



December 2020

NEWS 'n VIEWS

from the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Courage Amid the Chaos

I grew up in a very isolated and shielded community, where most everyone came together to enjoy community picnics, play softball, and have games and races, with prizes for the kids. Everyone knew their neighbors, and life was so innocent to a young boy in that world of yesteryear. Immorality was called by its right name, and deviant lifestyles were “hidden in the closet” because they were considered just that. Shame kept even the hardened in sin from exposing their folly. There were no movements to force or belittle those who stood for right, and we called evil for what it was.

As we look around at our world today, we cannot help but wonder, and ask the question “How is it that what we once called evil is now called normal?” And while sin has always existed, we have seen a shift that considers lawlessness a normal part of society, and in some cases protected by the government.

As Christians, we have understood that as we approach the end of time that we would see corruption in high places. But we cannot begin to fathom the spread of evil that has come upon this fair land in nearly every direction we look. For those who have looked beyond what the mainstream media has tried to portray, it is not difficult to discover that there is a cesspool of immorality, corruption and crime and even treason against our country. If it were not for the grace of God, we are now living in a world where there would be no hope. The constitution and stability of the United States is under attack, and many are seeking to make it of no effect.

As I have been following world events, it has been very obvious that it would be easy to get caught up in the downward spiral. But in the middle of this so-called pandemic, I am reminded of the promise that “God has not given us a spirit of fear... but of power and love and a sound

mind”. (2 Timothy 1:7)

As we face the future, let us remember that God is no stranger to rebellion this is nothing new at all. God was faced with rebellion. It started with just one, and soon spread to one-third of the angels of heaven. It then spread to the earth. This rebellion has interrupted the peace, serenity and joy of God’s creation. But it is soon to have an end.

So, while things are beginning to look as if there is evil everywhere around us, do not lose heart, for God has not lost control. And this brings me to the most important part that we must not lose sight of. In the middle of this mess, surrounded by confusion, sorrow, hatred and uncertainty, God sends an army of warriors equipped with the most powerful weapon known to mankind. That is the power of an unselfish, unconditional love written upon hearts of those who have given all for the

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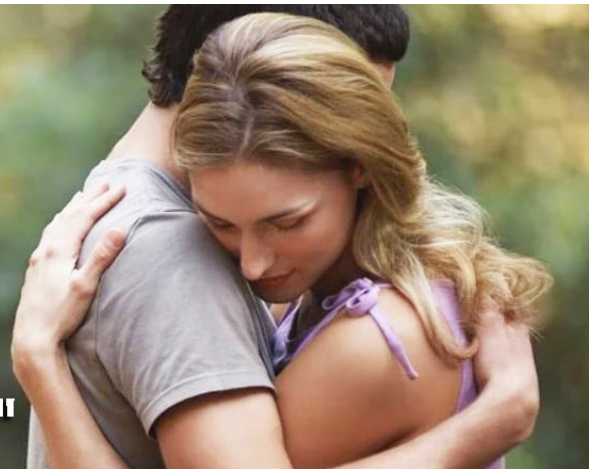


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HEALTH CORNER



Touch in the Age of "No Touching Allowed"

Physical touch is the first of the 5 senses we develop in the womb. Premature babies that are touched often gain weight much more quickly than otherwise, and babies that are deprived of all human touch will die. It remains throughout our lifetime as the most effective way to transmit emotional support. A friendly pat on a colleague's back for encouragement, a hug for a bereaved friend, a kiss to show our child how much they're loved, how could we ever discard this part of our humanity? Studies show that doctors who give a warm, friendly touch, or encouraging squeeze on the arm, will have patient's who actually heal better. Alzheimer-affected individuals suffer less depression if touched kindly. Young students who are touched affirmatively by their teachers are twice as likely to speak up in class. Jesus knew the value of compassionate hands-on healing. As

Michelangelo said, to touch is to give life.

What then do we do, when we are forbidden to do any social touching? when we can't hug friends at church, or even shake hands. Stay 6 feet apart! When you're passing people on the street or in the store, how can they ever be encouraged by your smile, when you're wearing a mask? It seems like the Coronavirus has effectively shut down the most basic means of emotional support that humans engage in. Suicide rates are up, due to social isolation. We can't go to Grandma's house for Thanksgiving dinner. Forget potlucks, or wedding parties.

By all means, we have to hope this is all temporary. God didn't design us for this type of isolation. We are

made in His image, in fact, and He is a social triune being. Meantime, we can continue to carry on some supporting and warm interaction, even at a distance, by spending time with others, texting, video or phone calling if need be. Eye to eye contact, even if 6 feet apart. We can share laughter and tears still. Know that your human touch will make a real difference to others. You can still have a healing influence. It may take a little more effort and creativity, but it is well worth the effort.

~Randy Currier, M.D.



MESSAGE BOARD

Check out the Bible Studies and **NEW** interactive presentations at www.2ndAdventRevivalMinistry.com

Sending a heartfelt thank you for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls during Bill's illness. Thank you

so much and praise the Lord for all our wonderful friends in this time. Looking forward to when we will be with our loved ones again. Hope it comes soon!

