

GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2018

"What Can We Do?"

"In this Information Age that we live in, we are inundated with news of horrifying and heart-breaking tragedies every day. Crises take place all over the world, and now we have the capability of hearing the news in split-second time. Every time, we become emotionally invested but we do not have the time and resources to help in every situation. Many get overwhelmed with this overload of tragedy to the point that they shut down and never respond, hoping that someone else out there will help instead.

"I challenge you that you can do something. Do not be non-responsive. Break the cycle.

"That said, be realistic and responsible. Do not let the information overload drown you. Find one or two ways you can help, and stick to it. It may be as simple as donating to a charity that helps those devastated by natural disasters. It may be writing to your U.S. representative to encourage policy changes that will strengthen our country's resolve for liberty and justice for all. It may be starting to recycle. Whatever you decide, look at your talents and resources, keep it realistic, and do something.

"Also, value what you can do here at home. It is easy to get distracted by major events far away, but you can make a real difference right here in your own home and neighborhood. Your personal influence makes a difference in the hearts of hurting people. Youth, in how you act around your siblings and classmates; parents, in how you raise your children; what you say to your co-workers, the friendly wave to your neighbor, the visit and encouragement you give to someone in distress, the help you give to someone when no one notices - all these may seem small in the big scheme of things, but if we are all faithful in the little things, together we will make a big difference for good.

"Value the strength in numbers. We will accomplish much more in brightening our world together as a church than we ever could alone. This takes teamwork, patience, and even at times a willingness to sacrifice your opinion. Pray like never before for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to unite us in love, truth, and purpose. We SDA's know from prophecy that persecution will come to God's faithful before the end of this world - but that is a direct response to our united and faithful effort. Working together is not easy, but the body of Jesus Christ united in bringing hope to the suffering and downtrodden will ignite a flame so bright and strong that all the evil forces of this world can never quench."

Pastor Justin

Elder's Corner

Greetings from the Portage church to the rest of the district which we are happy to be a part of. Not only that - many thanks to Rick Felts - "we" also have a newsletter that has included us and that is truly exciting!

Lately I've been studying the book of Revelation and have come across some things that I've never seen before even as often as I've been through the book. I suppose for many of you it is "old hat." But for me, it's brand new and it's right there in the introduction! Verse 10 of chapter 1 says "I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as a trumpet..." Usually we just stop with the Lord's Day comment because it is often misunderstood, but what I saw for the first time was the "voice of a trumpet". The trumpet was the instrument of choice as a call to worship and to get the people's attention, and for John did it ever! With this voice came the instruction to write to the seven churches and John turned around to see who had a voice like that! He turned around and saw Jesus glorified, standing among the lampstands from the sanctuary dressed in priestly garments! He was overwhelmed and fell like a dead man before his

(Continued on page 2)

(Elder's Corner—Continued from page 1)

friend, his maker, his high priest, and his Savior! When Jesus spoke this time his voice was that of many waters (verse 15). Jesus then laid his hand on John and said, "Don't be afraid, I am with you, I am the first and the last, and I will always be with you (verse 17).

There are at least a couple of lessons to take away from this experience of John's. First of all was the change in what John heard behind him and what he saw when he turned around. Then he saw and heard the ever gentle Jesus putting His hand on John to comfort him saying I'll never leave you, I am the first and the last. Second, there is the sound of the trumpet that John heard behind him. Before he could see his Master, Jesus had to get his attention! If you hear the sound of the trumpet behind you please respond. Jesus wants to lay is hand on you and tell you not to be afraid that He will always be with you.

One more thing about that trumpet call: who is going to sound it today! Jesus has given that responsibility to you and to me and His church! Here at Portage we take seriously the commission that Jesus left with His fledgling church: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

What is happening in Portage to sound the trumpet? Well, I'm glad you asked! We are holding a cooking school the last of April, first of May; the Pardeeville Garden Club has asked us to give a presentation; we will have another VBS this summer; and then the fair booth. This year we are going to expand the booth to focus more on the health aspect of what we eat and children's ministries. This fall we may or may not have a series of meetings on the book of Revelation. If you hear the trumpet sound behind you, please respond. If you have responded, please be ready to further the sound of that trumpet!

