



February 2023

NEWS 'n VIEWS

from the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church



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Report from "Back to the Altar"

10 DAYS OF PRAYER



This year's Ten Days of Prayer was a very sacred time. The first night we had 38 people attending and although attendance went down as the time progressed, there was always a spirit of reverence and earnest prayer amongst those who attended. It will be interesting to see in heaven how God used those prayers to save souls. On the hearts of everyone who attended was the salvation of our children. Many prayers ascended to God's throne on their behalf. One promise that was claimed was Jeremiah 31:16-17. *"Refrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord. And they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future says the Lord, that your children shall come back to their own border."* Prayer and faith are the power of God's people which gives him permission to work on behalf of those we love. *"It is part of God's plan to grant us in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask."* GC 525

So let us not look to circumstances, but by prayer and perhaps fasting, petition the throne of grace with our requests and then leave the results in the Hands of the Lord. His timing is perfect and when the time is right and the answer is needed most, it will come.

Pray also for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to

the circumstances taking place in our world which are leading to the fulfilment of prophecy as foretold in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Now is the time to press together, to pray together and to encourage each other. Never forget we are family. Let your light shine in this dark world, for Jesus is coming very soon.

~Donna Griffith, Prayer Ministry

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY READING PROGRAM

The 2023 SOP reading program is available in the church foyer to the left of the Personal Ministries window. Edith has some of the books which are part of the program in the Personal Ministries window on Sabbath, if you do not have them. Also, the EG White App can be used.

We have just finished Steps to Christ and will be starting Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing. May you be blessed as you read! ~Donna Griffith

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February Prayer Focus

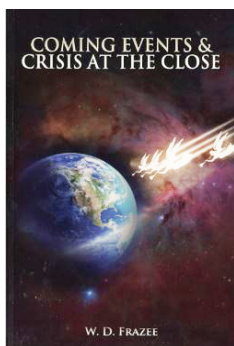
Pray for God to educate us to eat for His glory and to have victory over appetite.

1 Corinthians 10:31



FROM THE Editor's Desk

I love to read and it seems am always in the middle of a book—or two or three. The Spirit of Prophecy reading program is one I'm doing. Even though I've read the books before, it seems like every time I re-read them, new things impress themselves on my mind. **Steps to Christ** and **Mount of Blessing** have got to be some of the best books on the topic of righteousness by faith. Very balance. And encouraging. I could identify with this: *"Those whose hearts have been moved by the convicting Spirit of God see that there is nothing good in themselves. They see that all they have ever done is mingled with self and sin."* But *"all...who feel that they have nothing good in themselves, may find righteousness and strength by looking unto Jesus."* MB 8. The very fact that I have a "sense of need" is evidence of God at work, wanting me to ask Him to do for me the things that are impossible for me to do for myself. (ibid, 19). And Jesus is portrayed so beautifully: *"The sweetness of divine love flows from His very presence as the fragrance from a flower."* MB 6. If I am in harmony with Him, it says, I will have the peace of heaven and a blessed influence. And one who is at peace with God and others can't be made miserable. (MB 28) I like it.



Another book that I have read recently is **Coming Events and Crisis at the Close**, by W. D. Frazee. This book explains the sequence of the final events like the Sunday Law, close of probation, and the time of trouble and, more importantly, what to do now to prepare for them. The last section is a beautiful yet striking parallel between the closing scenes of Christ's life and the experience we can expect to go through. This book

is available from White Horse Media.

I also read Elena Bujor's book **Under the Shadow of the Almighty**. Biographies are my favorite! This book is very well-written and holds your attention all the way through! Elena tells the story of what it was like growing up in Communist Romania in a Seventh-day Adventist family. When she was a child, food was scarce and times were hard. Her religion made her stand out, which often caused ridicule, hardship, and loss of employment. Over and over God worked things out for her and eventually she immigrated to the United States. See page 5 of this newsletter for Chapter One of this inspiring story.

If you have read a good book lately, write and tell a little about it, and maybe we can feature it in a new column.

Blessings, *Melissa*



WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO



DOUBLE BLESSING PRESENTATION:

1. Personal testimony of Dr. Peter McCullough, well-known cardiologist, shares his journey of the great controversy playing out in his own life since his stand for truth in the medical arena.