-Joan Peterson and family

Bruce Preyer sends his greetings! His sister Mary writes that he is living with her and her husband about 13 miles from Savannah, TN. He enjoys the simple life there, the wild turkeys, daily walking, and reading out loud during their family time. He likes our newsletter and reading about people he knows here.

Ed Wagner's ministry, Project Caleb, had an important meeting this week to discuss a significant expansion in this internet ministry in order to reach people searching for truth. Keep them in your prayers!

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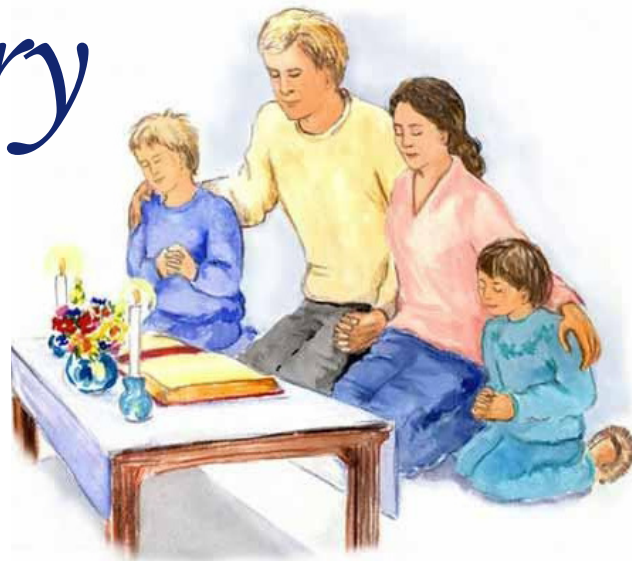
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Free Bible Studies you can study, download, & print
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Prayer Ministry

"SEND ME!"

Next quarter we will be studying the Old Testament book of Isaiah and in preparation for teaching that study I have begun reading the book. Today I read chapter 6 in which Isaiah is shown a vision of "the Lord sitting on His throne, high and lifted up". As I progressed through the chapter, I was struck with the seriousness of the question in verse 6. "Also, I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?'" "Then Isaiah answered: **"Here am I! Send me."** Wow! What a time to read that verse. Now I am not suggesting that we get up and go to the mission field, because obviously even if we wanted to, we can't because of Covid. But I am suggesting that we can still be sent. And that sending begins in our morning prayer time by



making ourselves available to be used by God for that day. "Lord, here I am, I make myself available to you today. If you have a plan for me to follow, please lead me through it. Show me your will, for I am willing to be a part of it. Speak Lord, for your servant heareth." I challenge each of you to pray that prayer in the morning.

Friends, the world around us is spinning out of control, yet we know that "While nations have rejected God's principles, and in this rejection have wrought their own ruin, yet a divine, overruling purpose has manifestly been at work throughout the ages." (PK 535) If you would like to have a part in that divine, overruling purpose make yourself available every day to God and be prepared for a situation to happen you did not expect. I know because it happened to me. Ask me and I will tell you about it. God Bless!

~Donna Griffith, Prayer Ministry

from the Editor...

This month I'd like to especially thank our contributors! Ginny Frost never fails to come through with a wonderful article featuring some of our church family. These connections are even more important with the lockdowns preventing in-person contact. THANK YOU to all our contributors: Donna Griffith – such an inspiration; our own Dr. Randy Carrier, on the importance of touch; our wonderful Pastor; Shirleen Powell, reporting from the Soup Kitchen (what a blessing this ministry is!); Andie Springer; tirelessly maintaining our wonderful church library, and Les Derfler, (a man I'm pretty partial to)! The pictures below are of our newly decorated church, where Stephanie Crary and her team (Tracy Archbold, Martha Covrig, and Tim of course!) has created a Christmas landscape so beautiful you can almost hear the angels sing! See it on Livestream if you're not there in person. Their handiwork even includes a stunning poinsettia tree.

~Melissa Derfler



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Dear Church Family,
Your Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School has provided quality, Christ-centered education for over 100 years. This year our teachers have worked tirelessly to provide online and in-person instruction within COVID-19 guidelines. We need your help now to ensure the school continues to educate students for this world and eternity.

The current pandemic has impacted our school in multiple ways. The most damaging financially is the reduced enrollment this school year mostly due to the students in grades 4-8 not being able to attend school full days from the beginning of the school year Aug 31, to just this month of November. Full days for in-person attendance finally began on Nov 9.

The other very noticeable effect is not being able to have our fund raising events that have made a huge difference in the financial needs of the school. So we are asking for your help to ensure every family who desires has access to Christian education. This is our local mission field. It seems more exciting to give to project needs in other lands but what can be more exciting than seeing a young person connect with Jesus? Your support will ensure the continuation of Adventist Christian Education in Grants Pass.

God's school here needs to raise an additional \$38,500 this school year. In order to do this everyone's help is needed. If 150 people in the constituency contribute \$32 each month for the next 8 months (Nov-June) we would have the needed finances. If 75 people gave \$64 each month, or 38 people paid \$128 per month. It is possible if we all work together. God has a plan for everyone and everything, including your participation in His school here in Grants Pass.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do. Every dollar helps. Let's come together and unite behind this cause. Your donation helps our young students forge forever relationships with their Friend and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This is priceless.

