

GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2017

Family Focus

Here are three areas in which we can all focus our attention to improve our families' spiritual lives. This information was gathered from the family ministries department of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

REACH UP TO GOD

- Involve your family in regular family worship and Bible Study.
- Encourage your teens and young adult children to download a Bible App into their mobile devices for easy access.
- Download the Family Worship App from iTunes as a resource for your family worship.
- Read the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy with your family on a regular

basis.

- Read the Adventist Home and Child Guidance.
- Apply the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy in your family relationships.
- Encourage your teens and young adult children to download the EGW App into their mobile devices for easy access.

REACH IN WITH GOD

- Enhance the unity and strength of your family.
- Encourage the young adults in your family who are thinking about marriage to access premarital education/counseling.
- Participate in marriage conferences/retreats with your spouse on a regular basis to keep your marriage strong.



• Participate in parenting workshops often to sharpen your parenting and disciplining skills.

• As a family, intentionally support single parents, step-families, single adults, seniors, widows/widowers and other often marginalized family groups and individuals.

REACH OUT WITH GOD

- Involve your family in sharing your faith.
- Participate with your fam-

ily in the Mission to the Families in the Cities initiative using the Family to Family materials to witness to your neighbors, relatives and friends (Available on family.adventist.org).

- Engage your family in the Total Member Involvement initiative.
- Participate with your family in mission trips and other outreach activities to reach families for Jesus.

I feel that God has not only given us a Great Commission but He has given us all the resources and help needed to accomplish this very important ministry. Our families are our most important evangelistic mission field.

May God bless us as we collaborate with Him to live out His will.

Sincerely,

Pr. Joseph Perricellia

ELDER'S CORNER

"At Jesus Feet"

A friend of mine and I, used to read books and then discuss them with each other. Most of the books we read were of a religious nature.

We had many good discussions about our reading and if it was really good, then the one that didn't read the book most likely would. It was during this time that I had found a book called "At Jesus Feet". It had a picture of Mary Magdalene on the cover along with a subtitle statement that announced it was the gospel according to Mary Magdalene. I picked it up, looked through it and just didn't like the look and feel of the book. I formed a wrong impression. Isn't that just like us? How many times do we make unfair judgments of things, circumstances or even worse, peo-

ple? During a not so distant time in my life, I found myself doing just that and to no big surprise, I found myself to be wrong. It's no wonder that Jesus tells us in Matthew 7 not to judge.

(Continued on page 5)

Heavenly Fruit

I went over to my mom's place to try and pick the blueberries in the small interim between storms. I prayed for God to hold off the rain while I picked for the short time I had. The bush was loaded, just tempting the appetite, and as I reached for the heavily laden branch, it evaded my reach! I reached again—but alas, it still evaded my grasp. Every time I put my hand forth, the wind would

pull the branch just out of my reach! I grabbed the branch, and then was able to secure the lush fruit. There were so many berries, some of which dropped into oblivion at my feet. Sometimes the branches occluded the pathway to the buckets, letting the fruit go free. The foliage was dense, and it took close observation from all levels, and different angles to find the illusive fruit. I had to put my head into the dense foliage to peer around, hoping the branches wouldn't poke me

in the eye. I went around the bush, and then returned from the other direction, satisfied to have filled 2 ice cream buckets to the brim. As I reached for the illusive fruit, I thought about the fruit of the spirit; and I thought it's sort of like that in my life sometimes. I want to secure it. But alas, my humanness springs forth, and the fruit is blocked by some obstruction, or evades me because of the storms of life. I thought about how I can't get the fruit on my own

—that only as I'm connected to the vine (God), then and only then will the fruit of the spirit be available. As I looked deeper to make sure I'd gotten it all, I thought about how if we really want the fruit of the spirit, we have to keep looking deeper into God's word to find the treasures we missed before. Taste and see, that the Lord is good.

(Written and submitted by: Emily Thurman)

THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

JUDAH

We have already discussed:

Rueben, who was not a strong leader and was easily swayed and not a firm decision maker.

Simeon, was mean, violent and opinionated,

Levi, also tended toward violence, but took a firm stand for the honor of God.

Now we will focus on **Judah**, the fourth son of Leah. His name means "praising." His character might be encapsulated in the phrase, He meant well! He represents the pure in heart. His ensign is the lion. (Gen 49:8-12)

Judah early displayed

leadership by arguing successfully that Joseph should not be killed, but sold to the Midianites. Judah seems later to have been disgusted with himself and his brothers. He traveled to Adullam and there married a Canaanite called Shuah. Their three children caused them grave problems. The two older sons died, leaving Tamar, a childless widow.

