

Almond SDA Messenger

T H E M E S S E N G E R O F O U R 3 C H U R C H E S

FROM THE HEART OF OUR PASTOR

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pastor's Heart
- Personal Testimony
- Personal Ministry
- "Change" for Change
- Schedules and Announcements

A New Beginning

Well here we are already in a new year. 2015 has past and 2016 now begins. Everyone seems to love a fresh start and this is exactly what New Years is all about, an opportunity to start anew. Gone are the mistakes of last year, onto new challenges and adventures. Forgotten are the failings which lie on the days of last year. This is a chance to leave all those behind.

How would you like the opportunity to start fresh with God? An opportunity to be forgiven for the mistakes you have made and to wipe the slate clean? This is exactly what our God offers to us all the time. We merely need to take advantage of this golden

opportunity set before us and experience a **New Beginning** for ourselves. New Years is a reminder of this opportunity which for the Christian is available all the time. A glorious fresh start as if we had never sinned. That is what Jesus offers to each of us.



What will you do with such an opportunity?

Pastor Joseph

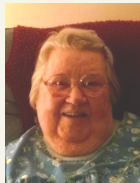
Imagine the possibilities, they are endless. It's like being born again. Free from the baggage of the past, light as a feather. Unencumbered and

flying high. What joy such a **New Beginning** brings. Regardless of what has transpired in the past the future lies ahead as an unwritten story, an undiscovered country just waiting for us. We can choose to fill it with as much or as little as we see fit. This coming year may be the very year of our Lord Jesus' triumphant return, hallelujah.

How will you challenge yourself this year? What heights will you reach for? If you set no goals for the **New Year** you are destined to achieve nothing, however, if you set your sights high even if you fall short of those goals you are bound to achieve more than nothing.

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MY PERSONAL JOURNEY BY NONA SCHMIDT



"By God's Grace, I saw my Mother baptized before she died"

Have you ever heard the expression "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic"? or I was raised a Lutheran and I'll die a Lutheran"? I was among these in the latter category. Although I attended both parochial grade and high school, I felt something was wrong when I didn't go to church much any more. My brother Dick converted to SDA in 1972 and tried to explain about the Bible Sabbath and other things. I listened but went on with every day life. Some of it wasn't always good,

since I smoked, drank off and on and after being married for 26 years and raising five children, got divorced. One day, after many ups and downs, I thought, "This can't go on, I can't meet my Lord with a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other"! For me the answer came when a booklet called "Happiness Digest" was picked from the drug store. On the back page there was an invitation to send for the "New Life Guides" -

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“Personal Ministries”



A Rummage for the ages

I am not sure when it came to me but towards the end of summer the Lord impressed me to suggest that the church put on a rummage sale. This event would help to provide money for the new church windows, people would have a reason to get rid of clutter from their households for a good cause, and raise our church awareness in the small Almond community. Things were slow at first but then things picked up very quickly. First a place was needed, and the Lord provided the local village community center owned by Jimmy Johnson who donated the use for free! The center was great as it had a large gymnasium to display the things for sale and also was in the center of town so it was very visible. Signs were then put up on major roads around the area to advertise and also in front of the center saying the dates and hours it would be open. Next was trying to get stuff to add to the rummage sale which started slow then picked up steam. Especially when Doug and Rosemary brought a bunch of stuff from another rummage that donated it's leftovers to our rummage. By the start of the rummage the entire gymnasium was filled up with stuff! At first some people were a little skeptical regarding the rummage but then as things gained momentum everyone chipped in to help (and most chipped in some stuff that they had lying around at home taking up space). Jane, Harlow, JoAnn, and Mary were the main ones running the rummage especially during the daytime hours. They met many people and also handed out evangelistic literature as well. Then one day Elaine Kemp came in to the rummage and was greeted with a smile by Mary and the others. It was learned she lived in town and was previously attending an Adventist church. Through the rummage and kindness of Mary and others she was re-introduced with the local Adventist church. From that point she was attending church and potluck with the help of her daughter Pam (or others from church). She really enjoyed the fellowship and community that it provided to her. Now she can no longer attend church but is in the Veteran's home in King (MacArthur Hall room 360). She always enjoys visits so if you are in the area please stop by. You never know what one idea will spawn into but if we allow the Lord to lead you can be sure he has a plan to help others (or in this instance re-introduce a woman to a group of local believers for support and companionship). Never think an idea is silly or out of the norm. The Lord knows best. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Submitted by Sherri Riggle

