse a la próxima época: con humildad, la voluntad de admitir nuestros defectos, y el deseo de seguir cada vez más de cerca a Jesús.

No se trata de ideas revolucionarias, pero cuando se compara la imagen de la Iglesia antigua con la imagen de la Iglesia moderna estadounidense, las diferencias son notables. Una pregunta sencilla, a la luz de esas diferencias, es algo así: ¿qué imagen de la Iglesia se ajusta más a la imagen bíblica de la Iglesia?

Aunque la respuesta es obvia -la Iglesia antigua-, conlleva importantes matices. Sí, por supuesto, la Iglesia debe parecerse lo más posible a la imagen bíblica de la Iglesia. Y, aunque eso es absolutamente cierto, también tenemos que reconocer que la cultura es notablemente diferente, el estilo de comunicación es notablemente diferente, y nuestra interacción con el poder y la autoridad es notablemente diferente. Estas diferencias cambiarán algunas de las formas en que la Iglesia interactúa con la sociedad, absolutamente; el peligro, sin embargo, es cuando estas diferencias cambian la forma en que la Iglesia entiende y enseña el Evangelio.

Muchos de estos cambios se convierten en parte de “la forma en que siempre lo hemos hecho” y se aferran tanto que, sin pensarlo, a veces nos encontramos más en deuda con la práctica que con el Dios al que servimos. Dicho de otra manera, a menudo servimos a nuestros hábitos en lugar de a nuestro Salvador. Y esto se manifiesta de muchas maneras que son perjudiciales para la Iglesia y, lo que es más terrible, para las personas y las comunidades para cuyo amor y servicio fue construida la Iglesia por Jesús.

Con humildad, entonces, necesitamos enfrentarnos cara a cara con la forma en que somos percibidos por la sociedad (dónde hemos causado daño) y las formas en que hemos defendido la tradición en lugar de la verdad (dónde hemos dejado de lado a Jesús) y entonces necesitamos admitir nuestros errores, arrepentirnos y seguir a Jesús más de cerca.

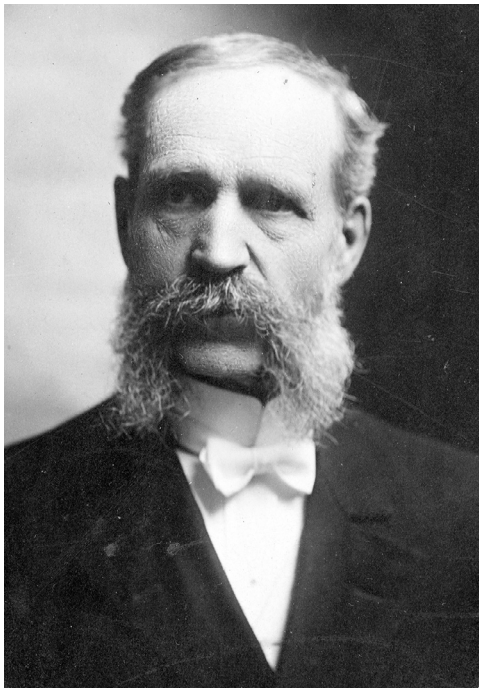
Así pues, volvamos a lo de destapar el asunto.

Junto con el año de la Conferencia, cuyo tema gira en torno a la idea de Desenterrar la Iglesia, estoy escribiendo un libro con el mismo título.

De hecho, mientras leen este artículo, el manuscrito está en manos de la editorial para su edición, corrección y publicación. En los próximos meses se irán desvelando más detalles sobre este proyecto, pero en eso estamos ahora.

Estoy entusiasmado con este anuncio y espero que ustedes también. Creo que los Bautistas del Séptimo Día tienen mucho que ofrecer y este libro es un intento de salir de la burbuja de los Bautistas del Séptimo Día y presentar algo que no sea “por Bautistas del Séptimo Día, para Bautistas del Séptimo Día” sino, en cambio, “por un Bautista del Séptimo Día para el mundo”.





Lewis Alexander Platts (1840-1915)

Pratt and Platts: Freedman and Freeman

By Doug Welch

Shortly after fleeing slavery and arriving in Milton, Andrew Pratt crossed paths with a man who went on to become one of the most respected and prominent elders in the Seventh Day Baptist ministry.