Judah did not give Tamar to his third son. She seemed like an unlucky bride. Tamar then schemed to seduce Judah without revealing her identity, she conceived and bore twins, Pharez and Zarah by him. When Judah's perfidy was finally exposed, he showed his true character by honestly acknowledging his sin (Gen 38:1-30). In the end, like his celebrated descendant David, he had to stand condemned with the words, "thou art the man" (Sam 12:7). Amid the ruins of his reputation, however, Judah confessed—candidly, promptly and penitentially. And God forgave.

Through the years he

eventually "prevailed" above his brethren by responding to the prayer of Moses (Deut 33:7), and the tribe eventually produced Israel's greatest kings. In the mystery of divine providence Jesus was descended from Pharez the product of the incestuous union of Judah and Tamar. (Matt 1:3).

The gift of leadership would bypass Rueben, Simeon, and Levi, and rest on Judah. His aptitude for administration had already showed up as he twice took up the leadership role when Rueben's words failed. Although at the time he was morally inferior to Joseph, Judah was the one who withstood his 10 angry brothers to plead for the lad's life. (Gen 37:26,27).

A great famine proved to be the turning point in the lives of the 12 brothers (Gen 42, 43). In this crisis Judah clearly emerges as leader of the clan. His father trusted him with the safety of Benjamin when he offered himself

as the surety for the lad. In this story he is a dim type of His greatest Son who gave himself as surety for the world. He was chosen by his brothers as spokesman before the prime minister of Egypt. As the narrative unfolds, Judah is shown to have developed the character which had been predicted in Jacob's patriarchal benediction (Gen 49:8-12), and this in spite of all the vicissitudes of his life.

"Judah, your brothers will praise you. Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies. Your father's sons will bow down to you...."

A scepter will never depart from Judah nor a ruler's staff from between his feet until Shiloh comes and the people obey him.

Jacob's prophecy had its most brilliant fulfillment in the reigns of David and Solomon. After this as idolatry subverted the nations, the

(Continued on page 3)

(12 Tribes -Continued from page 2)

kings of Judah held to their integrity longer than did those of the northern kingdom. The blessing of Moses was a prayer, and it takes for granted that Judah would be an active, praying tribe:

"Hear, O Lord, the cry of Judah, and bring him to his people. With his own hands he defends his cause. Oh, be his help against his foes!" (Deut. 33:7)

The vigorous tribe of Judah was well equipped for leadership and for the prosperity that goes with executive abilities. They led the vanguard in the wilderness years. In subsequent years an impressive list of leaders emerged. David and Solomon were followed by Jehosaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah

and Zerubabel. Daniel and the three Hebrew youths, as princes of the royal house, came by their statesmanship honestly. At last the illustrious family line climaxed in Mary of Nazareth and her divine son, Jesus.

The gifts of the house of Judah appear everywhere within the church and in the business world outside. Indeed without the talents of the Judah's among us, all our machinery would grind to a halt. They are natural leaders, articulate and intelligent, courageous and resourceful. Of broad vision and noble mind, they often live and work ahead of their times. Their industry and integrity reap a rich harvest of material and spiritual prosperity – and their sound judgment prevents one from destroying the other.

Little wonder that

Christ's humanity should be linked to this superior tribe. That Judah's name should appear on one of the Heavenly gates comes as no surprise. Their magnificent accomplishments and the sincerity of their service would seem to make it inevitable. Still the secret of their salvation does not lie here. It rests in their ability to admit sin and repent humbly and wholly, to say in the words of their tribal father, "She is more righteous than I." Gen. 38:26

Notwithstanding his envy of Joseph, his suggestion to sell him into slavery, and the incest with his daughter-in-law Tamar, their son Pharez was destined to become an ancestor of Jesus of Nazareth (Matt 1:3). The poetic masterpieces of David, and the pithy wisdom of Solomon, the sublime

prophecies of Isaiah, and the precise predictions of Daniel were all written by the inspired descendants of Judah. But in Mary of Nazareth and her son Jesus are seen the final realization of the divine purpose for Judah's life. For almost two millennia God had worked with his ancestors, with him, and with his posterity to "fit" (Heb. 10:5, margin) the body of the man of Galilee for his awful task, tempted in all points and triumphant on Calvary, the son of God. And among the sealed on earth before the Second Advent (Rev. 7:5), and on the gate of the city of God the name of Judah will hold an honored position for all eternity.

Submitted by: Freddie Ramirez

The King of Butterflies – The Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies are the most beautiful of all butterflies, some say, and are considered the "king" of the butterflies, hence the name "monarch". There are lots of very cool things to learn about the monarch butterfly and we'll try to get through most of them here.

The Life Cycle(s) of a Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies go through four stages during one life cycle, and through four generations in one year. It's a little confusing but keep reading and you will understand. The four stages of the **monarch_butterfly life cycle** are the egg, the larvae (caterpillar), the pupa (chrysalis), and the adult butterfly. The four generations are actually four different butterflies going through these four stages during one year until it is time to start over again with stage one and generation one.

