

GRACE NOTES

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DECEMBER 2017

Kingdom Building

The story is told of the foreman on a building site who asks one of the builders what he is doing. The builder replies, "I'm breaking rocks." Another worker is asked the same question, and he answers, "I'm earning for my family." The question is posed to a third worker. With a glint in his eye, he responds, "I'm building a cathedral." *Citation: Submitted by Owen Bourgaize; Guernsey, United Kingdom*

Three different people with three very different perspectives, yet all of them are working on the same job site. These different perspectives can greatly impact their job performance in very real and tangible ways. First, the level of commitment to the project could affect their job due to the likelihood of missing work, the level of quality of the work performed, as well as the happiness and wellbeing of the worker. This first worker only sees his work as small and insignificant. His focus is so narrow that he only sees the struggles and hardships of his immediate tasks. The second worker's perspective is a little broader, and his focus is on a higher level. However, the goal is in meeting the material needs and wants of his family and himself. It is true that he will be better motivated to be present on the job site, working diligently to stay employed and earn the financial means to support his family. But at the same time his heart is not in his work, but in what the job can give to him and his own.

The last worker surveyed has the broadest perspective of the three. His perspective is beyond what the performance of his job will provide to him, but to the grand task in which he is only a small part. In addition he feels ownership in the mission of building a lasting monument to not only his efforts but of those working with him. His mind is thinking upon what will be in the future and not on what is in the now. He is thinking about the worship of an everlasting, all knowing, and merciful God which will take place in the Cathedral of the future. It is with optimistic hope he sees beyond the task at hand,

(Continued on page 2)

The "Final" Grace Notes

OK, calm down. Actually, this is going to be the last Grace Notes, (as we know it) but fear not. Grace Notes will continue! Remember that beginning January 1st, our current church districts are being changed. With that in mind, the staff of Grace Notes has decided to make some changes. Grace Notes will become the newsletter of the Almond, Wautoma, Portage, Oxford and Reedsburg churches. Wisconsin Rapids will do a separate newsletter for their district which includes Marshfield, Bethel and Neillsville; and Stevens Point will do one for their new district which includes Wausau. I'm sure that it may take a while for the newsletters from Wisconsin Rapids and the one from Stevens Point to take shape, but I believe that God is in control and that it will happen. Each month, Grace Notes will have small stories or items of interest from our previous district members, mainly Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point but may also include bits of information from any of the new churches. I believe that God wants us all to stay in touch, to meet new church members and to become the family of brothers and sisters in Christ, that God would have us to be.

Grace Notes, is currently looking for volunteers from each of the new churches to serve as local coordinators. If you are a member of the Portage, Oxford or Reedsburg churches and feel that you would like to become part of this ministry, please write us at gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com and we will make sure that you become part of the team. Many blessings await us as we continue this valuable ministry.

May God bless all of us as we become part of new church families and always remember, "To God be the Glory!"

(Kingdom—Continued from page 1)

not what is in front of him, but what will be there as a result of his efforts. He is not seeking instant gratification, but delayed gratification knowing the end result will be much more meaningful than the difficulties of today.

These three individuals too often times represent many in our churches and ministries today. Some work, but are only able to see how difficult the task they are laboring upon seems to be and nothing beyond. Oth-

ers work because of the future benefits to themselves. Then there are those who work solely to advance the kingdom of God. Yes, the work is difficult, challenging, and without thanks at times. However, we must remember that this is not the time or the place for our rewards; our rewards are coming with Christ in the clouds of glory.

It is troubling and difficult to keep a positive perspective at times. But, we must remember, as Reinhold Niebuhr stated in the serenity prayer,

“accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.”

As God uses us in ministry to others may we always keep in mind the ultimate goal is to win lost souls into the Kingdom of God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. This act of loving service has

its own rewards, some now, but mostly in the world to come. May God richly bless each of us as we join Him in building His Kingdom.

*Yours in Christ's loving service
Pastor Joseph Perricellia*

Elder's Corner

Almond - About a month ago, the Almond School District had their homecoming celebration. Some may think it strange, but the tall tree in front of our church was draped like a Weeping Willow with toilet paper from the top of the tree, touching the ground. I'm not sure if it was Charmin or not... I myself thought it was very pretty. It wasn't just our tree either. It was from one of Elm Street to the other. All the trees were covered. I believe they outdid themselves from last year. Although it seemed wasteful, the kid in me wished that I had been part of the decorating. With all the things going on these days, this mischief doesn't seem too bad. Just as the rain dissolved the toilet paper from the trees, Jesus will dissolve our sins from our lives.