Those familiar with the history of the Milton House know the story of Pratt, an Arkansas native born into slavery. Pratt is the only freedom seeker known by name to have come through the Milton House on the Underground Railroad. Pratt's story was instrumental in the Milton House being named a National Historic Landmark.

Recent research shows that Pratt remained in the Milton community for several years before resettling in Minnesota in the 1870s among several families of Seventh Day Baptists who migrated north from Milton, Walworth, and Albion. Each of those communities were Seventh Day Baptist colonies.

Upon arriving at Milton in 1861, Pratt made the acquaintance of Lewis Alexander Platts, a young student at Milton Academy. Pratt came to the Milton House through William Anson Goodrich, brother of Joseph Goodrich, who built the Milton House and is credited with founding the Milton community, Milton's Seventh Day Baptist Church, and Milton Academy.

Not long after being brought to Milton, Pratt began circulating in the community and was known to have worked for David Rittenhouse Platts. Platts was a farmer, cabinet maker and Seventh Day Baptist who migrated to Wisconsin from Ohio in 1845 and perhaps took Pratt under his roof.

Class I comprises all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-four.

SCHEDULE I.—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS I, subject to do military duty in the *Counties of Columbia and Jefferson* State of *Missouri*, enumerated by *J. M. Putnam*, Provost Marshal.

RESIDENCE	NAME	AGE IN JULY 1861	RACE OR COLOR	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE	MARRIED OR UNMARRIED	PLACE OF BIRTH (Naming the State, Territory, or Country)
<i>Milton</i>	1 <i>Pratt Andrew</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Colored</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Arkansas</i>
"	2 <i>Platts Lewis A.</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Student</i>	"	<i>Ohio</i>
"	3 <i>Israel D. C.</i>	<i>33</i>	"	<i>Black</i>	"	<i>Massachusetts</i>
"	4 <i>Potter Chas. S.</i>	<i>24</i>	"	<i>Drift agent</i>	"	<i>Ill.</i>

Platts' second eldest of five children was Lewis Alexander Platts, born in 1840 and a student at Milton Academy in 1861 when Pratt arrived in Milton. In June 1863, Pratt and Lewis Platts went to Janesville to register for the Union Army draft. On the draft registry, the name of Lewis Platts appears on the line beneath Andrew Pratt.

By this time, Lewis Platts had two brothers who had died in the Civil War, including 16-year-old Corliss, who died of Typhoid Fever in a Fayetteville, Arkansas, hospital four months earlier.

Neither Pratt nor Lewis Platts served in the army, Pratt for no other reason than the color of his skin. According to his 1915 obituary, Platts was rejected from military service following medical examinations.

After graduating from Milton Academy in 1864, Platts went east to study at Alfred University in New York and then the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity and was pastor of churches at Friendship, NY; New Market, NJ; and Westerly, RI. For 10 years, Platts edited the *Sabbath Recorder*, the ministry publication of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, published in Alfred, NY.

Platts returned to Milton in 1896 to serve as the ninth pastor of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church until 1909. His wife, Emma, also an 1864 graduate of Milton Academy, taught French and Literature at Milton College.

In 1915, Platts died in the Chicago home of his son, Lewis Arthur Platts, at age 75. He is buried in the Milton Cemetery. SR

Doug Welch is a Milton native who wrote and edited newspapers in southern Wisconsin for 30-plus years – including 22 years as editor of the *Milton Courier*. Following retirement, Welch worked five years as assistant director of the Milton House Museum, a National Historic Landmark. He is currently the president of the Milton College Preservation Society and curator for the Main Hall Museum. Since 2014 Welch has written several books on local histories including, *Interests of the Highest Value: The History of the Milton House*; *The History of Milton College Football*; and *Images of America Milton*. His book about the histories of Milton, Milton Junction and Milton College titled *Milton's Historic Musings*, will be published in the spring of 2024.



By Ellie Greene



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” –Matthew 28:19.

Please pray for the youth, the leaders, and these ministries!
Let’s continue to make, grow, and become true disciples of Jesus!

Youth Recap 2023



Some favorite games at Collision include four-on-a-couch, various creative versions of upset the fruit basket, and ... whatever this is!

Since it’s 2024 now, I’ve been looking back on 2023. I thought I would share a bit about what the Milton area youth have been up to this year!