In February and March, the final generation of hibernating monarch butterflies comes out of hibernation to find a mate. They then migrate north and east in order to find a place to lay their eggs. This starts stage one and generation one of the new year for the monarch butterfly.

In March and April the eggs are laid on milkweed plants. They hatch into baby caterpillars, also called the larvae. It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch. Then the baby caterpillar doesn't do much more than eat the milkweed in order to grow. After about two weeks, the caterpillar will be fully-grown and find a place to attach itself so that it can start the process of metamorphosis. It will attach itself to a stem or a leaf using silk and transform into a chrysalis. Although, from the outside, the 10 days of the chrysalis phase seems to be a time when nothing is happening, it is really a time of rapid

(Continued on page 8)

MONTHLY HEALTH NUGGET

What are Autoimmune Diseases?

The immune system is a complex system of specialized cells, tissues, and organs designed to defend the body. It has the task of distinguishing between what is part of our own healthy bodies from what is potentially harmful. This can be somewhat confusing at times.

The part of the immune system that is primarily involved in the development of an autoimmune disease is called the "**acquired**" immune system. This system develops during our lives as it responds to "attacks" on the body from invaders, such as bacteria and viruses. One of the most important components of the acquired immune system is a type of white blood cell called **lymphocytes**. One type of lymphocyte, the **T-cell**, scans the body for foreign invaders and can directly kill infected cells or summon help from other disease-fighting cells of the immune system. Another type of lymphocyte, the **B-cell**, produces antibodies used for fighting infections and can also **remind** the body of a germ that has been encountered previously.

Vaccines use the acquired immune system to prevent infectious diseases by stimulating an immune response in the body similar to the way the immune system fights off a real infection.

An autoimmune disease occurs when the **immune system targets the body's own healthy tissues by mistake**, signaling the body to attack them. *For reasons that are not completely understood, the antibodies and lymphocytes that would ordinarily provide protection to the body end up causing a number of autoimmune diseases.* **The hallmark of an autoimmune disease is the development of inflammation, which can cause redness, heat, pain, and swelling.** Autoimmune diseases can affect most of the organs or systems in the body. The following are some of the most common:

Celiac disease—An autoimmune condition that causes inflammation in the small intestine. When people with celiac disease eat foods containing gluten their immune system reacts by damaging the villi, the finger-like projections protruding from the lining of the intestinal wall. This prevents the absorption of important nutrients, producing symptoms including diarrhea, weight loss and fatigue.

Type 1 Diabetes—In this condition, the immune system attacks and destroys insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. This makes it impossible for the body to use glucose for energy and can even result in life-threatening complication called diabetic ketoacidosis. The more common form of diabetes, Type 2, is not considered to be an autoimmune process.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) --In MS, an abnormal immune system response produces inflammation in the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). The inflammation damages the myelin that "insulates" nerve fibers, resulting in slowing or stopping of nerve conduction. Symptoms of MS include blindness, weakness, poor coordination, and muscle spasms.

Graves' disease—An autoimmune disease that affects the thyroid gland causing an overproduction of thyroid hormone. Symptoms of Graves' disease include heat intolerance, heart racing, weight loss and nervousness.

Rheumatoid Arthritis—In RA, the immune system produces antibodies that attach to the linings of joints. The immune system cells then attack the joints, causing inflammation, swelling, and pain. If untreated, rheumatoid arthritis can eventually cause permanent joint damage.

Psoriasis— A disease that causes new skin cells to grow too fast and pile up on the skin surface. It is a life-long disease of the immune system that, in addition to causing skin lesions, is associated with a number of other health issues including arthritis, depression, and an increased risk of heart disease and diabetes. People with psoriasis develop thick red patches, covered with scales, usually appearing on the head, elbows, and knees.

(Continued on page 5)

(Health Nugget-Continued from page 4)

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (lupus)—In lupus, multiple systems including the joints, lungs, nerves and kidneys may be attacked by the immune system. Although the exact cause is not known, it appears that there are hereditary as well as environmental factors in its development. Symptoms of lupus can include fever, fatigue, joint pain, a rash on the face over the cheeks and nose, headaches, memory loss, shortness of breath and chest pain.

The immune system does an amazing job of protecting the body from infections and even cancer, often without us knowing it. In the case of autoimmune diseases, however, the immune system is also capable of producing a variety of conditions that can be challenging both to diagnose as well as to treat.

