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THE COMING *kingdom of* GOD

Week of Prayer

January 3-9, 2027

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation



Since 1967, Seventh Day Baptists around the world have joined together during the first full week of January to seek God in prayer. Each year, we share meditations written around a common theme that unites us in reflection, worship, and intercession.

This year's theme, **"The Coming Kingdom of God,**" reminds us that as children of God, we are called to live with the consciousness of His reign while anticipating the ultimate physical and spiritual fulfillment of His everlasting kingdom. As we pray together across nations, may God inspire us to carry the gospel of His coming kingdom with boldness and joy.

Our Purpose

The SDB World Federation exists to:

- **Connect** Seventh Day Baptists worldwide through communication and fellowship.
- **Equip** pastors, leaders, and churches through training and resources.
- **Encourage** collaboration in mission, prayer, and mutual support.

We believe that by working together, we bear witness to the unity Christ prayed for:

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."

—John 17:23

Daily Prayer Focus

Each day lists countries where Seventh Day Baptists live and serve, along with a short **Prayer Purpose** to guide our intercession. These simple prompts help us pray more intentionally for unity, growth, and encouragement across our global family. To help participants pray more knowledgeably for our brothers and sisters in Christ, information by country has been posted to the World Federation website:

sdbwf.org/wop/2027

World Federation Sessions

The most recent General Sessions were held in Blantyre, Malawi (September 16–23, 2023) under the theme "Become Perfectly One," based on John 17:23. The next General Session will be held in January 2028 in Brazil, hosted by the Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference. These gatherings continue to strengthen our global fellowship, renew our vision, and equip leaders for Kingdom work. Help bring a delegate from every member conference to Brazil: give or sponsor a delegate at sdbwf.org/brazil2028.



Donate!

Officers:

Officers for the World Federation include

General Secretary Douglas Machado (generalsecretary@sdbwf.org);

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Luis Lovelace serves as *Editor of Publications.*

The Coming Kingdom of God
Giving Opportunities

"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."

II Corinthians 8:1-5

Recently, our family was discussing how to title a list of jobs that needed to be accomplished around the house. What we came up with was something remembered from Church Camp and SCSC[1] days. Camp chores weren't called jobs. They were referred to as "Service Opportunities"! What if we looked at a discussion about giving as "Giving Opportunities", rather than as a list of duties, rules, and requirements for giving?

One of the most well-known verses on giving is found in II Corinthians 9:7, *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* When speaking to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul used the Macedonians as examples of "cheerful givers" and what a "Giving Opportunity" attitude looked like in his day.

Imagine it! The churches in Macedonia were in severe affliction and poverty, yet they still gave, begging for the favor of helping the saints! When we see or hear in the news about economic crises, political upheaval, natural disasters, wars, and/or suffering, may we also beg earnestly to be allowed to take part in the relief of the saints. Paul sent a delegation to collect and administer the funds. We can easily share by giving through our local churches, and to the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation in anticipation of The Coming Kingdom of God.

[1] SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) is a summer program for young SDB adults to serve as volunteers for short term projects. Sponsored by the Women's Society in the USA and Canada SDB Conference, they receive training and are sent to churches to help with host church projects like vacation Bible schools, camps, etc. during the summer break.

How To Give to The SDB World Federation:

- **By Mail**: Treasurer, SDB World Federation, P.O. Box 581, Silver Creek, GA 30173-0581 USA
- **Online:** 3 ways
- Use **PayPa**l to send a donation to treasurer@sdbwf.org
- **SDBWF Website:** https://sdbwf.org/donate
- **Zelle (through your online banking app) to Zelle ID:** treasurer@sdbwf.org

The SDB World Federation is thankful for the generous donations already given this year by individuals and churches, and is looking forward to partnering with you in "Giving Opportunities" as we continue to collect funds for upcoming projects and events such as the next SDB World Federation Sessions to be held in 2028. Leaders from conferences around the world will meet for fellowship, training, and vision-setting as we seek to spread the Gospel around the world. This giving opportunity will help cover travel costs for delegates from developing countries and related conference expenses. We thank you in advance for assisting us to help SDB leadership from all over the world to prepare for the Coming Kingdom of God.