2. Video seminar on **"How To Run a MicroFarm in an Era of Food Insecurity"**, presenting four-season diversified home-scale food production by Chris and Heather DiCicco, Sower's Purse Microfarm. www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ7PehkEUdE

"It is Time: Higher Education at the Crossroads" by Pastor Ron Kelly, Village SDA Church, Berrien Springs, MI, 1-28-23
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En83T-rL-pl&t=9s>



DON'T BE ANXIOUS

Phil. 4:4-7

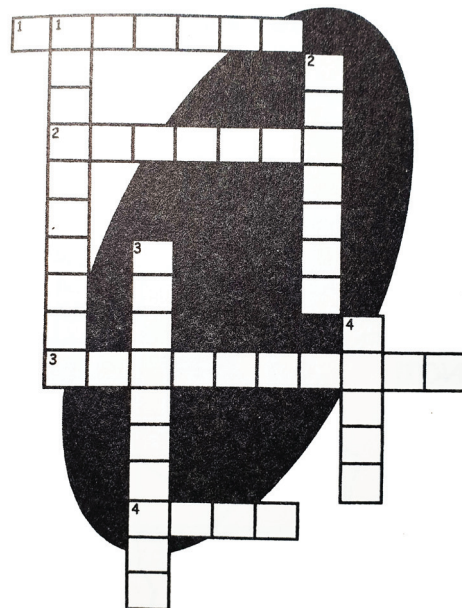


ACROSS

1. ____ in the Lord always.
2. I will say it again: ____
3. Let your ____ be evident to all.
4. The Lord is ____

DOWN

1. Do not be anxious about anything, but in ____
2. By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, ____ your requests to God.
3. And the peace of God, which ____ passeth all understanding
4. Will guard your hears and your minds in Christ ____





The Importance of Good Sleep

This article is based on content taken from the current NEWSTART Lifestyle Program presented by the Weimar Institute in California. In the United States, at least 60 million people have trouble sleeping each night. TV, the internet, artificial lights, and caffeine—among other elements—have people sleeping on average, one hour less than our grandparents did. Also, the quality of sleep has diminished in these modern times. Chronic sleep loss (deprivation) and poor sleep habits likely increase the severity and accelerate the onset of age-related diseases and conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and memory loss. Sleep debt also has a harmful impact on carbohydrate metabolism and endocrine function. Even the shift in time tied to “daylight savings,” resulting in an initial “shorter night,” can cause physical problems. More heart attacks occur during the week after we “spring forward” an hour, than in any other week of the year.

So how can we improve sleep time? A good night’s sleep is more likely to occur if we have a dark, quiet, and well-ventilated room; an empty stomach at least four hours before going to sleep; moderate physical exercise during the day; a regular schedule with a set bedtime and a set waking time; and a clear conscience—a mind at peace with God and mankind. The best sleep occurs in the hours before midnight. Ellen White in her 7 Manuscript Release (page 224.3) states: *“I know from the testimonies given to me from time to time for brain workers, that sleep is worth far more before midnight than after midnight. Two hours of good sleep before twelve o’clock [midnight] is worth more than four hours after twelve o’clock.”*

Most people do well with seven to eight hours of sleep. People who tend to need more hours of sleep

include infants and young children, adolescents during growth spurts, persons recovering from illness or accident, and older individuals. Too much sleep or too little sleep can harm our bodies. In one study of nurses, sleeping less than six hours per night increased heart disease risk by 18%. The percentage increased to 39% for sleep less than five hours. Alternatively, nurses who slept more than nine hours increased their heart disease risk by 37%. In another study, sleeping less than five hours a night increased diabetes risk by 32%, while

“
Two hours' sleep
before midnight is worth
more than four hours
after midnight
”

sleeping nine hours or more increased this risk by 29%.

Scientists recognize five stages of sleep. The first stage occurs 5 to 15 minutes after lying down, known as light sleep when we can easily be awakened. During the second stage, the heart rate slows down and body temperature decreases as the body prepares to enter deep sleep. Stage three begins 25 to 30 minutes after lying down and features the body beginning to make repairs to various aspects of bodily function. The fourth stage represents deep sleep when body temperature and blood pressure decrease, tissue regenerates, and bone and muscle are built up. Finally, stage five includes rapid eye movement, heightened brain activity, increased pulse and respiration, and improved brain efficiency that facilitates information processing and storing. This is also the time when we dream.

To summarize: while we sleep, our bodies heal and repair themselves, and our mental faculties are restored

A significant aspect of sleep relates to melatonin creation. The pineal gland produces this hormone in response to darkness. Melatonin helps regulate sleep and also serves as an antioxidant, protecting people from free radicals. Additionally, melatonin acts to prevent damage to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in our cells. (DNA carries the genetic instructions for development, function, growth, and reproduction of all known organisms.) To maximize melatonin production, the room where one sleeps should be kept as dark as possible, while maintaining safety requirements.

