

An abstract painting with vibrant colors including teal, blue, green, yellow, and red, with visible brushstrokes and a textured surface.

*Week of Prayer*

**Created**  
to *Create*

**Seventh Day Baptist World Federation**

**January 4-10, 2026**

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

# Created to *Create*

*Week of Prayer*

**January 4-10, 2026**

*Sponsored by the 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, "**Created to Create**," reminds us that we were formed in God's image not only to worship Him, but also to reflect His creativity in our discipleship, service, and daily lives. As we pray together across nations, may God inspire us to live out this calling 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**

## 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 2028 (venue to be announced). These gatherings continue to strengthen our global fellowship, renew our vision, and equip leaders for Kingdom work.

## 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/2026***

## Officers:

Officers for the World Federation include

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

**President** Luciano Baretto Nogueira de Moura (president@sdbwf.org);

**Treasurer** Deborah Hargett (treasurer@sdbwf.org);

**Assistant General Secretary** Andrew Samuels;

**Recording Secretary** Marcia Nembhard;

## Regional Vice Presidents:

*Canaan Phiri (Africa), Abel Caesar (Caribbean), Marian Ferraren (Asia), Carlene Wynter (Europe), Amaury Moitinho (South America), and Nicholas Kersten (North America).*

**Luis Lovelace** serves as *Editor of Publications*.

# Treasurer's Page

As we step into 2026, we thank God for the faithfulness of His people in supporting the ministry of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. Your generosity reminds us that we are not only created to worship and serve, but also Created to Give.

***“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*** — 2 Corinthians 9:11

## A Word of Thanks

In 2024/2025, your gifts made a lasting difference. Because of the support of individuals and conferences, all SDB churches in Rwanda that had been closed were able to reopen, and even additional churches shut down during Covid-19 were restored. We rejoice in what God has done through you.

## An Invitation to Give

The Federation encourages every conference, church, and individual to take part in an annual Sabbath Giving Week on the first Sabbath of January. This year's theme is *“Created to Give”*. Of course, contributions are welcome year-round as well.

## How You Can Give

- **By mail:** Treasurer, SDB World Federation P.O. Box 581, Silver Creek, GA 30173-0581, USA

- **Online:** Donate securely via PayPal ([treasurer@sdbwf.org](mailto:treasurer@sdbwf.org)) or at [sdbwf.org/donate](https://sdbwf.org/donate).

## **Supporting the Next World Federation Sessions**

The General Sessions of the SDB World Federation are held every five years, gathering leaders from member conferences around the world for fellowship, training, and vision-setting. The next Sessions are planned for 2028. Please consider designating part of your giving to help cover costs such as travel for delegates from developing countries and meeting expenses. Your generosity ensures that voices from every region can be present as we seek God's will together.

Your giving equips leaders, strengthens churches, and spreads the gospel among the nations. Thank you for partnering with us in this vital work.

With gratitude,

***Debbie Hargett***

Treasurer, SDB World Federation

## About the *Author*

The devotions for this year's Week of Prayer were written by Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten.

He grew up attending the Milton, Wisconsin SDB church in the USA with his mother and grandparents. He trusted Jesus at Camp Wakonda, the camp run by his congregation, before joining as a teenager. He was called to the ministry in 1997 by the Lord and was subsequently licensed to preach by the congregation in 1998, the same year as his graduation from high school.

Pursuing education in support of his ministry callings, Nick graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education to teach English and Political Science. During his undergraduate years, he served in the ministries of his home church, teaching Sabbath School, directing youth camps, and serving in youth ministries.

Responding to continued encouragement to teach and preach from his local congregation, other local churches and nearby SDBs, Nick spent the next eleven years working through seminary, first at Denver Seminary in Denver, Colorado before completing his Master of Divinity degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, in Deerfield, Illinois in 2014.

In 2005, Nick became the Librarian-Historian of the SDB Historical Society and was charged with digitizing the resources held in the Library and Archives in Janesville at the SDB Center and making them available online. For a decade, Nick cared for the collections and told the story of SDBs among the churches of the USA/Canada Conference and in the broader world, establishing the history website [www.sdbhistory.org](http://www.sdbhistory.org).

In 2015, after a reorganization in the USA/Canada Conference, Nick became the Director of Education and History, the position he has held since. In that role, he equips leaders for ministry in ways consistent with our heritage as Seventh Day Bap-

tists. His responsibilities often lead him to places where he is privileged to tell the SDB story to diverse people from around the world.

