

# Your will be done



Seventh Day Baptist World Federation  
IJsvogelstraat 9, 4273 CT Hank, The Netherlands  
[www.sdbwf.org](http://www.sdbwf.org)



Seventh Day  
**Baptist**  
Week of Prayer

January 1-7, 2012

# *Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer for 2012*

sponsored by the

**Seventh Day Baptist World Federation**

IJsvogelstraat 9, 4273 CT Hank, The Netherlands

Since the first “Week of Prayer” in 1967, Seventh Day Baptists around the world have begun each new year with prayer, sharing together in meditations provided by that year’s author.

**Purposes** of the SDB World Federation are:

- 1. To provide increased communication** among Seventh Day Baptist groups around the world.
- 2. To promote projects of mutual interest** which will benefit from international cooperation.
- 3. To stimulate fellowship** among Seventh Day Baptist Christians through periodic meetings of representatives between Conferences (or groups) and programs of mutual aid.

**Contributions:** The Federation delegates recommend that all member Conferences designate an offering at least once a year for the World Federation and that each member conference consider designating 10% of their annual budget for the Federation. Contributions may be sent via PayPal at [www.sdbwf.org](http://www.sdbwf.org).

**Sessions:** The last General Session was held in the United States (Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin), July 28–August 1, 2008. The United Seventh Day Baptist Churches of the Philippines plans to host the next session in 2013.

**Officers** for the World Federation include General Secretary Jan Lek of the Netherlands ([general.secretary@sdbwf.org](mailto:general.secretary@sdbwf.org)), President Dale Thorngate of the USA ([president@sdbwf.org](mailto:president@sdbwf.org)), Treasurer, Mrs. Miriam Berg ([treasurer@sdbwf.org](mailto:treasurer@sdbwf.org)). Vice Presidents: Nedd Lozani (Africa), Marlo Siolo (Australia/New Zealand), Claudia Ferguson (Caribbean), Ruth Lek (Europe), Jonas Sommer (South America), Al Paypa (Asia), and Andrew Samuels (North America).

**Meet us** at [www.sdbwf.org](http://www.sdbwf.org)

*Cover artwork and new World Fed logo  
created by João Paulo, a T.I.M.E. student from Brazil*



## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Pastor Marlo Malofou Siolo was born in Samoa in June 1948. He was born again as a Sabbath-keeper through the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) in 1975 where he also met his sweetheart Fiona. Pastor Siolo was active in the church as Youth Leader, Coordinator, Consultant and Communicator for the Samoan-speaking SDA churches.

He currently serves the Lord for the Seventh Day Baptist church in Brisbane, Australia (since 2000) and has also been elected Vice President of the SDB World Federation to liaise with the SDB churches in Australia and New Zealand.

Pastor Marlo Siolo and Sister Fiona have four adult children: Lee, Maureen, Belle and Rima, and seven grandchildren.

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Luke 11:2

*“Your Kingdom come”*

As we come to the conclusion of the Week of Prayer, let us review before we close with the Sabbath topic.

- 1). “Praise God.” We give thanks and rejoice with the angels in heaven, all creatures great and small.
- 2). “Come now let us reason together.” There is no one but God to put our trust and faith in as we propose our needs for the coming year.
- 3). “Be ye therefore perfect.” First things come first as we are reasoning with God. Be perfect, walk and talk with respect and love for others.
- 4). “You are my friend” if ye do whatever I command you. Jesus is the answer for our world today.
- 5). “Search the Scriptures.” Jesus emphasized that we are to study and search the Bible as we bear witness of Him.
- 6). “Pray without ceasing.” There is no other way to protect ourselves and request our needs. Our prayers should be a part of our lives.
- 7). “Your kingdom come.” God is of the past, today and the future.

As we are created in the womb by God—and He knows our days and years of our life and gives us talents to serve him (Jeremiah 1:4-5)—the will of God has to be done in our lives. We surrender ourselves to God through Jesus Christ, who was crucified and brought with Him the Kingdom of heaven, the fulfillment of the end-time prophecy and the last hope of our generation.