Regarding the larger issue of rest, consider this quote from Ellen White’s book, *My Life Today* (page 133): *“Though time is short, and there is a great work to be done, the Lord is not pleased to have us so prolong our seasons of activity that there will not be time for periods of rest, for the study of the Bible, and for communion with God.”* Now think, what can you do to improve your sleep? ~**Andrew Manthe**

Thoughts & Prayers

(Please contact Sandy Page, head of visitation, for additions to this column)

Ron Beasley

Cathy Bell

Bonnie Day

Artur & Tulia De

Carvalho

Connie Frye

Dennis Gallegos

Ingrid Gruenheid

Roger Hallmark

Betty, David, &

Jenny Hamblin

Butch & Pam Helwig

Orlando & Ligia

Hernandez

Rebekah Hill

Fran Holder

Rosalie Hurd

Steve King

Darlene Loewen

Jessica Rae

Beth Ringering

Israel Rush

Lori Smith

Fran Sprain

Joyce Thuemler

Yvonne Tooley

Elizabeth Verstappen

BLBN

Church Ministries

Our SDA school

Our families’

salvation

Our medical &

church workers

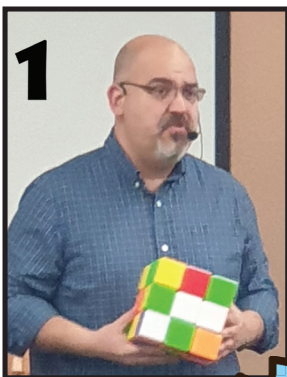
Those in nursing

homes & homebound

Veterans

WINTER WONDERLAND PATHFINDER TALENT SHOW

1



The January 28 Winter Wonderland Pathfinder Talent Show, held at the Grants Pass SDA School, proved to be a real treat for all those in attendance. The audience often engaged in intense laughter or they sat impressed by the performers' abilities (1). The event began with Les and Melissa Derfler leading the spectators in singing a variety of Pathfinder songs.

Next, the Pathfinders recited the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. Pastor Nelson then provided a worship talk titled *"God Fixes Mixed Up People,"* where he used a large Rubik's cube to represent how God wants to refine us so that we become renewed for His glory (1).

Later, attendees viewed a media production that featured the history of the National Pathfinder Camporee that eventually expanded to become the International Pathfinder Camporee. It was thrilling to watch scenes of tens of thousands of pathfinders all assembled and active in one place.

Emceed by Pastor Trethewey, the talent show's live acts began with Joshua and Jessica Kistler reciting an interesting poem titled *"When Winter's Here"* (2). Then JJ Aguilar impressed the audience with a song he wrote which he performed on the piano: *"My Happy Sad Heart"* (3). Next, Pathfinder co-leaders Stephen Covrig and Gary McGinnis combined their talents to spark almost continuous audience laughter with their presentation of *"Costello Buys a Computer,"* which was based on the "double meaning" of computer words such as "Office", "Windows", "Money", and "Go Back" (4).

Lorna Kistler then graced us with a combo of piano and singing the inspirational hymn, *"Because He Lives"* (5). Next Stephen Covrig, with the support of the Pathfinders (impersonating monkeys), presented a play where Stephen acted as a hat salesman – who wore a

goodly number of hats, all stacked on his head. The "monkeys" stole all his hats but then returned them a bit later (6).

Pastor Trethewey then thrilled us by both riding a unicycle (7) and then sequentially juggling a number of items including balls, sticks, and even apples (8). He combined his act with sharing spiritual insights. Next, Arya Andrews shared some Hawaiian vibes as she played a composition she wrote called *"Song of the Ukulele"* on her, well, ukulele (9). Then Joshua Kistler brought back some nostalgic memories with his karaoke rendition of *"Winter Wonderland."* Before the next official presentation began, Andrew Manthe walked up to the front and shared three "word twist jokes" including, "What do you call a crook when he is falling down out of the sky?" (*Answer: CONdescending*).

The program continued with the Pathfinders expertly performing a number of their standard drills, including responses to commands such as Right Face, About Face, Present Arms, and Order Arms (10). Next, Levi and Eliana Straub each performed a fantastic violin solo, followed by a splendid duet where they played *"Cripple Creek"* (11). Niki Nelson and Mikayla Gatt then combined their talents to sing and perform some rousing moves tied to the song *"I'll Be There for You"* (12). This was followed by Hannah Kistler and Nadia Bowlby having a lot of fun as they sang *"A Million Dreams"* (13).

Next, a group of audience members volunteered on the spot to practice behind doors for only ten minutes before they performed the play, *"Why Didn't You Say So?"* It was well received. Finally, the talent show ended by Les Derfler singing, with great feeling, *"Just As I Am"* (14), followed by JJ Aguilar providing a magnificent second piano solo titled "Do You See What I see?" We all experienced a wonderful night, indeed. Pathfinder staff were quite pleased and thankful for the amazing turnout. ~Andrew Manthe

Editor's Note: The fundraiser supper—vegeburgers, salad, french fries and fruit smoothies—made by Michael Blurton & the Pathfinder staff, was served by the Pathfinders (15). The meal raised \$1053 toward the upcoming International Pathfinder Camporee in Wyoming that our club plans to attend next year. Training for leadership, the Pathfinders represent the future of our church. Thank you for supporting our club and this event!