The summer brought many fun opportunities to grow in our faith. Over the summer, we took a break from regular weekly Collision, and instead enjoyed some fun summer activities. Many youth participated in Camp Collision, Camp Wakonda’s junior-senior high camp. Many Seventh Day Baptist youth also met up at General Conference. As always, God certainly did very cool things through these summer youth events!

Collision started up in the fall, and it includes many of the things we’ve been doing for a long time, but also some new things. This year we added a Bible study! Before youth group, many of the students meet up at a local boba tea shop to talk about God’s Word. Another event we do once a month is Pizza-Invite-A-Friend Night. This is a special event we do each month that includes pizza, worship, game time, and the task of luring friends with pizza ... I mean, inviting friends to come to Collision! Through Pizza Night I have seen many new kids come to Collision, some who have never gone to church or youth group before! Something else Collision did was an association youth retreat up in New Auburn, WI. Many kids have mentioned how fun and spiritually impacting that trip was! All of these events have really inspired our faith.

Collision meets up on Wednesday nights during the school year. We always play a couple of wacky games and have a fun time together. But not only is Collision super fun, I have seen how God uses Collision to bring youth to Him. Youth hear about Jesus. We talk about our struggles. We dive into the Bible. We learn how to enlarge our faith in God.

Here is a testimony about what God has done in the life of one of the students from Collision:

“Something that God’s done in my life through Collision is mainly through Bible study. We’ve been holding each other accountable in reading our Bibles daily and it’s really helped me grow that habit. It’s also just been a really good year so far with our conversations and everything.”