Thank you for your consideration and your very much needed contribution.

Please send your contributions directly to the school. It would help for the school to know each person's intentions so you may send your pledge by e-mail, snail mail, or by phone to the school at: office@gpsdaschool.org; 2250 NW Heidi Ln, Grants Pass, 97526; 541-479-2293

LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know that each member of this church has over 5,000 items in their library? Yes!!! The Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church Library has over 5,000 items on the shelves for your research, reading, listening and viewing pleasure. I can't believe we have that many items on the shelves. This library belongs to the church members. It is your library. Let me know ideas and suggestions you have. We keep a "NEW Items List" so you can come and see what is new. Some of these items are on the counter close to the door though some are not. This includes over 50 new items in the library (BOOKS, CD's, and DVD's).

NEW Items List (only 3 out of 50-plus are hi-lighted):

* Devotional series for juniors and kids, a set of CD's called *Discovery Quest: Encounters with GOD in Nature: China, Egypt, Hawaii, and Russia* by Pan De Vida Productions and *One Mustard Seed* with Presenter, Rich Aguilera.

* **Days of Noah.** This series of 4 DVD's (1. *The Flood*, 2. *The Judgment Hour*, 3. *Valley of Decision*, and 4. *Ark of Fire*). *The Days of Noah* series investigates the revealing prophetic parallels between the message of Noah and the book of Revelation to uncover as never before, the Truth about the Ark of refuge at the end of time.

* *It Is Written 500 (years later) DVD set: The Story of the Reformation – a Movement that changed the World: The Reformation, The Celtic Connection, A Lamp Unto My Feet, Rome and the Reformation, Here I stand, The Counter-Reformation, A Wall of Separation, Tell It to the World and Finishing the Reformation* with John Bradshaw as speaker and director.

* *The Real Meaning of the Zodiac: The Gospel in the Stars* (CD set) by James D Kennedy.

* *Oracle Bones Speak* by Ethel R. Nelson. This book demonstrates how the ancient Chinese were very aware of the Creator God. We have several books by this author.

Library Hours: Sabbaths between meetings and after church service and Wednesdays 9am to 2pm by appointment. I work in the library almost every Wednesday and I am open to appointments. I can also schedule other times for your convenience. Please call or text Andie Springer at 458-212-4020 for scheduling.



TRINITARIANISM AND THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Are you a trinitarian? According to Webster, a trinitarian is simply *“one who believes in the doctrine of the Trinity”*. I have had individuals – some of whom have attended the SDA church – tell me that this doctrine is a take-away from the Roman Catholic Church, and therefore not to be accepted. So, let’s take a closer look. Although the word “trinity” is not found in the Scriptures, it is a word that, according to Webster, denotes *“the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead”*. This coincides with the fundamental beliefs of Seventh-

day Adventists as stated in Seventh-day Adventists Believe: A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines that:

1) *“There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons...”* *ibid*, p. 16

2) *“God the Eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation...”* *ibid*, 28

3) *“God the Eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ.*

Through Him all things were created, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man.....” *ibid*, 36

4) *“God the Eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ’s life with power. He draws and convicts human beings, and those who respond He transforms and renews into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children...”* *ibid*, 58

Sincere opponents of the above will tell you that the Adventist pioneers did not subscribe to this doctrine, and that *“the Adventist Church, as a whole, [has] shifted away from the truth revealed in Scripture, and taken up doctrines of the Catholic church, which are held by all of her daughters, the apostate Protestant churches”*. (What Did the Adventist Pioneers Believe? p. 2, by Lynnford Beachy) So what do they believe? Basically, they teach that there

is one God (the Father) and that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of the Father, NOT the third Person of the Godhead, and that Jesus did not always exist, but was created. At first reading, their studies sound plausible, since writings from the Adventist Pioneers, as well as various Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy quotations are cited as proof of their positions.

I read some of their material (which perhaps I shouldn’t have done) – but I didn’t want to be accused of answering a matter before hearing it. I’ll have to say it was

convincing, at first, and I can understand why many have been drawn into this. But deeper study and a search for truth led me to the following conclusions (check out the quotes for yourself, as space will not allow for writing out all of them, and I’m just giving a brief synopsis of what I found):

The Holy Spirit is *“as much a Person as God is a Person”* (EV 616); He is the *“Third Person of the Godhead”* (DA 671);

one of the *“three living Persons of the heavenly trio”* (EV 615). Christ Himself promised to send Him. The Holy Spirit speaks to us. He gives us grace, guidance, enlightenment, conviction, comfort. According to DA 671, sin can be resisted and overcome *“only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of Divine power.”*

Satan is delighted when people deny his existence; then he can work more effectively. So if we deny the existence of the Holy Spirit, does that limit His work in our lives? Is this a form of “grieving” the Holy Spirit? I don’t know, but I do know that rejecting the Holy Spirit is a pretty serious thing.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, I believe simply what the Bible (and the Spirit of Prophecy) say. That is enough for me.

I believe in the Father, in Jesus Christ the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself said to go and baptize *“in the name of the Father, the Son, and*



the Holy Ghost” (Matt 28:19). All three Persons of the Godhead are mentioned in Luke 3:22, John 14:26, John 15:26, Acts 2:33, 10:38, 2 Cor. 13:14, 1 Pet. 1:2, and many more. EGW describes them: “There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.” EV 615 “We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost – and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God.” Ibid, 617. “The eternal heavenly dignitaries – God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit – arming them (the disciples) with more than mortal energy...would advance with them to the work and convince the world of sin.” Ibid 616

Jesus is Immanuel, “God with us” (Matt. 1:23), the “Word made flesh” (John 1:1); the self-existent One (John 17:5, 24; 8:58), the “Son of God” (1 Jn. 4:15), “from everlasting” (Micah 5:2); “everlasting Father” (Is. 9:6), has immortality (1 Tim 6:15, 16), has the keys to the grave (Rev 1:18), “all

the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col 2:9); “equal with God” but gave up His divine privilege to become our Saviour (Phil 2:5-12), took our fallen nature (Heb 2:17), bore our sins and died the second death in our place (Is. 53), able to lay down His life and take it again (John 10:18), “Minister of the sanctuary” & our High Priest at the right hand of the Majesty of heaven (Heb. 8:1, 2), able “to save us to the uttermost” (Heb 7:25), coming again (John 14:1-3), “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Rev 17:14). He has life “original, unborrowed, and underived” (DA 530) and “He assures us that there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God.” EV 615. He is the Lifegiver, in Whose presence death has no power. (DA 528) When He died, humanity died, but Deity did not die (1SM 301; 5BC 1113). No one should dare to denigrate Jesus, our Lord and Savior, to a lesser God who is not in every way part of and equal to God the Father.

The Holy Spirit, as stated above, “is as much a person as God is a person.” Ibid 616. “Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving.” 1 SM 344

There are a lot more verses and quotes to read. However, we are mortal and not able to understand everything about God. “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?” (Job 11:7). “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but those things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever. DT 29:29.’ The revelation of Himself that God has given in His Word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out on conjectures regarding the nature of God, but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. None are to indulge in speculation

regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion.” MH 429

For deeper study on the Deity of Christ, in the Bible, writings of Ellen G. White, and history of the Seventh-day Adventist church, here is a link to an excellent study and thesis that I found both interesting and informative. <http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/trinity/gane-thesis/index.htm> Although I didn’t run across it until I’d about finished my study, I was delighted to find it, and feel God brought it to my attention, as it systematically and thoroughly examines the historical positions of Seventh-day Adventists, with answers from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy to each of the major positions held by Seventh-day Adventist anti-trinitarians. It was very helpful to me in my study. The material I had been given left me confused, so I wanted – and found – answers from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy for myself.

I have observed that proponents of these ideas have caused dissension and division in Seventh-day Adventist churches, since they basically teach that the SDA church is in apostasy. Acts 20:29 talks about wolves coming into the church to scatter and divide. Satan would like to tear apart God’s church, and he doesn’t care how it happens.

E.G. White wrote, “I was shown that it is Satan’s special work to lead men to feel that it is God’s order for them to strike out for themselves and choose their own course independent of their brethren.” TM 29. But, it continues, “God is leading a people out from the world upon the exalted platform of eternal truth, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. He will discipline and fit up His people. They will not be at variance, one believing one thing and another having faith and views entirely opposite, each moving independently of the body.” Ibid 30

“To claim that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is Babylon, is to make the same claim as does Satan, who is an accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before God night and

Thoughts & Prayers

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Catherine Bell | Sharon Karen |
| Stan Bishop | Steve King |
| Cathy Bovee | Delbert & Alice Lewis |
| Joyce Casper | Jerry & Zola Lewis |
| Mildred Chaney | Darlene Loewen |
| Bonnie Day | Henry Martin |
| Artur & Tulia De | Cathy McGinnis |
| Carvalho | Marvin McKillip |
| Sylvia Crary | Rita McMullen |
| Patty Esquivel | Molly Mourning |
| Todd & Connie Frye | Shirley Napoletano |
| Tom Fuller | Our School |
| Dennis Gallegos | Chuck Painter |
| Beth Greer | Melvin Partin |
| Ingrid Gruenheid | Jessica Rae |
| Betty Hamblin | Ron Rau |
| David Hamblin | Israel Rush |
| Joney & Dahnn | Lance Schmidt |
| Haning | Mel Smith |
| Harry Hansen | Joy Stewart |
| Butch & Pam Helwig | Yvonne Tooley |
| Fran Holder | Rinann Uteg |
| Virginia Hume | Ethel Watts |
| Dr. Frank & Rosalie | Don Wills |
| Hurd | BLBN |
| Dennis Kamberg | |

THE LOAVES AND THE FISHES: Ministry of the



SOUP KITCHEN

Christ fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes before He spoke to them. A Soup Kitchen is described as a meal center for those that are hungry and in need, staffed by volunteers. Soup kitchens usually get their food from food banks for free or at a lower cost.