Nick lives in Milton, WI, with his wife Brittany and their four school-aged children, where he also serves as an elder in his local church. Nick and Britt celebrated 19 years of marriage in July 2025.

Since 2023, Nick has served the World Federation as the Vice President from North America.

## Introduction

As recorded in Genesis 1-2, God created everything that exists from nothing. From His own resources and in ways perfectly consistent with His nature, God created, and everything that has been made reflects aspects of His eternal power and divine nature (Romans 1:20). For six days, God created light, dark, time, seasons, land, water, sky, and “the fullness thereof,” and pronounced it all good.

Then, as God completed His creative work on the sixth day, the Scriptures tell us that God *“created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.”* (Genesis 1:27, ESV) Following this, He proclaimed that everything was “very good” (1:31). In this, all that God intended to create on the earth was complete (2:1), and having completed it all, He rested and sanctified the seventh day, the Sabbath.

In Genesis 1:28-30, God speaks to the people He made, giving them responsibilities to steward the creation and to achieve a variety of tasks in His name. These tasks facilitate fullness, fruitfulness and multiplication, but the text of Genesis does not elaborate on every way in which this work of stewardship for the increase of fullness and fruitfulness on the earth should be accomplished. Instead, the hint about how humanity was to accomplish this formidable task is found in whose image we bear.

As image bearers, we are called by God for purposes of stewardship, fruitfulness, and multiplication to learn from God’s work of creation as we act in creative ways with what God has provided to fulfill God’s mission for us. We were created to create!

In Jesus Christ, we have a powerful example of what is possible when humanity is fully empowered and awakened by the in-

dwelling Spirit of God. We also have the necessary cleansing from sin and shame so we can properly steward the resources with which we have been entrusted. By Christ's perfect life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection, we now have the power to overcome the sin which corrupts our creative acts for God's mission.

In the coming week, we will journey together as we pray and consider how God is calling us to use the creativity and resources He has given us to take the riches of the Gospel in Jesus Christ and utilize them for our sanctification and the saving of the world through Him. The world needs us because it needs Him. Our calling is to courageously embody His Kingdom and preach His unchanging and eternal Word through all the creative means at our disposal which do not promote falsehood or excuse sin. I pray you will be blessed, confronted, corrected, encouraged, and equipped in our shared work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ until He returns through our journey together this week.

For His glory and Kingdom, and for our good,  
**Nick**

January 4, 2026

## Creating Kingdom Culture

*“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”*

John 15:8-9 (ESV)

Every follower of Jesus Christ is a new creation by grace through faith (2 Corinthians 5:17). At the moment a believer is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, they are welcomed into the new creation of the Kingdom of God and rescued from the dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13). Every new disciple of Jesus Christ follows Him into a community and a calling by the Gospel. The community is called to take up the commands of Jesus and abide in the love of God that transforms us, individually and corporately (John 15:7-11). Having become a part of that redeemed family, we are then called to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God in Christ before a watching world in ways which increase God’s rule and reign and subvert, undermine, and demolish every power, dominion, and authority that opposes God.

This work begins with cultivating the love of God in ourselves, in our families, in our churches, and in our communities. There is no creative act we can undertake in our own strength that will yield a positive result for God’s kingdom if we first refuse to abide in the love of God in Christ (John 15:4-6). This means that a primary focus of our lives as followers of Christ MUST be to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew. 22:37-40). Everything we do as disciples depends on our abiding in Him.

Much of the content of the New Testament’s epistles is dedicated to establishing a “culture of abiding” in the church which honors King Jesus, but perhaps my favorite is in Romans 12, where among his other commands, Paul tells the Romans to,

*“...Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”* This sort of active seeking for ways to love and show honor indicates a need for profound sensitivity to the needs of others as well as a call to creatively meet those needs once we have identified them. No two people receive love in exactly the same way, and the same person may not receive love the same way from different people. To love well means to employ our creativity as we seek to honor our King and His Kingdom as we proclaim and demonstrate His great love for us. This begins inside our congregations, but naturally flows out to the world.

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** Are you abiding in the love of God today? Are there any places where your love has grown cold or stagnant? Are you creatively cultivating the love of God in your family, church and community? What challenges are you experiencing in showing love to and receiving love from those around you? How is God calling you to proactively address these challenges?

## **Today's** *Prayer Focus*

Let us lift up our brothers and sisters in Angola, **Australia\***, Bangladesh, **Brazil\***, **Burundi\***, Cameroon, and Canary Islands.

