

# Tract and Communication Council

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Annual Report for the year 2023-2024

## Our Mission is to Connect

The Tract Council continues to be guided by this Mission Statement:

As the communication agency of the SDB General Conference, the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council seeks to forge **connections**:

- **WITH** Seventh Day Baptist Churches and their members,
- **FOR** the Seventh Day Baptist Boards and Agencies, and
- **TO** the general public.

By building and maintaining positive relationships with our churches and agencies, and by providing quality media resources to strengthen their ministries, we will help bring others to a relation-ship with Jesus Christ and with Seventh Day Baptists.

We strive to serve as a vital link between our churches, individuals, and the SDB Conference.

## The Sabbath Recorder

The SR can be read online at the Conference website: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

The electronic issue is typically posted 1-2 weeks before readers get their hard copy in the regular mail.

A color pdf version for web readers can be found at

<https://www.seventhdaybaptist.org/category/sabbath-recorder/>.

Editor of the Sabbath Recorder, Patricia Cruzan, consistently crafts an exquisite publication. Every month of this year, she has masterfully integrated compelling themes with user-friendly layouts.

## Report of Sabbath Recorder for the Yearbook (2023-2024):

**July/August 2023 — Theme: *Our God Reigns—Whether we like it or not!!***

In this issue of the Sabbath Recorder there were articles about “Our God Reigns” by David Fox and Tiffany Anne Crowder. Carl Greene gave reports on the “Gathering of SDB Churches in the Pacific Northwest” and “SDB North Central Association Gathering” and also “Flourishing Seventh Day Baptists.” Valerie Probasco reported on “Our Purpose? Praising and Planting (Eastern Association 2023).” The series by Pastor Tyler Chroniger completed with: “Identity of Purpose, Full of Purpose, Part 8.” Other articles were: “Final Notice” by

Charlotte Chroniger; “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” by Eric Bofinger; another in the series on the Book of Revelation: “The Seven Trumpets” by Dennis Coleman. From the Missionary Society there was an article by Andrew Samuels, “All Roads Lead to Malawi” and by Garfield Miller, “Guyana—River of Devotion.” And finally, Sis. Mauqueta Aiken and Cynthia Burgess wrote about “Restful Parenting.”

### **September 2023 — Theme: *How Great Is Our God!***

This is the Conference Theme with President Charlotte Chroniger, held at Calvin University, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Carl Greene wrote a “Thank You” to President Chroniger. Included in this issue were articles and reports of the Morning Devotions; Seminars and Presentations; the Bible Studies on the Psalms; Action Items from the business meetings; lots of photos of the musical vespers and the Women’s Banquet; Youth PreCon; KidCon; Pastors luncheon; Robe of Achievement and WISE award presentations; Missions Awards and CEC Awards. There were two of the evening worship service messages included: “Never Failing Faithfulness” by Pastor Tyler Chroniger and “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” by Pastor Steve Osborn.

### **October 2023 — Theme: *Do Something!***

This addressed the issue of protecting our children in today’s world with graphics and scripture verses. There were more of the messages delivered at Conference in the worship services: “Whatif” “Yeahbut” by Frank Mazza; “The King is Coming” by Tom Davis. Carl Greene asked, “DIPs or DSC?” Carl Greene also wrote about “Doubling Our Investment in Young SDB Leaders.” Heather Gadd nee Hemminger wrote “Welcome Back;” Isaac Floyd, “Patience: A Virtue;” “Reimagining the Church at White Cloud.” We welcomed Ellie Greene as the new editor of the Beacon page: “BUMP;” and Johnmark Camenga as the new Conference President: “Unearth the Church.” Andrew Samuels wrote “DRC—A Demonstration of Dedication,” and Dennis Coleman’s series continued with “The Seven Trumpets, Part 2.”

### **November 2023 — Theme: *What Are You Thankful For?***

This Sabbath Recorder was full of many things we are thankful for. First is “Shouts of Joy” by Pastor Michael Spearl; then “I’m Thankful for Painful Seasons” by Pastor David Fox; “The Get Away at Camp Glory” by Pastor Paul Andries; “Your Glass—Half Full, or Half Empty?” and “Grateful for Forgiveness” by Ellie Greene; “Thankful of Barnabas Leadership” by Carl Greene. There were articles from various churches: “2023 SCSC/Young Adult Leadership Projects” by Helen Goodrich; SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale—20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service by Lauren Kinlocke; “Deep South Camp of the SDB South Atlantic Association” by Lauren and Paul Kinlocke; “Little Acorn Camp” by Patricia Looper and Jenn Chroniger; “Comfort Backpacks” by Tori Nadar; “North Loup Church Celebrates the Pastors Smith.” Andrew Samuels wrote about “Burundi Revisited” and Dennis Coleman wrote, “The Seven Trumpets, Part 3.” Conference president, Johnmark Camenga wrote about “Unearth the Church” and he has both the English and Spanish translations!