Steve Collins, Head Elder—Portage SDA Church

What I learned in the military

In 1970 Uncle Sam called me to go fight a war in Vietnam. I didn't call him. However I did my duty and in the process learned many lessons. Some are important lessons that could even help the church and yes, some are not.

1. Military: We had a book called the SOP (standard operating procedure). If you wanted to know how to do something you looked it up in the SOP. It was written by men of experience, men that had been tested by war and knew what worked and what didn't. Only a dummy would ignore the SOP.

Church: We have the SOP- Spirit of Prophecy that is the testimony of Jesus. Jesus is that man of experience and His Spirit has revealed our standard operating procedure for the last days in the Bible and the writings of E. G. White and only a fool would ignore it. Don't leave home without it in your heart.

2. Military: Wear all your armor. In Vietnam, because of the heat, we would sometimes go out on patrol in the jungle without our flak jacket and even our helmets. They were hot and heavy. It was easier to walk around without them. But the object of war is to find and engage the enemy. And when we did this it would be much safer to have these on rather than back at the

(Continued on page 7)

JOSEPH

Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob but the 1st son of Rachel. When Rachel conceived, and bare a son; she said, God hath taken away my reproach: And she called his name Joseph.

Gen 30:23:24

Nothing more is said about Joseph until Gen 37:2- 4 *And this is the story of Jacob's family. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, took care of the sheep and goats with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's concubines. He brought bad reports to his father about what his brothers were doing.*

Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons; He made a special long robe with full sleeves for him that had many colors. His brothers knew that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them and they hated him.

Then in Verse 13 and 14 we read how Jacob sent Joseph to go see how his brothers and the flock of sheep were doing in Shechem.. Joseph eventually found them at Dothan.

Gen 37:18 *They (his brothers) saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted against him and decided to kill him.*

Well, it turned out that they did not kill Joseph, but sold him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. Then they wondered what to tell their father. They still had Joseph's coat. They dipped it in blood, as if Joseph had been had been killed by a wild animal.

Everyone agreed that the deception was perfect. Naturally Jacob would believe that a lion had done the job. They wouldn't even have to lie about it openly- though that would have been no great matter. Best of all, they were through with Joseph, for good. But in years to come, they would remember this day with an agonizing mixture of guilt, wonder, and fear.

It turns out that Joseph is one of the few characters of whom he Bible records no faults. One cannot really expect to find men of that superior quality more than once or twice in a lifetime. Joseph's excellence called for the very best blessings of both Jacob and Moses. The father's blessings for some of his son's, particularly those of the concubines, were brief and sometimes vague. But when he came to Joseph, the old patriarch's heart overflowed, and his prophecy poured forth in expressive words and rich figures of speech:

Joseph is a fruitful bough, a beautiful bough by a spring;

His branches run over the wall.

The archers fiercely attack him, shot at him, and harassed him sorely;

Yet his bow remained unmoved, his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob. Gen. 49:23,24,RSV.

Joseph's triple blessing of heart, soul, and body surpassed all others and endures forever:

God Almighty...will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that couches beneath,

(Continued on page 11)

MONTHLY HEALTH NUGGET

Health Tip: Could this skin lesion be cancerous?

Identification of common types of skin cancer

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, occurring in over two million people each year. Three of the most common types of skin cancer are squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, and melanoma. Each has characteristic features that can help alert you to the possibility that you may have developed a skin cancer.

Squamous cell skin cancers (SCC) arise from squamous cells which comprise most of skin's outer layer (epidermis). Since these are often related to UV exposure from the sun, they most commonly develop on the face, ears, arms or hands. In their earliest form, they often appear as rough, scaly, red patches. Unlike a skin rash that may fade with time, however, these rough patches persist and continue to progress slowly. Over time, they may become crusted, bleed, or develop an indentation in the center of the lesion. On occasion a SCC may have a wart-like appearance.

Approximately 40% to 60% of squamous cell skin cancers begin as a pre-malignant lesion known as an actinic keratosis (AK). Also known as solar keratosis, these develop on sun-exposed areas of the body such as the face, arms, backs of hands, and lips. An AK is usually rough in texture, resembling a wart, and may be felt before actual changes of the skin are noted. Their color can range from flesh-toned to brown or red. Most are small, less than a half inch across. Approximately 10% of AKs progress to become squamous cell skin cancer.



Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) develops in the basal cell layer of the skin, the deepest layer of the epidermis. It is the most common type of skin cancer occurring in the U.S. BCCs are usually seen in areas of the body that have been exposed to the sun, such as the face or arms. Warning signs that should alert someone to the possibility of a BCC include:

- A persistent open sore that bleeds or oozes. On occasion, these may appear to heal only to re-open and bleed again.
- A pearly bump or nodule that may be pink, red, or white. Small blood vessels may be apparent on the surface.
- A lesion with a crater-like appearance with elevated border and indentation in the center.



An area of skin that is shiny and tight like a scar that develops without injury.

Melanoma is a cancer of the pigment producing cells (melanocytes) of the skin. The great majority of melanomas can be attributed to exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Melanoma begins on the surface of the skin but over time can extend deeper and in some cases, even spread throughout the body. Signs indicating that a skin lesion could be a melanoma include new pigmented area on the skin, or a change in size, shape or color of an existing mole. The ABCDE rule is another way to recognize melanomas:

- **Asymmetry:** A mole that has an irregular shape, or the shape of one half does not match the other half.



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

- **Border:** The edges are often irregular, blurred, rough, or notched in outline.
- **Color:** Most moles are evenly colored, e.g. brown, black, or tan. Changes in the shade or distribution of color throughout the mole can signal melanoma.
- **Diameter:** Moles larger than ¼ inch (6 mm, the size of a pencil eraser) across are suspicious.

Evolving: The mole has changed over the past few weeks or months

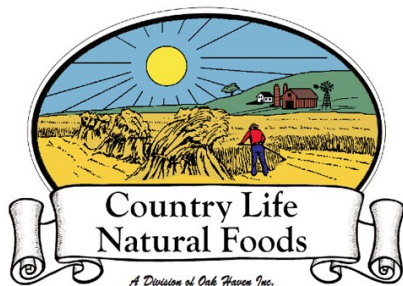
Regular examination of the skin, by a physician or by self-examination, is the key to identifying skin cancers in their earliest stages. Any suspicious lesion should be brought to the attention of your primary care doctor or a dermatologist. Next week we'll look at how these common forms of skin cancer are treated and learn the best ways of preventing skin cancer.

If you have any questions about skin cancer, please log into your account and send us your question. We are here to help.

[Kent Davidson MD](#) - Health Tip Content Editor, eDoc America.com

Submitted by Freddie Ramirez, Wisconsin Rapids SDA Church

COUNTRY LIFE NATURAL FOODS



The next order is due Mar 21

Contact Dean or Pam Thomas at the Wisconsin Rapids Church if you would like to place an order.

715-644-8183

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

Almond's March Events

- Mar 2 Prayer Meeting 7:00
- Mar 3 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Mar 4 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Mar 7 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Mar 9 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Mar 10 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Mar 11 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Mar 14 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Mar 16 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Mar 17 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Mar 18 Prayer Breakfast 9 AM
- Mar 18 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Mar 21 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Mar 23 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Mar 24 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Mar 25 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Mar 28 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Mar 30 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Mar 31 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck

Portage March Events

Church board meeting:

Mar 11 at 9:00 am

Pathfinders meeting 4:30 pm.

Every other Thursday:

Mar 8

Mar 22

Preaching schedule:

Mar 3 Jeff Muhlenbeck

Mar 10 Doreen Muhlenbeck

Mar 17 Jerry Minett

Mar 24 Pastor Spady

Mar 31 Richard Kastner

Children's story:

Mar 3 Amber Santiago

Mar 10 Laurie Baartz

Mar 17 Jodie Maloney

Mar 24 Beau Baartz

Mar 31 Doreen Muhlenbeck

Bible study:

Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at fellowship hall. Topical study from Mark Finley's "Studying Together"

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

(Military-Continued from page 2)

base in our lockers.

Church: We must engage the enemy by rescuing his prisoners. Eph 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Don't leave home without it.