He is waiting to take them from us. The story behind this artwork is this. If you are liked or considered special, you would be the recipient of the draping of toilet paper over your trees in front of your home. If you look at it this way, it's a compliment. In a way, I'm glad the big tree in front of our church was not neglected. I heard that a policeman on patrol, caught the artists in the act and supposedly told them that as long as they are doing it, do a good job and get the entire street, and it was! Almond, a sleepy little town with hometown folks, American values, concern for others and true kindness. The “neighbor-in-mind” mentality, and the love of Christ in their hearts. For our district rally recently, it was decided that our church was going to be too small as we were expecting more than last time. The Lutheran church in town,

offered their building to us to use. One of their members even offered to pay most of the fee that they normally would charge to rent out the facilities. Almond! Come and visit us or just drive through. You will be greeted with waves and smiles from town folks. Oh, come, come, come to our little church in Almond with old-fashioned values and a full measure of Jesus' love. Our church isn't fancy but Jesus' love and the love of our congregation is waiting for you.

Christmas is coming. A great present to us, would be “You”! Please come and visit. Bring a friend and of course, plan on staying for our potluck fellowship meal after service.

Merry Christmas

God Bless

Doug Bruder, Elder, Almond Church

ASHER

The scriptures do not say anything about Asher's personal life, but we can gain some insights from the blessings given to Asher by his father Jacob, and by Moses to his tribe.

Jacob predicted that "out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties" Gen 49:20. Moses added, "Let Asher be blessed with children; let him dip his foot in oil. Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be" Deut 32: 24,25. What a list of wonderful blessings! And to them was added this encouraging promise, "he would be acceptable to his brethren."

Asher was Jacob's eighth son. He was the second son born to Zilpah, Leah's maid. So far, Leah had 4 sons; Rueben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah. Bilhah had 2 sons; Dan and Naphtali, and Zilpah had 2 sons; Gad and Asher.

Anna, who was in the temple when Jesus was dedicated, was the only distinguished representative of the clan in biblical record. Asher produced no named heroes, and no judges. Scripture does not mention a single other notable person. The reason for such an apparent lack of achievement is, perhaps, not difficult to discover. Affluence carries with it its own risks.

The first clue may appear in the naming of Jacob's eighth son, born to Leah's maid, Zilpah. In the name Asher we may have a reference to the Canaanite goddess Asherah.

Asher seems to have felt the soothing contentment of the good life very early. The names of his children reflect it. His youngest son, Beriah (gift), his daughter Serah (abundance), and two of his grandsons, Heber (friendly fellow), Malchiel means (king of God). All these names point to a certain complacency that seems to have marked the manners of the family. A suitable symbol of the tribe would be the cornucopia, or horn of plenty.

Upon its entry into Canaan, Asher received the most fertile area in the whole land. It bordered Mount Carmel and ran north to Sidon and Tyre, with a total of "twenty-two cities with their villages." Josh 19:30. Although the tribe dutifully gave over the prescribed number of cities to the Levites, the proximity of the Phoenician seaports would have far-reaching effects on their spiritual welfare.

In Jacob's last words to his sons, he said about Asher, "Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal dainties" Gen 49:20.

From the tribe's rich lands King Solomon later would furnish the household of Hiram, king of Tyre, payment for the latter's services in the building of the Temple in Jerusalem, 1 Kings 5:11. Indeed, the region has to this day produced dainties fit for a king.

Moses blessing on the tribe defined 4 specific promises:

"Let Asher be blessed with children" Duet 33:24

In a society where security and success depended upon large families, children were, as the psalmist pointed out, "an heritage of the Lord" Ps 127:3. Between the census at Mt. Sinai and the one at the borders of Canaan 40 years later, the tribe of Asher showed an increase of more than 22%.

"Let him be acceptable to his brethren" v.24

Nothing begets jealousy and animosity faster than success and good fortune. Not every affluent man is amiable. They are often not. Still, a true Asherite is pleasant to people in spite of prosperity. He is respected for his innate vitality and wealth.

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MONTHLY HEALTH NUGGET

COLORS of FOODS and Your Health

Did you know that you can get what your body needs just by eating a colorful variety of fruits and vegetables? Nature has found a clever way to highlight the nutrients in foods: different nutrients actually impart different colors to the foods they're in. For instance, the anthocyanins that turn blueberries blue can also keep your mind sharp, the lycopene that turns watermelon and tomatoes red may also help protect against prostate and breast cancers, and the beta-carotene that makes carrots and sweet potatoes orange can help keep your bones strong, your eyes healthy and boost your immune system. While fresh fruits and vegetables are great in season, frozen ones are convenient to keep on hand and just as nutritious. So load up!