Visiting those that cannot come to church

We have a group of diligent people from the church who have made it a point to visit the so called "shut ins" as much as possible on the Sabbath. People who have previously attended church but for some reason can't attend due to age, disability, or sickness. The folks conducting the visits on a regular basis are the Tess's (Ray, JoAnn, Mike, Rachel, John, & Dorothy) along with Randy, Ken & Rick and others from time to time. The Tess's have been faithfully doing this for many decades since the 1980's. They felt impressed to start this ministry out of Love as the Bible says "Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Matthew 25:36 They see the joy and gladness it brings to them as they typically do not get many visitors so any visitation is treasured very much. They also feel it helps them endure the hardships of the current situation and to carry on with joy in spite of the circumstances they may be facing. It is not only a benefit to the visited but also the visitor, as the joy it brings is a joy to the visitor as well. Many times prayer is done prior to leaving all with a sense of peace and Jesus' presence. In the past they would also take taped sermons to the ones they visit. We are currently in the process of restarting this type of ministry with CD's or some other format that will work well for each individual's needs.

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COUNTRY LIFE NATURAL FOOD ORDERS

Country Life Natural Foods, a division of Oak Haven, Inc., is a wholesale and retail distributor of natural, organic and vegetarian foods as well as a resource for physical and spiritual health. Orders are coordinated through Pam and Dean Thomas. Minimum orders are \$400 with free delivery. Order deadlines are noon on the following days in 2015:

- January 13

If interested in ordering, contact Dean @ 715-644-8183 or Pam @ 715-644-8399

or email sdafmly@gmail.com

For more information on Country Life Natural Foods, visit: www.CLNF.org



(Personal Ministries Continued from page 2)



Pictured Left to Right: Sherri Riggle, Rachel Tess, Ray Tess, JoAnn Tess. Marlin is in the foreground with his famous smile.

I would like to detail some of the wonderful folks that they visit. One of them is Marlin Knoepke that currently resides in the Veterans home in King at Olson Hall. He has a lot of interesting stories to tell and would gladly detail them to you if asked. Marlin first became aware of the local church when Pastor Guerrero bumped into him at the veteran's facility. Pastor Guerrero details this as follows "I first met Marlin when he stopped me in the hall after a Bible Study I was asked to do at King. As I was walking down the hall, he asked me: "Hey brother, can I talk to you?" I stopped and responded by sticking out my hand to shake his and said "Sure, how are you doing?" Marlin smiled and told me that he was doing well. He then asked me with a grin on his face: "Are you an

Adventist minister?" I was quite surprised that he would ask me that as he did not know me. I chuckled and told him that I was. "I knew it!" he said, "I just knew it!" He then went on to tell me that he had stopped into the Bible Study and listened for a little while and that as "I saw you handle the Bible the way you did, I told myself that must be a Seventh-day Adventist minister for only an Adventist pastor could handle the Bible that way!" We both laughed and from that moment on we became very good friends. Marlin continued to study with me privately and then decided that he wanted to attend our church. We then made arrangements for him to do that. Later on I was to learn that Marlin (he remembered this later on as we grew to know each other) also attended the church that I was ministered to in Menomonie WI." Through this experience with Pastor he became connected to the local Adventist church in Almond. Every week the Tess's would give Marlin (and Bernie) a ride to church and then back, typically after potluck until Marlin was no longer able to make the ride to church. Now he is visited weekly at the Veteran's home. Hopefully one day he will be well enough to return to church, as he is missed. Marlin was liked by all and one of his favorite sayings was "Liked by many, Loved by all" and he would say this to those he liked. Also when someone was preaching the truth and it struck him he would say out loud in church "That's good preaching!" Marlin is a Vietnam War veteran and was a door gunner on the helicopter. He was asked to shoot people but always aimed off to the side so as not to hurt anyone as Marlin has a heart of gold. Marlin has had many occupations from logging in northern Minnesota, farming, and raising kids. He typically always has a smile on his face. One time Sherri took a fingernail clipper to his long nails and Marlin was not much impressed by the manicure he received so we joke about that from time to time (and he smiles). Marlin will typically be seen in blue overalls. One of his favorite scriptures is ("The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" James 5:16)

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(Nona—Continued from page 1)

FREE—so I sent for them. Thus began my journey back to faith.

The lessons went back and forth through the mail. I could hardly wait for the next ones to come. When these "Voice of Prophecy" pamphlets were finished, there was a question asking if I would like the Daniel and Revelation seminars next? The verse in Phil. 1:6 seemed to help—*"Being confident of this very thing that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

In all these studies, I was learning of God's wonderful love for me, a sinner! I asked for forgiveness and help, which the Lord has been doing ever since! The bad desires are gone.

I joined the church in October of 1988 and by God's grace, my brother and I saw our mother baptized a couple of years later before he died.

Someone once said, *"Truth which is merely told is quick to be forgotten but truth which is discovered...lasts a lifetime."* That's how I have felt many times since. Looking back there's been many miracles from that can't always be explained, but surely wonderful. Like Isa. 65:24 says: *"Before they call, I will answer and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."* Yes, the prayers are always answered with no, yes, maybe or wait but keep trusting God.

