

GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 8

AUGUST-2020

**BRINGING UNITY, EVENTS & NEWS TO THE CHURCHES OF ALMOND, OXFORD,
PORTAGE, REEDSBURG & THE WAUTOMA COMPANY**

Ask the Pastor!

I do have a question; I brought it up in our Bible study a couple years ago when we read in **Isaiah 65:25**, where it says “....and dust shall be the serpent’s food....”. talking about Heaven and that “the wolf and the lamb shall feed together”, etc. Since **Genesis 3:14** says that God told the serpent “....you are cursed more than all cattle....On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life”, I would say that the serpent eating dust is a curse, so why is he still doing it in Heaven? If everything’s made perfect in Heaven; wouldn’t the serpent be made perfect and have wings like he was before Satan entered him? Why does it say that "dust will be the serpent's food" in Heaven?

Isaiah 65:25 is, as you stated correctly in your question, referencing Gen 3. The language used here in reference to the new earth is not literal descriptions as far as I can tell. If you look just a bit earlier in the passage, in v 20, it says that young men will die 100 yrs. old, and a sinner 100 yrs. old will be cursed. As there will be no death in heaven, and no sin, we can make the educated assumption that the language being used here is figurative language that is driving home a point. The former things and former ways are no longer the norm. The same can be applied to the rest of the passage, so in v 25, it is most likely this figurative language driving home a point. In this instance, it is showing that animals that were once considered fierce or a threat to the safety and lives of others will be tame and gentle. And I believe it is also saying in a subtle way that sin will be no more, but the devil will still be held accountable and justice will be upheld (that is not abundantly clear in the text, just my own summation, whereas I believe the text is clear in its intention to show that the serpent will not present a danger to the heavenly inhabitants)

In this day and age, rest and relaxation can’t be taken for granted. It’s not the easiest thing for me to do – I find I have to be very intentional in my efforts to unwind. That often takes the form of unplugging or disconnecting, and that isn’t something that comes easily to me. I use music and books to achieve that state of relaxation. I find that a good book, or a great album I can get lost in rely helps the world disappear for a few hours in a restorative way. Lately, I have been on a historical kick for my reading, and I just completed a deep dive on the global naval war in WWII with a book entitled “World War II at Sea” by Craig L. Symonds. For music, I have been in a jazz mood lately, and Miles Davis’ “Birth of the Cool” and “Bird and Diz” by Charlie Parker & Dizzy Gillespie have been in heavy rotation. They are brief but soothing escapes from the craziness that is all around, and for them I am truly thankful.

Pastor Stephen Hall

God Promises—We Pray—God Answers

When we walk by faith and not by sight, we will experience a new level of spirituality. The Lord said to Joshua, "as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:5, 9.

"But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6

Sometimes we are put to the test: will we trust God or not? We can trust God's promises because God does not lie. Numbers 23:19.

When we claim God's promises with all our heart, it moves God to action. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

And Joshua said unto the people, "Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5.

Jeremiah prayed: "Ah, Lord God! Behold thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." Jer. 32:17.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Heb. 10:35, 36.

Why does God sometimes delay in answering our prayers? Because He is testing our faith, and once He knows we are serious about requesting our need, it may take some time to get everything lined up so that all things work together for good. "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10.

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed...nothing shall be impossible unto you,. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Matt. 17:20, 21.

Now is the time to pray as we have never prayed before. God's people should be able to discern God's voice in the midst of a pandemic as much as when all things are calm. Probation is soon to close, and it is now that we need supernatural assistance to get sin out of our lives. Christ is soon to finish His work in the Most Holy Place, and the pronouncement will be made, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

"The forgiveness of sins and iniquities and transgressions, belongs in a special sense to this time. We are in the anti-typical* day of atonement, and every soul should now be humbling himself before God, seeking pardon for his transgressions and sins, and accepting the justifying grace of Christ, the sanctifying of the soul by the operation of the Holy Spirit of Christ; thus the carnal nature is transformed, renewed in holiness after the image of Christ's righteousness and true holiness." PH 002, pg. 25.

*Anti-typical means the genuine event, which is the opposite of typical or type.

Is Anyone Fooling Anyone?