Blue, Purple & Deep Red

Blue, purple and deep-red fruits and vegetables are full of anthocyanins and proanthocyanins, antioxidants associated with keeping the heart healthy and the brain functioning optimally.

Blackberries, Blueberries, Eggplant, Plums, Cranberries, Grapes, Radishes, Raspberries, and Strawberries are examples.

Green, part 1 (cruciferous)

Cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli and kale, provide compounds called indoles and isothiocyanates, which may help prevent cancer by amping up the production of enzymes that clear toxins from the body. Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cauliflower, Green Cabbage, and Kale are examples of these.

Yellow & Green, part 2 (leafy greens)

Many yellow and green vegetables are good sources of lutein and zeaxanthin. These are phytochemicals that accumulate in the eyes and help prevent age-related macular degeneration which is a leading cause of blindness in older people. Leafy greens are also rich in beta-carotene.

Artichoke, Corn, Lettuce, Summer Squash, Wax beans, Arugula, Chard, Collards, Mustard greens, Turnip greens.

Orange

Alpha and beta-carotene make foods like carrots and sweet potatoes so brilliantly orange. The body converts these compounds into the active form of vitamin A, which helps keep your eyes, bones and immune system healthy. These phytochemicals also operate as antioxidants, sweeping up disease-promoting free radicals.

Apricots, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Mango, Oranges, Papaya, Pumpkin, Sweet potatoes, Winter squash.

Red

Red foods, such as tomatoes and watermelon, contain lycopene, a phytochemical that may help protect against prostate and breast cancers.

Guava, Pink Grapefruit, Red Peppers, Tomatoes, and Watermelon.

These are just some examples of the ways we can keep ourselves healthy. God has given us such a variety of good things to eat. He also packaged them in many colors, sizes, shapes and flavors. This is only a small example of the great love and affection our Lord showers on us daily. He surely wants us to "prosper and be in health".

PROPHECY HIGHLIGHTS

The Three Angels and the Other Angel (Part One)

“There are those now living who, in studying the prophecies of Daniel and John, received great light from God as they passed over the ground where special prophecies were in process of fulfillment in their order. They bore the message of time to the people. The truth shone out clearly as the sun at noonday. Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth’s history. The scenes connected with the working of the man of sin are the last features plainly revealed in this earth’s history. The people now have a special message to give to the world, the third angel’s message. Those who, in their experience, have passed over the ground, and acted a part in the proclamation of the first (Revelation 14:6 & 7), second (Revelation 14:8), and third (Revelation 14:9-11) angels’ messages, are not so liable to be led into false paths as are those who have not had an experimental knowledge of the people of God.” (Manuscript 31, 1896)

“The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages has been located by the Word of Inspiration. Not a peg or a pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. The Old Testament is the gospel in figures and symbols. The New Testament is the substance. One is as essential as the other. The Old Testament presents lessons from the lips of Christ, and these lessons have not lost their force in any particular.”

“The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order, and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel’s message. There cannot be a third without the first and the second. These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been and the things that will be.”

“The history of the church and the world, *the loyal and the disloyal*, is here plainly revealed. The loyal under the proclamation of the third angel’s message have turned their feet into the way of God’s commandments, to respect, to honor, and to glorify Him who created the heavens and the earth. The opposing force has dishonored God by making a breach in His law, and when light from His Word has called attention to His holy commandments, revealing the breach made in the law by another authority, then, to get rid of conviction, men have tried to destroy the whole law. But could it be destroyed? No; for all who will search the scriptures for themselves will see that the law of God stands immutable, eternal, and His memorial (the Sabbath Commandment) will endure through the eternal ages, pointing to the only true God in distinction from all false gods (Isaiah 58:12-14). (Manuscript 32, 1896)

The Three Angels and the Other Angel (Part Two)

“In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. The conflict is yet in progress. Those things which have been will be repeated. Old controversies will be revived, and new theories will be continually arising. But God’s people, who in their belief and fulfillment of prophecy have acted a part in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel’s messages, know where they stand. They have an experience that is more precious than fine gold. They stand firm as a rock, holding the beginning of their confidence steadfast unto the end.”