I am so thankful to God, our church, its members of course past pastors who have helped and guided me over all these years. I love my church and wish I was closer. It's about a 30 mile trip for me to come church but I get there as often as possible.

There is a group of Sabbath keepers in my area that try to meet in different places on Sabbath. I am truly blessed by God!

I've included a couple of prayers that I like and use that you will find elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.
God Bless you all!

A Day of Comparison

On every Sabbath of my Lord
In silent prayer I kneel:
My heart is filled with grateful joy,
My Saviour's love I feel.

He left the throne of God above
Where angels sang His hymn:
He came to save the sinful souls
Who sneered and laughed at Him.

Yet patiently, with tender pleas,
He drew them closer yet:
Until their sinful souls were stirred,
The fires of over were set.

The world began to criticize,
It feared the burning Flame:
One heart-bound man betrayed our Lord,
And one denied His name.

His final sacrifice of love,
His life the final fee:
He paid my sins eternally,
His blood has set me free.

When I compare what Christ gave up
With meager whims and frills,
My mountains all seem very small
And trivial seem by bills.

This is your holy day dear Lord,
All nature drinks her fill,
Your presence is my one desire,
I please at Thy will.

—Gerald R. Stump—

A RECIPE FOR LIVING

Each morning when you waken,
Just offer God the day.
Each task that undertaken
Whether work or play...
Offer Him your happiness,
Your cares and troubles too.
Just tell Him that you don't forget
All He's done for you. If you follow this
recipe
You surely soon will find
Your life will be a happy one,
And full of bright sunshine.

(Submitted by Nona Schmidt)

(Pastor Joseph—A New Beginning—Continued from page 1)

Perhaps you will accomplish much more than you can dream or imagine. Our God is a GREAT GOD and I believe He is a rewarder of those who attempt great things for His kingdom.

That is why I am setting the bar high for the district and myself. Our first attempt will take place starting this spring. On March 28 the district will be holding three evangelistic series simultaneously. I have never attempted anything this ambitious as a pastor before. I am trusting God and taking Him at His word that He will bless our efforts. Thus far God has provided faithful members who are willing to also attempt great things for God. Along with myself, Jasper St. Bernard, and Maria Frank have accepted the challenge to present Biblical truth to the people in the form of an evangelistic meeting entitled "Unlocking Revelation."

This is not all we will be doing this year, but it is the kick off of great things we will be doing to finish the work and hasten the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we all be blessed as we attempt great things for God in this **New Year!**

(Personal Ministries Continued from page 3)



Pictured Left to Right: Sherri Riggle, Elaine Kemp, Rachel Tess

Elaine Kemp is another person that is visited as she is also at the Wisconsin Veteran's home in King as well as MacArthur Hall room 360. She was living in Almond prior to moving to the Veterans home. The Lord works in wonderful ways as a summer rummage sale put on by the church brought Elaine in contact with Mary and others from the church. She then was attending until being moved to the Veterans home. She found a lot of comfort in attending church and this comfort continues through the visitation efforts of the people from church. Her daughters (Pam & Gloria) also visit her, and they use the neat tunnel between the buildings to travel to the kitchen where they can get a vegan meal. She has a great view of the lake from her room which is nice, though the room can be a bit cold at times. She has also met a few friends at the building which she enjoys keeping company with. Elaine was excited to be getting her new teeth, or "choppers" as she calls them though she was a little scared about the pain. By the time you read this she should have a new set of "Choppers".



Another that is visited regularly is Harold Krohn. He is at Crossroads Care Center of Crystal River. He faithfully served in the Almond church for many years serving as a Deacon and Sabbath School secretary. He enjoyed gardening and had a large variety of crops. He and his sister Dorothy eventually got to the point where they needed more care and were moved from his home to Park Vista Assisted living facility. Dorothy passed in 2014 and then most recently Harold was moved to his current abode at the Crossroads Care Center. His son Randy Krohn lives with Mike and Rachel Tess and he enjoys visiting his dad on Sabbath afternoons along with the others. Harold is hard of hearing now so if you do visit you may need to use the dry erase board which helps communication.

These are just a few of the people that are visited weekly now but over the years there have been many that have been touched by this ministry that has been going on for many decades. Feel free to join these Sabbath afternoon visits or start your own visitation in your local area to help others in need. You never know what stories you will hear and the history you will learn through the visitation, along with the smiles enjoyed. They will surely enjoy the visit and you will feel blessed as well.