Mark 13:33

*Take heed, watch and pray for you do not know when the time is near.*

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in the Caribbean: Jamaica, Guyana and newer work in the region like Barbados and Suriname.

**Prayer is ...**

1. Dialogue between God and people
2. Communication between God and individuals, churches and communities
3. Request for what we need to prepare for a future project or task of His work (Gospel task) and our human physical strength
4. Request to prevent any unforeseen evil temptation or error.

Israel was a nation born of prayer. Exodus 3:7 states that God overheard their misery, crying and anguish. So Moses conversed with God and interceded for his people. As I was in Israel recently attending a Bible research seminar, I saw with my own eyes that this nation of prayer exists in Jerusalem.

Why do we pray? Examples of prayer were given to the Israelites to help them with their everyday life, but they are also used as an example for modern cultures and religions worldwide.

The Lord’s Prayer is our prime example: “Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he let them know there is a Holy God in heaven, and that they are to glorify Him from their hearts and thoughts because God is One—the provider and sustainer of all their needs. Let us look at the Lord’s Prayer and meditate on the sweet words of Christ and stand on His word for what is to happen in 2012.

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Thursday: Alone with God— John 5:39  
Friday: Take Time to Pray— 1 Thessalonians 5:17  
Sabbath: Thy Will Be Done— Luke 11:2

*Note: All Bible quotations are from the New International Version (NIV).*

Sunday 1st January 2012— **Glorify His Name: “Praise God”**

Matthew 6:9

*“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.”*

Psalms 103:1

*“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.”*

The phrase “Our Father in heaven” indicates that God is not only majestic and holy but also a God of love. We have to give thanks and praise to glorify our Lord.

As we honor our fathers and mothers for their support of our physical and spiritual life, how do we reward our parents for years of work and support throughout our lives? In the same way that we give thanks to our parents, we too recognize what our Father in heaven has done for us.

Let us honor God’s name by remembering His holiness. May God lead us and guide us on our path for 2012.

**Prayer Request:**

We pray for unity in our thoughts and actions as we encourage one another.

To open the Week of Prayer:

- a) Praise to God
- b) Unite together in our thoughts and prayers
- c) Pray for our pastors, leaders, and Conferences.

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and newer work in the region.

Friday 6th January 2012— **Take Time to Pray**

1 Thessalonians 5:17

*“Pray without ceasing”*

Prayer is an important factor in Christian life. Since the Christian’s first duty is to represent his master to others he must live the life that counts. Prayer is part of this life.

A young artist walked in the palace and saw a beautiful picture hanging on the wall. He was determined to copy it but could not obtain permission. He stood and kept looking for a few minutes then he decided to reproduce it from memory. Hour after hour he sat and gazed at the picture, until it took possession of him. He gazed and toiled, his power grew. Finally he hung the wonderful copy in his office and all who saw it and had seen the original were in awe that this copy was an exact replica.

It should be the same with us. The original picture represents our Savior and we too must see Jesus first.

George Washington, first President of the United States, had an interesting habit which his nephew Robert Lew discovered. Robert says, “I accidentally witnessed Washington’s private devotions in his library both morning and evening and he never missed a day. On these occasions I saw him in a kneeled position with a Bible open before him.”

Apostle Paul in Romans 12:1-6 gives guidelines for living as a redeemed people in a fallen world. He indicated our personal responsibility: give ourselves to Christ, obey governments, love our neighbors and take special care for those in need and those who are weak in the faith. We must live in faith each day. Romans 12:12 states, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in North America: The USA and Canada and newer work in the region.

Thursday 5th January 2012— **Alone With God**

John 5:39

*“Search the scripture”*

When I was about 6 years old, I memorized the Lord’s Prayer and I started to ask questions like: Who is my creator? Who gave me my life? While we were growing up, our parents taught us to memorize scriptures. This teaching helped me grow physically and spiritually. (Read Proverbs 3:1-6 and Proverbs 4:1-9.)

The Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible, gives us the standards and rules to live our lives: To know its meaning for ourselves, to rely on God’s promises, to trust in the redeemer, to obey him with delight and not to follow false teachings.

In Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, Jesus revealed that in the end times more and more false prophets and false teachings will appear. Matthew 24:6 and 24: “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed.... For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.”

The lives of Christians in all countries and in all ages demonstrate the transforming power of God’s Word. The Bible, inspired to us by God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, gives us the knowledge of hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified for our freedom. There’s the everlasting truth: every page is pure; the holy book has guided my youth and will support all generations and ages to come.

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in Asia: The Philippines, India (Kerala and Andhra Pradesh), and newer work in other countries.

The more we pray, our strength will be restored. The more we study the Bible, the more we understand God and His love.

Monday 2nd January 2012— **Unity with God**

Isaiah 1:18

*“Come now, and let us reason together”*

If you are invited to a birthday celebration or dinner with a very important person—such as a Prime Minister or a President of your country—would you go? An opportunity to meet with one of such importance would be valuable to you.

One man who knew the importance of going to such events was a man by the name of Daniel. In Daniel’s time, the Prime Minister of Babylon issued a decree that no other god was to be worshiped. Daniel in his heart knew the importance of “attending” an alone time with his God; he never let anything or anyone stand in his time with God. Daniel ensured that his time with God never ceased and he still made it possible to meet God three times a day.

*Sweet is the precious gift of prayer,  
to bow before the throne of grace;  
to leave our every burden there,  
and gain new strength to run the race;  
to gird our heavenly armor on  
and we will depend on God alone.*

Never forget God alone is our supreme privilege. This is so wonderful as we come to His presence in prayer. We can communicate in love with our Father.

Psalm 51:1

*“Have mercy on me God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.”*

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in Europe: The Netherlands, Poland, England, Germany and newer work in other countries like France and Estonia.

Tuesday 3rd January 2012— **The Life That Counts**

Matthew 5:48

*“Be ye therefore perfect”*

There is only one life that is perfect and is an example for us. That is the life of our Lord Christ Jesus.

Many people are in search of the truth and think that the ultimate Christian life is to be a regular attendee each week. However, physical attendance does not provide full spiritual satisfaction.

John Wesley while studying at college received a letter from his mother. She wrote: “Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God or takes off the relish of spiritual things: whatever increases the authority of your body over your mind—that thing is sin to you.” Prayer is like watering flowers. It restores and blossoms the spiritual fruit trees.

A story is told about a ship’s crew in the middle of the Amazon and famished for water. They signaled to all the passing ships, “Oh give us water!” Each time, the ships signaled back, “Dip down where you are.” This seemed a mockery and the crew was discouraged. Finally in sheer despair, they decided to dip down where they were and were astonished to find that the water was fresh.

We too are famished for the living water. You need to “Dip down” where you are for the strength to live the life that counts. Keep in touch with God in prayer for He will strengthen your hearts through His grace.

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in South America: Brazil and other countries where there is new work.

For your sake, for the sake of others and Christ’s sake, live the life that counts.

Wednesday 4th January 2012— **Our Friend**

John 15:14

*“You are my friend, if ye do whatever I command you.”*

Communication is used by every living thing. Our way to our Father in heaven is through Jesus the only one. He commanded us to do whatever He said.

Why? Because he wants every human to know that he is the God of love. We can spread the Kingdom of heaven and communicate in all languages.

During the darkness of World War II, the British people were truly thankful for King George VI because of his faith and leading his country in prayer. While most other European leaders had fled their own countries, this is what King George prayed: “I believe from my heart that the cause which binds together my people and our gallant and faithful allies is the cause of Christian civilization. Let us then put our trust as I do in God and in the unconquerable spirit of the British people.” In 1942 the king called for a national day of prayer. The following year the allies started to see the war turning in their favor.

Matthew 6:33

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

**Our prayer today** is for our brethren in Australia and New Zealand and newer work in the region.