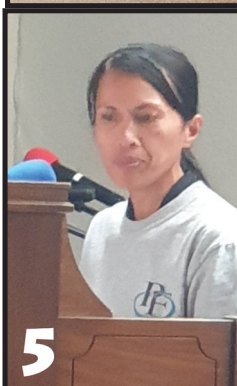
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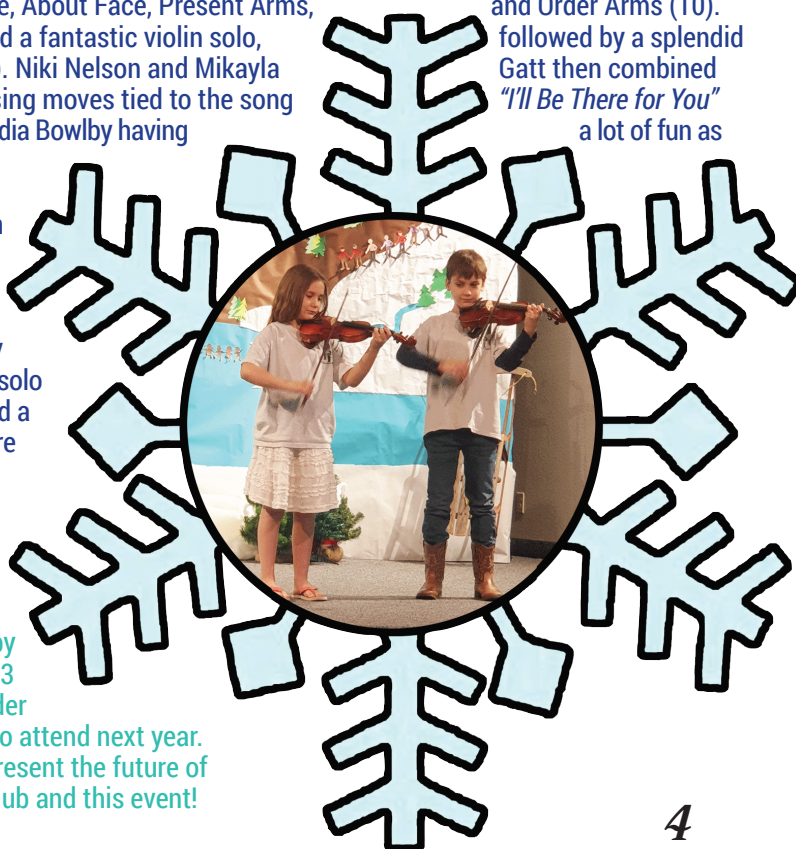
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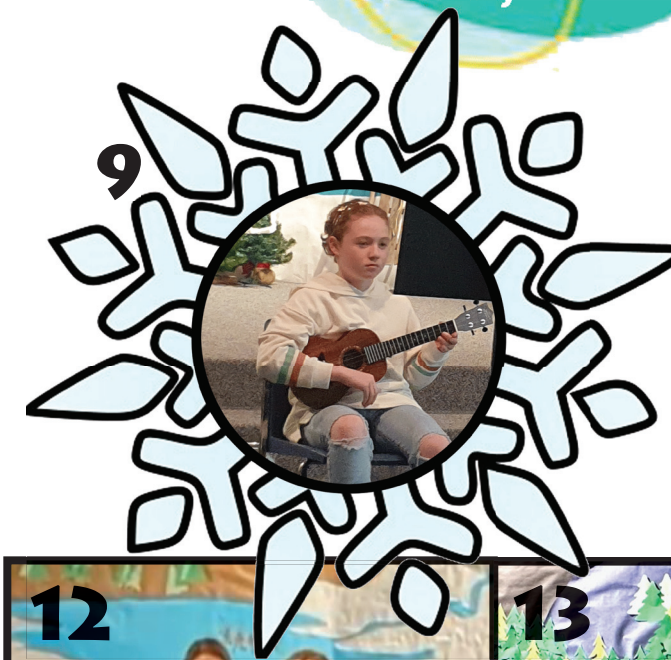
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UPCOMING EVENT

Not only do the Pathfinders sing about a message to tell to the world, they plan to do just that. They are practicing a NEW presentation on the Three Angel's Messages: "GET READY, GET READY, GET READY!" Stay tuned!



RIGHTEOUS—BY TRYING OR BUYING?

Many Christians believe that righteousness is a state or condition to be attained to, or a goal to be achieved by diligent effort. Most of the time we are looking at ourselves for personal victory over sin to give us some evidence as to whether we are climbing the ladder to that condition or status we are seeking.

Jesus gave this marvelously simple parable: **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."** Matthew 13:45, 46. You may want to know what that has to do with righteousness.

The inspired commentary teaches that "Christ Himself is the pearl of great price." COL 115. **"The righteousness of Christ as a pure, white pearl has no defect, no stain, no guilt. This righteousness may be ours."** 1 SM 399. **"We receive righteousness by receiving Him."** MB 18. It is all wrapped up in one package—the Person we call Christ.