3. Military: We were at war. We were not at the banquet table having a big victory steak back in San Francisco.

Church: We are at war. We are not at the banquet table in heaven yet. Don't become drunk with the cares or pleasures of this life. We are soldiers. Do your duty and you can save yourself and maybe someone else too. Mt 7:21; Lk 17:10; Eph 2:8-10; Lk 13:24; Phil 2:12, Jas 5:20.

4. Military: War is not like the movies. It is not glorious. It is death and dying. But it is also many hours of boring. During these periods of boredom you clean your weapon. You fill sand bags to shore up the defenses because you know that the enemy will come back. The question is not if but when.

Church: In the Christian life there are periods of peace and periods of stress. Use those periods of peace to sharpen your sword. Don't just read the Bible like you read other books, study it. Study it like your life depends upon it. "The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are seeking and longing for channels through which to communicate to the world the divine principles of truth." {8T 194.1}

5. Military: The enemy shoots at us because he is the enemy, that's what his job is. You never ask, "Why doesn't he like me?"

Church: - When we have a flat tire on the way to an important meeting we tend to ask, "God, why did you do this to me?" Our heavenly Father is not our enemy, satan is. He shoots at us flaming arrows, that's what his character is.

6. Military: Don't shoot your fellow soldiers. You need each other. Take care of each other especially when one is wounded. However, you don't ignore a Benedict Arnold, you can't just smile and hug him and pretend that all is ok. There must be discipline and severe consequences to one that is giving aid to the enemy. To neglect to do so would imperil the lives of many other soldiers.

Church: We need each other. Don't look out for just your own interests but for the welfare of others, especially the wounded. Pray, don't gossip, about others. Don't judge their motives, thoughts or secret intentions of the heart. However

open sin in the church must be dwelt with. Read Rev 3:19; 1 Cor 5 and 6; AA 503,504; 3T 252-294 in the SOP. If open sin is either ignored or we "are proud that we have open minds about such things" then God's displeasure is upon the church. The eternal lives of many others is at stake.

7. Military: For the watchman on the walls do you really want a soft spoken man? No, his job is to awaken us to the danger coming even in the middle of the night. It is not "fun" to be awakened at this hour but the potential consequences of not being shaken are far worse. Don't shoot the watchman. He is not the enemy.

Church: We continually hear, "The church must be a safe place for all." Is the church to "feel" like a safe place to those wallowing in sin? No, we need some Elijah's and John the Baptist's as well as some like John the beloved in the church. Jesus message is, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In writing about Christ being the true Vine and we being the branches the SOP speaks of our Father's love in these ways, "The pruning will cause pain, but it is the Father who applies the knife. He works with no wanton hand or indifferent heart. There are branches trailing upon the ground; these must be cut loose from the earthly supports to which their tendrils are fastening. They are to reach heavenward, and find their support in God." DA 677

8. Military: Train your men and then trust your men. The orders come down the chain of command of what to do and then the grunt soldiers go and do it. You have trained them for this, then don't micromanage or you will never grow new leaders. The Japanese soldiers of World War II were great at following orders but if their leader was killed then there was no one to give orders and they didn't know what to do. They were unlike the American army where the next in line would step in and take command. This is one of the reasons that Japan lost the war.

Church: Pastors, train the church from the SOP and then trust your church. The orders come straight from the Holy Spirit to each soldier and He (God's Spirit) will never guide them to go against the SOP. Don't get between them (laymen) and their Supreme Commander. 5T 462.

9. Military: The parable of the foolish Lieutenant

Date: 1969

Place: Somewhere over the Pacific ocean on a flight to Vietnam.

Three men are sitting together in one row on a flight to desti-

(Continued on page 9)

Are You In Need of ?

Epson Workforce 2650 All-in-one printer

If you need it, it's yours!
Call me @ 715-572-0650

HP Office Jet 6500A All-in-one printer

If you need it, it's yours!
Call me @ 715-572-0650

Dell Flat Screen Computer Monitor

If you need it, it's yours!
Call me @ 715-572-0650

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 someone who may have a use for them. May God Bless you for your generosity. If you have items to donate to someone, please let us know.

715-572-0650 or gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com

Hello from Wautoma.

Like most of Wisconsin this winter, we have had an ice pond where we used to park cars. We are looking forward with hopes of spring coming soon and green grass replacing the children's skating rink.