*Ask God to strengthen unity in love, build mutual honor within churches, and inspire creative ways to bless local communities.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

## Creating Skillfully and Faithfully

*“And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.”*

Exodus 36:2 (ESV)

As people who are rooted in God’s love for us, we are called into the work of his Kingdom. Each of us is called to be a witness to what God has done in us by means of the gifts, talents, and resources He has entrusted to us. Our stewardship is to honor the rule and reign of King Jesus through the use of His many blessings to us for the good of His Kingdom.

Exodus 35-36 details the beginning of the construction of the tabernacle of the Lord. In that passage, Moses first takes the offering that the Lord commanded to gather the necessary materials to make the tabernacle (35:4-9). To do this, however, he does not issue a tax or send deputies to collect. Instead, he indicates that this contribution is to come from those who are “generous of heart.” The contributions sought include the work of skilled craftspeople. Having collected the materials, he summons the most skillful craftspeople, before finally bringing the most skilled of all, two spiritually empowered men named Bezazel and Oholiab. These men supervise the work to completion according to their skills and because of the faithfulness of the givers and the workers. Notably, the generous gifts are greater than the need for the project.

As the people of God, we are being built into His dwelling place (Ephesians 2:22), and just as in the time of Moses, God wishes for the good gifts He gives to be utilized for the increase of His kingdom. We do not do this to secure our salvation or increase our status in God’s kingdom or in the eyes of others. We

do this because we serve a risen Lord who is worthy of everything we have and more, having redeemed us from our slavery to sin.

From the time of Christ until now, God-empowered faithful and skillful creativity has provided profound opportunities to establish and grow the church as well as draw those who are lost and separated from His love in Christ. Such creative craftsmanship is an act of profound faith, especially in difficult times, as it demonstrates deep faith in the God who gives us every good thing in Christ. Our skillful work can spark profound renewal and revival, and as such is a profound sign of God's presence with us. He has given more than enough to accomplish His purposes in our world!

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** What resources, gifts and talents has God given you that He wishes for you to employ faithfully and skillfully in the world? Are there any places where you are struggling to be “generous of heart” with what God has given you? What has God put in your heart to do that would spark your generosity and maximize your resources, skills, gifts, and callings for His glory?

## **Today's** *Prayer Focus*

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

*Lift up skilled pastors, teachers, and ministry workers, asking that  
God multiply their talents for Kingdom purposes.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

## Creating Fidelity and Confronting Idolatry

*“An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.”*

Isaiah 40:19-20 (ESV)

Not all the manifestations of our creativity reflect God’s image in us or the goodness of His creation. Sometimes, humans create things and idols in their own image rather than employing their skills, talents, abilities, and resources to serve the Lord. The essence of idolatry is to desire something that is not God and distill that selfish desire into an exterior object, which can reflect our selfishness back to us with a promise that we are holy and blessed. It is the nature of fallen humans to worship created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:21-25).

It is no accident that the first two of the Ten Commandments address idolatry directly (Exodus 20:3-6), as God knew that His people would always be tempted to turn His good gifts towards themselves and see them instead of Him. The people of Israel are regularly unable to escape this temptation, and the prophets routinely address this failure in those who bear His name.

If we are going to escape the temptation to repeatedly and regularly build idols of our own, we must employ all of our faculties to confront our own idolatry and plant the seeds of faithfulness and fidelity instead. We must be as creative and faithful in our examination of ourselves as we are in our service in His name. The temptations to idolatry are not always obvious, and it is common for us to mean with good intentions to worship the Lord and still succumb to worshiping something like idealized versions of ourselves, our moral principles, or

our culture. We must be wholly devoted to refusing to worship but our God as He was, is, and will always be.

We know that the enemy of our souls is creative and is willing to employ many creative strategies to cultivate the division and selfishness that causes idolatry, not only in the church of Jesus Christ, but also in the world (2 Corinthians 2:10-11). We also know that we face many temptations, but that God has given us the resources to overcome temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13), and that God tempts no one (James 1:13). In light of this, it is right for us to employ our creativity towards the investigation of our own hearts to make sure we are growing in our obedience and fidelity to our God and King. Followers of Jesus need to use all of their creative faculties to discern the idols we are tempted to build and tear them down.

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** Are there temptations you routinely feel? What are the roots of these temptations—what do the temptations deceptively offer you that you fear God will not provide? Where are the idols you are tempted to serve in your life? How do you turn away from them? What are the idols in your local church, conference, or culture?

## **Today's Prayer Focus**

Let us pray for our brethren in **England\***, Ethiopia, Gambia, **Ghana\***, Guinea, **Guyana\***, and Haiti.

*Ask God to protect His people from cultural and spiritual compromises, giving courage to live in holiness.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

## Created to Craft Disciples

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

Jesus began His public ministry by calling a limited number of people who followed Him closely and learned everything from Him. This training was not limited to theological instruction, as the exercise of living together surely meant life-on-life education. These called people who lived close enough to Jesus to learn His ways are those who are called His disciples.

Jesus commands His disciples in the Great Commission, because of His authority, to go out into the world and continue this work, and that He would be with them in it. The sense of the command to “go” in this passage is really more continual than a single act of going. It is a command to continue in this behavior everywhere we go. In other words, this is a command for His disciples then and now to take up a way of being and the stewardship of the mission that Jesus was on.

Because of this, the calling to craft disciples is on each one of us who are His disciples. No one is exempt. And while it is tempting to imagine this work belonging to someone else because of some talent or skill they possess or ones we do not, each of us is called to take our apportioned talents, skills, resources, and time to participate in the work of making disciples. Ultimately, the work of saving belongs solely to God, and the process of making any single disciple does not belong solely to us. Nevertheless, we are called into the world as skilled workers to contribute to the work God is doing in others. Faithfully and

creatively using our skills and talents in the crafting of disciples who are being formed by God into the likeness of Christ is your calling and mine.

There is no shortage of opportunities, as even those people who have not yet followed Christ need someone to proclaim the Gospel to them—this too is an important and inescapable responsibility—to serve God in the making of new disciples. We engage both in the making of new disciples and the refining process of disciples who have walked with the Lord for many years.

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** How engaged are you in making disciples? Are you fully engaged? What obstacles and challenges exist for you in being more engaged in this vital work? Who in your life does God want to disciple through you? Are your eyes open to these opportunities?

## **Today's** *Prayer Focus*

Let us pray for Seventh Day Baptists in **India\***, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, **Jamaica\***, **Kenya\***, Lebanon, and Liberia.

*Pray that churches will intentionally disciple believers of all ages, equipping them to share Christ.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

## **Created** to Build on the One Foundation

*“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.”*

1 Corinthians 3:11-13 (ESV)

The Scriptures use a variety of images to reveal elements of the truth about the church of Jesus Christ—those people who are called in His name. We are given discussions about bodies and buildings, and about harvests and fruitful fields. We are shown social gatherings like wedding feasts as examples (Matthew 22:2-14). All of these images have one clear focus point. Bodies and buildings are distinct from one another. We plant one seed per crop. Weddings are about one single couple. As the people of God, we have one foundation: Jesus Christ.

When the people in Genesis were commanded to go into the world and be fruitful and multiply, their secondary acts of creation began as a filling of the entire world. After the world was broken by sin, creative acts had as much chance to destroy the thing God had made as they did to glorify God or serve God’s redemptive purposes in filling it. In Christ, we have the opportunity and responsibility to build in ways which will serve His kingdom, but these creative acts are only redemptive and eternal if they are built on the one foundation: Jesus Christ. In the passage today, we see Paul clearly indicate that the test of our work is not how creative it is or how valuable the material we have used is. Instead, our work will be tested by fire on the last day. As the theologian C. T. Studd said, “only one life to live, ‘twill soon be past—only what’s done for Christ will last.”

It is easy to get caught in our individual goals or creative abilities and miss the crucial step of making certain that our lives are being built on the only foundation that lasts. If it is easy to do individually, it is even easier when we cooperate with others, because we can assume someone else is checking our work against the blueprints God has given to make sure it lines up. But the truth of the matter is that each of us is responsible for testing our own lives and to prayerfully serve as a voice of conscience in our congregations. The eternal future of our efforts depends on it.

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** As I evaluate my life, can I truly say that it rests solely on the foundation of Jesus Christ's sinless life, atoning death, and miraculous resurrection? Am I trusting only in Christ as revealed in the Scripture to serve as the standard for my life and all its varied parts? Where has my building departed from the one foundation? When I consider my local church, my Conference, and the work of SDBs around the world, are we also building on the foundation of Jesus Christ?

## **Today's** *Prayer Focus*

Let us pray for Seventh Day Baptists in **Malawi\***, Mozambique, **Netherlands\***, New Zealand, Nicaragua, and **Nigeria\***.