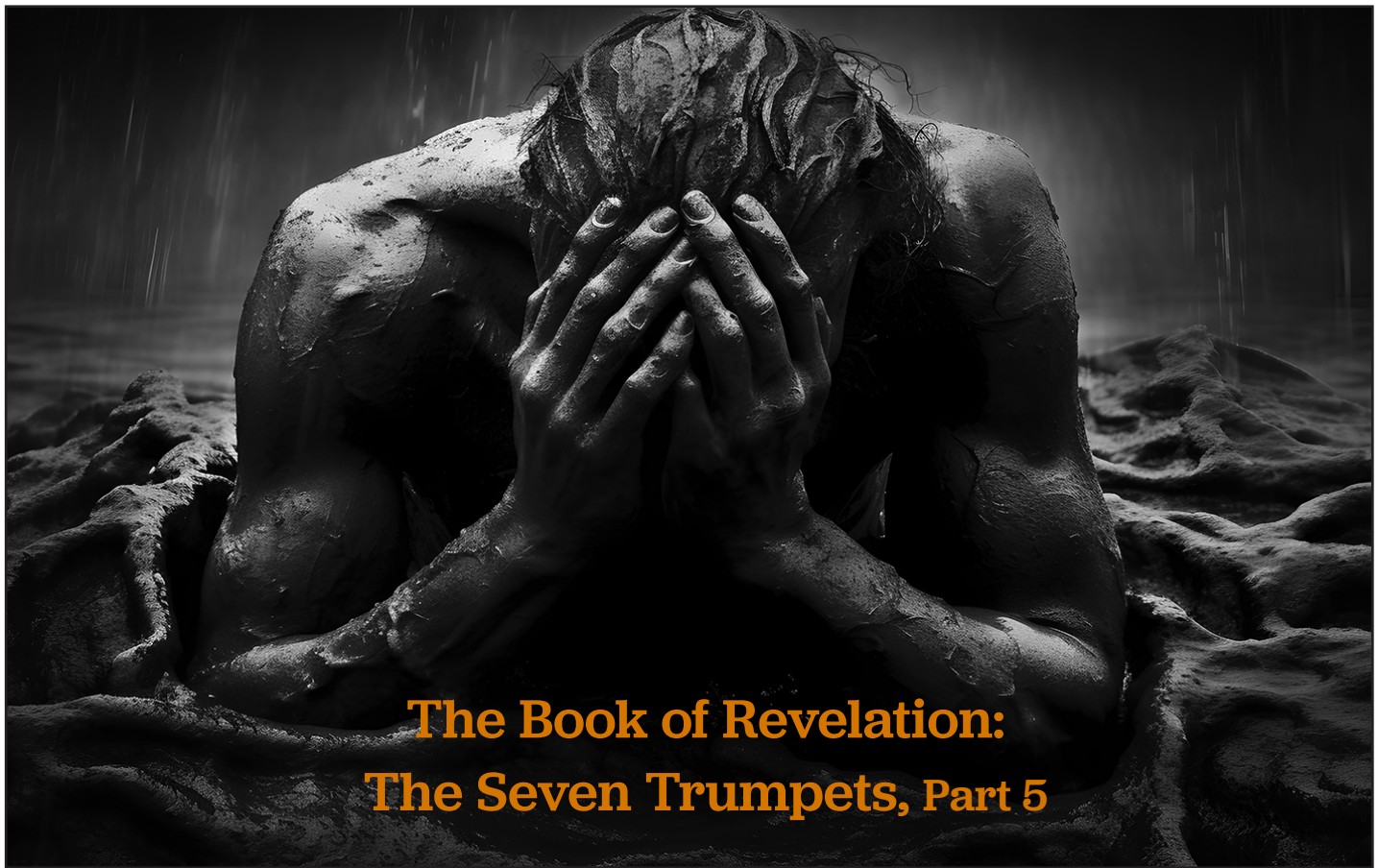
—Hayden

Isn’t that so cool? God really is working through this ministry!!

I just want to thank everyone who works in the youth and children’s ministry. You guys are absolutely amazing!! I know that sometimes it’s hard to see the fruit when the work is exhausting, emotionally taxing, and sometimes seemingly useless. I want you to know that God IS on the move through you—I have experienced what you have been working towards! He IS doing something, no matter how stagnant the work seems right now. [SR](#)



Praise God for revival! Praise Him for making His presence known!



The Book of Revelation: The Seven Trumpets, Part 5

Study Lesson 32 by Dennis Coleman,
Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ

The 2024 run for the White House has already started and it seems like we might be in for an unusual year politically. And while this election cycle might have some new surprises in store, one long-time topic will likely be a part of many political arguments: abortion. For me this is a topic that brings into focus just how lost and empty the things that this world offers leaves people. Abortion is presented as a form of hope: hope for a better life than women would have if they were to carry their pregnancies to term. Think about that for a minute. Abortion brings “hope” and bringing a new human life into this world brings about something negative.

There are a lot of empty hurting people in this world who look for hope in all the wrong places. How has God equipped you to reach the lost?

Prayer time

Father, please help us to discern what is going on in the hearts of our neighbors and please equip us to reach the lost. Help us to reflect the true hope that You have given us and that You alone can provide.

A Time of Suffering

Last month we left off after the sounding of the fifth trumpet, after which a swarm of locust-like creatures were released from the abyss to bring pain and suffering upon the earth (Revelation 9:1-6). One thing that I want to point out is that these creatures are limited in what they can do. The Bible tells us that their power was given to them, and they are commanded to only attack those who do not wear the seal of God on their foreheads. They are not allowed to touch the plants, as a locust normally would, and they are not allowed to touch God’s people. The Bible does not tell us who gave them their power but it is clear that there are boundaries over which these creatures cannot cross.

*Those who believe in the truth
and who are growing spiritually in Christ
are blessed with a blanket of protection*

They are allowed to torment people for five months. According to *Ellicott's Commentary*, five months is the average amount of time that natural swarms of locusts plague an area once they fly in. Likewise, we are talking about a five-month period during which people will hurt like never before. The pain will be so bad that the afflicted will seek death. *Ellicott's Commentary* likens this to a reign of terror during which people will long for death in the same way that a person looks for a loved one.

Death will be seen as a form of relief, a source of hope and even a form of deliverance. And yet, those who wish to die are unable to find their "deliverer." Remembering once again that this is a vision that John is describing for us, we have to accept that this is prophetic about a time of which our imaginations might fall short in trying to understand the type of suffering people will experience (and might even be experiencing today).

Spiritual, Not Natural

In Revelation 9:7-10, John gives us a detailed description of these locusts that he saw in his vision. Their bodies reminded him of horses that were prepared for battle. There is some debate as to what this means but what is clear is that these "locusts" are not your run-of-the-mill bugs. They wear armor which I imagine makes them difficult to squash. They wear crowns and with their teeth and their stingers they are well-equipped for causing pain. But once again we have to remember that this is a vision. We don't know if these verses describe something that will be physically visible on earth or if they are allegorical. However, the suffering described will be very real.