**December 2023 — Theme: *Wait for it...***

Interestingly enough, the editor had to learn a lesson in waiting for articles for this issue: there was a lot of waiting and waiting involved. The first article is “Worshiping in the Wait” by Pastor Chuck Meathrell; then, “Even in the Waiting” by Bethany Lawton; “How Long?” by Scott Hausrath; “God Waits” by Pastor Tim Smothers; “Wait For It” by Pastor Ericessen Cooper; “Waiting is a Gift” by Gabriela Alonzo. Helen Goodrich gave the SCSC Dates and Information; Carl Greene wrote about “SDB Emerging Leaders Seminar Series.” Ellie Greene wrote about “When Christmas is Hard” for the Beacon page. Johnmark Camenga wrote the conference page about “Unearth the Church” and Dennis Coleman did Part 4 of “The Seven Trumpets.” The “Africa Bible College Graduation!” was covered by Andrew Samuels. There was a reprint of the article written by Nicholas J. Kersten, “The Cry of the Innocents: Then & Now.”

**January 2024 — Theme: *Lord, teach us to pray...***

On this theme, Liam Probasco wrote, “When you pray...” and Denovia Mckenzie wrote, “Why Should We Pray?” and then, Pastor Nate Crandall wrote, “Abiding Prayer.” Other articles included “Breaking A Siege of Distraction” by Rev. Nick Kersten; “SDB Visiting Instructors Program” by Carl Greene; “Pratt and Platts: Freedman and Freeman” by Doug Welch; Youth Recap 2023” by Ellie Greene; “Another First for West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church!” by Deaconess Jennifer Dixon; “South Atlantic Leadership Training (SALT 2) Graduation” by Jasmine Lynch; “Unearth the Church” by Johnmark Camenga; “The Seven Trumpets, Part 5” by Dennis Coleman; and “Uganda SDB: Emerging Leaders in Motion” by Garfield Miller.

**February 2024 — Theme: *Become perfectly one...***

This is a special edition for the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation Sessions held in Malawi. It is a full-color edition with a guest editor: General Secretary Douglas Machado. The articles were: “Threats to the SDB World Federation Sessions: How We Got to Malawi!” by Andrew Samuels; “Hosting the World Federation Sessions in Malawi” by Dr. Bright Molande; “Become Perfectly One...” by Luciano Barreto Nogueira de Moura; “World Federation Visits Makapwa Mission Station” by Nick Kersten; “A Call to Selfless Giving” by Douglas de Senne Machado; “Fraternal Conference Experience at the 2023 Sessions in Malawi: Lessons Learned and Applicable Insights” by Dr. Fabian Loachamin Parreno; “What was most meaningful or memorable for you in the 2023 World Federation Sessions?” and a world map showing the countries represented; “An Overview of Major Decisions” by Douglas de Senne Machado; “What it means to Africa for hosting the SDB World Federation” by Pastor Quistin Chalwe; “Reflections From An Observer” by Jeff Hargett; “Reintroducing the Annual Sabbath Giving Week” by Debbie Hargett.

**March 2024 — Theme: *Is God Enough? God Is Enough!***

Articles on this theme were written by Joshua Coleman, Asabe Miller, Pastor Kingsley Gauti, and also Ellie Greene, “God’s Plan is Enough.” Other articles were “Rule 1” by Carl

Greene; “Seeds of Service: Growing Faith Across the Land” a poem written by William Steven Wells; “Camp Joy Winter Retreat” by Laura Modesitt; “Camp Joy Improvements” by Chad Modesitt; “How Long Was Jesus in the Tomb?” by Steve Crouch; “ABC Graduation” by Andrew Samuels; “Unearth the Church:” English and Spanish by Johnmark Camenga; and “The Book of Revelation: The Seven Trumpets Part 6” By Dennis Coleman.