Adventist Community Services, with its many branches reach far and wide. Here in Grants Pass we have Dorcas, the Soup Kitchen and the Food Pantry. This week is Thanksgiving week; a week that we all give thanks, and a month that we all think more about being grateful. Tuesday we will be open as usual at the Soup Kitchen. For Hector Ortiz and his family, this is their gift and their ministry. On Thanksgiving Day, the Soup Kitchen will be open and giving out sack lunches from 11 am – 1 pm at the Better Living Center. Talking with Hector, he reminded me that we are to give rather than to receive. He and his family will take any leftover meals to the Riverside Park, where there are about 40 tents set up, with 60-70 homeless people living in that area. Helping to feed as many as they can is important. Sharing a meal and an encouraging word is the way they share God with their community.

The Ortiz family has been volunteering at the Soup Kitchen for over three years. Hector and Colleen Ortiz, their four children, and Colleen's mother Trina Pucker show up and start cooking at 9

am, preparing food to feed all that come to the Soup Kitchen. Between 80-90 people come to the door to pick up the healthy, hot sack lunches. Menu items may include soup, a burrito or pasta, fruit, and some chips, along with juice or hot chocolate. A vegetarian meal is an option. Before COVID-19, Hector calculated that they were feeding about 180 each Tuesday.

Safety comes first as COVID-19 looms over the Soup Kitchen. They are no longer allowed to welcome those that are hungry and cold to come in out of the weather. Masks are worn, but that has not stopped most people from coming to get the help they need when they are hungry for food – for both their body and spirit.

After awhile, they start to get to know and trust the Ortiz family. Some will ask to speak with Hector because he has given them a bit of himself. He will sit and talk with them about God, and share his testimony. Colleen and Trina sit vigil at the door, welcoming those that come, and offering them a meal and some hot chocolate. Sharing God is part of life for the Ortiz family.

As you can see from the photo, the Ortiz children are school age except for the youngest, who now runs around, providing Physical Education for the older kids who chase him around! The older children do their online school studies

after helping to prepare the lunches. The first time I volunteered at Dorcas at lunch time, I really enjoyed the music that I heard being played on the piano. It was the younger Ortiz son, practicing a song for his grandma's birthday. The Ortiz children are all blessed by God to have musical talents: violin, flute, piano & guitar. We are grateful for the ministry of this talented family; they are a blessing!
~Shirleen Powell

Courage Amid the Chaos, continued from page 1

cause of God. They cannot be bought or bullied into conformity to the world. They have become so focused upon Him that they have begun to reflect His love. In mercy they have been sent to a fallen world in sin and rebellion. They have not been caught up in returning evil for evil, because they have now become like their Master and Maker who does not wish that any should perish, but that all may come to repentance. Therefore He hesitates to give those in rebellion what they deserve. Instead He gives them what they least deserve. So as we approach the end of time, we have a warning message of the most unusual nature. Argument will never win a heart, nor will reason. Only the love of God can redeem and melt a heart of stone. By beholding we become changed. That is why we read:

"The last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them". COL 415

There will be times ahead when the world may turn on God's people, but we need to keep our eyes upon Jesus, Who will give us the strength and grace that we need in every situation.

"For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously." 1 Peter 2:20-23

We are to be the light of the world, and the darker things get, the more God's people will shine. ~Les Derfler



FAMILY PORTRAITS:

JERRY & ZOLA LEWIS

BY GINNY FROST



Zola Hanks was born in Fort Bidwell, CA, the far north east corner of the state. Her “claim to fame” is that she is a direct descendent of President Abraham Lincoln (which also makes her related to Tom Hanks). There were eight children in her family; Zola was born next to the youngest. Only six of them lived to adulthood, and when her younger brother died at a year of age, she became the youngest. Zola’s mother died due to complications from child birth when Zola was 10 years old. Her father remarried but Zola’s stepmother didn’t like the children or want any of them around. The older ones moved away to make it on their own, some married. And after the death of her youngest brother Zola was shipped off to live with another family for a while. It was during this time while she was away from home that Zola was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When Zola was ready to enter high school she was sent to Gem State Academy, where she enjoyed three happy years. After graduation, she went to live with an older married sister in Lakeview, OR, helping her on the ranch where she lived. She then began a series of various jobs that kept her in Lakeview for the next fifty years.

Since Zola had not felt loved while she was growing up all she wanted was someone to love her and to love in return. So when a young man came along with promises of love and happiness she soon married.

Unfortunately she did not find either. She was young and her husband was not an Adventist and in a short time she just drifted away from the small church she had been attending, and no one seemed to be very concerned about it.

She and her husband had one son and her greatest regret is that she was not in the Adventist faith when he was growing up. When her marriage finally dissolved, she, once again, was looking for love in her life. This led to another marriage, but she still did not find what she so desperately wanted. Single once again, she was very unhappy and felt that her life was a mess. She knew deep down that the only one who truly loved her was Jesus and she needed Him in her life. She made the decision to come back to church and was rebaptized in Klamath Falls. She began attending the same little church in Lakeview where she had been a member 40 years before and was happy to be back again. Several years later she decided to move to Grants Pass where her son and his family were living at the time, and she began going to our church about 1994.