Verse 11 tells us that these locusts have a king. Who is this king? He is said to be the angel of the bottomless pit. This again makes these locusts different from natural ones. Real locusts do not have stingers, they do not have hair that looks like a woman's, they do not see a man's face when they look in a mirror, and they do not have kings. But the locusts of Revelation 9 do have a king and he is the one who is coordinating their attacks. This gives us a glimpse into the spiritual battle that will take place and is taking place even now. These are not well-organized bugs but are instead a spiritual army under the command of one whose name is Abaddon in the Hebrew language and Apollyon in Greek. In English, the best translation of these words is "Destruction" (Abaddon) and "Destroyer" (Apollyon). By his name we know what this king wants to accomplish.

One woe has passed

After giving us the name of this king of the locusts, John tells us that, "One woe has passed." (verse 12) Because of this, the fifth trumpet is called in some commentaries the first trumpet of woe. This is the end of a period of time of great sorrow and grief, which *Matthew Henry's Commentary* describes as a time when we will see the souls of people infected by a great poison (false teaching) that robs people of purity and peace. God's people will be protected by His power and His grace and, as a result, true believers will be separated out from those in the church who follow false teaching. There will be no place to hide. Those who are truly following Christ will become known as the seal of God becomes visible through the peace of Christ in their hearts. Those who are not following Christ, though they attend church every Sabbath and are active in church activities, will be revealed through their intense suffering during this time of woe.

In writing that, let me make something clear. This is not saying that those who follow Christ do not feel emotional pain, nor does this passage mean that we should measure someone's faith by whether or not they have it all together emotionally or spiritually. That's not what is being revealed here. People who accept every word of the Bible by faith still feel hurt when someone dies. We are still troubled when our loved ones become ill. We still cry when those around us are crying, and we still need each other to pick us up from time to time. I believe that the suffering being described in Revelation 9 is different, and I believe God will help us tell the difference between a Christian who is dealing with the pain that comes with being human and with living in this fallen world, versus the pain that will be suffered by those who suffer the sting of these locusts and the false teachings of their king.

I want to emphasize that those who wear the seal of God are protected from these locusts. Again, that does not mean believers are immune to pain and suffering of normal life, but they will not feel the kind of suffering that these locusts inflict. Those who have, by faith, accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior rest under the protection of our Father. As such we have available to us the peace that surpasses all understanding and that guards our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7). Those who believe in the truth and who are growing spiritually in Christ are blessed with a blanket of protection that in times of trial will be one of our most valuable assets, second only to our relationship with our Father in Heaven. [SR](#)



SDB Missionary Society

By Garfield Miller

UGANDA SDB: EMERGING LEADERS IN MOTION

The SDB Missionary Society visited our partners in Uganda during September 2023. The team included Pastor Fred Maduka of the Central African SDB Conference (CAC) in Malawi and me. During our time in Uganda, we had the opportunity to visit three churches, host a leadership training, confirm the land purchase for the poultry farm, oversee the land preparation for the poultry houses, and make plans for the upcoming construction phase. We engaged with a dynamic group of leaders, many of whom are under 30 years old or relatively new to leadership roles, who are still in the process of rebuilding following the loss of their two primary conference leaders.

On the trip, Pastor Fred provided invaluable support. His ability to address some challenges faced in Uganda surpasses mine, as he shares a common African background and has extensive experience in serving on the CAC leadership executive for numerous years. He now has a mentoring relationship with leaders in Uganda.

I take a moment to express my appreciation and admiration for leaders in Uganda and globally who, despite lacking certain experiences or skills, embody a lifestyle and approach grounded in faith and rely on the grace of God. Their resilience and steadfast commitment to their faith are truly commendable. Some of these individuals include:

Victoria Nsubuga is a leader to be admired. Before her husband, Pastor Daniel Nsubuga, who served as the leader of the SDB Conference in Uganda, passed away, she had not been involved in leadership. However, she assumed the leadership role as head of the Conference when the need arose. Just two years ago, she faced challenges speaking English and even using a smartphone. Today, she confidently leads the Conference, manages her household with 10 children (including three biological ones), serves as a pastor for a local church, and adeptly communicates in English with poise and grace during meetings. She does all of this, despite having no previous experience or formal training.

Franklin Nsubuga, a student, served as our interpreter and provides strong support to his mother, Sister Victoria. He possesses a clear understanding of his responsibilities as the eldest son in the household and harbors an insatiable desire to serve God.