Our Revelation Speaks Peace and Prophecy meetings are meeting regularly along with the other bible study groups. We continue to alternate with the Spanish group, using either the upstairs sanctuary or the downstairs on a monthly basis and then we gather together every Sabbath for fellowship

at our potluck lunches.

Every second Sabbath has been our Testimony Service for the past two months and they have been a blessing. One thing that set the fourth Sabbath of the month apart from the other Sabbaths was that just as our services began, the Wautoma Fire Department engaged in a controlled burn of a house and garage almost directly across the road from the church. Both buildings continued to burn as we pulled away from the church after our pot luck. There were numerous cars and viewers there watching the flames engulf and bring down the

buildings. The property belongs to the Wautoma School district and a new Fox Valley Technical School building will be going up in the same location. To me, this was a little reminder of the coming end of times activities. We know that sin will not continue to reign in this world forever and that Malachi tells us that destruction of the wicked of this world will leave them as ashes under our feet. We must be faithful in our worship more now than ever, sharing the good news of God's Salvation whenever and wherever we can.

(Continued on page 13)

Happy Birthday!



March Birthdays

- 1 Ethan Pixler (P)
- 2 Jeff Rudie (F)
- 3 Megan Damit (P)
- 5 Tina Leake (R)
- 5 Caleb St Bernard (SP)
- 5 Elizabeth Dettmann (A)
- 6 Koreen Boettcher (SP)
- 8 Jackie Wypych (SP)
- 8 Harlow Peterson (A)
- 11 Anne Silverfeathers (SP)
- 16 Luke Anderson (A)
- 17 Hailey Hilgart (SP)
- 17 Lois Waters (SP)
- 18 Shirley Mason (SP)
- 18 Julile Williams (F)
- 19 Natalie St Bernard (SP)
- 19 Brian Watters (F)
- 20 Narcissa Schmidt (P)
- 20 Stephanie Cuateco (SP)
- 21 Julie Wypych (SP)
- 23 Ken Wilson (A)
- 24 Keni Gillingham (R)
- 25 Juanita Spychalla (P)
- 26 Maezo McKnight (P)
- 29 Marc Anderson (W)
- 29 John Tess (A)
- 29 Elaine Kemp (A)
- 31 Jared Dana (P)

A=Almond, F=Friend, P=Portage, SP=Stevens Point, W=Wautoma

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

(Military-Continued from page 7)

ny. One is a 2nd Lieutenant, just out of officer training school ready to make a name for himself just as John Wayne does in the movies. Only this would be for real. No fake punches, no fake blood. But he was ready. He had done very well on every paper test that the school had thrown his way. He would be in charge.

Flying with him was a Sergeant Major, 30 years of army life behind him. He had been in many a battle and had served under many Lieutenants. Some were good and brave and some were not.

The third person, sitting in the middle, was an old pastor. His was a mission of mercy to the poor in the city of Saigon. This was not his first flight over there sitting next to soldiers. In fact he had been a soldier himself many years ago and so he had a good idea what they were getting themselves into. They had orders and he had his. He smiled as he thought that now his orders came from above, way above.

"Where are you boys going to be stationed?" The pastor had to ask something to get the conversation going.

The Lieutenant jumped in, "We're with the 101st Airborne and will be up north close to the city of Hue. But believe me we will not just be sitting around in town sipping tea. We are going to be out in the bush kicking some butts and taking names. And I am in charge. Can't wait to hit the ground running. This is my Sergeant Major that will be with me all the way. Did I mention that I will be in charge? I just graduated and now I am a professional."

The sergeant was quiet, seemingly caught up in his thoughts of long ago, so the pastor jumped in again. "Lieutenant, you will be in charge, but remember to take a lot of advice from this man here. I'm sure that he has been thru a lot of mud and blood and tears. Only a fool would not listen to an old man that has gone thru the rough school of life. If you ignore his guidance it could cost you dearly.

"Yea, yea. But I am in charge. See this bar on my shoulder?"

One year later this same Lieutenant, now promoted to a Captain is sitting quietly alone on a flight back to the United States, the real world.