Debbie Hargett
Treasurer, SDB World Federation

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Rosemarie Patrecia Wilson is the third of four children born to Joslyn and Ethlin McLean, in the Parish of Manchester, Jamaica. She accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord in September 1982, and has since been serving in various areas of ministry. Feeling a strong urge to serve in the teaching ministry of her home church, Blue Mountain SDB, she accepted an opportunity to enroll for ministerial training at the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Bible Institute, successfully completing the program in 2005. In September 2007, she was assigned as a Missionary Worker to serve the Coffee Grove Seventh Day Baptist Church, a product of the church-planting efforts of her home Church. She continues to serve the Coffee Grove Church, now in the pastoral ministry, and Blue Mountain, as leader and Bible teacher. Rosemarie enjoys researching and presenting studies in eschatology, which she does at general conference and local church settings. She is a member of the teaching staff of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Theological Institute, and the immediate past first vice president of the Conference

Rosemarie holds teacher-training certification in Secondary Education, a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Applied Chemistry, a Master's degree in Environmental Science, and a PhD in Chemistry. She has been teaching since 1992, with most recent engagements being at the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean, the University of the West Indies, and Knox Community College. She is happily married to Pastor Desmond Wilson for 32 years, and together they have been blessed to parent three children: Abigail, Jo-Daniel and Joshua-David - now all adults, actively serving in ministry.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'kingdom', as used in typical day-to-day discourse, can reference both an abstract concept of kingly reign, dominion, or rule; as well as a tangible presence of a realm over which a king has supreme authority. In reference to the kingdom of God, there is a theological thought that the kingdom is already present, and also 'not-yet fulfilled'. Spiritually and physically, this dual concept is important. On the one hand, as children of God, we are called to conduct our affairs with the consciousness that we already are living in a realm where the Eternal, Self-Existent God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, is king. It is fitting to recall the words of Psalmist David, "The LORD hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all" (Psalm 103:19, KJV).

On the other hand, we are acutely aware that concurrently, we live in a world where mankind in general is in rebellion against the will of God. The inerrant word of the LORD however, speaks of a universal condition and world in which there will be the absence of 'all things that offend, and them which do iniquity' (Matthew 13:41). This second spiritual and physical reality is ultimately what the church anticipates as the coming kingdom of God; that for which we pray as we petition: "Our Father in Heaven… Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10, NKJV). By design, humans were created in God's image to have kingship responsibilities on earth (Genesis 1:26). Their God-pleasing kingship was contingent upon their willing submission to the command of the Sovereign King; but sadly, they failed, yielding allegiance and kingship to 'the serpent' (Satan) who entered the garden of Eden and subtly spun his web of deceit (Genesis 3:1, 4-5). The Heavenly Father did not give up on us though, He made a way for restoration, Praise the LORD! Jesus Christ was sent into the

world to reconcile humanity to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:17), and restore 'sonship privilege' to everyone who willingly receives Him (John 1:12). By His blood, we, His ambassadors, have been washed from our sins and have been made kings and priests unto God, having the glorious hope that we shall reign with Him on the earth (Revelation 1:5-6; 4:10).

As we journey together this week focusing on the coming kingdom of God, let us pray for each other in earnest, and consider how we can stir each other to be even more diligent in carrying the gospel of God's coming kingdom, knowing that among His closing remarks to the church, Jesus said: "… this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:15).

Be challenged, encouraged, positively transformed, blessed.

SUNDAY,
January 3, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God is Real
Keep it CENTRAL

> "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."
>
> **Daniel 2:44 (KJV)**

The natural course of civilization's history includes the rise and fall of kingdoms. At the time of reference in Daniel 2, the Neo-Babylonian kingdom had recently gained supremacy over the eastern Mediterranean region, having taken "from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates, all that pertained to the king of Egypt" (2 Kings 24:7b). Jeremiah 46:2 and Babylonian history (Wiseman, 1956), record the defeat of Egypt's king, Pharaoh-Necho by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, reportedly in 605 B.C.

In Nebuchadnezzar's second regnal year, he had a troubling dream, seeing a great image having a head of fine gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet part of iron and part of clay. Given the interpretation by the LORD (*YHWH*), Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the 'God of heaven' had given him a kingdom - he was the head of gold; but the kingdom would successively pass to others, eventually to a fourth kingdom that would 'break in pieces and bruise' (Daniel 2:37-40). The iron-clay mixture of the feet and toes, represents the last phase of the fourth kingdom. Details from parallel visions (Daniel 7, 8 and 11), confirm the succession of kingdoms, and allude to kingdom characteristics such as - uneven spread of power, *'destined-to-fail'* multipolar alliances, deception, rise of a final blasphemous, tyrannical persecutor of the saints (Daniel 7:7-8, 19-21, 23-25) unprecedented transgression, and lawlessness (Daniel 7:19-25; 8:23).

There is, however, good news for the people of God! In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, striking and breaking the image to pieces forever carried away by the wind, even while it became a great mountain filling the whole earth (Daniel 2:32-35), represents the ***everlasting Kingdom of God*** (Daniel 2:44) which will finally fill the earth with righteousness (2 Peter 3:13). Are you excited about such a future world? I am!

Most of the four kingdoms have come and gone - God's kingdom is real, and its consummation draws nearer! The kingdom's nearness is a part of the first documented sermon we have of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), and Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15), and part of what was committed to His disciples to be proclaimed until His return (Matthew 10:7; 24:14). As we await the kingdom's consummation, let's **KEEP** it **CENTRAL**. **K**now its ***E***ssentials and ***E***mbrace its ***P***rinciples. **C**ommunicate its closeness like Christ did. **E**ndure hardship in earth's evil kingdoms to the end. **N**etwork and let the net work - neighbourly win and nurture souls now, the night draws near. **T**rust the Truth Jesus taught as signs of the time. Be **R**eady to respond. **A**waken those asleep. God's coming kingdom is **L**iteral, Live and Look for its landing.

Focusing questions for your prayers:

Are you living in readiness for the coming kingdom of God? Are you watching for the sign of the iron-clay mixture of the last earthly kingdom? Individually, and corporately, how can the coming kingdom of God be kept more central to our focus?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Angola, Argentina, **Australia***, Bangladesh, **Brazil*, Burundi*,** Cameroon, and the Canary Islands.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the countries - ask the LORD to help the churches to willingly adjust their programs to include teaching that ensures increased knowledge and focus on God' s coming kingdom.

*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

Reference:
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MONDAY,
January 4, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God Brings Reward

INVEST for Good Returns

> "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."
>
> **Revelation 11:15,18 (KJV)**

As we saw yesterday, there comes a time in the future when all worldly kingdoms will be brought to an end. Revelation 11 verse 15 is an exultant declaration of this fact unveiled to the apostle John, in the ***seven-trumpet vision*** (Revelation 8:2-11:19) he had while in exile on the Greek island of Patmos, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9). Finally, times of trouble and sorrow for the Church will be over, and Jesus Christ, the King of kings will return. "The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Hallelujah!

The middle portion of verse 18 of the text also bears wonderful news. This eternal change of global governance will also be the time for all ***the servants of God, the prophets, the saints, those that fear God's name*** to be rewarded for their life's service. Yes! All who up to that time would have laboured for God's kingdom, will be rewarded according to their work (Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 3:13-14; Revelation 22:12). It is comforting to know our labour for the LORD is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). What kingdom work have you done lately? What are you laying up for yourself in heaven's treasure store (Matthew 6:20)?

The coming kingdom of God brings glorious reward - INVEST in it now. Inferring from Jesus' parable about the ten pounds shared by a nobleman equally among his ten servants before he went into a far country to receive a kingdom and return (Luke 19:12-26), each servant of Christ receives an ***Input investment*** - the *inspired word of the gospel* we each are called to share. Understand that there is ***no allowance for Nonperformance***, the LORD expects us to be ***Valuable assets*** to His present kingdom. We are therefore called to occupy - ***Engage in daily business wisely, to ensure effective yield*** upon His return. We must allow the Spirit of the LORD to help us implement ***Systematic plans for effective spreading of the seed*** (the word of God), and become good stewards of our ***Time, talents and treasure***. The first servant returned to his master an increase of 1000%, the second, 500%, and another, 0%! Are our returns pleasing our Master? There are far too many Kingdom tasks to be done, for us not to get actively engaged. By the marvelous grace of God, through faith, we have been saved, and are now "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in" (Ephesians 2:10). In the parable, "Well done, thou good servant" was only declared in recognition of 'master-pleasing' work done. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us stay in God's service, as we await the blessedness of reigning with Christ.

Focusing questions for your prayers:

Do you need to do more work for the Kingdom of God? Are you a faithful steward of your ***time, talents and treasure***? Are you satisfied with what your reward might be, should the kingdom of God come now?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in **Canada***, **Chile***, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, **Ecuador***, and Egypt.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the countries - ask the LORD to multiply efforts and outcome of soul-winning activities of churches where these exist, and awaken zeal for evangelism where ministry is dormant.

*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

TUESDAY,
January 5, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God Brings Redemption and Restoration

NUDGE each other towards Entry

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 13:41-43 (KJV)

Across the world today, evil is pervasive, and good news appears to be a very scarce commodity. Research reveals greater demand for 'hard news' (e.g. sensational stories on crime, disasters, accidents) and on average, standard news programs contain no more than 10% good news (Gambaro et al., 2024; Lengauer et al., 2011 & Matthews, 2023). This is indeed a sad reality in a world where all things were created for God's pleasure (Revelation 4:11). Our focus text today is Jesus' parable of the tares of the field (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), in which He shows the crafty introduction of evil to a world originally created to be good. In Jesus' explanation of the parable (verses 37-43), the children of the kingdom of heaven ('good seed' sowed by the Son of man), were meant to be the only occupants and fruit bearers of His kingdom (the world), but the devil entered while men became spiritually careless, and introduced children of his own nature (the tares).

The first man (Adam) disobeyed God, thereby passing sin and death upon all humanity (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12). Jesus Christ, the Son of man, the last Adam - 1 Corinthians 15:45, fully obeyed God the Father, became sin for us (Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21), and gave His life for our redemption (Eph-

esians 1:7). Now, all who believe the gospel (good news) unto salvation are 'sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise' - the ***'earnest'*** (deposit, down-payment) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:13-14). The coming kingdom of God brings full Redemption and Restoration. All evil will be removed forever! Hallelujah! May we **NUDGE** each other towards entry to our Father's kingdom. In this era of spiritual and moral confusion, ignore the pull factors of the broad way - stay on the ***N***arrow way that leads to the kingdom (Matthew 7:14). ***U***rgently undo connections with unrighteousness (Ephesians 5:11; Colossians 3:5-9; 1 Corinthians 6:9). Be ***D***iligent that you may be found of God in peace, without spot, and blameless (2 Peter 3:14). **G**ive of yourself for God (Matthew 19:28-29; 25:34-40) and Gather with the saints (Hebrews 10:25). ***E***ncourage each other with the enduring words of promise of the coming kingdom of God (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11).

Focusing questions for your prayers:

Are you remaining steadfast in hope amidst the deluge of evil in society? Are you a source of encouragement and help to the weak, vulnerable, persecuted? Are you pleasing the LORD through righteous living?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in **England***, Ethiopia, Gambia, **Ghana***, Guinea, **Guyana***, and Haiti.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the countries - ask the LORD to provide help and encouragement for brethren and leaders, especially in countries where widespread lawlessness, poverty, societal collapse, apathy, and Christian persecution are impacting the ministry of churches.

*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

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WEDNESDAY,
January 6, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God is a State of Resplendent Glory

GATHER People for it

"And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. "

Mark 9:1-3 (KJV)

"King of Glory…Fill this place, I just wanna be with You"....are words penned by the gospel artist, Todd Dulaney, and oh how they ring from my heart! Hallelujah! Soon the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). The LORD declared to Moses: "as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Numbers 14:21). This is thrilling!

As the time drew closer to Jesus' crucifixion, He gave His inner circle of disciples (Peter, James and John) an opportunity of a lifetime. In a vision, they got a glimpse of 'the Son of man coming in His kingdom' (Matthew 16:28; Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27). All accounts had this in common: Jesus' appearance shone exceedingly! According to the parable we read yesterday, the righteous people will shine like the sun (Matthew 13:43). The LORD showed Daniel too, that 'they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever (Daniel 12:3). This sounds like an open invitation to me…and you.

What do we need to do? Be covered in the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:9), be wise (Proverbs 11:30) and win many to righteousness. Let's make it our mission to GATHER people for God's coming kingdom. Deliberately **G**et out of the church building and into GO mode. (GO = God's Objective - to seek and save the lost - Luke 19:10). **A**ll spaces and places in the world, whereever the lost are, are fields for the GO-mission. Do not be afraid (2 Timothy 1:7) or ashamed (Luke 9:26). **T**each Heaven's Truth. Be led by the **H**oly Spirit who does the drawing. **E**mbrace people but eschew evil (1 Peter 3:11). Entry to the kingdom is exclusively Jesus' way. **R**emove barriers but **remain right**. The kingdom of heaven is like a fishing net catching every kind…but when drawn to shore, only those meeting the qualifying standard make it to the master's vessels - the bad ones are cast away (Matthew 13:47-48). Only people doing the will of the Heavenly Father will enter His kingdom (Matthew 7:21). Our task is to go and do the gathering, the separating is left to the master.