How did the merchantman obtain the pearl (or the righteousness)? He bought it. That is the way you get hold of righteousness. It is not something you attain to or something you produce. **"I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed."** Revelation 3:18. What is the white raiment? **"The white raiment He invites the soul to wear is His own robe of righteousness."** COR 113. Jesus says, "Come to Me and buy righteousness."

The Spirit of Prophecy presents this same concept with a variety of terminology. **"Grasp by faith the righteousness of Christ."** 1 SM 395.... **"lay hold on the merits of Christ."** 1 SM 364. **"Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ."** 1 SM 364. In all these quotations, we obtain righteousness. We grasp it. We lay hold of it. We claim it. We appropriate it. None of those give the idea that it is something I climb to reach; not something I produce but something I take from another for myself.

We need to spend a lot of time thinking about this because it will run out of our brains so fast it is worse than trying to hold on to mercury. And we will go right back trying to attain, or produce, when the Lord is trying to teach us different thoughts. You have to spend time saturating yourself with these concepts or they will quickly leave you.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are filled with seeming contradictions that make you think, such as: **"Salvation is a free gift, and yet it is to be bought and sold... We are to give ourselves to Christ, to live a life of willing obedience to all His requirements. All that we are, all the talents and capabilities we possess, are the Lord's, to be consecrated to His service. When we thus give ourselves wholly to Him, Christ, with all**

the treasures of heaven, gives Himself to us. We obtain the pearl of great price." COL 116,117.

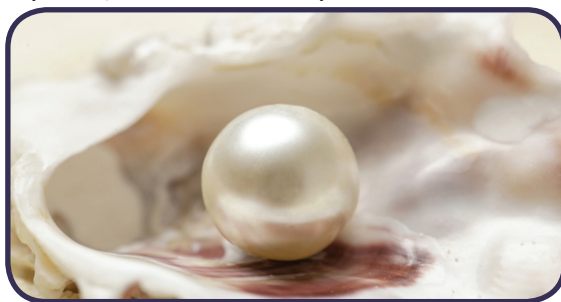
The Bible asks, **"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one."** Job 14:4. And it also says we are all as an unclean thing. Is. 64:6. Therefore, you cannot get clean things out of unclean things. We cannot produce righteousness of ourselves. We insist, and He says that is okay; you may have your choice, but you cannot produce righteousness. The Bible teaches that only God is righteous; and I must buy that righteousness at the price of giving myself to Him.

This concept of giving oneself bothers people today. You ask, "Why would anyone give themselves to someone else? I don't understand this." Ladies, why did you give yourselves to your husbands? Only because you love them. There is no other reason why. And we love Him because He first loved us.

You need to understand more about these connoisseurs of pearls (Matt. 13:46) or you will miss something in this parable. I was stationed in India during World War II in Bangladesh. This is the major city in the world for pink pearls. Those fellows would spend days and weeks with their little magnifying glasses, just looking over all the pearls. The man in the parable found one pearl of great price. What did he do? He sold everything he owned and bought it. He walked away with that pearl knowing in his heart that giving up all he had was worth it. Some people might think he had lost his mind. But he knew what he was getting, and that was all he wanted.

"We cannot earn salvation, but we are to seek for it with as much interest and perseverance as though we would abandon everything in the world for it... the price we are required to pay is not gold or silver... God calls for your willing obedience. He asks you to give up your sins." COL 117. If this disturbs you, then read on; for now we come to the next logical question: suppose I do not like pearls? Suppose they are not precious to me? Is that possible? Yes. **"It is the Holy Spirit that reveals to men the preciousness of the goodly pearl."** COL 118.

"In Christ's day many heard the gospel, but their minds were darkened by false teaching, and they did not recognize in the humble Teacher of Galilee the Sent of God. But after Christ's ascension... on the day of Pentecost the Spirit was given. Christ's witnesses proclaimed the power of the risen Saviour. The light of heaven penetrated the darkened minds of those who had been deceived by the enemies of Christ. They now saw Him exalted to be 'a Prince and a Saviour... to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.' (Acts 5:31). They saw Him encircled with the glory of heaven, with infinite treasures in His hands to bestow upon all who would turn from their rebellion... Three thousand souls were... made to see themselves as they were, sinful and polluted, and Christ as their friend and Redeemer... the One who had borne humiliation, suffering,



and death that they might not perish but have everlasting life... The Spirit of Christ animated the whole congregation; for they had found the pearl of great price." COL 118. Why have some not yet found Him? The answer is stated right there on page 121: **"The Spirit awaits our demand and reception."**

I have heard hundreds of Christians asking the same question as the rich young ruler: "What lack I yet?" We go around from this camp meeting to that camp meeting, listening to one speaker after another. Why do we not seek the One who can supply all our needs according to His riches in glory? Why do we not beseech Him to open the windows of heaven and pour us out the blessing? When we do this, our own families, our neighbors, our friends, and all whose minds have been darkened by false teachings will be enlightened when the Spirit of truth comes down to convict. In the days of the apostles, He touched so many that three thousand were convicted in one day.