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Almond's December Events

Dec 1 Prayer Meeting 7:00
 Dec 2 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Dec 3 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
 Dec 5 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 6 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
 Dec 7 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 8 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
 Dec 9 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Dec 10 Prayer Breakfast (Open to all)
 Dec 10 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
 Dec 12 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 13 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
 Dec 14 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 15 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
 Dec 16 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Dec 17 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
 Dec 19 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 20 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
 Dec 21 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 22 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
 Dec 23 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
 Dec 26 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 27 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
 Dec 28 Revelation Series 7:00
 Dec 29 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
 Dec 30 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck

Important Dates

Revelation Speaks Peace
 Tues & Thurs @ 7PM

Dec 10 Prayer Breakfast

Desire of Ages - Wed @7PM

Merry Christmas!

Gratitude

Thank you, dear Jesus, You are the Reason,
 For every season.
 Our gratitude to You for saving us from Satan's treason.
 We know the judgment has come,
 You cover us because You are the Father's only Son.
 Thank You, Jesus, for Your holy life, passion and death,
 Which saved us from eternal loss.
 Our only hope is in You and Your holy Cross.
 We have a grateful heart for Your Resurrection Glory,
 And for our opportunities to spread Your endless Story.
 We praise You for Your mercy, love and grace,
 Which is for every nation, tongue and race.

In Your presence there is joy and the hope of Your glory!
 Thank You in forgiving us and giving us the grace
 With You to stand on this land.
 Jesus, we sing because You are our King.
 Your praises we will ever sing;
 Our gratitude and worship
 We will always proclaim in everything.
 Jesus, You are our Beginning and End.
 Thank You for being our Divine Friend.

Written and submitted by Delores Shudarek

Stevens Point Upcoming Events in the year of our Lord 2017

- Sabbath, December 2nd - 9:20 a.m. - Sabbath Services. Sabbath School is at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
- Sabbath, December 2nd - 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.- Gym night at the Goerke Park gym. RC Quad copter, drone and helicopter flying.
- Sabbath, December 2nd - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.- Gym night at the Goerke Park gym. Volley ball, basketball, and general running around. Goerke Park gym is the Parks Dept. offices and Recreation Center located on Sims Ave. off of Michigan Ave. The building is across the parking lot from PJ Jacobs Jr. High and is attached to the Boys and Girls Club. Please no food or drink in the gym, and we will have to bring our own volley ball net.
- Sunday, December 3rd - Citrus fruit orders are due. Pick up will be Monday, December 18. Available fruit is Navel Oranges, Red Grapefruit, 50 / 50 combo, and Mandarins.
- Sunday, December 3rd - 12:30 p.m. - Dinner at Fireside Apartments. Our church sponsors this dinner and we have a sign up sheet for any food that folks can bring. This is an activity all can be involved in and we thank you for any support.
- Tuesday, December 5th - 6:30 p.m. - Revelation speaks peace Bible study in the Sanctuary.
- Thursday, December 7th - 6:00 p.m. - ACF Student Club meets at Pray-Sims Residence Hall. For more info call Joshua Guerrero at 715-498-4763 or on Facebook at: ACFStevensPoint
- Sabbath, December 9th - 9:20 a.m. - Sabbath Services. Sabbath School is at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
- Tuesday, December 12th - 6:30 p.m. - Revelation speaks peace Bible study in the Sanctuary.
- Wednesday, December 13th - 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.- Quilting in the fellowship hall.
- Thursday, December 14th - 6:00 p.m. - Church Board meeting.
- Thursday, December 14th - 6:00 p.m. - ACF Student Club meets at Pray-Sims Residence Hall. For more info call Joshua Guerrero at 715-498-4763 or on Facebook at: ACFStevensPoint
- Sabbath, December 16th - 9:20 a.m. - Sabbath Services. Sabbath School is at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
- Monday, December 18th - Citrus Fruit pickup.
- Tuesday, December 19th - 6:30 p.m. - Revelation speaks peace Bible study in the Sanctuary.
- Thursday, December 21st - 6:00 p.m. - ACF Student Club meets at Pray-Sims Residence Hall. For more info call Joshua Guerrero at 715-498-4763 or on Facebook at: ACFStevensPoint
- Sabbath, December 23rd - 9:20 a.m. - Sabbath Services. Sabbath School is at 9:20 a.m., Lesson Study is at 10:00 a.m. Worship at 10:50 a.m.
- Tuesday, December 26th - 6:30 p.m. - Revelation speaks peace Bible study in the Sanctuary.