Mwesigwa Eddy, a young college student and pastor, surprised us pleasantly when we heard him minister. Despite residing on campus for his studies, every Friday afternoon he travels to be with the congregation and then return to college on Sundays. He is one of Sister Victoria's adopted children.

Bujumbuko Henry, the lone male who is involved with overseeing the Poultry Farm Project, serves as the property manager. He is highly dependable and driven.

Miriam Wozaako worked as a caregiver in an SDB orphanage until it was shut down by the government, leaving no arrangements for the children. Miriam took some of them home and, together with her daughter, has been providing care, not only for those children, but also for other underprivileged kids in their community. Driven by her passion for children, she rents an unfinished house to serve as a home for the orphans.

Rebecca Bukenya, together with her husband Fred, manages an orphanage caring for around 50 children. They harbor deep compassion for the children and a fervent commitment to both the work of the Lord and caring for orphans. Despite their extremely limited resources, they exemplify what it means to live by God's grace. She is also a Conference leader and a one of the Poultry Farm managers.

There are also other individuals in Uganda worth mentioning. It is with immense enthusiasm that I acknowledge the remarkable contributions and achievements of this vibrant group. These emerging leaders consistently exhibit exemplary dedication to innovation, collaboration and leadership. Join me in prayer, seeking God's blessings for their endeavors, that they may yield a bountiful harvest. [SR](#)



Church Service



Miriam and Orphans



Pastors Garfield and Fred



Conference Leaders



Rebecca and Fred



Victoria and Children

Another First for West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church!

On October 7, 2023, a beautiful Sabbath evening, the West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church organized a special service to license three of its lay leaders: Sisters Diane Wilson Miller, Donna Lynch, and Laura Robinson. They were also endowed with the title of “Minister.” Additionally, the church extended a special recognition to one of its esteemed Pastors: Associate Pastor Jasmine Lynch was honored with the title of full Pastor. This recognition is a testament to her exemplary service and dedication to the church over the years.

This event signifies their commitment and contributions to the church community and represents an exciting milestone in their spiritual journeys and the life of the church. The three Ministers are graduates of the South Atlantic Leadership Training (SALT) program, and the church believes they have a lot to contribute to the future of the church.

The SALT program prepares lay members to be leaders in their congregations. Minister Diane Wilson Miller completed the first year in the SALT program, while Ministers Donna Lynch and Laura Robinson will graduate this year at our Association as they complete their second year in the SALT program. Pastor Jasmine Lynch was one of the first lay persons to graduate from this training program many years ago. She has served the church as Interim Pastor after the passing of her husband, Pastor Allcot Lynch. Then she served as Associate Pastor alongside Reverend Garfield Miller for the past six years. She is also an Executive member and an instructor of SALT 2022-2023.

The evening consisted of a greeting from Reverend Carl Greene, Executive Director of Seventh Day Baptists USA & Canada, and



other leaders. Words of tribute were shared by churches and individuals, songs were sung, and a stirring message titled *“What is in Your Hand?”* was delivered by Reverend Andrew Samuels. He reminded us that “all of us have something we can use to accomplish our part in God’s work here on earth as we serve one another.” He ended his message challenging us as a congregation to help develop our leaders by: (1) Creating a leadership culture –following Jesus’ model; (2) Having high standards, but not seeking perfection; (3) Remembering ourselves; and (4) Leaders leaving when it is time, not when others are ready. Finally, Pastor Andy referenced 1 Peter 4:10: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

We had Communion where Pastor Jasmine Lynch officiated alongside the newly licensed Ministers. This memorable occasion ended with a meal being served by the Hospitality Committee. The entire event was a momentous occasion that brought the church community together to celebrate these achievements and to express gratitude for the dedication and hard work of its members. SR

—Deaconess Jennifer Dixon
West Palm Beach
Seventh Day Baptist Church



South Atlantic Leadership Training (SALT 2) Graduation

By Jasmine Lynch
SALT Secretary 2021-2023

It was a balmy mid-day Friday, November 10, 2023, when the cars and vans started driving into the parking lot of El Caribe Resort Conference Center, Daytona Beach, FL. They were coming from Georgia and Florida to attend the SDB South Atlantic Association annual gathering. The students from the South Atlantic Leadership Training (SALT) program were overly excited. The SALT 2 Students were graduating at 7:00 P.M. They had graduated the previous year from SALT 1 and twelve of them wanted more and took the advanced program, SALT 2. Now they met all the requirements for graduation from SALT 2 and they could not wait to get the program going.

It was not a coincidence that the Seventh Day Baptist of USA and Canada General Council and two Pastors from the Visiting Instructors Program (VIP) from the Africa Bible College were also there. They, too, wanted to experience and participate in the graduation ceremony as well as the Association program. The SALT Executive did not disappoint them. Pastor Andrew Samuels, Dean of the program for the past two years was the Master of Ceremony. Pastor Jasmine Lynch, SALT secretary, gave a warm welcome to the graduates, family, distinguished guests, and friends, and turned the program over to Pastor Andrew who utilized all the members of the General Council and the VIP to present the certificates and gifts to the graduates.

Pastor Kingsley Gauti, National Director of Youth Ministries, from Malawi, Africa, gave the keynote message to the graduates. He was introduced by Rev. Carl Greene, Executive Director, SDB General Conference of USA & Canada. Deacon Jason Gardon, SALT 2 graduate and the new chairperson of the SALT Program, presented a plaque to the Memorial Board which has funded the program for the past two years and will also fund it for 2024.

The Valedictorian Sharon Dailey gave a rousing testimony of how the SALT Program helped her to heal as she grieved over the loss of her only sister, Pastor Marlene Campbell. She concluded with "Graduates, we have endured! We have been

trained well; we are filled with the Spirit of God. He has given us everything for life and Godliness, through Christ Jesus. Let us go and build alongside God and He will raise us up to stand on mountains. He will raise us up to walk on our stormy seas. He will make us strong to be more than we thought we could be."

Pastor Kingsley, in his dynamic style, gave an inspirational charge to the graduates. He reminded them that "God is the One who calls you and He is the One who will equip you...Humble yourselves before God and allow Him to work in your lives."

Presenting the graduates with certificates and a gift of *The Interlinear Bible in Hebrew Greek and English* were Pastor Quistin Chalwe, Pastor Steve Osborn, Erin Burdick, and Maura Mazza. Pastor Andrew Camenga offered the opening prayer while Pastor Ericessen Cooper offered the closing prayer.

Graduation Certificates were presented to :
Sharon Dailey, Valedictorian (Southeast Atlanta)
Jason Gordon (Southeast Atlanta)
Lauren Kinlocke-Philibert (Fort Lauderdale)
Donna Lynch (West Palm Beach)
Heather Muschette (Southeast Atlanta)
Laura Robinson (West Palm Beach)
Nicole Rose-Cole (Central Florida)
Andrea Rose-English (Fort Lauderdale)
Kerone Samuels (Central Florida)
Avis Springer (West Palm Beach)
Odiene Wilson (Prayer Tabernacle—Port St. Lucie)
Certificate of Participation was presented to Kay Samuels who audited the course.

Applications for SALT 1 are in the churches and are to be mailed to Nicole Rose Cole, 15917 Bradicks Ct., Claremont, FL 34711 havrose.cole@gmail.com. Send \$25 nonrefundable registration fee by CashApp—\$sasdbal or mail check to Avis Springer (SAA Treasurer) 129 Elysium Dr., Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411. Registration deadline is January 8. Classes begin January 21, 2024. [SR](#)



Pastor Kinsley and Pastor Quistin



Pastor Kinsley and Sister Erin Inabit presented certificate to Sharon Dailey



Pastor Kinsley and Maura Mazza presented certificate to Nicole Rose-Cole, New Salt Secretary (above)



Pastor Kinsley and Sister Erin Inabit presented certificate to Jason Gordon, Chairperson 2024 (left)

The SDB Missionary Society is looking for qualified candidates to serve on the Board. If you or someone you know is interested in serving the Lord in missions, please visit bit.ly/sdbmissions for more information.

DEATH NOTICES

GRAY—Nola Mae, lifelong member of Milton, WI, SDB Church; resided in Milton; died November 16, 2023, at age 86; buried in Milton Junction, WI, cemetery.

HAMBLETON—George Neil, lifelong member of Riverside, CA, SDB Church; resided in Edgewater, FL; died at AdventHealth Hospital in New Smyrna Beach, FL; age 72.