"When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ." COR 104. There

is a trade, or exchange, to be made. By seeing His goodness in comparison to yourself, you begin to see yourselves as you really are, and then you begin to desire to be like Him; and He tells you that you may have His righteousness if you will make the trade.

"There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them... They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice." COL 118.

Many people with preconceived opinions misunderstand everything in this quote. They think they must become perfect and overcome all their sins before they can have His righteousness. No, it does not say that. It says that God wants you. He bought you with a price, the precious blood of Jesus. Do you love Him so much that you want to be His? If you will be His, He will give Himself to you with all He has. And when you give yourself to Him to love, honor, obey, and cherish, you will forget those things that have alienated you from God.

A couple separated because he had some very bad habits. He stopped working, but would come home often enough to get her money to sustain his bad habits. After a long while, she said, "I don't like that. I want you to leave and not come back." He said, "But I want to stay." She said, "You only want to stay for my money; but you don't want to stay because you love me. You want to hang around because you love those habits; and I don't want to work all my life taking care of your bad habits. I would be glad to have you back, and I love you, but leave your habits some other place."

Of course, the problem is that we cannot overcome our sins, but we can give ourselves to Him. God is not asking us to overcome in the way we usually think about it. Our sins seem valuable to us and we cherish them; but when you

begin to compare them with the Pearl of great price...it is like seeing a new, beautiful car next to yours and you say, "Hey, that old heap should be in the junkyard." That is the way it is with all these sins. God is not telling us how bad we are. He is asking us if we want something better.

In our love affair with Christ, we have become spiritual "swingers." At a certain time of day we want to be intimate with our Lord, but later in the day, we say, "I want to go now to my other lover—the world—and just have a little bit of spiritual adultery... So we keep two or three other lovers around—those cherished sins we cling to. And we wonder why we do not have Him and His righteousness.

Those who cheat on their spouse sense a coldness and remoteness when they return home. Somehow there is not that warmth they once felt. The conversations kind of fizzle and there is not much to talk about. This is exactly why the Bible and church become so dull to us. Our affections are elsewhere. We become lukewarm lovers.

Friend, the Lord has paid a precious price for us; and Jesus

was the most valuable thing that heaven had. If God could have found something or someone more valuable than Christ, He would have given it to us. He is asking us if we appreciate truly valuable things.

I have met those with great wealth who told me that because of all the fears and pressures and worries they had with wealth, it wasn't worth it. I have met those who worked a lifetime for a certain job or profession, and they would come to me and say, "Pastor, I'm bored stiff. What do I do? The Lord allows us to go along until we find the end result of those things we count so precious. He allows us to

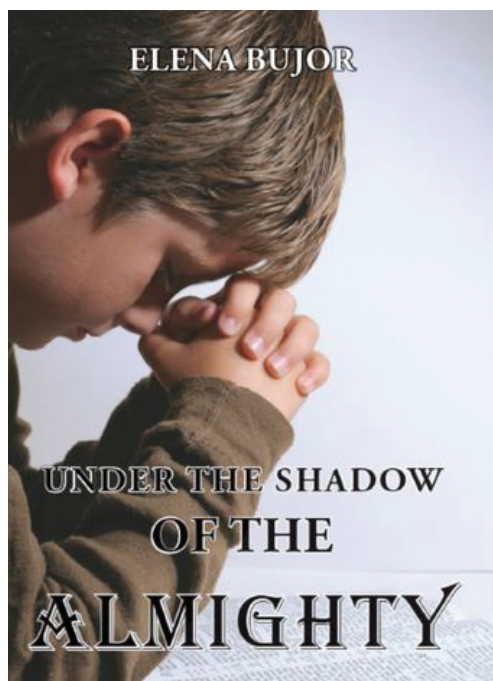
pursue them until we have lost our health, or our family, or until our children can no longer stand us because we have no interest in them. The Lord then asks tenderly, "Are you happy?" And after a while, you answer, "Not really."

The parable of Jesus says there is only one Pearl of great price. He says, "Give me what I purchased. Love Me because I first loved you. Be Mine because I have given Myself for you. Give Me your sins because I want to take them all away. Don't overcome by trying. Overcome by dying. Make Me the King of your life."

There is no other way. There is just one Pearl of great price, and the Bible calls Him One altogether lovely, the Lily of the Valley, the Desire of all nations, the bright and morning Star, the Pearl of great price. What do you count more valuable than Christ? What are you trying to hold on to? What are you seeking to achieve rather than Jesus? May God help us to see how valueless our cherished sins are and to understand how precious is Jesus who has been waiting to bestow on every one of us His marvelous righteousness. When we see Him, everything else grows dim in the light of His glory and grace.