Hello from Wautoma,

Although building improvements to the Wautoma Church have slowed, activities here remain very busy. Our brothers and sisters in the Spanish group had just held a weeklong series on the cities of refuge and how each of those cities represents the character of Christ. Pastor Ilton was the speaker and as the series is now done, he is off to his home in Columbia as his six (6) months here in Wautoma has come to an end. We dearly miss his friendly greetings, even if his English was more broken than the half dozen words I can speak in Spanish.

At the end of that week, they held a baptism of three (3) of their members followed by the first wedding in our new church. There was also a very enjoyable reception for the new couple at Camp Wakonda after the wedding. And another highlight of the weekend was the ordination service for the Wautoma Spanish Group which is now officially the Wautoma Spanish Mission Group. On Sabbath morning, the Spanish Group, along with a number of friends joined the Wautoma English Group in a special dedication service led by Elder Mike Edge. It was a very hectic but enjoyable and blessed week.

Our English Group is beginning the Revelation Speaks Peace Series on Thursday November 30, 2017 and that will continue weekly on Thursday evenings starting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening Prayer meetings and prophecy studies have continued successfully. The Women's Group studies have also continued weekly the prospect of two (2) new members joining in early 2018 after the current study topic is done.

As we look forward to changes in our district, the welcome greetings we have received from the Reedsburg congregation have been warm and friendly. Pastor Spady had joined Pastor Perricellia at our last business meeting and it was reassuring to see his encouragement and interest in the future of worship in Wautoma.

We are experiencing what I will call the normal growth process of a church plant. We have been conversing with the new church plant coordinator, Elder Adam Case on the prospect of transitioning more treasury responsibilities to Wautoma from our Mother church, Almond as we take steps to be more financially independent from them. And I want to express our gratitude to the those members in the Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids and Almond District who have continued to lend support to Wautoma, both financially and with their hands as we endeavor to finish the work yet to be completed on our Church Building. God has continued to bless us in Wautoma and it will only succeed as God is at the center of all that we do. Please continue to pray for both the Wautoma English and Spanish Mission Groups.

Alan Anderson

Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays



- Dec 5 Lem Lowry
- Dec 7 Bill Boehm
- Dec 11 Steve Bergman
- Dec 13 Audrey Otto
- Dec 16 Kevin Ruehl
- Dec 18 Chyanne Chase
- Dec 28 Lauris Mills
- Dec 30 Randy Krohn

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



**Wisconsin Rapids
Calendar of Events**

- Dec 6 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 11 Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 13 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 20 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 27 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 30 District Sabbath @ Wis. Rapids

**DISTRICT-WIDE
FAMILY SKATING**



Join us

December 17th at Skate City in Wisconsin Rapids for a fun evening of skating and pizza! 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

\$5 per person plus \$1 for skates

(\$2 for in-line skates)

Contact Pam Thomas at 715-644-8399 for more information.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Don't tell me you lost our boarding pass. THAT STINKS!

(Asher-Continued from page 3)

“Let him dip his foot in oil” v.24

Oil was the basic commodity and symbol to Mediterranean cultures. It communicated both wealth and personal comfort. Asher’s dipping his foot in oil suggested an immersion rather than just an anointing – the climax of luxury.

“Thy shoes shall be iron and brass;”

“And as thy days, so shall thy strength be” v. 25

Asher would also endure. As the borders of the land lay along the lands of the Phoenicians, the Asherites would need strength to withstand raids and military skirmishes. But God promised them strength to cope with any vicissitude. Asher’s descendants are described as providing “choice and mighty men of valor...apt to the war and to battle” 1 Chron 7:40. The chronicles noticed that they were “experts in war,” or better, “keep rank”. By the time of David, 40,000 “seasoned troops ready for battle” had enlisted from the tribe into the national army. 1 Chron. 12:36.

The Asherite, the “happy and blessed,” also faced temptations from his neighbors. Numbered among the sea peoples, the Phoenicians had developed a highly literate and sophisticated civilization. With their sturdy ships they plied the Mediterranean, even venturing out beyond the Pillars of Hercules (the Straits of Gibraltar). Their many ports of trade supplied them with luxury items from Egypt and exotic foods from Italy. The Philistines to the south enjoyed similar prosperity.

It was inevitable that people of Asher’s disposition would settle down to cultivate their fruitful land in peace and to trade with the Phoenicians. Thus preoccupied, they failed to join with Deborah and Barak in the Battle against Sisera. Deborah regretted that in this crisis, “Asher sat still at the haven by the sea, and abode by his creeks.” Like his brother Gad beyond the Jordan River, and like Dan, who chose to abide with the ships, “Asher sat still at the coast of the sea, settling down by his landings.” Judges 5:17. We must say to their credit, however, that when Gideon sent messengers to Asher a few years later, the tribe responded, pursuing Midian until the Israelites had achieved victory. Judges 7:23, 24. Nonetheless, they became the “least tribe” because they did not overcome the surrounding peoples. Rather, they joined them. The largest number of Canaanite cities not conquered lay in the territory of Asher.