*Ask God to keep ministries grounded in the truth of Christ, resisting distractions and false foundations.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

## Creating *Expanded Praise and Worship*

*“Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.”*

Psalm 33:2-3 (ESV)

As we enter the day of preparation for the coming Sabbath, it is time for us to begin to put down the work of the week and enter into the rest of the Sabbath. For five days we have labored, and tomorrow, we will rest, but today, it is ours to enter the world that God is redeeming and use our creativity to give Him the praise, honor, and glory He is due.

Our God did not create the world to serve as a factory which turns out products. He did not create it so it could be a mine or harvesting operation which extracts resources to create value. He created for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11), and His work in us is ultimately for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). We were made by God’s love, for God’s love, “..to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:11-14). That glory will increase and fill the entire earth, until it drowns out everything else in unlimited and unending praise—in the worship service that never ends (Revelation 4:8).

It is to this work of giving God the praise, glory, and honor that He is due that I want to turn our attention today, because this is the place where perhaps our God-given creativity is most powerfully unleashed, and is most needing to be unleashed.

Our God frustrates our human languages’ limits, and describing Him fully or completely eludes all of us. One of the challenges in serving such a mighty, powerful, preexistent God is that anything He gives you to craft with is somehow less than He is, and try as you might, you will never take a created thing and

make it capable of capturing His fullness. But far from being a reason to despair, this is a reason to celebrate—we can create new songs, and increase our skills in every tongue and language and in every sort of art form with confidence that we are filling the world with something it has never seen before, but which is absolutely glorifying to God in both spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)!

This work of ascribing to God everything that belongs to Him to increase His glory and praise is one of the highest callings of our lives, and each of us is called by God to render the best of what we have through the art forms and craft available to us. This is a powerful testimony to a watching world, who can see God's beauty, power, and majesty through our creative praise!

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** When was the last time that you made something new in praise to the Lord? What part of His nature seems most beautiful to you today? What has He done in your life that is worthy of praise today, this week, or in the past? How can you join today in praising God for what He has done in a new way?

## **Today's** *Prayer Focus*

Let us pray for Seventh Day Baptists in Pakistan, the **Philippines\***, **Poland\***, **Rwanda\***, Sierra Leone, **South Africa\***, and South Korea.

*Pray for a fresh outpouring of praise and worship that draws people to the beauty and majesty of God.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

## Recreating to Create

*“And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”*

Mark 2:27-28 (ESV)

As humans, we are limited beings in every way. We have limited energy, strength, intellect, ability, talent, and capability. More than that, our abilities to do anything must be refreshed regularly if we are going to be in the best command of what God has given us in our lives, both individually and as churches.

In the created order as related in Genesis, after God gives the people the command to go into the world and be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and after He gives them stewardship of it, He ceases from the work of creating and He rested. But He went further—He sanctified the seventh day and imbued it with special qualities the first six days did not possess. He claimed it for His own.

He did not do this because He needed to rest. Our God needs neither slumber nor sleep (Psalm 121:4). He was not weary after a long week of creation, and He was not taking time off from being God on the Sabbath. Instead, He rested from His work because He knew that what He had made would need time to recreate and regenerate on a regular cycle if they were going to fulfill the purpose He had in making them, and if they were going to honor the stewardships they were given.

Jesus reaffirmed this message while He was in the flesh in the text from Mark above. Our natural human inclinations will be to turn our resting into work, and to legalistically enforce our rest until it is no longer restful or rejuvenating. This is not why God made the time—He made both the time and us for Himself, and Sabbath is meant to be a time where we can faithfully leave our

toil (including our religious efforts in our own strength) to enjoy the benefits of our fellowship with God and those like us He has called to follow Him.

This work of being rejuvenated by rest and connection with God during the time He has set aside for that purpose is actually the primary resource we begin with, not a thing we seek after we have worked all week towards our “real” purpose. We must be filled before we have anything to pour out. As you rest today, be filled so you can return to the world and create in His name!

**Focusing questions for your prayers:** Are there obstacles in my Sabbath keeping that keep me from fully fellowshipping with God and other believers? How can these barriers be removed? How can I make my Sabbath more restful and rejuvenating? What is God calling me to lay down on this Sabbath day to rest in Him?

## **Today's** *Prayer Focus*

Let us pray for Seventh Day Baptists in South Sudan, Tanzania, **Uganda\***, Ukraine, **United States of America\***, and **Zambia\***.

*Ask God to grant rest, renewal, and restoration for His people so they can serve Him with joy and strength.*

\*Member conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

