

# American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council Annual Report for the year 2015

## **Our Mission is to Connect**

The Tract and Communication 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 relationship 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 on-line at the Conference website:

[www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org) or at  
[www.sabbathrecorder.com](http://www.sabbathrecorder.com)

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

Along with the color pdf version, we continue to provide a “page-flip” version for web readers. You may find all the versions at [sabbathrecorder.com](http://sabbathrecorder.com).

Patricia Cruzan continues to serve as the Sabbath Recorder Editor and has pushed a

varied and exciting visual approach to each month’s theme.

**September 2015** — Conference President, Bill Probasco’s theme for the year was “Steadfast.” This issue of the SR printed three of the “8-Minute Messages” presented at Conference: by Valerie Probasco, Dennis Coleman, and Pastor Steve Osborn. Conference business was highlighted, including accepting four new churches into membership, the accreditation of four pastors, and the renewing accreditation of ten pastors. Included were many pages of photos of Conference activities such as the “Family Feud” and Bible quiz games. Again, we highlighted the children’s part of conference hoping to encourage families to attend in the future. The General Council announced the “Vision Map” and its details. Scripture Memory Verses for the coming year were printed. Robe of Achievement recipient was included along with updates from other departments. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger, president for the coming year, announced his theme of Faith-Family-Education. Four extra pages were added to this issue so we could include more conference material.

The September SR was the first issue where the paper for the inside pages was upgraded to a gloss stock to improve the quality of the magazine and so that photos print much better.

**October 2015** — “The Great Masquerade” was the theme. Articles included “From Lucifer to Satan,” written by Pastor Rod Henry; “Not Ignorant of Satan’s Schemes,”

by Pastor William Shobe; “The Conflict,” by Pastor Nathan Crandall (beginning of a sermon series); “Did ‘The Devil Make Me Do It,’” by Pastor Dale Rood. Pastor Dusty Mackintosh’s series on “Top Ten Words” continued with “How Much Do Your Parents Weigh — Exodus 20:12.” The President’s Page this year is written by the speakers of the worship services at conference next summer. The World Federation urges SDBs to become Global Partners.

**November 2015** — “Stand Firm” in spiritual warfare was the theme. The second of Pastor Nathan Crandall’s sermons, “Stand Firm,” was the lead article. Then there was an article written by Pastor Joel A. Houts about spiritual warfare at a summer camp in Puerto Rico. There were four short pieces written by various SDBs about “Divine Intervention.” Also appearing were articles from the various departments, including a “Seminarian Profile.” The names of those who successfully completed the Scripture Memorization Program were listed. Information about “What Should Your Church Be Aware Of?” regarding the U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex marriage was presented.

Announcements about Pastor Crandall becoming senior pastor at Milton, WI, and Phil Lawton installed as assistant pastor at Shiloh, NJ, were included.

**December 2015** — the Christmas issue. Two “children’s” stories (for everyone) were the feature articles: “Zack in the Sack” by Dennis Coleman about a mouse traveling with Mary and Joseph to the Bethlehem stable, and “It’s Christmas Whether You Like It or Not” by Jeremy Evans about a badger who gets the Christmas spirit. The third in Pastor Nathan Crandall’s series, “Put on the Full

Armor of God” completed the series of themes on spiritual warfare. Next was another of Pastor Dusty Mackintosh’s “Top Ten Words” (taken somewhat out of order because of the Christmas issue) was “Gimme: Exodus 20:17. Rob Appel began a series in his column expanding details about the Vision Map from General Council. It was announced that Levi Bond was voted assistant pastor in Portland, OR.

**January 2016** — This SR was all about “Blessings.” Pastor Scott Hausrath, North Loup, NE, wrote about “A New Perspective.” Daniel Lovelace, Metro Atlanta, GA, wrote “Walk with me.” Pastor Andrew Samuels, Miami, FL, wrote about “Blessings of Stewardship.” Clint Brown, Missionary Society column, wrote about “Blessing of a Breakdown.” Dorothy Noel wrote about blessings in the Women’s Society. Pastor Chuck Meathrell, Lexington, KY, reflected on the Multiply Conference held in Colorado Springs and Rev. John Pethel challenged “Churches to become involved in Church Planting.” Rob Appel’s column continued with the Mission Map information and Pastor Dusty Mackintosh’s series “Top Ten Words” continued with “Murder and Hate: Exodus 20:13.”