Many years later, the religious reforms of Hezekiah called for a renewal of the Passover celebration and a return to God. But the people laughed them to scorn. “Complacent and indifferent, these men of affairs saw no need for a pilgrimage to worship. The chronicler records sadly: “only a few men of Asher, of Manassah, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem” 2 Chron 30:11.

The church has always had its Asherites. Without their generosity the early church could hardly have survived. In almost every congregation today, we find a handful of monied members who willingly put the needs of the Lord’s house ahead of their own. In tithes and offerings, they are systematic and prompt. They manage their business in holy integrity. To be a hired hand on their farm, a teller in their bank, a mechanic in their garage, or a secretary in their company is to have wonderful job satisfaction. Surely such benefactors merit the full Asher blessing – both now and hereafter.

But, wealth can be a liability. Earthly materialism can jeopardize one’s soul. Unlike their less fortunate neighboring tribes, they would face the heavy burden and responsibility of affluence.

But for those persons who are endowed with many talents and blessings and fail to achieve their potentials, Asher blazes an encouraging, if faint, trail to glory. Some of this tribe will enter in through the “narrow gate”, but the effective snares of wealth and high living indicate that many more thousands of them will never pass through.

Members of this tribe will be sealed for the return of Jesus Rev 7:6.

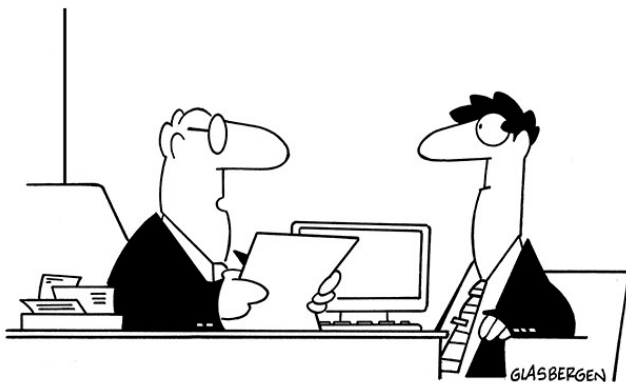
Asher’s counter part on the cities foundation is the pleasant if doubting Philip. His cheery countenance won Nathaniel’s questioning mind and encouraged the shy Greeks who longed to see Jesus. Christ can do through the yielded life what self-willed, self-righteousness prevents.

Submitted by Freddie Ramirez

Wautoma Church Plant Schedule of Events

12/2/2017 Sabbath School 9:30 a.m./Church 11:00 a.m.
 12/3/2017 Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 12/6/2017 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m.
 12/7/2017 Women's Group (Anderson's) 10:00 am
 12/7/2017 Revelation Speaks Peace 7:00 p.m.
 12/9/2017 Sabbath School 9:30 a.m./Church 11:00 a.m. Christmas Program
 12/10/2017 Church Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.
 12/10/2017 Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 12/11/2017 Elders Meeting Portage Church 6:00 p.m.
 12/13/2017 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m.
 12/14/2017 Women's Group (Anderson's) 10:00 am
 12/14/2017 Revelation Speaks Peace 7:00 p.m.
 12/16/2017 *Sabbath School 9:30 a.m./Church 11:00 a.m. Guest Speaker- Freddie Ramirez
 12/17/2017 Bible Study (Anderson's) 5:30 pm
 12/20/2017 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m.
 12/21/2017 Women's Group (Anderson's) 10:00 am
 12/21/2017 Revelation Speaks Peace 7:00 p.m.
 12/23/2017 *Sabbath School 9:30 a.m./Church 11:00 a.m.
 12/27/2017 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy 6:30 p.m.
 12/28/2017 Women's Group (Anderson's) 10:00 am
 12/28/2017 Revelation Speaks Peace 7:00 p.m.
 12/30/2017 Final District Rally of Stevens Point District/Spanish Group will still meet in Wautoma

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"It says on your résumé that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."