On the radio it was announced that a **face mask** cannot stop viruses from going right through them. So I looked it up and found that the typical size of the holes (pores) in a face mask is from 80 to 500 micrometers. The average size of a virus is from 20 to 400 nanometers. **There are 1,000 nano-meters in one micrometer.**

With an average pore size of 250 micrometers in a face mask, compared with an average virus size of 200 nanometers, we see something amazing. Since there are 1,000 nanometers in one micrometer, we see that each pore of 250 micrometers is equal to 250,000 nanometers!

When a typical 200 nanometer virus comes floating along, it is coming up to pores that are like **gigantic** caverns, each the size of 250,000 nanometers!

200 into 250,000 is 1,250. This means that each of the thousands of pores in a face mask is an average of 1,250 times **larger** than the virus! At that size, piles of 1,250 viruses could all go through the pores in the mask at the same time!

Would anyone want the masses to be ignorant of this fact? Why do [the powers that be] and her faithful servants in the media enjoy the people's ignorance?

Pastor Jan: It's a secret.

Submitted by: Dorothy Tess

A Puzzle for You...The Sabbath

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

B	E	V	E	N	I	N	G	M	J	N	V	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M	P	D	M
C	C	J	P	F	U	N	Y	A	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	X	X	J	N	P	A	L
O	L	H	J	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M	D	B	X	D	P	X	N	M	X	Y	A
M	H	E	H	T	C	K	D	E	W	O	L	L	A	H	Z	T	B	M	E	O	D	E
M	H	A	A	E	I	E	A	T	N	E	M	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	H	P	M	S
U	O	L	V	S	V	N	A	T	U	R	E	K	N	R	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	U
N	L	I	O	T	W	E	U	W	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	F	I	T	C	N	A	S
I	Y	N	H	S	S	R	R	G	P	O	W	E	R	J	R	O	Q	D	D	Q	A	H
O	X	G	E	P	E	X	M	L	B	M	M	L	L	S	Q	E	R	L	U	P	O	T
N	I	W	J	Y	J	C	Q	Z	A	L	Z	Z	W	B	A	X	A	L	A	B	F	N
U	R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	I	S	E	T	S	E	R	B	Y	T	B	W	D	E
V	K	O	M	S	I	G	N	J	Z	U	T	S	I	A	E	U	B	T	I	V	Z	V
N	U	R	E	D	E	M	P	T	I	O	N	I	S	N	A	K	C	A	Z	O	Z	E
B	N	O	I	T	A	D	N	U	O	F	F	C	N	E	K	M	D	I	T	P	N	S
T	Z	J	A	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	W	Z	M	G	D	H	U	B	F	H	X	S
R	F	M	J	V	R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	N	E	S	S	E	M	S	T	

BLESSED
COMMANDMENT

COMMUNION
CREATION

DAY
EVENING

EVERLASTING
FOUNDATION

GENESIS
HALLOWED
HEALING
HOLY
JEHOVAH
LAW
MEMORIAL
MORNING
NATURE
POWER
REDEMPTION
REMEMBER
REST
RIGHTEOUSNESS
SABBATH
SANCTIFICATION
SEAL
SEVENTH
SIGN
TEST
WEEK
WORSHIP

SABBATH

AFTER NOON

FUN

*The **NEXT**
Grace Notes
will be in
October*

Help for the Flu/Coronavirus

If you have preexisting conditions and a poor immunity, you may be in line for serious consequences, if exposed to the flu or the Coronavirus. If you have a bad cold or the flu, there are things you can do to protect yourself. Since anti-biotics do not kill viruses, we need to look at:

What kills viruses.

Grape juice (unsweetened)—fresh from a juicer is powerful medicine and tastes great!

Garlic

Diluted iodine—can be used as hand sanitizer from a spray bottle. More potent than store-bought.

Zinc Lozenges—kills coronavirus on contact. (Info per medical doctor.)

Olive Leaf (powder, extract, tea) Try: Olive Power by Carotec.com 800-522-4279,

Mountain Rose Herbs 800-879-3337

Herbal tea in the following recipes. (You don't need to drink the settlings.)

A very effective remedy which works like a charm, this recipe comes from an old herbal called "Back to Eden" written by Jethro Kloss. It contains tried, safe, and inexpensive remedies for the prevention of disease and sickness, remedies which are the result of his own practical experience of nearly forty years. Ingredients: Equal parts of Agrimony, Vervain, Boneset, and Culver's Root.

Use a heaping teaspoonful of this mixture to a cup of boiling water. Steep 10-20 minutes. Take a cupful every hour.