~Pastor Bill Lehman (condensed from **Christ Our Righteousness**, chapter 11)





Chapter 1

FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL

"Fear not, for I am with you." Is. 43.5

On the first day of school, I felt shy and reserved, surrounded by unknown faces. I noticed that some children were better dressed; they even had uniforms, notebooks, pencils, and satchels, but more importantly, they had a corner of bread hidden in their pockets, concealed for fear of it being stolen by a friend who was hungrier than they.

The fact that I had old, half-used notebooks and pencils, and a strapless cardboard backpack (all left by older siblings) did not bother me much. The thing that I truly coveted was a piece of bread held by my classmates. I looked at it with longing when they consumed it during recess. I knew from home that bread was a luxury item that only the wealthy had; however, I did not envy children from such families. When we joined in playing, who could tell who was hungry and who was full? We were all children, and we shared the exuberance and innocence of childhood equally.

I had looked forward to the first day of school without giving much thought to the fact that I did not know anyone but my cousin Gabi. Gabi and I would be classmates. I had grown up in what felt like a little piece of paradise. Although the nest was poor and small, I had felt the love and closeness of my parents and older siblings, and, like any baby of the family, I had a decent dose of spoiling. It was for this reason, I thought it would be the same in the new world I was about to explore, away from the warm and fluffy nest of the family.

And after all, why should I be afraid? I knew how to count to one hundred, I could read very well even the newspaper and I knew how to write in cursive. I had learned all this from my older siblings, just "playing school." However, I did not have a uniform or school supplies.

The classroom seemed inhospitable to me. The wooden floor, freshly treated with diesel, spread an unbearable odor into the air. I resigned myself quickly, thinking that this was how school was supposed to smell. The benches were made of carved wood, cold and unwelcoming. We were seated by the teacher, each at a desk with a chosen desk partner; the strategy was unknown to me. However, I felt privileged to be placed on the first bench. Tudora was my desk partner, and that did not feel like a privilege. You see, she came from the poorest family in the village, and I was afraid to be closer to her, knowing that she had lice. I had already started scratching my head, thinking that soon I would become a second Tudora in the class.

The roll was called. Each student was to stand when their name was called. When it was my turn, I stood up with the dignity of a well-bred child, hoping to make the best impression. To my great surprise, the teacher introduced me to my classmates as an "idiot child" who believed in God, went to church on Saturday, and thought she would go to heaven. And, to make the children laugh at me, he said sarcastically, "When the Lord comes to take you to heaven, I will cling to your foot, and I will get there, too."

The whole class burst out laughing; I wanted to hide under the bench in shame. I felt a little better when I was asked if I could count to a hundred. I was amazed to see that I, the "idiot child" was the only one in the class who knew how to count to one hundred!

To my great joy, the next day, Mrs. Stefania Marinescu appeared in the classroom. She would be my teacher for the first four years of school. I breathed a sigh of relief at the thought that I was rid of Mr. Marinescu...and he was rid of me.

Mrs. Marinescu was a wonderful teacher who knew how to instill in me the love of learning. I loved her a lot, although I did not understand why she did not care. I received the best grades; I was a model student of whom she like to brag but the fact that she would express her outrage and hostility toward my religion made me reluctant, confused, and even afraid of her.

A few times, she sent me home, telling me not to come back until I agreed to attend school on Saturday. At the end-of-year celebration, when the awards were given, my name was called first with the mention that I deserved first place, but because I missed

school on Saturday, the first prize was to be awarded to another student.

This is how I learned from the first years of school to accept injustice with dignity and to trust in the God of my parents, the only One who will grant me justice. Through experiences like these, He became for me a personal God whose love conquered my heart for life.

I read this definition of victory given by American author Dennis L. Wilcox, who is also a professor of public relations and strategic communication: "When you are entitled to receive honors and appreciation, and another passes in front of you and receives what you deserve, and this does not make you change your feelings nor your attitude toward them, that's victory."

The Lord had given me the first victory of this kind as a young child, which encouraged me to accept injustice, knowing that God sees everything, and He never remains indebted but rewards those who trust in Him.

By the time I started fifth grade, I had another set of teachers. I must admit my affinity for Miss Simona Stefan. She was a Romanian language teacher, a young woman who had just graduated from high school, and she came to class dressed in a high school uniform. I was fascinated by her talent and passion for the Romanian language. She had the gift of instilling in her little disciples a love of letters. Romanian language class was a delight for me. I loved Miss Simona, although I always had the impression that she did not understand this.

I spent my vacations helping my parents at home, in the garden, or with the cow grazing in the pasture. The time spent alone in the heart of nature, on the green hills, in the groves animated by the chirping of birds, along the waters with their gentle whisper, constituted the paradise of my youth.

Childhood, with its innocence and charm, passed like a pleasant nighttime dream. I look nostalgically at the past, trying to relive the most beautiful moments of my former years.