Focusing questions for your prayers:

How active are you, and your church in community evangelism? Are you selective about the people with whom you share the gospel? Are you afraid, or ashamed to share the gospel?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in **India***, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, **Jamaica***, **Kenya***, Lebanon, and Liberia.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the churches - ask the LORD to grant spiritual boldness and wisdom to help members and leaders share the gospel without fear and compromise. Pray for open doors in areas where Christianity is in the minority and faces opposition.

*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

THURSDAY,
January 7, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God is Rooted in God's Love

DISPLAY it

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17 (KJV)

After man sinned in Eden, our just God could have easily erased His kingdom plans for humanity. He did not. Through grace and mercy, we got a second chance! In our text today, Jesus, in conversation with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, spoke about kingdom matters (John 3:3,5). From John 3:16 and 17, we can see that His mission from God the Father was one rooted in love. The Father's love caused Him to send Jesus Christ on this great rescue mission, to release the world from condemnation. Now, there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

We are called to live in this world with the mindset that by our presence, the kingdom of God is taken near to everyone with whom we interact. This is a requirement for us who anticipate entry to the ***yet to be fulfilled*** coming kingdom of God. Jesus told Nicodemus he needed a spiritual rebirth to see, and enter the kingdom of God. As born-again citizens of God's kingdom we are known as such, to the extent that our God-like love constitutes the root, fruit and rule of our actions. In all we do, let us **DISPLAY** God-like love. Love is doing - not merely feeling. We will pray today that we ***D***emonstrate the 'over-and-above' kind of love that does good for others even when they deserve other-

wise. Romans 5 verse 8 says God demonstrated love to the extent that while we were still sinners (His enemies) Christ died for us. Love moves us to serve in the best ***I***nterest of others. Paul admonishes against doing things through strife or vainglory, and mere self interest (Philippians 2:3-4). Love is not Self-seeking (1 Corinthians 13:4, NIV). Love is ***P***atient - instead of pouting and bad-mouthing, let us pray till our lips put forth God-pleasing Prayers of the heart (Matthew 5:44). ***L***et go of hurt - Learn forgiveness God's way (Psalm 103:12; Ephesians 4:31-32). Let us not allow the sun to go down any day, with us still carrying that intense anger (Ephesians 4:26) - take it to God and leave it with Him. Oh LORD, help me! Help us! Let us be kindly ***A***ffectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another (Romans 12:10). As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). Let's pray that we ***Y***ield ourselves to God (Romans 6:13) so He can use us to spread His love and transform lives for eternity.

Focusing questions for your prayers:

Is God-like love the root cause of all our actions? In what specific ways can I better DISPLAY God's kingdom through love? What more can the local church do to take God's love to the community?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in **Malawi***, Mozambique, **Netherlands***, New Zealand, Nicaragua, and **Nigeria***.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the countries - ask the LORD to reveal ways churches can better display the love of God in communities; pray for areas where Christians experience severe economic hardship, localized persecution, social upheaval, and Jihadist insurgency.

*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

FRIDAY,
January 8, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God Reveals Overthrow and Divine Order

OPERATE by it

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. "

1 Corinthians 15:24-26, 28 (KJV)

The unity in purpose of the Son and the Heavenly Father, the order in the kingdom, and the ultimate overthrow of evil, are key observations from our text today. Satanic forces, wherever they exist: whether in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:7); 'cast down to hell - delivered into everlasting chains under darkness (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6); or residing in available bodies and walking about the earth (Matthew 8:28-32; 12:43; 1 Peter 5:8), will some day all be overthrown. With this overthrow comes "salvation, strength, the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ" (Revelation 12:10). Death, the last enemy to be overthrown, will be 'swallowed up in victory'– victory of the saints who at the last trumpet, in the twinkling of an eye, will be raised incorruptible and immortal (1 Corinthians 15:52-54). What great rejoicing that will be! According to the text, the Son must reign till all enemies are overthrown, then He will deliver the kingdom to the Father, that God may be all in all.