Recipe #2

½ oz. Myrrh Gum powder

½ oz. Olive Leaf powder

2 oz. Slippery Elm Bark powder

1 tsp. Cayenne

Mix thoroughly.

To ½ tsp. powder, Add 1 cup hot water.

Cover and steep 10 minutes.

Strain and sip several cups daily throughout flu season.

P.S. If you do not have these herbs on hand, they may be ordered through a health food store, or an herb shop Online.

There are more extensive measures that can be used in the event of viruses to modify the severity of the illness.

"The fruit of the tree is for man's meat, and the leaves for his medicine." (Ezekiel 47:12)

This verse likely refers to olive trees which were mentioned several times in the Bible as well as used by Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman culture. The olive leaf has incredible anti-viral power. There are a number of unique properties possessed by the olive leaf compound for:

An ability to interfere with critical amino acid production essential for viruses.

An ability to contain viral infection and/or spread by inactivating viruses or by preventing virus shedding,

(Continued on page 9)

Portage Church Experience During Covid-19

By Helen Summerton

Just as it was Christ's custom to be at the synagogue on the Sabbath, we desire to be at our local churches on Sabbath. So for us at Portage, we felt rather distressed, as did all of you, when we were told we could not have any meetings of more than 10 people at a time. We were grateful for the first few weeks for all the special 3ABN programs and our local Adventist radio station to keep us feeling partially normal. Then in May, Carolyn Carter suggested we get together in the church parking for hymn singing and praise, mostly staying in our cars. Beau Baartz was very willing to set up our speaker system, portable organ, folding chairs, etc. to work towards a close proximity of a regular service. Steve Collins thought we could work in a sermon soon and the wheels started turning. On the fourth Sabbath in May, Pastor Steve came to share a timely sermon that fit in with all the commotion going on in our world and how we need to treat everyone as Jesus did. The Baartz family often joined us via their hay ride train! We enjoyed meeting outside so much that we decided to continue to have service outside since God was providing such glorious weather, even after we went inside for Sabbath School. Now that the heat has hampered our schedule, we have moved indoors to enjoy the air conditioning. We are trying to keep healthy recommendations in mind and leave a pew between families, wear masks if desired, use hand sanitizer, care with microphones, not having children get together for children's stories, etc. We all missed the socializing of potlucks, so we have resumed the weekly event. However, we do serve cafeteria style, rather than everyone handling the spoons and hovering over the food. Having a chance to enjoy the great food and catch up with everyone is such a blessing. Keeping everyone safe is definitely on our minds. As unpleasant this situation may be, we are still feeling blessed. We know harder times are coming and this may just be a wakeup call, so we can be resourceful.

Helen Summerton

Almond SDA Church

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11:00

Potluck follows service each week!

1340 Elm St.

Almond WI 54909

715-570-2179

www.almondsda.org

Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095

Wautoma SDA Company

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Potluck follows service each week!

429 W River Street

Wautoma WI 54982

920-765-0961

wautomawi.adventistchurch.org

Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095

June 26, 2020 The last outdoor service for the Portage Church before reopening the building for services.



A portion of our group



Sharna Maher leading song service,
Pastor Hall ready to deliver
the sermon



Another view of some of our group



Pastor Stephen Hall
delivering the sermon

Almond Church Up-Coming Events

Important Dates

- Aug 9th - Church Breakfast 9:00am (Business Meeting)
- Aug 16th - Work Bee @ the Church beginning at 9:00am
- Aug 22nd - Picnic and hike at Devil's Lake State Park (Sabbath Afternoon/evening)
- Sept 13th - Church Breakfast 9:00am (Business Meeting to Follow)
- Sept 13th - Hay ride and corn roast at Tess Farm (early evening)
- October 18th - Fall Community Dinner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Waupaca study @ 6:30 (Also over the phone)	Prayer meeting @ 7:00 PM (Also over the phone)	Sabbath service (SS @ 9:30 and Worship @ 11:00)

Hello from Wautoma,

On Wednesday evenings, we are going through the Great Controversy. We are really enjoying this study which is taking us through the history of Christianity, the first Christians, the dark ages, the Waldenses, Wycliffe and others. The Christian experience of the past has not been an easy one and many suffered persecution and martyrdom. Many of those Christians that walked this earth before us were trail breakers, not following the traditions of men, not taking the easy path, but hearing the call of Jesus and walking in his footsteps. Because of men like Wycliffe, who made the first English translation of the Holy Bible, untold numbers of lost souls were saved. And maybe we can be counted among those saved. Having had the remarkable opportunity of joining in with the saints, shouldn't we be asking ourselves what can we do too, as part of God's army. The answer to that question is between us and God. It is a question we should be seeking an answer to. It is a calling directly from God and is a calling we can ill afford to ignore. As the days of the week, then the days of the month go flying by, drawing us ever closer to Jesus second coming, let's not lose any opportunity to serve the Lord or to tell others of His soon coming.