Copyright 2015 eDocAmerica

Submitted by; Freddie Ramirez

(Elder-Continued from page 1)

God always works in mysterious ways. My friend seemed to have picked up the same book that I had judged as being unworthy of reading. As usual, we discussed what each of us was reading and how God was showing us certain things. It stirred a new interest for me, in the book that I didn't want to read. When he was finished with it, I got the book and was going to read it. Of course, being like I am, I put it off to the side and ignored it. After all, I still had my prejudged thoughts about the book. My friend said it was good but since I prejudged it as not worth my time, I wasn't quite ready to read it. Finally, one day I was urged by the Holy Spirit to pick it up and read it. I started to page through it and suddenly was hit with the overpowering urge I needed to read it. So, I started reading and kept reading every chance I had. Soon I was finished. It was one of those books where you already know the story, have heard it many times before, but for some reason are learning new things and I didn't want to

put it down. The story starts out with Mary being discovered in bed with another man, not her husband. She was a prostitute after all and because of that, she was not very well liked in the community. In this particular instance though, she was set up and was supposed to be caught. Mary was brought up as a Jew in a Jewish family. One of her biggest concerns as she was being dragged out of the house and down the street was that Martha and Lazarus would see her like this. This was going to be the end of her sinful life, and she knew it. They were going to stone her to death. That was the standard punishment for this crime. They dragged her to the temple but she had no idea why. The guard whispered to her not to worry. They only wanted to use her to trap the "teacher" and discredit him. The teacher, of course, was Jesus. The temple was unusually quiet because Jesus had thrown the money changers out. They brought Mary and confronted him as to what they should do with Mary. They, of course, wanted to stone her but Jesus told them that

whoever is without sin should throw the first stone. Mary's life was saved that day. From that day, Jesus showed favor on Mary. That helps me to know that if He can forgive the sins of Mary Magdalene, a known prostitute, that there is hope for all of us. Even me! Mary was like many of us. A repeat offender if you will. He didn't die on the cross so that we can continue to sin as if we had a license to. Even though we may sin, God does not forsake us. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9). "There is none righteous no, not one." (Rom. 3:10). "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous." 1 John 2:1).

Our problem is the same that Mary had. After we are set free from some specific sin or demon, we need to quickly fill the void with good replacements. If we don't, we will soon fall into our old ruts of behavior. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through a dry period seeking rest. If he finds none,

he tries to return to where he left. If we have not made changes that don't allow him back in, we will repeat the sin again. This could be any sin such as stealing, alcohol, drugs, prostitution or any other form of sin. Luke 11:24-26 tells us that if we allow the sin back in, we will be seven times worse than before. This represents the seven devils. Mary had seven areas that she needed to correct. It's not very Biblical but scriptures do hint at seven things that the Lord hates. Yes, seven are an abomination to Him. (Prov. 6:16). They are as follows:

1. "A proud look" vs. 17.
2. "A lying tongue" vs. 17.
3. "Hands that shed innocent blood" verse 17.
4. "A heart that devises wicked plans" verse 18.
5. "Feet that are swift in running to evil" verse 18.
6. "A false witness who speaks lies" verse 19.
7. "One who sows discord among brethren" vs. 19.

If you find yourself repeat-

(Continued on page 6)

(Elder-Continued from page 5)

ing the same sin, don't worry. God tells us in Luke 17:3-4 to forgive, repent and try again. Just as God says we are to forgive one another—not 7 times, but 70 times 7 (Matt. 18:21, 22), He will do at least that much for us. If we stay close with God, we will have fellowship with Him. (1 John 1:3). "Whoever abides in Him does not sin." (1 John 3:6) Devotions are an important way to stay closer to God and spend time with Him. The one thing we lack is the ability to put God first in our lives and give Him our firsts. Morning is the best time for getting to know God. Even the children of Israel learned that by collecting manna, first thing in the morning. If they waited and didn't collect it soon enough, it would be gone until the next day. Even Jesus set the example of praying in the morning. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." (Mark 1:35) Starting the day without prayer time first is like going out of the house without getting dressed first. At least that's the way I feel.

I Thessalonians tells us to "pray without ceasing". We need to stay in constant contact with God, through prayer and meditation. Think of God as our GPS, keeping us on course. Without Him we are lost! Another way to build our faith and stay on course is through humble service. Keep the humility in check though. Service is for God, not to benefit you by letting everyone know that you did a good thing. Think of a person tending a very sick person and someone watching saying, I wouldn't do that for a million dollars. Our response should be, "Neither would I but I would do it for Jesus for free!" Many Christians are afraid to show their love for Jesus publicly or in the workplace. We all need to be more like Mary, sitting at Jesus' feet and not worrying about what anyone said. We need to be dead to sin also. Most often, the reason we sin, lose our temper or pout is that the old carnal, selfish nature is not dead and buried with Jesus. Paul told us in Romans 6:7 "for he who has died has been freed from sin." In Romans 6:11 we read "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus

Christ our Lord." To claim this promise we must become dead to sin. It seems our minds are geared to remember things in "threes" so when you're tempted by satan on any point, remember this 1-2-3 plan. You may want to even say it out loud but say this:

1. No! I choose not to do this sin any more.
2. Thank you God for the victory.
3. I'm dead to this sin.

Probably the most well known Bible verse is John 3:16. How many Christians do you think remember the 2 verses before John 3:16? Probably not many! That immortal verse is a continuation of a thought in the preceding verses.