**April 2024 — Theme: *LOL I Won! Death is defeated.*** (This is a text message from Jesus on Resurrection Day.)

This issue celebrated Jesus’ victory over death by imagining how the message would be spread if it had happened today. First, there would be texting: Bill Probasco “imagined” several messages sent among the disciples and others present at the resurrection based on scripture. There would be a devotional: “He Won, We Win” by Ron Higson; there would be an article in the Sabbath Recorder: “A Tale of Two Adams” by Steve Osborn; there would have been a sermon: “Who do you say I am?” by Tyler Chroniger; and there would have been singing and rejoicing: “Hymns that lead to Him” by Kevin Butler. Other topics in this issue were: “Facing a Fantastic Future” by Carl Greene; “SDB World Federation Sessions Scheduled For Malawi” by Andy Samuels; “How Great Is Our God” by Charlotte Chroniger; “News from White Cloud SDB Church” and “Call to Ordination—Gabriel Graffius”; “Burundi” by Andy Samuels; and “The Book of Revelation: A Great Multitude” by Dennis Coleman.

**May 2024 — Theme: *How Do You Rest?***

A look at resting on the Sabbath day. “Four important aspects of Sabbath” by Althea Rood; “Sabbath as a Pause for What?” By Carl Greene; “The call to STOP is a call to REST” by Andrew J. Camenga; “What does the Sabbath mean to you?” by George Cruzan; “Sabbath: The Struggle to Pause and Recharge” by William Wells; “But You Would Not Have It” by Nicholas J. Kersten. Other articles were: “Testimony of Gratitude for Answered Prayers” by Ben and Marcela Figueroa; “How Great Is Our God” by Charlotte Chroniger; “Tanzanian SDB Women on a Mission Beyond Borders”

By Rahma John and Mokanga Ryakitimbo; continuing the series “Full of Purpose, Part 6: Serving in Obscurity” by Tyler Chroniger; “The Book of Revelation: The Great Tribulation” by Dennis Coleman; “Register for Conference Week 2023 Now!” and “Women’s Board Nominations.”

**June 2024 — Theme: *Thoughts about “God only gives what you can handle” or is it that God will handle it.***

Authors include Charles Meathrell, Keith McCall, JR Shick; Tim Smothers, and Barry Dailey.

**July/August 2024 — Theme: *Our God Reigns!***

These are highlights of each issue of the Sabbath Recorder. Church news has included stories from the churches when submitted, along with the listing of new members, baptisms, births, marriages, and death notices. New guidelines have been established for obituary listings in the Sabbath Recorder. Full obituaries can be seen online at [biography@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:biography@seventhdaybaptist.org).

Issues of the Sabbath Recorder can be found in pdf format at:  
<https://www.seventhdaybaptist.org/category/sabbath-recorder/>

Contact information to reach the Directors, various offices, and websites of the denomination are included in the issues.

## **Monthly Communication**

A continued focus has been to increase engagement across our audiences on various social platforms and our website. Between June 14, 2023 and June 14, 2024 we have seeing a 50.8% increase in engagements, 28.4 % increase in impressions. We targeted several strategies we identified as effective the previous year and look to continue these for the upcoming ministry year as they have proved to be accomplishing what we intended: reach more people and have more people interacting with the work we are doing.

The quarterly newsletter "Our Road Ahead" has continued to be published and mailed. The focus is aimed at delivering news straight from the Directors and others in Conference service on their ministries with the theme set by Jeremiah. Rick Crouch continues in his service as the designer and editor of the newsletter and is a blessing to the Communications team. If you do not currently receive the letter, you can call, email, or write the SDB Center to be added to the mailing list.

This year saw the emergence of seminars focused on equipping churches with ideas and tools to leverage in their own use for communication. The goal was to present a topical information or how to session. The first two sessions this year were seminars on social media tools and on a beginners guide to using Canva. Response has been good, and we will continue to utilize this approach in the months ahead.

Jeremiah has worked with several churches including Phoenix SDB and to assist with their website needs and questions, this will look to be replaced as a service with directing churches to available resources to assist them with their needs.

## **Conference Media**

For Conference 2024, the plan is to have a select streaming experience for portions of Conference on Facebook and YouTube.

Conference video reports are edited by Jeremiah Owen and organized and uploaded into a Conference Report playlist for easy viewing, we encourage people to take the time to watch the reports prior to attending Conference to enable them to have time to think through questions or conversations they would like to have with Directors.

## **Executive Appointments for 2023-2024**

For Director Jeremiah Owen:

(Attends meetings with Center staff via Zoom online meetings; monthly meetings with T&CC for updates; quarterly reports to General Council; contributor to SDB Exec Blog)

**September 2023** – Roadshow, Rancho Ybarra, Tujunga, CA

**November 2023** – Phoenix SDB, Phoenix, AZ

**January 2024** – Anchor of Hope, Dodge Center, MN

**April 2024** – Phoenix SDB, Phoenix, AZ

## **How To Contact Us**

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