Alan Anderson

Wautoma Church Schedule

- 8/1/2020 Sabbath School - 9:30 am & Church 11:00 am
- 8/3/2020 Women's Group - 10:00 am
- 8/5/2020 The Controversy Study 6:30 pm
- 8/8/2020 Sabbath School - 9:30 am & Church 11:00 am
- 8/10/2020 Women's Group - 10:00 am
- 8/12/2020 The Controversy Study 6:30 pm
- 8/13/2020 Sabbath School - 9:30 am & Church 11:00 am
- 8/17/2020 Women's Group - 10:00 am
- 8/19/2020 The Controversy Study 6:30 pm
- 8/22/2020 Sabbath School - 9:30 am & Church 11:00 am
- 8/24/2020 Women's Group - 10:00 am
- 8/26/2020 The Controversy Study 6:30 pm
- 8/29/2020 Sabbath School - 9:30 am & Church 11:00 am
- 8/31/2020 Women's Group - 10:00 am

Always verify times and events as they are subject to change because of the virus situation.

May 25 – My Personal Journey

Am I racially prejudiced? Well, of course not. I have friends, and have had friends, of racial diversity most of my life of course I'm not racially prejudiced. This takes me back to 1962 when I read the book Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin. Griffin was a white journalist from Texas who chemically, and temporarily, darkened his skin to pass as a black man through the segregated South, then wrote the book about his experience. In 1964 my sweetheart and I attended a lecture at Andrews University by Mr. Griffin who said one thing that has stayed with me for these intervening 56 years: "The person that says he is NOT prejudiced is the most prejudiced of all!"

Now, I love my country; I want to believe the very best about the good 'ol US of A! America has moved forward a lot since the dark days of the civil rights movement of the '60s and I have been proud of the racial progress that has been made. Oh yes, there have been undercurrents from time to time that would suggest that things might not be as rosy as I chose to believe, however I have been able to dismiss much of it as kick-started by outside, politically motivated, rabble rousing, special interest groups.

And then May 25, 2020 happened. There is no amount of logic or humanity that can justify what happened to Mr. Floyd. As the first few days passed and the protests became nationwide with increasing destruction and violent I was amazed at the extent the "rabble rousing, politically motivated, special interest groups would go to in order to accomplish their agenda! And then I read it! It changed my whole prospective on what was happening in MY country! Oh no, it wasn't published in the so called "lame stream media" or I likely would have ignored it but was an experience of a colleague of my daughter Cheryl's, a fellow foreign service officer, assigned to the Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, just across the Mexican border from El Paso, Texas. This black, female, consular officer had need to cross the border into El Paso about 4 times a week but was ALWAYS shunted off to secondary inspection because she "looked the part" of a drug runner. Showing her regular and diplomatic passports made no difference; showing her top security clearance made no difference; she was told these could be forged although her credentials were never checked or verified! Given the forms to fill out, she was told that she could report the conduct of the border officers but nothing would be done! After several months of this she was broken, was transferred to Mexico City suffering from PTSD. The transfer necessitated a derailment in her promotion track and eventually caused her to leave the Foreign Service. The story is 10 pages of border official travesties of which rectification was not possible. With my blood boiling, I began to realize what the post Floyd murder chaos across the entire country was all about. It wasn't about an isolated case of police brutality and murder but a systematic culture of demeaning, suspicion arousing, conduct by those that have the power and the authority to do so, including but not limited to police. Does this mean that all police are of this nature? Of course not! But how many rotten apples does it take to spoil the whole bushel? The violent protests across the entire nation are emblematic of the flashpoint racial tensions had already reached between the black community and law enforcement. My shiny apple image of my great country has been tarnished!