John 3:14-16 KJV:

- (14) "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up".
- (15) "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life".
- (16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

everlasting life.

This shows the controversy between the serpent (satan) and the Lord. The people spoke against God questioning why they were brought to die in the wilderness.

(Numbers 21:5-6) In the story in Numbers, after the Israelites rejected Gods word (bread) they were bitten by snakes. It is the

Word of God that keeps us from sin. (Ps. 119:11). God's word must be at the forefront of our lives, ever remembering His life, His death on the cross and most importantly His resurrection. When we carelessly lose track of our master, we might have to spend some time searching and sorrowing to find Him again. Knowing the Lord is near brings us joy. He is always at our side.

He never leaves us or forsakes us. He will, however, allow us to have trials. But if we remember that He is with us always, even to the end of the earth (Matt. 28:20) and that we

can cast all our cares upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Pet 5:7), we have nothing to worry about. The best gift that could have been given to us was eternal life through Jesus dying on the cross. He died for us and suffered in our place.

(Continued on page 7)

Happy Birthday!



August Birthdays

- 4 Nancy Colon
- 6 Joannette Suchon
Tyler Armstrong
- 7 Harvey Churkey
- 11 Pastor David Guerrero
- 12 Matthew Anderson
- 16 Myriam Lopez
- 18 Dolores Shudarek
- 20 Alex Cuchuizo
- 21 Paula Kuhlmann
- 24 Margaret Dissing
Stuart Cuchuizo
- 27 Micah Guerrero
- 29 Carrie Anderson



If we missed your birthday and you would like to be recognized, please let us know so that we can update our records.

Elder-Continued from page 6

Just like Jesus saved Mary, a prostitute looked down on by the others, He will save everyone that comes to Him. Jesus gives us a job to do when we are saved, just like He did with Mary. We are commissioned by God to go and preach. We may not be able to preach to many at one time but we are to tell others of the "good news" of Jesus Christ. We can't keep Him to ourselves. Salvation involves coming and going. We come to Jesus at His great invitation, then we go for Jesus with the Great Commission. (Matt. 11:28, Matt. 28:19, II Kings 7:9) God uses these people to reach other people. Witnessing is part of our sanctification process. Like Mary, we need to spend time at Jesus' feet, crying tears of repentance for our sins. Then we too will hear that He does not condemn us. "Go and sin no more," He says to us. Make quality time to spend at Jesus' feet reading and studying His word and you will have that personal relationship that we all need and want.

God Bless us all!

Rick Felts

Much to do and so little time!

As many of you know, the Wautoma Church plant is undergoing some major renovations to the building that will become the new home of the Wautoma English and Spanish speaking SDA Church. Although there have been some major accomplishments taking place thus far, there is still a lot of work that needs to take place in order to finish the project and be able to open the church according to the projected plans.

There have been a faithful few that are heading up the project and freely giving of their time to help this project along but we need your help. There is still carpentry work, wiring, plumbing, sheetrock to hang and so much more work still needing attention. Any help that you could assist us with would be a great blessing to us and to you. Don't worry. If you think you don't know how to do something or can't give enough time to make a difference, give it a try. We will help you to help us. A little time from everyone that is able, will go a long way to making this ministry become a reality. If everyone does their part, every need will be met! We have so many people in our district, so many talented hands that God can put to His use.

Please give us a call to become a part of this great work. We need you. God needs you.

Call Alan Anderson @ 920-787-2580 or Doug Bruder @ 715-498-1126 to offer your help.

Health Fair at Wautoma, WI

In an effort that included the local Wautoma Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Company, led by volunteer pastor Ilton Hurtado and the two Lopez families, another family from the South Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church of Chicago and 9 members of the Vanguard Seventh-day Hispanic Company of Berwyn, IL a health Fair event was conducted at the grounds of the former Adventist Community Center in Wautoma, Wisconsin on July 22 and 23, 2017. The event demonstrated the nature and good effects of the 8 natural remedies: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God (or in the Spanish acronym **ADELANTE** (Agua, Descanso, Ejercicio, Luz Solar, Aire Pure, Nutrición, Temperancia y Esperanza en Dios).

Local residents and friends of the church participated in the event. Although it was geared towards the Hispanic community, it ended up as a bilingual event that raised the level of interest in health, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and God's love as our Creator and Healer. A second fair is planned for Berwyn IL on August 26, 2017 and a repeat in Wautoma, which will include the Wautoma English-speaking church before year end. As rural Hispanic communities are experiencing rapid changes (moving back to country of origin) we found best to combine church efforts to reach a mixing bilingual community. Practicing our nutritional and lifestyle counseling has been rewarding to the fair participants; and these 'events' are soon becoming a permanent lifestyle. We thank God and the churches in Wautoma for their decision to do practical work in the community.