Today, as our God-ordained ministry brings the kingdom of God near to those to whom we are sent (Luke 10:9, 11) let us remember that God has already given us the power and weapons

to demolish satanic strongholds (Luke 10:19; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Ephesians 6:10-18). Oneness and order are key requirements for victorious kingdom living. The adversary, knowing the power of unity and order, relentlessly attacks the church where it hurts most. He causes infighting, power struggle, personality parades, cliquism, self-righteousness - all aimed at engendering conflict and disorder. A kingdom divided against itself comes to desolation (Matthew 12:25), and sadly, many churches are victims today. May it never happen in ours. Let us pray that the LORD helps us to: be ***O***ne, though diverse in roles and office (Romans 12:1-3); be ***P***urpose-driven, having the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8); ***E***liminate schisms in the body, treating each member with equal care (1 Corinthians 12:25); ***R***eflect Jesus Christ in all we do (Ephesians 5:1-2), endeavouring to pass the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) test; carry out assigned tasks under the ***A***nointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8); ***T***rust the LORD's order, including His choice of leadership; and be an ***E***xample of the believers (1 Timothy 4:12).

Focusing questions for your prayers:

What are the barriers to oneness, order and ministry effectiveness in your church congregation? Does your attitude engender harmony in the Body of Christ? Are you "an example of the believer'?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, the **Philippines***, **Poland***, Portugal, **Rwanda***, Sierra Leone, **South Africa***, and South Korea.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the countries - ask the LORD to help church members and leaders work in unity for the cause of the kingdom. Pray that the Christian witness of the churches be strengthened.

*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

SABBATH,
January 9, 2027

The Coming Kingdom of God Brings Sabbath Rest

MODEL it

> "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."
>
> **Hebrews 4:4, 8-11 (CJB)**

Seventh Day Baptists have been 'remembering' God's Holy Sabbath and celebrating its arrival every seventh day of every week since the mid-seventeenth century in England. This was at a time when teaching observance of the 7th Day Sabbath was considered heretical, and hence punishable, by the state and established religious authorities. Praise the LORD, we are still here, remembering "the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). We believe the Sabbath of the Bible is sacred time, a gift of God to all people, instituted at creation, affirmed in the Ten Commandments and reaffirmed in the teaching and example of Jesus and the apostles. We also believe it is an experience of God's eternal presence with His people, and should be faithfully observed as a day of rest, worship, and celebration. Is the LORD pleased with our Sabbath-keeping? Are we remembering the Sabbath, as Jesus did? He is our example. What He did, we can do likewise. He is LORD, even of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8).

The Sabbath, ending the week of daily labour, is a model of the promised eternal rest that comes at the end of our physical, mental, and emotional labour and travail, carrying the gospel, or being God's people in this present righteousness-hating,

anti-Christian world. For Israel, going through the wilderness from Egypt to Canaan, the LORD called that promised destination, "My rest" - Hebrews 3:11. Those Israelites, who through unbelief rebelled against God's command, were denied entry. It is not 'our way' that gets us into God's rest, it is His way. There is enough warning in Hebrews 4:1-11, to convince God's people, to whom the text was written, that not believing and following His command can cause us to 'come short' of the promise of entering into His rest (Hebrews 4:1). The coming kingdom of God brings Sabbath rest, let us pray that each of us will MODEL it. Mix the preached word with faith (Hebrews 4:2). Trust God's means and method. Often we refrain from keeping the Sabbath because we think financially, we cannot afford to. True Sabbath-keeping is an act of faith in God. Obey God over man. True Sabbath-keeping is based on God's order, not man's overthinking. Dare to stand true, not being discouraged if increasingly we seem too different. Enjoy this engagement with the LORD and the brethren - consider it practice for Eternity. Lets Leave our labour and cares, get together with the LORD and learn of Him - so we can find rest and refreshment for our soul (Matthew 11:28-30).

Focusing questions for your prayers:

Are you a MODEL for Sabbath-keeping? Is Sabbath-keeping in your individual and corporate experience a blessing, or a burden? What do you need to do to improve your obedience to God in the keeping of the weekly Sabbath? Does your local church teach the children and youth about the essence of the Sabbath?

Today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan, Tanzania, **Uganda***, Ukraine, **United States of America***, and **Zambia***.

In addition to the specific ministry needs of the countries - ask the LORD to help the churches cultivate a culture of Sabbath-keeping that looks like that of Jesus' Sabbath-keeping: relational and not ritualistic, liberating and not legalistic.

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