Aside from patriotism why is this so important for us as Seventh-day Adventists? Because many of us are looking in the wrong direction for improvement in the current national disgrace. Some of us are looking to a change of government priorities or even a change in government. Some are claiming we aren't doing enough for the poor. Some say corruption needs to be weeded out of "high" places. Some are just looking for a return to the old normality while others are looking for a new. Most are looking for America to become a better country. However as I read Mr. Daniel, Mr. Matthew, Mr. Paul, Mr. John (the revelator) and Mrs. White I have come to the conclusion that America isn't going to get any better but worse. So what shall we do wring our hands and find our duty at the voting booth? Or shall we rejoice in the goodness and mercy of the Lord who is about to set up a far better and much greater system than anything America can possibly offer? The real question is do you put your confidence in America or in Jesus' SOON coming kingdom? Are we going to put most of our energy in attempting to rebuild America or in proclaiming Jesus' solution and His kingdom?

Written and submitted by: Steve Collins, Portage Church

Portage Events

Portage SDA Church email address is:

portagesdachurch@gmail.com

Portage SDA Church Facebook:

Type: Portage Seventh-day Adventist

Radio station:

WPSA LP 93.5 FM

*Please pray for our country, it's leaders
and for our health through these try-
ing times that we are living in.*

*God is good,
All the time!*

(Flu-Continued from page 4)

budding or assembly at the cell membrane.

The ability to directly penetrate infected cells and stop viral replication.

In the case of retroviruses, it is able to *neutralize* the production of reverse transcriptase and protease. These enzymes are essential for a retrovirus to alter the RNA of a healthy cell.

It (olive leaf) can stimulate phagocytosis, an immune system response in which cells ingest harmful microorganisms and foreign matter.

In an animal study, researchers proved that Wi-Fi signals induced diabetes. Wi-Fi caused oxidative damage, slashing (health sustaining) glutathione levels by 33-49%, dropping liver and kidney health markers as well as raising triglycerides and "free iron" levels in the body, proving Wi-Fi is harmful.

Olive leaf extract given to animals restored virtually every function, even regenerating damaged liver tissue, diabetes was reversed and key markers were restored.

Olive leaf has a 6,000-year history of immune support. In the peninsular war between France and Spain (1808-1813) doctors used olive leaf tea to bring down the fevers of wounded troops from 105 to 101, enabling them to send healed troops back to battle faster. These doctors knew what works!

Submitted by Dorothy Tess, certified herbalist

<p>Oxford SDA Church</p> <p>Sabbath Worship Times</p> <p>Sabbath School @ 9:15 a.m.</p> <p>Worship @ 10:40 a.m.</p> <p>322 E Chauncey St Oxford, WI 53952-9064 608-586-5770</p> <p>PASTOR: STEVEN HALL 407-461-2095</p>	<p>Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church</p> <p>2100 E State Road 33 Portage, WI 53901-1468 608-742-4695</p> <p>Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095</p> <p>Service Times: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Reedsburg SDA Church</p> <p>115 S. Oak St. Reedsburg WI 53959 Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095</p> <p>Join Us This Saturday Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>We have bible studies on Wednesday evening's at 6:30 at the church. We are starting the book of John on video. Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095</p>
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GRACE NOTES

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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...

Pictures are best viewed on the website. <http://www.almondsda.org/district-newsletter/2019>



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.

What would you like to see in future editions of Grace Notes? Let us know and we'll see what we can do.

Letters to the editor...

If you have ideas, thoughts, complaints or opinions, write to us. This column will appear each issue.

Send emails to
["gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com"](mailto:gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com)

Thanks,
Grace Notes Editor

Special Days in the Portage District

David Hahn	8/1	REEDSBURG
Dawn Hahn	8/1	REEDSBURG
Jason Hahn	8/3	REEDSBURG
Joseph Hahn	8/3	REEDSBURG
Gordon Beggs	8/5	ALMOND
Jorge Gonzalez	8/5	ALMOND
Jack Brown	8/6	PORTAGE
Nate Jack	8/9	PORTAGE
Shirley Meddaugh	8/15	ALMOND
Beth Strangstalien	8/18	PORTAGE
Steve Harvestin	8/19	PORTAGE
Stacy Taylor	8/25	OXFORD
Laurie Baartz	8/29	PORTAGE
Karen Blair	8/30	OXFORD
Shirley Corral	8/30	OXFORD

Anniversary

Todd & Deidra Roat	8/3	PORTAGE
Duaine & Shelly Pixler	8/16	PORTAGE