**February 2016** — “Silence”... “Christianity has become a culture of silence.” – Pastor Rod Henry, Denver, CO. He wrote “Silence is not golden for Christians.” Pastor Robert VanHorn, Pataskala, OH, wrote “To be Silent or Not.” Rebecca Olson, Berlin, NY, issued “The Challenge” to break our silence! Daniel Lovelace issued another challenge: “Rest in Your Supreme Defender.” Rachel Osborn, Boulder, CO, asked, “Alive or Just Breathing.” The “Top Ten Words” for this month was Covenant Sex: Exodus 20:14. Previous editor of the

SR, Kevin Butler, wrote the President's Page column about a pair of shoes in college. The Historical Society column honored Rev. Dr. Paul Manuel who was presented the Gold Headed Cane at Conference, although he was unable to attend. There was a "Retired Pastor Profile" this month about Pastor Victor Skaggs.

**March 2016** — This month we celebrated Easter...or because of a few complaints about the use of that "pagan" word...we celebrated the Resurrection of Christ. "Happy Easter, Groundhog" written by Bill Probasco, Shiloh, NJ, was about NOT letting the Easter bunny and other commercial aspects of the holiday overshadow the reason we celebrate. "Freedom" written by Julia Coleman, Shiloh, NJ, was about how the life and death of Jesus impacted three women. "So Much More than Zombie Jesus," written by Pastor Phil Lawton, Shiloh, NJ, looked at the difference between the zombie culture's view and the actuality of who Jesus is. Many interesting columns from the various departments included another Retired Pastor Profile, Pastor Donald Richards, the last installment about the Vision Map from Rob Appel, and honoring the Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, Rachel Trudell from Alfred Station, NY. The "Top Ten Words" was "Monopoly vs. Chess: Exodus 20:15."

**April 2016** — Several articles were compiled by Garfield Miller, Missions Coordinator, Jamaica. These were accounts of mission trips and experiences shared from during the year. Focus on Zambia: "Are We Willing to be Uncomfortable for Jesus" by Pastor Brent Hannah, Salem WV; "Leadership Training in Zambia" by Rev. Gordon Lawton. Focus on Guyana: "My Yoke is Light" by Carla Burlingame

and Maura Maza (and family), Shiloh, NJ. Focus on Kenya: "God Owns Everything. You Own Nothing!" by Kory and Amanda Langley, Texarkana, AR; "Empowering Keera Kenya" by Caroline Snyder, Daytona Beach, FL; "I couldn't have been more proud!" by Debbie James, Verona, NY. Focus on Puerto Rico: "Fantastic Experience — We Saw God's Goodness!" by Casey Greene, Berlin, NY. The Women's Society column was an update about "SCSC Jamaica Round 2!" Rob Appel announced that Conference 2017 would be in Southern California. There were two "Retired Pastor Profiles"...Pastor C. Rex Burdick, who passed away shortly before this was printed; and Pastor Edgar Wheeler, whose wife, Xenia Lee, also passed away shortly before this issue was printed.

May 2016 — This SR was a follow-up to the February issue on "Silence." A reader asked, "What if it seems that God is the One who is silent towards us?" So we explored that question: Pastor Scott Hausrath, North Loup, NE, wrote about "The Silent Treatment." Dr. Paul Manuel, Salemville, PA, wrote "When God Is Silent" outlining some steps that scripture teaches about praying and reasons why God may seem silent. We had another look at the mission trip to Kenya by Pastor Steve James, Verona, NY. The Missionary Society column asked, "Is it Safe to Go on Missions?" The new board for the Missionary Society was announced. Traditionally, the May SR includes registration forms for attending General Conference, this year at Houghton College, July 31 – August 6. Rules for "Expected Conduct" were revisited. Because there will be no Pre-Con prior to conference sessions, there was an emphasis on "All You Need to Know about Youth and Young Adult Activities at General

Conference.” The Christian Education Council also wrote an article about “The Global Refugee Crisis and Us: Sifting Through the Issues to Honor Our King.”

June 2016 — Do you have “hurry sickness”? Pastor Scott Hausrath, North Loup, NE, wrote about “The Hurry Sickness.” Then Pastor Phil Lawton told us “Hell is for Christians”...he gives scriptural basis for this claim. We reprinted an interesting article from a blog, Growing4Life, which asks, “What does the Bible say about OMG?” Daniel Lovelace, Metro Atlanta, GA, writing for the Young Adult column, found some “Lessons in the Radio.” Katrina Goodrich, Women’s Society column, wrote “Rhythm,” about Mary and Martha. This issue concluded the series by Pastor Dusty Mackintosh, “Top Ten Words,” “Pants on Fire: Exodus 20:16.” (Because these articles went over several months, and a couple were “out of order,” we included a listing of the months and articles to make it easier for the reader to find them.) The announcement was made that the “Merger Between SDB Historical Society and SDB General Conference Completed!” The details about the new Council on History were included. Information about Conference 2016 from the Host Committee was included along with who the committee members are and how to contact them. There were also “Highlights of the Week” and other activities to make note of.