(Written and submitted by: Dr. Manuel Alva)

Check out <https://www.almondsda.org/wautoma-church-plant> for pictures.

Prophesy Highlights for Today

Miller's Rules of Prophetic Interpretation (Part 1)

"We should know for ourselves what constitutes Christianity, what is truth, what is the faith that we have received, what are the Bible rules—the rules given to us from the highest authority." (1888 Materials 403)

In the little book entitled, *Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology*, William Miller gives the following simple but intelligent and important rules for Bible study and interpretation:

Rule 1: Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible. (Matthew 5:17-20)

Rule 2: All scripture is necessary and may be understood by a diligent application and study.

(2 Timothy 3:15-17)

Rule 3: Nothing revealed in scripture can or will be hid from those who ask in faith, not wavering.

(James 1:5 & 6)

Rule 4: To understand doctrine, bring all the scriptures together on the subject you wish to know, and then let every word have its proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error. (Isaiah 28:9-13)

Rule 5: Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound it to me and he should guess at its meaning or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed or wisdom is my rule, not the Bible. (Psalm 119:97-104)

Rule 6: God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables, and in this way the same things are often time revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures, and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one. (I Corinthians 14:6-9)

Rule 7: Visions are always mentioned as such. (II Corinthians 12:1-6)

There are seven more rules of prophetic interpretation that will be covered next month. I hope that you will enjoy this monthly highlight in Bible prophecy. Come and join us in Wautoma for further insight and understanding of *Prayer and Prophecy* each Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

(Written and submitted by: Tim Schmidt)

(Butterflies—Continued from page 3)

change. Within the chrysalis the old body parts of the caterpillar are undergoing a remarkable transformation, called metamorphosis, to become the beautiful parts that make up the butterfly that will emerge. The monarch butterfly will emerge from the pupa and fly away, feeding on flowers and just enjoying the short life it has left, which is only about two to six weeks. This first generation monarch butterfly will then die after laying eggs for generation number two.

The second generation of monarch butterflies is born in May and June, and then the third generation will be born in July and August. These monarch butterflies will go through exactly the same four stage life cycle as the first generation did, dying two to six weeks after it becomes a beautiful monarch butterfly.

The fourth generation of monarch butterflies is a little bit different than the first three generations. The fourth generation is born in September and October and goes through exactly the same process as the first, second and third generations except for one part. The fourth generation of monarch butterflies does not die after two to six weeks. Instead, this generation of **monarch butterflies migrates** to warmer climates like Mexico and California and will live for six to eight months until it is time to start the whole process over again.

(Continued on page 12)

FROM THE INSIDE, WITH KEN WELLS

How can I serve Christ in day to day life?

Invest in other people! The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Gal. 5:14) It's remarkable how often we interact with people but never make the effort to know them. The cashier at your favorite store, the woman who cleans your office, the man you pass on the way to work every morning, and the person you meet in prison. Each of these individuals is someone God created and gave His son for. Christians looking to share Christ can begin by forming relationships with the people around them. Ask them about their day, compliment their outfit or simply take a moment to listen to them. By investing in other people, we open their hearts to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Offer help where it's needed. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40) There's an old saying about how an act of kindness, no matter how small, can never be meaningless. Even minor displays of love can change lives for the better. Do you know a couple who just had a baby? Take them a meal some night. Is someone moving into the house next door? Welcome them to the neighborhood and help carry their belongings. Is someone you know sick? Perhaps offer to watch their children for a day so they can rest. If you know of someone in prison, write to them, or visit them sometime. Don't pass up an opportunity to help others where it's needed. These moments may be brief, but they will be remembered.

Make space to Worship God. "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Gal. 5:24-25) It's easy as Christians to get swept up into our daily schedules. We wake up, go to work, eat dinner, maybe watch some television and prepare to do it all again tomorrow. In such an environment, we can often forget to worship God regularly, but that worship itself refreshes the soul. Before you step out the door each morning, sit down and take a moment to thank the Lord for a new day. If you work in a nice area, spend your lunch hour walking around and praising God for His workmanship. In the evening, make a space where you can be lone with God, and if you are in prison, let God know how you feel and praise Him, even though you are locked up.

Written and submitted by: Kenneth Wells, Jr.

The Wautoma Church News

Hello from Wautoma,

As our preparations for church in Wautoma continues, we, the Wautoma English Church, are making arrangements for two evangelism events this fall. We will start with the Shadow Empire, Shawn Boonstra's DVD series from 2016 running up to our second event, Shawn's the Pale Horse Rides live streaming event, which we will present on the weekend of Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, 2017. Both of these events will be held at our new Church home.

As you see also in this month's Grace Notes, the Wautoma Spanish Church has already held a successful Health Fair on our church grounds. It was a blessing to see the activity going on there and knowing that this will be the future home of our two church groups.