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“Prophecy has been fulfilling, line upon line. The more firmly we stand under the banner of the third angel’s message, the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel; for the Revelation is the supplement of Daniel. The more fully we accept the light presented by the Holy Spirit through the consecrated servants of God, the deeper and surer, even as the eternal throne, will appear the truths of ancient prophecy; we shall be assured that men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21). Men must themselves be under the influence of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Spirit’s utterances through the prophets. These messages were given, **not for those that uttered the prophecies, but for us who are living in these end times.**”

“Theories will be continually agitated to divert the mind, to unsettle the faith. Those who have had the actual experience in unfolding the prophecies, have been made what they are today, Seventh-day Adventist, by these prophecies. They are to stand with their loins girt about with truth, and with the armor of God. The light which God has been pleased to give His end time people will not weaken their confidence in the path in which He has led them in the past, but will strengthen them to hold fast the faith, especially in these end times of earth’s history.”

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus’ (Revelation 14:12). Here we are standing under the third angel’s message. ‘And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lighted with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great has fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every hateful and unclean bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are made rich through her many delicacies. And I heard another voice coming from heaven, and it said this, **‘Come out of her, my people, that you be not partaker of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.** For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered all her iniquities’ (Revelation 18:1-5).” (*Manuscript 32, 1896*)

The Three Angels and the Other Angel (part 3-conclusion)

“Thus the substance of the second angel’s message is again given to the world by that other angel who lightens the earth with his glory (Revelation 18:1-10). These messages all blend into one, to come before the people in the closing days of this earth’s history. All the world will be tested, and all that have been in the darkness of error in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will understand the last message of mercy that is to be given to men.” *Manuscript 32, 1896.*

“While you hold the banner of truth firmly, proclaiming the law of God, let every soul remember that the faith of Jesus is connected with the commandments of God. The third angel is represented as flying through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus’ (Revelation 14:12). The first, second and third angels’ messages are all linked together. The evidences of the abiding, ever living truth of these grand messages, that mean so much to us, that

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Are we being warned?

Sure, God is a loving and merciful God. However, can a loving God let everything just be, like it is in America? Human beings killed and murdered in the womb every day? Each of these is a human with a soul. Why do we call them a fetus instead? Why is there such a wage gap in America? The Apostles gave all they had and put it into the center of a pile and what they gathered was evenly distributed among them. It is not right that so many hard-working Americans work full time at or near minimum wage and can't make ends meet. Every job in America is important. Shouldn't we all get close to equal pay? Why can't more men and women get together and love each other in marriage and then have children who are taken care of with lots of love and care? What ever happened to Christ being the head of the household, then the husband and then the wife? It takes a man and a woman to make a baby. Men and women need to exist in love, peace and harmony. Why does it seem that so many of the good men in life are the ones that are single? Why are so many neighbors, not "neighbors" anymore? Wasn't sex supposed to be sacred? Is it sacred in America? Why do families fall apart from pride? Now God is a loving God, but how much tolerance can a God that loves us so much, have? Perhaps we are

being warned. Very powerful hurricanes, deadly tornadoes, record earthquakes. Democratic, Republican and other leaders not getting along. Why does North Korea have to celebrate a successful hydrogen bomb test? Does war ever solve the deepest problem? Is war the solution? Maybe we deserve to be warned and maybe even punished. There is a heaven and a hell and there is more evidence that Jesus died on the cross for us, than there is evidence in all of the sciences, yet many don't believe in Jesus. Why is this? He loves us more than we can ever imagine. It doesn't make sense. So maybe God is trying to wake us up. We are asleep and living in too much sin. God wants us to live in more love than we are. I think we all know what the world could and should be like. Is the U.S. a model of this picture? Oh, how we could have heaven on earth if we all wanted to. I hope the hearts in America's people become the hearts that God wants them to be. I have made many mistakes this past year. However, I hope that I will keep getting back up and asking for forgiveness. I need prayers. We all need prayers. The world need prayers. Who is going to pray for the God Blessed, United States of America?