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Breaking A Siege of Distraction

Continued from page 11

Our connection to God determines how effectively His power works itself out in our lives. So how do we connect to Him? How do we break the siege? How do we become emissaries of the loving and just Kingdom of God? The answer is one we teach children to recite until it is instinctive, but too often forget practically for ourselves: we pray. This is not an esoteric spiritual utterance. It is not a platitude. It is survival truth for disciples, like a life raft is in an ocean for survivors of a sunken ship. Yet even though many of us would instinctively nod to everything I've just said, this knowledge is converted to activity in too few of our lives.

In prayer, we receive what we most desperately need: growing relationship and familiarity with God and His great love for us. We are complex beings made to run on His loving presence even as we show and share His love with others. Fear gives way to encouragement when we are living prayerful lives, because when we see God's hand in anything, we are attuned to our need for Him in everything. We are driven to thanksgiving and worship, and we are encouraged to live in faith even more as our love for God pushes us back to beauty of His presence.

There is no fig leaf which will cover the consequences of our too-frequent disconnection from God. If you have not budgeted your time appropriately to fellowship daily with our God, it is the most important thing you can do this year, starting right now. If you are looking for encouragement in prayer, we invite you to listen to our new podcast which will be available online this month. We have recruited SDB guests who can help you consider your prayer life and add important dimensions to it even as you spend time with our Heavenly Father.

May our prayers define us and launch us forward together for the expansion of the Kingdom of God in 2024. May we break the siege and burst out into His mission this year! ^{SR}

Rev. Nick Kersten is the Director of Education and History for the SDB General Conference of the USA and Canada. He lives in Milton, WI, and is an active member of the local SDB church there with his wife and four children.

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category/sabbath-recorder/](https://www.seventhdaybaptist.org/category/sabbath-recorder/)



What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

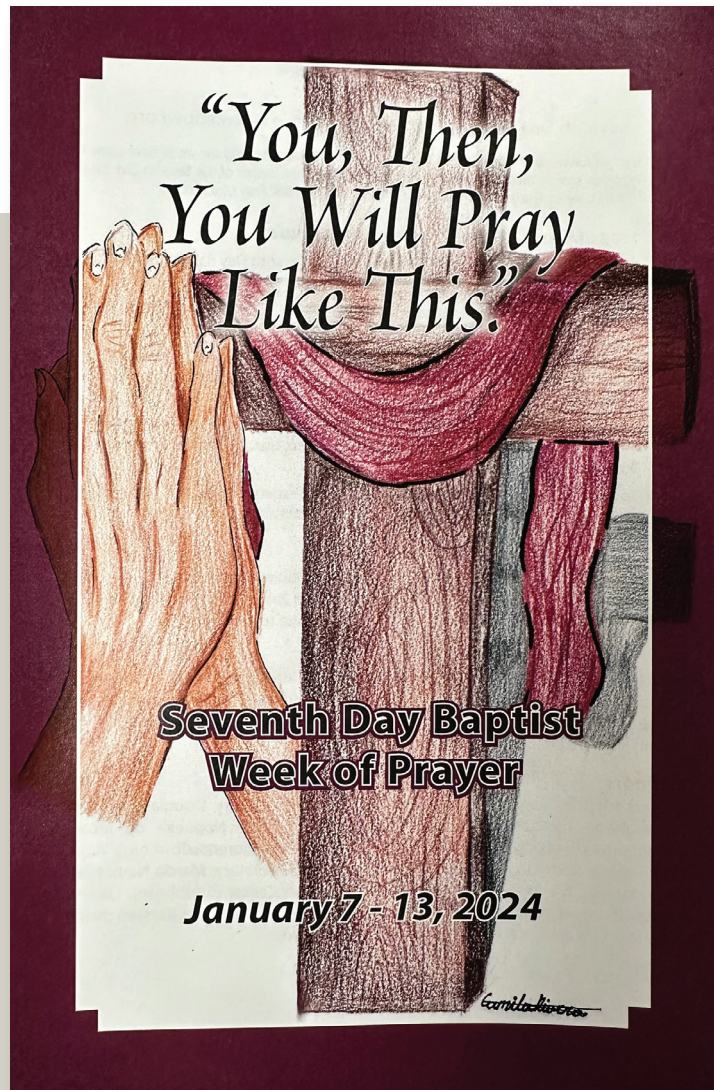
Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.

—Joseph M. Scriven, 1855

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Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer January 7-13, 2024

The booklet, written by Pastor Helmer Umana, is available
on the SDB World Federation website at www.sdbwf.org