Both of our groups, the English and the Spanish speaking, are working together to get the church ready for God's work in Wautoma. Some more improvements are underway and we are also prayerfully thankful to those members from Almond that have lent their skills and their time to complete the work. Doug and Rosemary Bruder along with Bill Boehm have spent a number of hours there and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Keep us in your prayers.

God Bless.

Alan Anderson

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Almond's August Events

Aug 5 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Aug 6 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30 p.m.
 Aug 9 Community Bible Study 7:00 p.m. (Desire of Ages)
 Aug 11 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 Aug 12 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Aug 12 Devil's Lake Hike 1:30 p.m.
 Aug 13 Church Prayer Breakfast 9 a.m.
 Aug 13 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30 p.m.
 Aug 16 Community Bible Study 7:00 p.m. (Desire of Ages)
 Aug 18 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 Aug 19 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Aug 20 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30 p.m.
 Aug 23 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
 Aug 25 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 Aug 26 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Aug 27 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30 p.m.
 Aug 30 Community Bible Study 7:00 p.m. (Desire of Ages)

Important Dates

Sabbath the 12th. Devil's Lake Hike 1:30pm
 Sunday the 13th – Prayer Breakfast 9:00am

Stevens Point's August Events

Tuesday, August 1st – 6:30 p.m. –	Final evening of the Family Alive Seminar.
Thursday, August 3rd – 7:00 p.m. –	Community Bible Study in the fellowship room. Maria is leading the discussion.
Sabbath, August 5th – 9:20 a.m. –	Communion Sabbath services. Sabbath School at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Tuesday, August 8th – 7:00 p.m. –	Prayer meeting and Bible Study in the fellowship room.
Thursday, August 10th – 7:00 p.m. –	Community Bible Study in the fellowship room. Maria is leading the discussion.
Sabbath, August 12th – 9:20 a.m. –	Sabbath Services. Sabbath School at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Second Weekend of August –	Leticia is planning a rummage sale. She would like to hold the event during the 2nd weekend of August and again sometime near the end of September. This sale will be available for all members to donate items and the proceeds will go to our church budget account. We are in need of a place to hold the sale. Please contact Leticia for info or to help. Thanks!
Tuesday, August 15th – 7:00p.m. –	Prayer meeting and Bible Study in the fellowship room.
Wednesday, August 16th – 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. –	Quilting in the fellowship room.
Thursday, August 17th – 7:00 p.m. –	Community Bible Study in the fellowship room. Maria is leading the discussion.

SCHEDULES, CONTINUED

(Schedules, Continued from page 10)

STEVENS POINT

Sabbath, August 19th - 9:20 a.m. -	Sabbath Services. Sabbath School at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Monday, August 21st - 6:00 p.m. -	Church Board meeting in the fellowship room.
Thursday, August 23rd - 7:00 p.m. -	Community Bible Study in the fellowship room. Maria is leading the discussion.
Sabbath, August 26th - 9:20 a.m. -	Sabbath Services. Sabbath School at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Tuesday, August 29th - 7:00 p.m. -	Prayer meeting and Bible Study in the fellowship room.
Thursday, August 31st - 7:00p.m. -	Community Bible Study in the fellowship room. Maria is leading the discussion.

Sabbath the 12th- Devil's Lake Hike 1:30pm

Wautoma Church Plant's August Events

2-Aug Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m. @ Capsell
 3-Aug Women's Group (Anderson's)10:00 am
 4-Aug Work Bee @ Wautoma Church 8:00 a.m.
 5-Aug Sabbath Service 10:00 a.m. Vegetarian Buffet follows
 6-Aug Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 8-Aug Business Meeting 9:00 am at Church
 9-Aug Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m. @ Capsell
 10-Aug Women's Group (Anderson's)10:00 am
 11-Aug Work Bee @ Wautoma Church 8:00 a.m.
 12-Aug Sabbath Service 10:00 a.m. Vegetarian Buffet follows
 13-Aug Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 16-Aug Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m. @ Capsell
 17-Aug Women's Group (Anderson's)10:00 am
 18-Aug Work Bee @ Wautoma Church 8:00 a.m.
 19-Aug Sabbath Service 10:00 a.m. Vegetarian Buffet follows
 20-Aug Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 23-Aug Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m. @ Capsell
 24-Aug Women's Group (Anderson's)10:00 am
 25-Aug Work Bee @ Wautoma Church 8:00 a.m.
 26-Aug Sabbath Service 10:00 a.m. Vegetarian Buffet follows
 27-Aug Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 30-Aug Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m. @ Capsell
 31-Aug Women's Group (Anderson's)10:00 am

Sabbath the 12th- Devil's Lake Hike 1:30pm

Coming soon so save the date!