He says to himself, "I got promoted, I wear all these ribbons on my chest from battles that I have won. I led men up the charge to take the famous Hill 937 and I have gotten acclaim from many very influential people. It is true that almost all of my company were killed or wounded that day, but boy did we show those commies. Too bad we left that area within a few weeks and just gave back the hill. But that's orders. I had some really good boys under me and what about that Sergeant Major, he was made of steel. It took six bullets to kill him. I would not be going home if he had not shielded me that day. He had said he didn't think my plan would work very well and tried to advise me of another way but I said; "No, we are doing this my way." And so, we did. Maybe I should have listened to him more. Maybe then I would not be going home alone. But then I was in charge!

He looked up and then it struck him. He was sitting in the very same seat as he had on the flight over to Nam. And what was it that that old pastor had said, "Only a fool would not listen to an old man that has gone thru the rough school of life." Maybe he was right. Maybe he was right.

Church: The lesson is clear, Elders and Pastors need to respect each other. Don't think that God can only work thru a "Professional" that has a degree.

10. Military: We are to obey orders and not to worry about the consequences of our actions.

Church: "Choose the right because it is right, and leave consequences with God." GC 460 Just like the text that says, "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you," these principles work all the time, everywhere.

11. Military: Don't ever let your weapon get very far from you. You may need it at any moment and you won't have time to go looking for it.

Church: Keep the Bible close to you at all times. Deut 6:6,7 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and

(Continued on page 12)

Oxford SDA Church

Sabbath Worship Times

Bible Study @ 11:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION322 E Chauncey St
Oxford, WI 53952-9064

608-586-5770

Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church2100 E State Road 33
Portage, WI 53901-1468
608-742-4695Pastor: Justin Dane Spady
Phone: 260-413-3066
Email:**Service Times:**Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.**Reedsburg SDA Church**115 S. Oak St.
Reedsburg WI 53959Pastor Justin Spady
Reedsburg SDA ChurchJoin Us This Saturday
Service times:
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

See Page 13 for more information...

The Shepherd's House

Previously: Wausau SDA Church

Address: 6300 Bittersweet Rd

Wausau WI 54401-9465

Mail: 6300 Bittersweet Rd

Wausau WI 54401-9465

Phone: 715-241-7722

Fax: 715-241-7723

Pastor: Tom (Thomas) J Michalski

Sabbath School begins at 10:00 a.m.

Church Service begins at 11:20 a.m.

Antigo SDA Church

1515 3rd Ave.

Antigo WI 54409-1481

Bible Study @ 10:15 a.m.

Worship @ 9:00 a.m.

Contact

715-623-4168

Pastor Tom Michalski

tommichalski@gmail.com**Wisconsin Rapids SDA**

611 24th St. N

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Service Times:Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.Wednesday evening Bible
Study @ 6 p.m.

"Revelation Speaks Peace"

Pastor: Joseph Perricellia

Cell Phone: (641) 680-2944

Email: sdapastorjoseph@gmail.com**Stevens Point Church**

Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

1510 Sherman Ave

Stevens Point WI 54481

715-344-4337

Pastor Tom Michalski

715-623-4168

tommichalski@gmail.com**Almond SDA Church**

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11:00

Potluck follows each week!

1340 Elm St.

Almond WI 54909

715-570-2179

www.almondsda.org

Pastor Justin Spady

260-413-3066

(Joseph-Continued from page 3)

The blessings of your father are mighty, beyond...the bounties of the everlasting hills. (v. 25,26)RSV.

The Bible generally does not concern itself much with the outward appearance of persons. Therefore Joseph's description as "handsome" and "good-looking" Gen 39:6 not only accounts for the wandering desires of Potiphar's wife but also indicates that he must have been an exceptional man, **without** as well as **within**.

In our present sin-tainted context, overwhelming goodness inevitably has its drawbacks. The favorite child of a favorite wife, Joseph knew no lack of fatherly love and generosity. Unlike the ordinary spoiled child however, **he had enormous resources of faith and fortitude** that enabled him to survive 17 years (maybe more) of sibling rivalry and 13 years of slavery and unjust imprisonment.

First, the remarkable **integrity** Joseph exhibited attracted a variety of people.

His father entrusted the boy with adult tasks. Potiphar turned over all his household affairs to his teenage slave. The jailor put him in charge of the prison to which the Egyptian authorities had sentenced him. And finally, the Pharaoh gave him the administration of all Egypt, withholding only the crown itself.

Second, Joseph's **trustworthiness** was coupled with his unusual leadership abilities. Some have criticized his financial policies with the Egyptians (Gen 47:20-26). Still efficiency and honest management have always been too rare. Our inability to get things done now and to get them done right has always been a universal vexation from the beginning of time. With Joseph in charge, no one needed to worry. Along with all of their other talents, the Joseph's among us inspire a remarkable sense of security.

Third, Joseph was a **wise man with keen insights**. Thanks to the disguise of language, costume and cosmetics, he spoke with his brothers face to face for months before he revealed his identity. During that time he ran several revealing tests by which he could satisfy himself as to the present state of relationships within his father's house. Through the ruse of his silver cup secreted in Benjamin's sack of grain, he compounded the mounting anxiety his brothers felt over the rough-speaking "lord of the land." *What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed divine? Gen 44:15.*

Integrity, leadership and wisdom are excellent, but sometimes can be severe traits. Joseph, however tempered exemplary righteousness with tender feeling. Repeatedly the plight of his family moved him to tears: at the first sight of his brothers, at his meeting with Benjamin, at Jacob's arrival in Egypt, and at the death of his father. **No record exists of his ever weeping over his own misfortunes.**

Outwardly an Egyptian but inwardly still an Israelite, Joseph never let fame and affluence lessen his allegiance to the God of his fathers. His 80 years in the pharaoh's court ended in a state funeral and a temporary burial in an Egyptian tomb. But when the Israelite slaves made their 40 year journey back to Canaan, they carried his mummified body with them. His final resting place was Shechem, the home of his childhood..

Reflecting Jacob's earlier blessing, Moses also celebrated the spiritual and material wealth of the tribe of Joseph in a beautiful blend of prophecy and prayer.

(Continued on page 13)

(Military-Continued from page 9)

when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

12. Military: The best time of the day is mail call. You long for letters from home. Your beloved has written each day and it says almost the same thing, "I love you. I can hardly wait for the day that you are with me and I hold you in my arms." She writes this over and over and **it is never boring**. It is fresh every time you pick up those letters. That is **unless you choose** another lover.

Church: Jesus says, "I love you. I can hardly wait for the day that you are with me and I hold you in my arms." But here is where the military analogy breaks down. We do not have to wait for this experience until some future day. "Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are, sinful, helpless, dependent. We may come with all our weakness, our folly, our sinfulness, and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind up our wounds, to cleanse us from all impurity." AG 82.2; SC 52.

website: [Vets for Eternal Peace](#)

Bill Boehm, Almond SDA Church

Wautoma Schedule of Events

- 3/1/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 3/3/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 3/4/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 3/5/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's
- 3/7/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 3/8/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 3/10/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 3/11/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 3/12/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's
- 3/14/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 3/15/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 3/17/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 3/18/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 3/19/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's
- 3/21/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 3/22/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 3/24/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 3/25/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 3/26/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's
- 3/28/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 3/29/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 3/31/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

(Joseph-Continued from page 11)

Deut 33:13-17 About the tribe of Joseph he said: "May the LORD bless their land with rain And with water from under the earth.

May their land be blessed with sun-ripened fruit, Rich with the best fruits of each season.

May their ancient hills be covered with choice fruit.

May their land be filled with all that is good, Blessed by the goodness of the LORD, Who spoke from the burning bush. May these blessings come to the tribe of Joseph, Because he was the leader among his brothers.

Let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

But Joseph had known deep sorrows, the anguish of separation, and loneliness.

In a sense Joseph had always been "separated from his brethren, "cast in a nobler mold. But Joseph had known deep sorrows, the anguish of separation, and loneliness In his youth his temper and tastes were superior to theirs. Where they were coarse, vulgar, and cruel, he was refined, gentle and thoughtful. Thus the violent, murderous separation when they sold Joseph into Egypt came almost naturally. In later life, his affectionate, generous treatment of them set him apart from the ordinary breed of men.

Little wonder that the name Joseph has enjoyed such a wide popularity among Jews and Christians alike. One could hardly bear a name with more distinguished ancestry.

The Joseph's become what they are **in** adversity. Like their character-original, they received shaping and polishing in the fires of trial and suffering. Their integrity and excellence are not simple accidents of heredity or haphazard gifts of environment. **Joseph's life demonstrates the benefits of trouble.** By such means he became one of the most perfect archetypes of the character of Christ. Likewise the contemporary Josephs among us have an unbounded influence for good. They infuse spiritual vitality into the Christian church. Through their ministry we maintain the faith and hope necessary to carry us home to the Promised Land.

Joseph's name is on one of the gates of the Holy City. He is paired up with Andrew, the brother of Peter.

Submitted by Freddie Ramirez, Wisconsin Rapids SDA Church

(Wautoma-Continued from page 8)

On February 18, 2018 members from the Wautoma Company, Almond and Stevens Point went to a sledding party at Doug and Rosemary Bruder's. Doug had a wonderful bonfire to keep warm by. As you can see by the sledding pictures, what goes down must come back up. Along with great childhood stories from Doug's

brothers (ask them about skipping school to go trout fishing), we were treated with some tasty treats, the chili was great, and Oh yes, the sledding was great fun too. Thank you for the wonderful fellowship.

Alan Anderson, Wautoma Company

Pictures are on page 15



My Individual Prayer Requests and Praises:

I am praying this week for this person:

I am praying this week for this child:

I am praying this week for this family:

I am praying for reconciliation with this person:

I am praying for:

I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation. Psalm 118:21 NASB

The Privilege of Prayer

When Jesus was upon the earth, He taught His disciples how to pray. He directed them to present their daily needs before God, and to cast all their care upon Him. And the assurance He gave them that their petitions should be heard, is assurance also to us.

Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. Our Savior identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a suppliant, a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial. He is our example in all things.

His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Savior of men, the Son of God, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer.

-Steps to Christ

Intercessory prayer and intentional prayer for others joins us with God as he works on their lives. We don't have to convince Him or change His mind; intercessory prayer gives Him permission to move, to convict, to encourage, to protect. People still ultimately choose how they will respond to Him, but our prayers allow Him to do all He can for those we love. This week, pick a person, a child and a family to pray for. Try praying for someone you have a conflict with and ask for reconciliation.

Before they call I will answer; and while they are still speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24 NIV



Sledding fun for young and old!



We praise you Lord!

...for waking me each day for morning devotions;

...for helping me resist temptations this week;

...for life each day;

...for being a witness this week;

...for arms and legs to do the work you have commissioned us to do;

...for homes and families;

...for your blessing of the Holy Spirit;

...for religious freedom in our country;

...for those who selflessly spend extra hours at church doing the cleaning;

...for Christian radio stations like WRAO 91.7 and WPSA 93.5

Dear Heavenly Father, We give you praise and honor and glory for everything that you do for us, everything that you provide for us. You hear our prayers even before we ask and you always love us and forgive us, no matter what! Thank you Father...

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
Redgranite Correctional Institute PO
Box #925
Redgranite WI 54970-0925

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

Grace Notes needs your help!

We have all been blessed in many different ways and I would like to ask that you share some of your talents with us. I've seen first hand the results of this newsletter and it's effect on the people that became friends and family rather than strangers.

Since we have this new arrangement of districts, it's even more important for us to stay connected, to get to know one another. How can we do this? It's simple. Even if you think you don't have good writing skills, write up something and send it to us anyway. I promise that no one will laugh. Write up your testimony to share. Something that God has placed on your heart or just something that is important to you. How about a good recipe that you want to share? Are you in need of something? Write us and we'll put it into the newsletter and God will provide those needs. Speaking of needs, here is a big one.

We need someone from each church to be the go-to person for the newsletter. I'm not asking you to be an editor, I'm not asking for hours of work. What I need is someone to get me a schedule of upcoming events you want to promote, your weekly schedule, birthdays of your members and maybe give some encouragement to others to write up something to share with the rest of us. It's not as big of a job as you might think but please give it some thought. I believe that Grace Notes can continue to be a blessing to all of us and I pray that you would want to be a part of that blessing.

I look forward to putting out the newsletter, with God's help and with yours too!

And, of course, in all that we do...

To God be the Glory!

Rick Felts, Grace Notes Editor