Mel Schmidt

I Dreamed I Was In A Beautiful Place

I dreamed I was in a beautiful place, spending the day alone with just God. It was so incredibly beautiful, it lured me deeper into the forest. I was praising God, praying out loud-just basking in the beauty of it all--there were so many flowers and birds and butterflies. I thought of heaven and how this was such a great taste of it. I'd always wanted to experience the beauty of the Amazon jungle. As I was wandering along, a dangling rope caught my eye. I looked up and noticed it was in a track, so I grabbed ahold of it, thinking that it would be helpful to anchor me-to let me know where I'd been and how I could get back out should I get lost. As the landscape started to slope slightly, I noticed that I sailed easily along. It was such a thrill! It was so soft, serene, and slow--just a piece of heaven on earth! As I realized just how helpful the rope was, I joined both hands, and sailed on through the trees. I knew when I came back, it would be an uphill climb, but it was SO worth the ride! I started to go faster, and depend on the rope more. But it was SO beautiful! I knew it was a gift from God. I knew it was a blessing in the journey to help me out. All at once, I came out into a clearing and the sunshine was incredible! I picked up speed crossing the valley, but there were no thoughts of the grueling climb to return, only the thrill of the increased speed of the ride. At that point I was no longer focused on chatting with God, but I sure was enjoying the pleasure of the ride! all at once I sped up over a knoll and the scene before me was terrifying! The land dropped off into oblivion, and I was only a couple of seconds away from flying over the abyss. I cried, "Oh, God," and he asked me to let go of the rope. I had no time, my mind screamed. I knew to let go of the rope would mean certain death as I fell to the bottom of the precipice--but I didn't like the darkness, the deepness, and the track was heading straight down into the inky darkness. I was going to crash either way! I awoke afraid. I asked God to share with me the meaning of the dream. He said the rope represented_____. It seemed to help at first, but eventually not only pulled me away from God, but in the end took me to a swift and horrible death. I asked God how I could have possibly been saved by letting go, and he told me that his hands were always at the ready to catch me lest I should fall, but I must be willing to let go of the rope-that was my connection to Satan. He reminded me of James 1:12-18 Blessed is the (wo)man who endures temptation; for when (s)he has been approved, (s)he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when (s)he is tempted, "I am tempted by God", for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when (s)he is drawn away by (her)his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures." and then James 4:4 "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes (herself)himself an enemy of God."

Written and submitted by Emily Thurman

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have awakened such intense opposition from the religious world, cannot be extinguished. Satan is constantly seeking to cast his hellish shadow about these messages, so that the remnant people of God shall not clearly discern their import, their time, and place; but they live, and are to exert their power upon our religious experience while time shall last.”

“The influence of these messages has been deepening and widening, setting in motion the springs of action in thousands of hearts, bringing into existence institutions of learning, publishing houses, and health institutions; all are the instrumentalities of God to cooperate in the grand work represented by the first, second, and third angels flying in the midst of heaven to warn the inhabitants of the world that Christ is coming again with power and great glory.”

“The prophet says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lighted with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils’ (Revelation 18:1, 2). This is the same message that was given by the second angel. ‘Babylon is fallen, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (Revelation 14:8). What is that wine?—Her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false Sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told Eve in Eden—the natural immortality of the soul. Many kindred errors she has spread far and wide, ‘teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Matthew 15:9).”

Selected Messages, book 2, p. 101-118.

Submitted by Timothy Schmidt

Changes

A new challenge in our life—our church district being separated, and reformatted to include other churches. At first, I won't lie—I was NOT excited. Our pastor had worked so hard to bring us together, and we enjoyed the churches in our district. We hadn't even printed the new directory, including each one. I knew God would have me not be negative, so I was praying about it one day, and he showed me how it's actually an opportunity to grow. It's a chance to make new connections, as well as retain the old ones; a step toward growing into the melded family that God intends for us to be—not having lines of which particular building we call home, but rather a body of people, all worshiping and praising the same God. It's a chance to work together more with other members, to grow stronger together.

Emily Thurman

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**“If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?”**

GRACE NOTES

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Contribution deadline is the 23rd
of the month

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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
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Letters to the editor...

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

Send emails to
"gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com"

Thanks,
Grace Notes Editor

FREE IN PRISON

Bound by sin, my life's a mess

Taken by trials, I failed the test.

A slave to drugs that kept me in chains,

Smoking and shooting was burning my brains.

The last hit of dope should have been the final blow,

But because of God's love and mercies, said "NO"!

I ended up in prison, it should have been the end,

Then God sent me Jesus, my heart He will mend.

I found true love from my Creator and Lord;

So I walk with my helmet, breastplate and sword.

This might sound strange, but take it from me,

I had to come to prison so I could be free!

HELP WANTED

If you're seeking work that's a pleasure to do,

Just grab yourself a Bible and spread the good news.

You won't have to worry about what you ought to say,

The Lord Jesus said it all, back in the day.

There are great job benefits and a good life to live,

Just go and tell what the Lord said and did.

By taking the first step on the path of light,

Your title is "laborer" for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, there will be some whose hearts won't be won,

Christians don't worry, your job is done.

Just thank the good Lord for His mercy and grace,

When you see the change on a sinner's face.

These jobs are opening from coast to coast,

The Holy Spirit is hiring, for the Lord of Host.

Kenneth Wells Jr.