You Can

Thank God It's Friday...

The Sabbath is Coming!
The Sabbath

The Seventh Day Sabbath

And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day... then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. Genesis 2:2-3

God knew at the very beginning that His people would need a day that was set aside for rest. The seventh day Sabbath was given to us by God; a command, a gift and an example to be followed so that we would be reminded of God's creative power. As today's world becomes more and more hectic, God's gift of Sabbath rest becomes more and more important.

The Sabbath Recorder, November 1986, Volume 208, No. 11, Whole No. 6,701. A Seventh Day Baptist publication. The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0003-2140) is published monthly by the Seventh Day Baptist Conference's Tract and Communications Council (formerly the American Tract Society), 1120 Kennedy Road, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. This publication is distributed at no cost to members, and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches, and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Sabbath Recorder, 1120 Kennedy Road, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. This is the 142nd year of publication for The Sabbath Recorder. First issue published, June 11, 1844. Member of the Audio-Visual Church Press. The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse赶 speed articles. D. Scott Smith, Editor. I cano Leipinnet, Assistant Editor. Writers: Please type manuscript double spaced. Only manuscript that include a stamp, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed, however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.
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God gave man the Sabbath, the seventh day of his creative week, as a joyful "pledge of eternal Sabbath rest." The Sabbath (Saturday), therefore, is not a legalistic burden, but a wonderful reminder of God’s love for his children.

Jesus Christ faithfully upheld the Sabbath as sacred time.

He (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. Luke 4:16

After his death and resurrection, his followers continued the practice of worshipping on the seventh day Sabbath.

Every Sabbath he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:4

Seventh Day Baptists “keep the Sabbath holy” because they love the Lord and delight in keeping his commandments.

Who are Seventh Day Baptists?
Seventh Day Baptists are a distinctive group of Christians who have been worshipping in America for over 300 years. Scattered from large cities to rural areas, Seventh Day Baptists are people of faith who love the Lord Jesus Christ and share his love with others. They are people who worship God and “call the Sabbath a delight.”

Committed to some very simple but profound ideas, these people join together to form church congregations for worship, fellowship, service and witness. It is the people that make a church, and the key to the strength of Seventh Day Baptist churches is the faith of the individual members.
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What they believe

Seventh Day Baptists cherish liberty of thought as an essential condition for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they have no binding creed to which members must subscribe. They hold, however, that certain beliefs and practices, having the support of Scripture and adhered to by followers of Christ through the centuries, are binding upon all Christians. Among these are the following which they hold to be fundamental.

The Seventh Day Baptist denomination is historically, like other Baptists, congregational in polity, and desires that its churches and its members shall continue to enjoy freedom of conscience in all matters of religion. The Statement of Belief simply points out the views that are generally held by Seventh Day Baptists and is not intended to have binding force in itself.

The Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief

GOD
We believe in God, the one personal, perfect, and eternal Spirit, Creator, and Sustainer of the universe, our Father, who manifests a holy redeeming love toward all men. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalms 90:1, 29; 2 John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; John 3:16; 1 John 3:1; Ephesians 4:6.)

JESUS CHRIST
We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our Savior, Teacher, and Guide, who draws to himself all men who will come to him in love and trustful obedience. (John 1:14-18; 12:32; Romans 1:3-5; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 1:18-23; 1 John 3:16; 2:2.)

THE HOLY SPIRIT
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the indwelling God, the Comforter, active in the hearts and minds and lives of men, who reproves of sin, instructs in righteousness, and empowers for witnessing and service. (John 14:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; Romans 5:5; 2 Peter 1:21.)

THE BIBLE
We believe that the Bible is the inspired record of God’s will for man, of which Jesus Christ is the supreme interpreter, and that it is our final authority in matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1, 2; 2 Peter 1:19; 20; John 20:30, 31.)

MAN
We believe that man was made in the image of God in his spiritual nature and personality, and is therefore the noblest work of creation; that he has moral responsibility, and was created for divine sonship and human fellowship, but because of disobedience he is in need of a Savior. (Genesis 1:26, 27; Micah 6:8; Psalms 8:4, 5; 2 Corinthians 4:15, 16; Ephesians 2:4-10.)

SIN AND SALVATION
We believe that sin is any want of conformity to the character and will of God, and that salvation from sin and death, through repentance and faith in Christ our Savior, is the gift of God by redeeming love, centered in the atoning death of Christ on the cross. (John 1:29; 35; 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23-27; Acts 2:37-38; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Ephesians 2:8.)

ETERNAL LIFE
We believe that Jesus rose from the dead and lives eternally with the Father, and that he will come in heavenly glory; and that because he lives, eternal life, with spiritual and glorified bodies, is the gift of God to the redeemed. (John 3:14, 15; 17:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 42-44; 1 John 5:11, 12; Matthew 25:31-34; Colossians 3:1-4.)

THE CHURCH
We believe that the Church of God is the whole company of redeemed people gathered by the Holy Spirit into one body of which Christ is the head; and that the local church is a community of Christ’s followers organized for fellowship and service, practicing and proclaiming common convictions. (Matthew 16:16-18; Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 14; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 21:9-22; Acts 14:22.)

THE SACRAMENTS
We believe that baptism of believers by immersion is a witness to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and is a symbol of death to sin, a pledge to a new life in Christ. We believe that the Lord’s Supper commemorates the suffering and death of the world’s Redeemer, “Till he come,” and is a symbol of Christian fellowship and a pledge of renewed allegiance to our risen Lord. (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:37-39; Romans 6:3; 4 Mark 16:16; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 11:23-29.)