~Elena Bujor

Our very own Elena Bujor is the author of this well-written and inspiring story of the miracles in her life on her journey from communist Romania to freedom in the United States. Identify with the joys and sorrows of this family as God works in their lives to guide and protect time and again. This book is available on Amazon.





2023

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY









TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SABBATH

						
<p>5 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 5:00 pm Financial Peace University (BLC)</p>	<p>6 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 6:00 pm Pathfinders (GPSDA School) 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises (ZOOM)</p>	<p>7 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:00 am-1:15 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (ZOOM) 3:45 pm Romans Study (MP Rm)</p>	<p>8 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 11:30 am-4:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive (MP Rm) 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>9 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2:00 pm Prayer Mtng MP Rm 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Sanctuary Study (via ZOOM)</p>	<p>10 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 6:00 pm Impact Meeting (BLC) Sunset 5:29 pm</p>	<p>11 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am SS Classes 10:50 am Church Worship Service: Pastor Nelson & GP SDA School 1:00 pm Fellowship Lunch Sunset 5:31 pm</p>
<p>12 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 5:00 pm Financial Peace University (BLC)</p>	<p>13 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 6:00 pm Pathfinders (GPSDA School) 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises (ZOOM)</p>	<p>14 VALENTINE'S DAY 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:00 am-1:15 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (ZOOM) 3:45 pm Romans Study (MP Rm) 6:30 Elders' Board</p>	<p>15 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 12:00 pm Single Ladies' Lunch Bunch: Elmer's, Grants Pass 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>16 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 10:00 am Vets Helping Vets 2:00 pm Prayer Mtng MP Rm 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Sanctuary Study (Zoom) 7:00 pm School Board</p>	<p>17 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call Sunset 5:38 pm</p>	<p>18 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am SS Classes 10:50 am Church Worship Service: Pastor Daniel Trethewey 1:00 pm SS Council & Potluck (BLC) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Family Vespers & Game Night (School) Sunset 5:40 pm</p>
<p>19 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 5:00 pm Financial Peace University (BLC)</p>	<p>20 NO SCHOOL CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 6:00 pm NO Pathfinders 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises (ZOOM)</p>	<p>21 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:00 am-1:15 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (ZOOM) 3:45 pm Romans Study (MP Rm) 6:00 pm Finance Board (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Church Board (HYBRID)</p>	<p>22 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for submissions 7:00 pm Prayer Mtng (ZOOM)</p>	<p>23 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 2:00 pm Prayer Mtng MP Rm 2-5:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm Sanctuary Study (via ZOOM)</p>	<p>24 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 6:00 pm Impact Meeting (BLC) Sunset 5:47 pm</p>	<p>25 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am SS Classes 10:50 am Church Worship Service: Pastor Edward Nelson 1:00 pm Sack Lunch & Bible Study Sunset 5:49 pm</p>
<p>26 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 5:00 pm Financial Peace University (BLC)</p>	<p>27 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 6:00 pm Pathfinders (GPSDA School) 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises (ZOOM)</p>	<p>28 6:30 am Daily Prayer Call 9:00 am-1:15 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (ZOOM) 3:45 pm Romans Study (MP Rm)</p>	<p>Events may have been changed or added; please see www.GrantsPassChurch.com/calendar Zoom Links are also available on the calendar</p>			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CAROLYN FITZGERALD	01
JACOB BIRCHFIELD	01
MARILYN MATHEWS	01
AJ SMITH	02
JOHN MAURO	02
ROSIE TRESENITER	02
JORDAN MELUGIN	03
JORGE PEREZ JR	03
TODD WATSON	03
JARED WHEELER	05
LISA CALLAHAN	05
NICOLE WEE	05
CAROL HOOPER	06
ISABELLA CORTEZ	06
JACKI SIMMONS	06
KAMERON GREENE	06
BOBBI JO HELLER	08
JOE NICHWANDER	08
KALYSI WHEELER	08
PR DANIEL TRETHEWEY	09
KAREN FRICK	10
DANNIE BERUBEE-BURKES	10
LORING LITTLE	10
NORMA GARCIA	10
YULIA BAYDALA	11
PAUL KELLEY	11
MALEESA NUSSBAUM	11
BARRY OGUREK	11
GORDON FOSTER JR	12
SHANNON STRATHDEE	13
KIM WAGNER	14
SKYLAR GATT	14
STEPHEN COVRIG	14
FRAN SPRAIN	16
GRACIE HACKETT (HAMILTON)	18
DIANA PIRELLI	19
ED DELLA PAOLERA	19
LENORE STEVENS	19
LINDA MARTIN	19
LINDA COLE	21
TRACY ARCHBOLD	21
CAROL RASMUSSEN	23
NEAL ARCHBOLD	25
LOYAL GREEN	26
MARGARET REYES	26
BOB KRUGER	27
MANUEL PUMA	27
SHIRLEEN POWELL	27
PAXTON STEINHOEFEL	28
ALFRED WECKERLE	29
KAREAH BEASLEY	29