July/August 2016 — The theme for this issue is about “Healing”...about God’s work in the lives of the authors or of others they have known; about dealing with healing that may not happen...at least on our schedule, if at all. Pastor Bill Shobe and Diane Andries are authors. The Health News column by Barb Green, Milton, WI, is “Christian Healing.” There is more news

and updates about Conference 2016 sessions and activities. Also included will be the beginning of a new series of devotionals written by Donna VanHorn, Milton, WI.

These are highlights of each issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Each month there have been columns written by the contributing editors: Rob Appel, Alliance in Ministry; Clinton R. Brown, Focus on Missions; Kenneth Chroniger, President’s Page; Caleb Crouch and Gabi Osborn, The Beacon; Katrina Goodrich, Women’s Society; Barb Green, Health News; Nicholas J. Kersten, Education and History; John J. Pethtel, Church Development and Pastoral Services; William Villalpando, Young Adult. Church news has included stories from the churches, the listing of new members, births, and marriages, and the obituaries

#### **New Media**

SDB LINK is a new application that is used to distribute various SDB publications. It is available for free, for both Android and iOS platforms. Currently all 2016 issues of the Sabbath Recorder are available, and soon to be joining will be digital versions of the new tracts along with other SDB publications. New opportunities for items including this report, as well as the schedule for Conference will be made available through this exciting new way for us to distribute content. We look forward to making this form of distribution a primary focus as we continue to seek to be good stewards of the resources we have been entrusted with by reducing production costs while balancing the needs and desires of both our older and younger demographics.

Assistance has completed for the following churches websites:

- SDB Church of Ft. Lauderdale
- Miami SDB Church
- SDB Church of Texarkana

Work has completed in transitioning from the old Seventh Day Baptist General Conference site to a new modern and current site. The last outstanding feature from the last year's rollout is the new Conference registration system. This is the first year we are using it for the Conference registration and we are excited about how well it has worked out. The system is completely in-house hosted. This includes the ability to accept credit card payment at time of registration, which helps streamline the flow of finances as well an anticipated ease of onsite registration.

### **CRM**

The past year was spent narrowing down the best CRM (Conference Relationship Management) system. After several test setups and many trials we have settled on a system and have begun the process of entering in information we have collected over the last year. As of July 1, we have started using the CRM to track communications and contacts. We look forward to utilizing this system to better manage, track and connect with contacts both new and those already known.

### **Phone System**

We have been working through a phone system upgrade as we sought to improve communication for those calling the center. Each executive and staff member has phone, voicemail box and access to digital faxing as well. As this is the first upgrade to the phone system in over a decade we are still working on tweaking it to fit our

needs, and we are excited about the progress thus far.

Conference 2015 was livestreamed and was utilized by hundreds of people worldwide to be able to virtually attend the Conference sessions.

Conference sessions for 2015 were recorded for archival purposes are available for viewing at [www.youtube.com/7thDayBaptists](http://www.youtube.com/7thDayBaptists)

Plans are to once again offer Livestreaming of Conference 2016.

### **Tracts**

The T&CC has completed 1 new tract and has a second nearing completion. The newly designed tract replaces Sabbath vs Sunday and Scripture vs Tradition tracts with an updated design and with revised wording which has been approved by the Council on Faith & Order. The tract is designed to fit the branding of the Conference website to bring a cohesive feel to our message and the tract allows for churches to include their own church information in a stamp area on the back. T&CC hopes to have the second tract approved by Faith & Order and completed by the fall of 2016.

### **Executive Appointments for 2015**

For Director Jeremiah Owen:

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

### **September**

– Northwest Day – Yakima Seventh Day Baptist Church

**March**

– CLT/General Council Meetings in Miami, FL

– Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church, Miami FL

**May**

– Pacific Pines Camp – PCA Spring Campout

**June**

– Prepare for Conference 2016

**July/August**

– Houghton, NY, General Conference

**October**

– Riverside, CA, Pacific Coast Association

Levi Bond term expiring 2018  
(Portland, OR)

Scott Hausrath term expiring 2018  
(Milton, WI)

**Members *ex-officio*  
(Committee chairs)**

*Publications Committee–*

[ To be filled ]

*Sabbath Promotion Committee–*

[ To be filled ]

*Sabbath Recorder Committee–*

Bill and Valerie Probasco

**Director of Communications–**

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Or directly from our **E-store** at:

[www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

**ASTCC Directors**

**Elected to three-year terms  
by General Conference**

Johnmark Camenga (chair)  
(Lost Creek, WV) term expiring 2016

Gretchen Zwiebel term expiring 2016  
(Boulder, CO)

Dave Alldredge term expiring 2017  
(Tacoma, WA)

Jason Yost (sec) term expiring 2017  
(Milton, WI)

Dave Alldredge term expiring 2017  
(Tacoma, WA)