Jerry began his life in Fresno, CA, with an older brother and sister. His mother had been in poor health for a number of years and she died when he was just two years old. His father was not able to take care of his children and work so he sent them off to live with family. Jerry’s father was one of 16 children so Jerry lived with various aunts and uncles for a few years. All of his father’s family was Catholic, except for himself who practiced no religion, and by the time Jerry was ready to start school his father was adamant that his children would not be raised in the Catholic faith. Jerry’s

were Seventh-day Adventists, and his father was happy to have them take over the responsibility for raising the children.

Jerry attended Adventist elementary schools in Cave Junction and Grants Pass, then went to Laurelwood Academy (all in Oregon), as well as Lodi Academy in California. After a year and a half of public high school, he moved to Washington and lived with his married brother and sister-in-law while going to Walla Walla Valley Academy. Upon graduation, due to an unfortunate incident while still in academy, he decided that he was through with Adventism. He promptly joined the army and was shipped off to Camp Roberts in the desert, located about half way between San Francisco and Los Angeles, where he completed basic training.

During the time he was in the army, he married and had a daughter. Most of his army career was spent in the Army Security Agency in administrative positions. He served in Korea, Ethiopia in East Africa, and later in Vietnam, as well as various posts in the United States. After a career spanning more than 20 years Jerry retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class. After he retired, he and his wife discovered that they did not do well living together; they had gotten along great while Jerry was in the army. But his wife had her own career and they had not lived together for

most of their marriage. They mutually agreed to go their separate ways and Jerry moved to Monterey, CA. He soon relocated to the Silicon Valley where he landed a job with the Intel Corporation. When that job ended after two years, Jerry decided to do some traveling. Up to this point most of his traveling had been to foreign countries while he was in the service. But he thought this would be a good opportunity for him to see the West Coast, so he purchased a motorhome and traveled around for about three and a half years, visiting the Grants Pass area often. He had enjoyed living here as a child and seemed drawn to it.

Jerry's brother, Del, was a school teacher and during the summers he spent his time working at Camp Wawona, located in Yosemite National Park. Jerry decided he would build a home in Mariposa, a small town near Wawona, and spend some time with Del there. Sabbath was the only day that Del had to spend time with Jerry, so Jerry would often go up to Wawona to spend the day with him. He would dutifully go to church and then in the afternoon they would often hike in God's glorious creation. One beautiful summer day, Jerry heard a sermon that made him realize that after 45 years away, he wanted to come back to the Adventist Church. He was rebaptized in Oakhurst, CA.

In 1996, Jerry decided to make Grants Pass his home, and began attending our church. He ended up going to the same Sabbath School class as Zola was going to. One day Zola dropped one of her gloves as she was leaving class and Jerry stopped to pick it up. He returned it to her, and that was the beginning of a great friendship that grew into a wonderful love.

They began spending time together, going for a nice afternoon drive and stopping to eat somewhere along the way. They made sure to take these drives away from the Grants Pass area and were always careful to make sure they were not seen together. They always arrived separately for church or other programs and never sat together during Sabbath School or church or any other function for the church or school. They were just friends and they did not want to get any tongues wagging or start any rumors. Neither was interested in getting married again, they just enjoyed spending time in each other's company.

But over the course of the next two years they each began to ask the Lord if He had more in mind for their friendship. When Zola finally confessed to Jerry that she had been praying about their friendship and wondering if there was more in store for them, he told her that he had been doing the same thing. The Lord impressed each of them that He was leading in this relationship and they finally told Pastor Clark that they were interested in making this arrangement permanent, but swore him to secrecy until they had a chance to discuss it with their children. The church was happily surprised when it was announced that Jerry and Zola were getting married as no one had suspected anything all this time.

Jerry and Zola live their lives for service. They have served in several capacities and ministries over the years including Deacon and Elder, Deaconess, Dorcas, church greeters, hosting fellowship meals, operating TV camera for church service, and transportation ministry. They began giving people rides to Sabbath School and church long before it was even an official ministry of the church. They take people to doctor's appointments, the store, or other

places they need to go from Medford to Portland. At times they have been asked how much they charge for this service? They always answer that they don't ask for anything as they are "using God's credit card". He has always provided for them and they have never lacked for the means to provide this service to others. Even with the Covid-19 virus, they have been delivering Sabbath School quarterlies and church newsletters to shut-ins and phoning people just to see how they are doing and if they need anything.

Jerry and Zola have their share of serious health challenges and heart disease is just one of them. But even if their bodily hearts don't function at full capacity God has given them hearts of gold. Zola says that, "The last 23 years have been the most beautiful time of my life." The Lord has fulfilled the longing in her heart for someone to love her in giving her Jerry. And Jerry smilingly nods in agreement. Every day their prayer is for God to show them someone who they can help. They are truly dedicated examples of what we can do for others if we ask God to show us whom He wants us to help each day. ~Ginny Frost



KIDS CORNER

1

2

3

4

5

6

ACROSS

2 Opposite of Hot

3 Died on a cross

5 Day to give thanks

DOWN

1 We should read this all the time

2 Where we go to worship God

4 Cold season

6 Falls from the sky

day." Ibid 42 "When anyone arises, either among us or outside of us, who is burdened with a message which declares that the people of God are numbered with Babylon, and claims that the loud cry is a call to come out of her, you may know that he is not bearing the message of truth. Receive him not, nor bid him Godspeed; for God has not spoken by him, neither has He given a message to him..." ibid 41

"Those who assert that the Seventh-day Adventist churches constitute Babylon, or any part of Babylon, might better stay at home. Let them stop and consider what is the message to be proclaimed at this time. In place of working with divine agencies to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord, they have taken their stand with him who is an accuser of the brethren, who accuses them before God day and night." (Ibid 37) Not the position I want to be in, how about you?

"Those who start up to proclaim a message on their own individual responsibility, who, while claiming to be taught and led of God, still make it their special work to tear down that which God has been for years building up, are not doing the will of God. Be it known that these men are on the side of the great deceiver. Believe them not. They are allying themselves with the enemies of God and the truth. They will deride the order of the ministry as a system of priestcraft. From such turn away, have no fellowship with their message, however much they may quote the Testimonies and seek to entrench themselves behind them. Receive them not, for God has not given them this work to do." ibid 52

God is not at all happy with these people. "God has a people in which all heaven is interested, and they are the one object on earth dear to the heart of God." ibid 41 Who are they? "The whole world is to be

stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists, because they will not yield homage to the papacy, by honoring Sunday, the institution of this antichristian power. It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed." ibid

"Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world



that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reprovved, warned, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard. The world is a workshop in which, through the cooperation of human and divine agencies, Jesus is making experiments by His grace and divine mercy upon human hearts. Angels are amazed as they behold the transformation of character brought about in those who yield themselves to God, and they express their joy in songs of rapturous praise to God and to the Lamb." ibid 49

"We cannot now step off the

foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth." 2SM 390

"God has a church upon the earth, who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray off-shoots, not one here and one there, but a people." RH 3, p 82

"There must be no separating" [of the faithful from the church] "in this great testing time. This you may settle with yourselves forever." 3SM 21

Are there "tares" in the church? Of course. What will happen to them? "There will be a shaking of the sieve. The chaff must in time be separated from the wheat. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. It is the very time when the genuine will be strongest. There will be a separating from us of those who have not appreciated the light nor walked in it." EGW, Letter 46, 1887, p 6

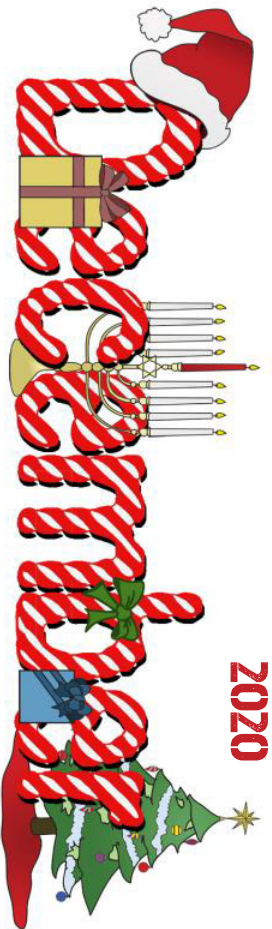
"The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out - the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless, it must take place." 2SM p 380

When will this happen? "The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly

demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church." 5T 81

We get to choose whether we want to be part of God's remnant people, or one of Satan's wolves who are accusing them. There are many true, faithful SDAs in our church. As in the days of Elijah, God has many who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

~Melissa Derfler



2020

Happy Birthday

TRUMAN BRITT	01	CLEMENTE FIERROS	06
VIRGINIA ELIASON	01	KERRI DOBBINS	06
CLOVER GREER	02	CELSO ESQUIVEL	07
DAVID HAMBLEN	02	DEBRAH PORTER	07
RICK DOBBINS	02	MARISSA JOHNSON	09
NATALIA BLURTON	02	RAUL PINEDA	09
MILDRED SHAWN	03	SAO BEASLEY	09
RONNIE FIELDS	03	GLENDA LOVMARK	10
DOUGLAS GARCIA	04	MAUREEN BENTLEY	10
TAYLOR DONATO	04	CARL RUSH	11
		LORIE COUNCIL	11
		MERRILL JOHNSTON	11
		RICHARD SURROZ	11
		BRANDON MORSE	14
		JAMIE ALARID	14
		ROBERT GRAY	14
		TOM HADDDAD	14
		AURORA MOLINA	15
		LORNA KISTLER	15
		MELANIE DALE	17
		TRUE GOODNESS	17
		MARY NATIONS	18
		NANCY WAGERLE	18
		ROBYN HOLCOMB	18
		SHARON KAREN	18
		HANNAH BUSHNELL	19
		HANNAH DAVILA	19
		NATHANIEL GREENE	19
		ANADAIY PEREZ	20
		LEE DONALDSON	20
		MARILIA WHEELER	20
		VIRGINIA KNAUB	20
		AMY GROVE	21
		SCOTT ROBERTS	21
		GOVANNY FIERROS	22
		HAILEY DAVILA	22
		ELORA HAGER	24
		EVELYN NELSON	24
		SYLVIA MACPHEE	24
		CAROLE BLECH	25
		NOELLA BLECH	25
		GRACIANA LITTLE	26
		KENDRA HIIBEL	27
		BRIDGET CLINE	28
		RICK PECKHAM	28
		SUSANA MARTIN	30
		JAMES HOLDER	30
		TONI WESTBERRY	30
		CATHY MC GINNIS	31
		DONALD SMITH	31

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SABBATH

Events may have been changed or added; please check: <https://www.grantspasschurch.com/calendar/>

6 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom)	7 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store	8 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP m) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP m) 6:30 pm Elders Board	9 7:00 pm Prayer Mtng (Zoom)	10 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Final Events (Zoom)	11 Sunset 4:41 pm	12 9:15 am Sab. Sch. (Zoom) (Donna Griffith) 9:30 am In-person SS classes 10:50 am Pastor Tanner 12:30 pm Prayer 4 Children Sunset 4:41 pm
13 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom)	14 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 5:30-7:00 pm Pathfinders (BLC)	15 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP Rm) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP) 6:00 pm Finance Board (Zoom) 7:00 pm Church Board (Zoom)	16 12:00 pm Single Ladies Lunch Bunch 12:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive (MP room) 7:00 pm Prayer Mtng (Zoom)	17 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Final Events (Zoom)	18 Sunset 4:42 pm	19 9:15 am Sab. Sch. (Zoom) (Donna Griffith) 9:30 am In-person SS classes 10:50 am Pastor Byrd 12:30 pm Prayer 4 Children Sunset 4:42 pm
20 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom)	21 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store	22 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP m) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP m)	23 7:00 pm Prayer Mtng (Zoom)	24 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Final Events (Zoom)	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Sunset 4:45 pm	26 DEC 24 TO 31 9:15 am Sab. Sch. (Zoom) (Donna Griffith) 9:30 am In-person SS classes 10:50 am Chuck Austin 12:30 pm Prayer 4 Children Sunset 4:46 pm
27 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom)	28 DEC 24 TO 31 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store	29 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP m) 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP m)	30 7:00 pm Prayer Mtng (Zoom)	31 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Final Events (Zoom)		

Pastor's Page



“NO SOONER”

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
Psalm 34:8 NKJ*

Anyone who has lost a loved one to death, stood at a hospital bedside and watched a child suffer, felt the pain of a family torn apart by divorce, or traveled through any of the many vicissitudes of life has been given a reason to wonder, “When will Jesus return for us?” Well, I have great news. He told us when! “[When] this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, ... then the end will come.” Matt. 24:14. Please, take note. He’s given us the very time it will happen and it will happen **no sooner** than when we obey His commission.

So, what’s taking so long? Could it be that we’re too busy with life, with business, schooling, with hobbies, with child rearing, (none of which are bad), but so busy that we haven’t made taking the gospel to the world a top priority? Or perhaps we haven’t made “coming to Christ” such a daily important part of our life that the desire to get the word out to those hungering for something better has faded.

Here is a prophetic utterance that should make each of us ask a question of our own hearts, a question that should make us examine our own experience.

No sooner does one come to Christ, than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. If we are clothed with the righteousness

of Christ, and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, we shall have something to tell. . . {AG 305.3}

This month we’re finishing the year 2020. If we took a moment would our hindsight really be 2020? Would we see that we have slowed down enough to “taste and see” that our Lord is indeed very good. I know some of you have been tasting and seeing. How do I know? I can see you anxious to get the

and the school building project in India. Many have also given generously to the *I Met God* project and as promised by the Spirit of Prophecy, our *world mission focus* has caused our local budget to flourish as well, even during the Covid-19 crises. God has done amazing things through our church in 2020 – and He’s not finished with us

yet, He’s got us on a roll.

Some have asked me, “What’s next in the *I Met God* project?” Our next goal is to secure the \$25,000 for the Ultimatte 12 green screen equipment needed to start the “on location” filming. A \$10,000 matching challenge grant has been offered by a friend of the QLP ministry for this. If you like the idea of your gift being doubled you can make your tax-deductible gifts to the Lord at this

season of the year either online at **QLP.tv** or by using one of the QuestLine envelopes provided on the temple boxes at the back of the sanctuary.

As your under-shepherd, let me encourage you to spend that quality time with God each morning and evening. Turn off the world, the TV, the internet, and create that intimate time of tasting and seeing that, **no sooner** experienced, will lead you to be a living ambassador for the King of Kings who is soon to return and take to Himself those who love and obey Him.

~ Pastor Charles Byrd



message of a risen and soon coming Savior out to the world. Lance put together an entire syllabus of end-time events information and Melissa made it look sharp. Some of you have shared with me how you’ve been reaching out to your local neighbors. Our church family has given and continues to financially support the mission project of our school. And Bob inspired the whole church to engage in world missions and many of you worked together to surpass our goals for both the God Pods for Papua New Guinea,