Sept 10th



Annual Corn Roast & Hay Ride

Come to the Tess farm near Almond for an evening of fun, good food and fellowship as the summer season comes to an end and we look towards fall. Arrive anytime after 4:30 p.m. The meal will begin at 5 p.m. with yard games and hay rides after. At dusk enjoy a camp fire with s'mores and hot chocolate.

Sweet corn, baked beans and drinks will be provided. Bring additional picnic items to add - chips, potato salad, finger foods, desserts, etc. Warmer clothing, lawn chairs, musical instruments, favorite yard games, etc. **Oh yeah, bring a friend along too!**

Call 715-570-2179 with any questions.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wisconsin Rapid's August Events

Sabbath School & Sabbath Services each Sabbath, beginning at 9:30. Potluck follows the worship service each week. We hope to see you there!

Calendar of Events

Aug 2	Bible study & prayer, 6:30 p.m.
Aug 9	Bible study & prayer, 6:30 p.m.
Aug 12	Pathfinder Induction
Aug 16	Bible study & prayer, 6:30 p.m.
Aug 23	Bible study & prayer, 6:30 p.m.
Aug 26	Pathfinder meeting, 2:00 p.m.
Aug 30	Bible study & prayer, 6:30 p.m.
Sep 8	The Neighborhood Table meal sponsor

Sabbath the 12th- Devil's Lake hike 1:30pm

Are You In Need of ?

This section is intended as an outreach to help those with needs, also helping those with the need to free up space in their homes by donating those un-needed items to those who have a use for them. May God Bless you for your generosity. If you have items to donate to someone, please let us know.

Do you need an electric range? If so, please let us know. We have a 30" electric range with a black glass top. The stove is in perfect working condition and is yours for the asking.

Thanks,

Harlow and Jane Peterson 715-366-4966

Give us a call and we'll help you put together a team of Angels to work with you, for you or side by side together.
715-572-0650 or gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com

(Butterflies—Continued from page 8)

It is amazing how the four generations of monarch butterflies works out so that the monarch population can continue to live on throughout the years, but not become overpopulated. This is just another example of the great wisdom of our loving Creator and Master Designer.

Our articles are free for you to copy and distribute. Make sure to give www.learnaboutnature.com credit for the article.

Submitted by: Freddie Ramirez

Safety First

by: Dolores Shudarek

Jesus, You are my only Refuge and my place of safety;

I choose You above all else to shelter me.

You order Your Angels to protect me where ever I go.

My ways You always know.

Your angels steady me with their hands.

Jesus, You keep me from stumbling

Against the rocks on the trails,

Because You gave me life through Your Cross and Nails.

Jesus, teach me to number all my days.

Help me to spend them in Your Ways.

I surely thirst, Jesus, for You, my Living Water.

I find it in Your WORD without falter.

91.7 WRAO

God's Radio Station

24/7 Gospel Ministry reaching those in need.



Please help support this ministry

Visit us on the web at:

www.WRAOChristianRadio.org

Come, Enjoy a Sabbath Afternoon at Devil's Lake State Park!

Hiking & Fun with a Picnic

to top it off!

Sabbath, August 12, 2017

Meet at Plainfield Phillips 66 Station, Hwy 73 at 1:30pm, leaving promptly at 1:45 pm.

OR

Meet at Devil's Lake South Shore at 3:00 pm



Bring food for a potluck meal to follow the hiking adventures!

Any questions, call Mike at 715-570-2179.

Your friends from the Almond Church would love to know if you plan on coming,

or need a ride!

GRACE NOTES

Mailing Address:
Grace Notes
c/o Rick Felts
9162 Boelter Lake Drive
Almond WI 54909-9729

Phone: 715-572-0650
E-mail: gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com

Contribution deadline is the 23rd
of the month

Disclaimer:

The stories, views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the original authors and other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Grace Notes or any of its staff. Thank you...



Mission Statement:

Fostering Unity

Vision Statement:

To be a resource which encourages and inspires unity in our church district; through inspirational thoughts, informative articles and testimonials; preparing for the soon coming of Christ.

Ministry

From Home

Have you ever thought of having a prison ministry? You don't have to leave your home to have this. A letter changes the life of an inmate every time they receive it. Pray that God will lead you to write an inmate. Give an inmate a blessing!

Kenneth Wells Jr. #414034
Red Granite Correctional Institute
PO Box #925
Red Granite WI 54970-0925

"Take the first step in faith.

You don't have to see the whole staircase.

Just take the first step."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

=====
"Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible

and achieves the impossible."

--Anonymous

Submitted by: Dorothy Tess

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable,
Irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you
Of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be Kind Anyway

If you are successful, you will win some
unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed Anyway

If you are honest and sincere
People may deceive you.

Be Honest & Sincere Anyway.

What you spend years creating,
Others could destroy overnight.

Create Anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
Some may be jealous.

Be Happy Anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.

Do Good Anyway.

Give the best you have,
And it will never be enough.

Give Your Best Anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa