

# GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

## *“To The Youth”*

Paul wrote to his young colleague Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12) This Bible verse came to mind when I saw students on the news protesting gun violence.

Wait! Do not jump to conclusions. This is not an opinion piece on the gun debate. There are enough articles for both sides of that issue. No, this is about the fact that the adults of the world were paying attention to what the kids were saying. How amazing is that?

There are two lessons all the youth should learn from this. First, you have a voice; use it! Too often we adults ignore your voice, but you are important, intelligent, and needed. The Bible is full of examples of young people who used their voice for good, including Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Mary, and Jesus Himself. A young slave girl in 2 Kings 5 changed the hearts of her household and helped bring about peace between two nations because she spoke up. You, too, can use your voice for good.

Second, use your voice wisely. Beware, you can use your voice to make a fool of yourself. Do not be self-sufficient and move from impulse. In the next verse, in 1 Timothy 4:13, Paul continues: “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” Research your sources of knowledge. There are lots of voices out there, lots of differing opinions, and what you allow into your mind will mold your own voice. Read the Bible for yourself; know what God says, not what other people say He says. Then put the principles in God’s Word into practice. “God will use the youth today as He used Timothy, if they will submit to His guidance. It is your privilege to be God’s missionaries. He calls upon you to work for your companions. Seek out those you know to be in danger, and in the love of Christ try to help them.” Then your actions will back up your words, and you will change the world.

## How Big is Everything?

While reading the Bible after work one day, I came across the parable of the Prodigal Son. Though we have all read and heard stories like this many times, it pays to re-read them with the intent of seeing a new insight. The Lord can put new thoughts in our minds, and such was the case that day.

What became interesting was the second section of the story; the older son being jealous of the warm reception of his wayward, younger brother. He refuses to join the ongoing party claiming an injustice on the part of the father who doesn’t mind spending money celebrating the return of an irresponsible, immoral son, yet... he had “slaved away” his life working on his father’s farm, and had never been given anything for a party. Not once, ever. What’s up with that?

The father tries to reason with him, pointing out that his brother had been very much gone, and was now back, still alive,

*(Continued on page 2)*

Dear Ones All,

My daughter and I, from the Wisconsin Rapids church, have been asked to join a mission trip to Haiti. The scheduled timeline is May 15-25, 2018. We will be working with Beehive International: (<http://www.thebeehivehaiti.org>) to help out with their program that is already in place, as well as increasing more programs to help with the great need.

This is a Seventh-day Adventist outreach that works with the SDA hospital there. The Beehive teaches people to be resourceful. They remake shipping pallets into beautiful furniture to sell. They also make soap and other goods. There is an agricultural system, teaching them to grow food and be self-sufficient. The group we're joining will be doing electrical work to finish a classroom in order to teach construction.

They do have farm animals, (chickens, horses, a donkey, cats, and dogs), so donations in that regard are accepted.

If you would pray for this mission, that would be greatly appreciated!

If you want to help out financially, you may send it to our church marked "Haiti Mission," Wisconsin Rapids SDA Church, 611 24th Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-5509.

Our individual cost to go is \$1300, so \$2600 for both of us. If anyone wants to contact businesses to ask for donations, contact Emily at 715-451-4721, to get the tax ID and list of tools needed. My Email is: [thurmanej@gmail.com](mailto:thurmanej@gmail.com)

Sincerely, Emily & Lucinda Thurman

*(How Big? - Continued from page 1)*

"found"! A party was very much in order. What's more, "Everything I have is yours! If you had wanted a party, you could have had one, most any time". (Please allow for a loose paraphrase.)

The end of the story was left unfinished by Jesus, perhaps to let us find ourselves in the story and finish it in our lives.

Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." This parable (quite possibly a real story) shows us a picture of God's generous intentions toward us, whether we are wayward, or hard workers with a lousy attitude. (A third category isn't given!)

*(Continued on page 10)*

**BENJAMIN – Son of my Right Hand**

Benjamin was Jacob's last son and the only child born in Palestine. Rachel, his mother, had longed and strived for motherhood all her married life, and now it was to come to an end. Her death at the birth of her second child was tragic. She became a symbol of sorrow for all time. So much so, that when the northern tribes of Israel went into captivity, the prophet Jeremiah imaged the disaster with the cry of Rachel's voice in lamentation, weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children because they are not" (Jer. 31:15). She represents the ultimate in yearning motherhood.

When she realized that death was about to separate her from her long-desired sons, she poured her mortal disappointment and frustration into a name, Benoni ("son of my sorrow"). Grief-stricken as he must have been, however, Jacob chose to think of the child in positive terms, so he renamed him Benjamin ("son of my right hand"). The "right hand" symbolized power and honor, and in this case, it became prophetic of the time when Joseph would be lost and the father would consider Benjamin a "Joseph-substitute" in his life.

At the time of his trip to Egypt, Benjamin was clearly a favorite, now valued in a way that Joseph had never imagined possible. Thus he became the center of intrigue and the means whereby Joseph tested the integrity of the others. While it is natural to think of Benjamin as still just a boy, actually he had long since become a man. When the family migrated to Egypt, he was already the father of 10 sons (Gen 46:21).

The tribal blessings of Jacob and Moses present a fascinating, double-faceted picture of the Benjamite personality. Jacob looked upon his youngest and prophesied:

"Benjamin shall raven as a wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil" (Gen 49:27)

Well-coordinated and ambidextrous, Benjamite warriors were skilled archers and were also proficient with slingshots, a real military asset (1 Chron. 8:40).

Ironically, among the descendants of Jacob's "son of the right hand" were an unusual number of left-handed people. Ehud, the left-handed Benjamite, slew Eglon, king of Moab by what almost amounted to a sleight-of-hand trick. (Judg. 3:15-26).

Violence, however begets violence, and a time came when all the warlike activity and cruelty turned upon itself. The account of the death of the Levite's concubine (Judg. 19) was a major horror story from the chaotic days of the Judges.

A band of "base fellows" or "a pack of wolves" assailed the home where a Levite traveler and his concubine were staying. They ultimately attacked and killed the Levite's concubine. The Benjamites then made the serious error of harboring the evil men and of condoning wrong. This caused members of the other tribes to rise up. They determined to cleanse the nation by bringing the sodomites to judgement. The ensuing civil war all but wiped out the tribe of Benjamin.

But by David's time the clan had been rebuilt (1Chron 7:6-12; 8:40;12:2). King Saul was a Benjamite, and David's greatest foe, while his son Jonathan was David's greatest friend.

During the controversy between Saul and David, there were Benjamite revolts, for Saul was one of theirs. But still, when they came to see where their allegiance should lie, they showed themselves capable of repentance. The rebel Shimei transferred to the right side, and the tribe supported Abner, later a champion of David's cause (2Sam. 2:15-17). When the monarchy split during Rehoboam's time, the Benjamites basically remained loyal to David's throne (1Kings 12:21-23). Most of them did not secede with the other 10 tribes, but remained with Judah. They came to share in both the spiritual as well as the physical benefits of the house of David.

Saul of Tarsus was a most exceptional son of Benjamin. As a Hebrew of the Hebrews, growing within a strict Jewish family, he no doubt received his name in honor of his celebrated, yet ill-fated, ancestor. In the person of this great apostle, the Benjamite wolf imagery has its most unique fulfillment. Saul did indeed go about as a ravening wolf, devouring prey on every side, breathing threats of murder upon hapless Christians and driving them even to foreign cities. (Acts 26:11). He was ravaging the church; and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison (Acts 8:30). Years later, recalling his predatory activities, Paul wrote: "You have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it...so

*(Continued on page 10)*

# MONTHLY HEALTH NUGGET

## Health Tips:

### To Cough or Not to Cough---Expectorants vs suppressants

Coughing helps to clear the respiratory system of irritants and secretions associated with a cold or flu. With most minor respiratory infections it is best not to interfere with this mechanism. When someone is unable to rest because of the cough or needs "help" in clearing secretions, they often consider taking an over-the-counter cough medicine. Two major classes of cough medicines are marketed for self-treatment-- expectorants and suppressants.

Expectorants, also known as mucolytics, are medications that thin mucus in the bronchial passages making it easier to cough up phlegm from the lungs. The most common active ingredient in expectorants is guaifenesin which is contained in the brand name medications, Mucinex and Robitussin Chest Congestion.

Cough Suppressants, also known as antitussives, work in an entirely different manner than expectorants. Instead of helping to remove phlegm from the lungs, suppressants actually block the cough reflex. The most common suppressant in over-the counter cough medicine is the mild narcotic, dextromethorphan. Cough medicines ending in the letters, DM (Benylin DM, Robitussin DM, others) most likely contain dextromethorphan. Codeine is a more potent antitussive that is also included in many cough medicines but is only available by prescription. The most appropriate use of a cough suppressant is for a severe cough that is keeping someone up at night or interfering with activities. Otherwise, the removal of phlegm from the lungs should be encouraged.

Combination cold medicines mix a suppressant or expectorant with other medicines to treat cold symptoms. As with cough medicines, a combination cold medication's name followed by the letters DM indicates that it also contains a cough suppressant. The other ingredient could be an antihistamine, a decongestant and/or a pain reliever. Robitussin Multi-Symptom Cold, Nyquil Cold and Flu, Theraflu Multi-Symptom are just a few of the available combination cold medicines available. In someone with multiple symptoms (cough, body aches, nasal congestion, etc.) this could help simplify treatment. If symptoms related to a cold or flu are more limited, you may end up taking medicine that you don't need. In some instances, a cough suppressant and expectorant are included in the same medication. This combination seems to be more of a marketing gimmick than a useful treatment.

Alternatives to commercially available cough medicines include increasing oral fluids, breathing in humidified air, and taking a teaspoon or two of honey. A study found that children ages 1-5 with cough due to upper respiratory tract infection had greater reduction in their cough after taking a teaspoon and a half of honey than taking dextromethorphan. This is particularly important considering that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Academy of Pediatrics advise against giving young children over-the-counter cough or cold medicines. Honey should not be fed to children less than one year of age, however, since this has been associated with botulism infection.

Some general guidelines if considering taking an over-the-counter cough medicine with a cold or flu are to: 1) take an expectorant with a "wet" cough to help clear secretions from the lungs or 2) use a suppressant when the cough is "dry" cough and is keeping you awake or interfering with your daytime activities.

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

## Silent Scream

When Dan Mueller took Wendy and I up in his airplane.

By: Lori Radke (Written November 2009)

Wendy and Lori are the daughters of Nona Schmidt

I remember when I was a teenager, and my best friends dad took my sister Wendy and I for a ride in his plane. There was one condition to this however. We were not to utter a sound during the flight. No problem, we figured that would be easy enough to do.

We took off from Campbell's lake on his pontoon plane and flew over our neck of the woods. Man, our hearts were beating so fast with the whole experience, but we never uttered a sound. But boy, the looks we gave each other.

Dan Mueller was a good man with a little bit of mischief in him, I believe, because he flew us over our house and all around our neighborhood. But when he did his turns, they weren't gradual turns. Wendy and I were looking down out of her window on those turns, but we never uttered a sound.

I'm sure our eyes were wide and our mouths were wide open in a silent scream, with our hearts racing, but

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## COUNTRY LIFE NATURAL FOODS



**The next order is due April 18th**

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](http://www.WRAOChristianRadio.org)

**Almond's April Events**

- Apr 1 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Apr 4 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Apr 6 Prayer Meeting 7:00
- Apr 7 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Apr 8 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Apr 11 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Apr 13 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Apr 14 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Apr 15 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Apr 18 Church Business Meeting
- Apr 18 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)
- Apr 20 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Apr 21 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Apr 22 Prayer Breakfast 9 AM
- Apr 22 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Apr 25 Community Bible Study 7:00 (Desire of Ages)?
- Apr 27 Prayer Mtg. 7:00
- Apr 28 Sabbath – Vegetarian Potluck
- Apr 29 Cooking Class 1:00
- Apr 29 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30

**Important Dates**

Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> –  
 6 pm—Business Meeting  
 7 pm—Desire of Ages Reading

Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> –  
 9 am—Prayer Breakfast

Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> – 3 pm  
 Healthy Cooking Class  
 American Legion Hall  
 1391 Division St.  
 Almond, WI 54909

**Portage April Events**

Pathfinders meeting 4:30 pm.

Every other Thursday:

Apr 5

Apr 19

Business Meeting

Apr. 8 (Work Bee to follow meeting)

Healthy Cooking Class

Apr. 18, 25 @ 6PM

May 2,9 @ 6PM

Children's story:

Apr 7 Jerry Minett

Apr 14 Helen Summerton

Apr 21 Sharna Maher

Apr 28 Jaime Roat

Social Bonfire @ Muhlenbecks

Apr. 14 @ 6PM

Portage SDA Church email address is:

[portagesdachurch@gmail.com](mailto:portagesdachurch@gmail.com)

Portage SDA Church Facebook:

Type Portage Seventh Day Adventist

Radio station:

WPSA LP 93.5 FM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Call to Worship</u>
4/7	Mike Tess	Steve Collins	Beau Baartz	Rev. 14:7
4/14	Jeff Veldman	Jerry Minett	Beth S	Rev. 15:3,4
4/21	----	Jeff M	Todd Roat	Ps. 46:10,11
4/28	Pastor	Steve Collins	Dennis P	Ps. 66:1,2,4

## Running From Love

by Jesse Ray Dozier

Hello everyone! It is my utmost hope that God is working in your lives and revealing to you his intimate plans and purposes for the church, the world and all things to come. Amen.

My name is Jesse Ray Dozier. I am relatively new to the Wautoma SDA church in Wautoma. Over the years, I have been “warring” with the Lord, struggling to find my place and purpose in His existence and creation. It has been a long road, to say the least.

However, like some, I have come to discover, that resisting the Lord is a very difficult and impossible thing to do. Especially when you’ve challenged Him or made a promise to Him. (Laugh to self.) The Lord will collect: This I know.

Nevertheless, it is along those lines that I find myself here, writing to you, my fellow brothers and sisters, in Christ. Because it was not so long ago that I sat in a prison cell and declared to the Lord, that “If

He shows himself to me, as being real and truly existing, that I would change my ways and give my life over to Him in dedication, love and service!”

Long story short, the Lord did manage to enter my life and reveal Himself to me in ways that were direct and convincing. His Existence!

Subsequently, I went on to turn my back on God... forgetting my promise and His fulfillment of my challenge/request. That being said, God did not forget about it! (or about me for that matter.) Nope. In fact, the Lord pursued me... He chased me down, like the vigilante rebel that I was! Showing me His love and calling out to me, frequently, reminding me of the oath I gave.

To sum it up... I continued in my ways of sin and unholiness going to prison several more times, over the years, struggling with the Lord and His plan for me... it was a very hard thing... Still is, for me someday. Overall, it’s been revealed to me that this relationship with the Lord, our salvation and His reaching out to us, is all a process... a lifelong process. One that we must work at

and be a part of, every single moment of every single day! God’s gift to us in Jesus’s sacrifice is free... but it’s not a free pass. We must give Him our Love in return... all the time... in all things... at all cost. The same He gives to us! {Deuteronomy 6:5 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength”} A hard thing to do... but with God, all things are possible. Amen.

Concluding, I look forward to seeing you all and meeting you. I am scheduled to be released from Green Bay correctional Institution in July. I look forward to worshipping the Lord and doing His will; seeing His work progress and bringing in the harvest... for the Kingdom is near and the Lord is at the door! Amen!

Until then, blessing to all of you and keep pressing ahead. The Lord will see you through!

Mail questions, comments and/or correspondence to:

Jesse Ray Dozier #427235,  
G.B.C.I., P.O. Box 19033, Green  
Bay, WI 54307

*(Silent Scream—Continued from page 5)*

no sound emerged.

The plane would straighten out again; and then our hearts would return to normal and we’d be thinking how nice it was to be so high up, with everything looking tiny below.

Then one last fly-over above our house and over the woods. “How cool is this?” we were thinking.

All of a sudden, the engine died, (or so we thought). Wendy and I looked at each other once again, holding hands, eyes as big as saucers, mouth hanging open in a silent scream thinking we were going to crash, but we never uttered a sound.

All of a sudden, we were gliding barely above the trees, when Campbell’s Lake came into view again. We realized Dan had known where he was and how far away from the lake to cut the engine and glide the rest of the way. I sure hope he thought we had “Grit”, because we never uttered a sound...just those silent screams.

*Submitted by: Nona Schmidt*

## Are You In Need of ?

Upright Piano to give away  
Well-behaved and completely housebroken.  
Contact Cindy Bartman 715-921-9485

A Family in need!  
A family is in need of prayer and immediate housing.  
Call 715-544-1323 for information of needs

Dell Flat Screen Computer Monitor  
If you need it, it's yours!  
Call me @ 715-572-0650

In need of washer, refrigerator and sofa  
Contact Maria @ 715-498-0305

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](mailto:gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com)

## Happy Birthday!



### April Birthdays

- 2 Erlinda Boyd (R)
- 2 Tracy Burgeon (F)
- 3 George Boyd (R)
- 5 Doug Bruder (A)
- 5 Richard Kastner (R)
- 9 Kay Williams (W)
- 9 Emy Ruehl (SP)
- 12 Doreen Lowry (SP)
- 12 Daniel Muhlenbeck (R)
- 14 Joel Guerrero (SP)
- 15 Earl Hodge (R)
- 19 Marilyn Brown (SP)
- 21 Dorothy Tess (A)
- 26 Lena Hahn (R)
- 27 Bob Peterson (SP)
- 27 Joey Disher (SP)
- 30 Renata Svachova (R)

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.

## Wisconsin Rapids Calendar of Events

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Apr 4 Revela<sup>o</sup>on</b><br/>Speaks Peace, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Apr 7 Sabbath School</b><br/>Open House, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Apr 7 Eagle Scout Ceremony</b>, 4:00 p.m.</p> | <p><b>Apr 9 Church Board mee<sup>o</sup>ing</b>, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Apr 11 Revela<sup>o</sup>on</b><br/>Speaks Peace, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Apr 18 Revela<sup>o</sup>on</b><br/>Speaks Peace, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Apr 25 Revela<sup>o</sup>on</b><br/>Speaks Peace, 6:00 p.m.</p> |
|---|--|

## District Meeting Portage District

The next district meeting is to be held in Portage on the second Sabbath in May, the 12th at 2:30 pm.

We hope to see you all there.

Further details will be coming soon. Keep watching for that to come...



**Oxford SDA Church**  
 Sabbath Worship Times  
 Bible Study @ 11:00 a.m.  
 Worship @ 9:15 a.m.

**LOCATION**  
 322 E Chauncey St  
 Oxford, WI 53952-9064

**Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
 2100 E State Road 33  
 Portage, WI 53901-1468  
 608-742-4695

Pastor: 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 53959

Pastor Justin Spady  
 Reedsburg SDA Church

Join 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](mailto: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: [sdapastorjo-](mailto:sdapastorjo-)

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](mailto: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](http://www.almondsda.org)  
 Pastor Justin Spady  
 260-413-3066

*(Benjamin—Continued from page 3)*

extremely zealous was I for the traditions of the fathers. (Gal 1:13,14).

After his Damascus road experience, Paul retired to the Roman province then known as Arabia. It was 3 years before he presented himself in Jerusalem among the leaders of the early church.

(Gal. 1:17, 18). Apparently it took that long for the fierce Saul to transform fully into the ministering Paul.

Even as the wolf lives by his wits and exists in desolate places with a lean persevering strength, so Paul endured hardness for his Lord (verse 3). Perhaps, it is at this point, that the second part of the Benjamite blessing applies. Providentially, God preserved and protected His zealous apostle through a long, fruitful ministry. Then the tired old warrior could say with contentment, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2Tim. 7:7).

The wolf beheld the risen Lamb, Paul's nature changed with his name, and his character was completely transformed. "In him the ravaging wolf became a gentle lamb." He turned his zeal into pressing toward the mark of the uplifting of Christ. (Phil 3:6, 14).

The world, we're told consists of 3 classes of people: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who ask, "What happened?" It's the Benjamites in the church who keep making it happen. True, their enthusiasm may at times be misguided, perhaps seriously so. Still, like Paul, they are capable of doing an about-face, if need be. And when they channel their energy in the right direction, their effectiveness is almost unlimited.

A Benjamite is not always careful about whose toes he steps on. He's preoccupied with doing things and isn't likely to be patient with deliberate or indecisive people. But he has a kind of refreshing courage and forthrightness about him that make him easy to love and easy to forgive. They are children of both sorrow and of strength.

There will be Benjamites among the sealed saints, and a city gate is open to all who claim this name. In the first foundation of the golden city is inscribed the name of Peter, Benjamin's spiritual counterpart.

*Submitted by: Freddie Ramirez*

*(How Big? - Continued from page 2)*

The thought occurred... wouldn't it be a great thing to have dinner with a couple of friends—a party, of sorts. Why not ask? I had just paid for some major repairs to a van. The wallet was quite thin, and would stay that way for awhile. Yet, it seemed a bit selfish to be asking for something clearly unnecessary—outside the Protestant work-ethic boundary. Was applying a Bible reading in this manner a proper thing to do?

So I prayed. "Lord, if this is a request You want me to ask, then send some money this way. A modest dinner for three will cost a bit more than \$30.00, so if the funds appear, then we can say this approach is legit. If not, then I'll forget about it and not keep bugging You with stuff like this."

I had errands to run, and the Post Office was first on the list. While sorting out the junk mail, an envelope from a dental clinic surfaced. I almost threw it away unopened, because three and a half years earlier I had closed my account with them. They had not done a good job, and had been unprofessional, to say the least. Just for entertainment value, I decided to open it, figuring they were begging for return business.

Not so. They had decided to adjust their books, and return some money they had retained. I was a bit upset that they had hung onto money that was rightfully mine all these years after terminating the account. But getting a check out of the blue is always welcome. It was for \$30.76. Less than ten minutes had gone by since praying that slightly audacious prayer, and there it was: a check for that amount, right there in my hands!

"Everything I have is yours." How big is that? What does God want us to ask for? Certainly a selfish prayer goes unanswered. But this was a request for a blessing to be shared with others. What sort of parties could we be having, but have gone undone simply because we're too stuck in our drudgery, stuck on doing our "duty", unaware of the potential fellowship with God and the people He identifies with? What is our duty anyway? The dinner was good. —Doug D.

### Time Ticks On

[Emily Thurman Tuesday, March 13, 2018](#)

This past Sunday, I was hurrying to get things taken care of, before heading out on the 8 hr round trip to return my son to school in Mi. I wanted to make sure all the laundry was done, so he had clean things to take along. As I hurriedly checked the pockets, and started the last load, I had to leave it to wash, and headed out. I drove the trip, and then came home 10 hrs later, to take the clothes from the washing machine. As I pulled the last item from the washer, there, on the bottom, lay my watch. I quickly grabbed it, feeling very sad for having missed it. My spare is unreliable, as well as I'm allergic to it, and I need the second hand to count heart-rates and breaths at work. I brought it quickly to show my husband the drops of water inside, and he got up right away, and blew it out with his air compressor. He brought it back in, and it was still ticking, so I put it in some rice for the night. In the morning, I checked it, and it was still ticking. I was afraid if I took it out, maybe it wouldn't be long enough, so returned it to the rice for most of the day. This **a.m.**, 40+ hours later, it is still ticking, and still keeping accurate time! So this morning, when I put it on, getting ready for work, I'm SO thankful, to have it working, in spite of all it has been through! It made me ponder my own **life** and wonder...when the waves of fear, anxiety, rejection, loneliness, **etc.**, etc. wash over my soul, and threaten to drown me, and when the winds of opposition blow, do I remain steady and **true?** Do I allow circumstances to bring my ruin? **Or**, trust in God, the one who made me, and allow Him to keep me ticking for Him?

## Wautoma Schedule of Events

- 4/1/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 4/2/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's (Subject to Change)
- 4/4/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 4/5/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 4/7/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 4/8/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 4/9/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's (Subject to Change)
- 4/11/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 4/12/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 4/14/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 4/15/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 4/16/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's (Subject to Change)
- 4/18/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 4/19/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 4/21/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 4/22/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 4/23/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's (Subject to Change)
- 4/25/2018 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
- 4/26/2018 Revelation Speaks Peace @ 7:00 p.m.
- 4/28/2018 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
- 4/29/2018 Bible Study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
- 4/30/2018 Women's Group Study @ 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson's (Subject to Change)

**Snowflakes**

Emily Thurman Sunday, February 4, 2018

Yesterday, I chose to go hiking alone, as I didn't trust being around people. My heart was hurting deeply, and I needed some time to process with God. I hiked for about an hour, trying unsuccessfully, to let go of all the negative thoughts and feelings. I was the only human, for as many miles as my eyes could see. Miles and miles of snow, with snowflakes falling steady all around me. There was no sound, save that of the wind. As I rounded a corner, God spoke to my heart. "Em, did you mean it when you prayed this A.M. "Lord make me clean like the new fallen snow?" "Yes Lord", I replied, "Em, what sort of conditions does it take, to create a snowflake? He asked. "Well, I don't know exactly what all, but for sure some cold to frigid temps." "Yes, Em, it takes the harsh conditions for their individual beauty to be created. The snowflakes had to give up their right to say how they were shaped, what conditions they met, or what direction they landed. They had to be poured out in complete and utter given-ness to the master, leaving the shaping and directing to him. Some fell gently on broken twigs and branches, adding an element of beauty, while others decorated the grasses and weeds, again, bringing out inordinate beauty. Yet, others were whipped about by fierce and bitter winds, some creating an insulating blanket for the ground, while still others landed on a path to be trampled or driven on, the chemicals and pollution rendering them colored. Emily, will you give up your anger and bitterness, in essence, the poison you're drinking, hoping it will affect the one who hurt you? Will you choose to pour yourself out in complete and utter givenness to your Master, allowing Him to shape and direct, even if it means loving the one who has hurt you so deeply?" I replied, "Yes," as my heart pondered the way God can bring beauty and purpose for each individual; and use the harsh conditions; circumstances in this cold world to mold and shape them into something beautiful. What an incredible God we serve!

**Soldier for Christ**

I am willing to pay the price  
Of being a soldier for Christ;  
I have become strong;  
No more will I do wrong.  
All day and night,  
I will walk in the light.  
No more drugs, no more  
illusion.  
No more giving in  
To the author of confusion.  
I will put on and use the armor

God gave me  
And when I do battle,  
I know He will save me.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit.  
The sincerity in my voice  
If you listen close  
You will hear it.  
I will stand firm when the  
fiery darts are hurled,  
Cause greater is He who is  
in me,  
Than He who is in the world.  
*Kenneth Wells Jr.*

**23 Psalm (Revised Version)**

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush,  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,  
He provides me with images of stillness, which restores my  
serenity.  
He leads me in the ways of efficiency; through calmness of  
mind,  
And His guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each  
day,  
I will not fret for His presence is here.  
His timeliness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my  
activity  
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility,  
My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my  
hours,  
For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord, and dwell in His  
house forever.  
Submitted by Nona Schmidt

**Hmmm,  
I wonder what was supposed  
to go here?**



Almond SDA proudly presents a healthy cooking class. Plan on joining us for an educational and fun time together, where we will teach you to cook healthy and delicious foods. Samples will be available.

Join us at 3:00 pm — April 29  
 American Legion Hall  
 1391 Division St.  
 Almond WI 54909

Hello from Wautoma,

Some of you readers remember the old Wautoma Seventh-day Adventist Church building located on the corner of Waupaca Street and River Street. It had been sold and converted into a home several years ago. It has been listed for sale for about 6 months and we, both the English and Spanish companies, met in a business meeting to talk about the prospect of buying it back so that each group will have separate worship facilities. Both of our groups share the same church building now, alternating upstairs and downstairs for worship on a monthly basis. Downstairs has more limited

space since that includes a Sabbath school room for the children (which can't hold more than 9 children, which often happens with both the English and Spanish children meeting together. Then our groups fellowship together for potlucks and that fills up the basement.

On Sunday, March 18, 2018, at that business meeting, we decided to make an offer on the Old Church Building and now we put the matter in God's hands to decide if the purchase is supposed to happen or not. There are some obstacles to overcome, if it is to be, but nothing is impossible with God. Keep this venture in your prayers.

Alan Anderson

# 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...



## 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](mailto: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