SABBATH
We believe that the Sabbath of the Bible, the seventh day of the week, is sacred time, antedating Moses and having the sanction of Jesus; that is should be faithfully kept by all Christians as a day of rest and worship, a symbol of God’s presence in time, a pledge of eternal Sabbath rest. (Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Ezekiel 20:20, Luke 4:16 Mark 2:27, 28; Acts 13:42-44; Matthew 5:17-19.)

EVANGELISM
We believe that Jesus Christ by his life and minisry and his final command to the disciples, commissions us to promote evangelism, missions, and religious education, and that it is through these agencies that the church must promote Christianity throughout the whole world and in all human relationships. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 7; Matthew 28:18-20; 4:19, 23; Acts 1:16 Mark 3:12-27b; Acts 13:42-44; Matthew 5:17-19.)

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Seventh Day Baptists emerged as a part of the English Reformation, organizing their first church in London in the 1650's. That church, the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church, has continued now for over 325 years. The first Seventh Day Baptist in America was Stephen Mumford, an English S.D.B. who emigrated in 1664-65. He worshipped with Dr. John Clark's First Baptist Church in Newport, Rhode Island, the second Baptist church in America, where he succeeded in convincing several members to accept the Sabbath.

Although the Sabbathkeepers intended to remain in fellowship with the first-day church, antagonisms developed and, in 1671, seven members of the First Baptist Church withdrew to form the Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church. Soon, the center of Seventh Day Baptist growth in New England shifted to the "Westerly" part of Rhode Island. Other early churches were established in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and it was from these three centers that the denomination grew.

A desire to expand the fellowship experienced at the several "Yearly" meetings, and to organize for missionary efforts, led to the founding of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in 1802. Denominational work blossomed in the mid-1800's with the initiation of the first foreign mission, the beginning of publishing efforts and an especially strong interest in education.

The mission to Shanghai, China, was opened in 1847 and continued for a century until American missionaries were forced to flee Communist occupation. An ambitious publishing ministry was highlighted by the birth of The Sabbath Recorder, the denominational periodical in 1844. Determined that their children and the other children of their communities should be provided with quality education, Seventh Day Baptists founded academies at most
DISTINCTIVES

☐ Yes! I would like more information about Seventh Day Baptists.

☐ Send me the *Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives* booklet.

☐ Please put me in touch with a Seventh Day Baptist pastor.

Name: ____________________________

Street: ________________

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3120 Kennedy Road
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Janesville, WI 53547-1678

of their major locations. Three of these became colleges: Alfred University, Alfred, New York; Milton College, Milton, Wisconsin; and Salem College, Salem, West Virginia.

Stirred by the zealous A.H. Lewis, and undoubtedly benefiting from a national evangelistic fervor, Seventh Day Baptists in the United States grew to approximately 10,000 by the close of the 19th century.

In the first half of the 20th century, Seventh Day Baptists have been interested in social concerns and church growth.

The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation was established in 1965 to provide for communication, fellowship and international cooperation among Seventh Day Baptist conferences and groups around the world. Delegates from 16 member conferences celebrated the Federation's 20th anniversary in 1986, representing over 50,000 Seventh Day Baptists in 20 nations.
**Authority and Organization**

**By what authority?**

The Bible is the final authority for Seventh Day Baptists. The Bible is a record of God’s working among his people. It is a record of God’s will for his people and provides guidance in “matters of faith and conduct.” In its pages is the story of God’s desire for a relationship with man, and finally through Christ, the fulfillment of that marvelous plan.

Seventh Day Baptists turn to their Bibles for inspiration, education and resources for guiding others to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

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**Organization**

Seventh Day Baptists are individuals from all walks of life who come together to form a local congregation. That congregation is the basic unit of Seventh Day Baptist organization. Each local church is self-governing and makes its own decisions on leadership, worship style and other aspects of its unique ministry.

The churches have joined together to form the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in order to accomplish work that individual churches could not do alone. In an effort to aid the work of the local churches, denominational agencies have been established to provide services in Christian education, publishing, mission work and evangelism, leadership training and youth work.

The Conference is a member of the larger Seventh Day Baptist World Federation and the Baptist World Alliance.
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Seventh Day Baptists are a family; an open family. If you would like to be part of this family, we would welcome the opportunity to worship with you. On the following pages, you will find a listing of the churches, branch churches and groups of Seventh Day Baptists in the United States and Canada. You may also find a stamped address of a local Seventh Day Baptist church. Feel free to contact them . . . They want to tell you more about Seventh Day Baptists and welcome you to their worship services.

If you would like more information about Seventh Day Baptists through the mail, please fill out one of the cards in the center of this magazine and drop it in the mail (don't forget to put postage on it). We look forward to hearing from you.
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- Sunshine Mountain SDB Church, Chatata Rd., Chatata, MN 54062

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- Berlin SDB Church, Berlin, NY 12022
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- Milton SDB Church, 720 E. Madison Ave., Milton, WI 53563
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<td>Asheville Group, 214 Pearson Dr., Asheville, NC 28801</td>
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<td>Shawnee Branch Church, 620 N. Beard St., Shawnee, OK 74801</td>
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<td>Rapid City Branch Church, 4222 W. St. Louis, Rapid City, SD 57702</td>
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<td>Austin Branch Church, 4910 Ave. G, Austin, TX 78751</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Imaisons Branch Church, c/o Dale Smalley, Bruce, WI 54819</td>
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</table>
Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:20-21 (RSV)