Submitted by: Matt Riggle

Pictured Left to Right: Mike Tess, Matt Riggle, Harold Krohn, John Tess, Randy Krohn



Almond Church - Christmas Program

As part of our Christmas program, along with some beautiful music, we viewed Bethlehem through the eyes of six men that lived the story first hand. They allowed us to put ourselves back in time and really experience the story giving us new insights into the plan of redemption.

We would like to thank Karen Ferguson for all of her hard work in directing this production, and also thank you to Doug, the Anderson family and Stephanie Kasner for the beautiful Christmas music that we all enjoyed.

Pictured left to right are: Rick Felts as Herod, Luke Anderson as Joseph, Ken Wilson as a Magi, Richard Lucas as James, Bill Boehm as a Shepherd and Alan Anderson as an Inn Keeper.

91.7 WRAO RADIO

24/7 Gospel Ministry reaching those in need.

The WRAQ Newsletter will be coming out soon and will get you caught up with all that has been happening. It has been a very busy month! Keep watch for the newsletter and keep praying for God's Radio Station.

Check out the December issue of 3ABN World Magazine for the WRAQ article



Visit us on the web at:
www.WRAOChristianRadio.org



Almond SDA Penny Drive



"Change" for change!

Start collecting your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters; you know, that loose change that collects in our pockets every day? That change can help to change a life. At the end of each day, place your loose change in a jar or can. Every week purchase a dollar or two of pennies and hang on to them. In mid November we will push the wheelbarrow down the aisle and give you the chance to dump your pennies and other change into the wheelbarrow. This money will be donated through "Personal Ministries" to one or possibly more well deserving recipients. Please help with the effort to effect change! Our personal goal is 100,000 pennies. Together, with God's help, we can help to make a change in some deserving lives! To God be the glory!



Let's "change" this—to THIS!

Act 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said,
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."



WISCONSIN RAPIDS CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SCHEDULE

Jan 2	Our Home a Witness study, 2:00 p.m.
Jan 2	New Years Pool Party at the Millers, 5:00-10:00
Jan 5	Radio Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 6	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 9	Pathfinder/Adventure Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 11	Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 13	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 16	Our Home a Witness study, 2:00 p.m.
Jan 20	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 23	Pathfinder/Adventure Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 27	Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Jan 30	Pathfinder Bible Experience

SAVE THE DATE:

Pathfinder Bible Experience - January 30

Pathfinder Winter Retreat—February 19-21

- **Potluck—Each Sabbath—Join us for great food and fellowship**
- **Bible Study each Wednesday at 6:30**
- **Pathfinder and Adventurer Meetings 2nd and 4th Sabbaths**
- **"Our Home, A Witness Study" 1st and 3rd Sabbath Afternoons**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The M.A.S.H. Pathfinders will be traveling to Lena, WI on January 30th to participate in the state-wide Pathfinder Bible Experience. Please pray for safe travels and clear minds for the Pathfinders.

Wisconsin Rapids' Adventurer's and Pathfinder's Clubs meet at 2:00 on the 2nd and 4th Sabbaths each month.

How would you like your home to be a witness? Please join us next Sabbath at 2:00 as we study topics to learn how to be a witness for the Gospel in our homes. Contact Andrea Hamilton or Natalie St. Bernard with questions.

Food Drive: We are collecting non-perishable food items for our fall/winter food drive.

Did you know we have an emergency food pantry and clothing supply for those in need? If you know of a person or family in need, contact Joe Ann Cephas (Community Service) or Trudy Stephenson (Head Deaconess). We would like to help.

Visit us on the web at "www.wrsdachurch.org"

STEVENS POINT CHURCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SCHEDULE

Jan 2	Sabbath/Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary, 2:00 p.m.
Jan 4	Telephone Prayer Conference Call
Jan 5	Study/Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 7	Study/Prayer Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Jan 10	*****FRUIT ORDER IS DUE*****
Jan 12	Study/Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 13	Quilting in the Fellowship Hall, 4:30 p.m.
Jan 14	Study/Prayer Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Jan 15-17	Wisconsin Men's Conference at Camp Wakonda
Jan 19	Study/Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 20	Church Board Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.
Jan 21	Study/Prayer Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
Jan 24	Fruit Pick up day!
Jan 26	Study/Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 28	Study/Prayer Meeting, 6:45 p.m.

Visit us on the web at "www.stevenspoint22.adventistchurchconnect.org"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Potluck each Sabbath. Stay and join us for a great vegetarian meal and good fellowship
- ◆ Every Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. Study and Prayer Mtg.
- ◆ Every Thursday @ 6:45 Study and Prayer Mtg.
- ◆ Telephone Prayer Conference Call. 1st Monday of every month. 12:15–1:00 p.m. Call 1-805-309-2350 Access number 5853–1022#
- ◆ Contact us for more information about the upcoming "Walk for Life" program and "The Adventist Community Health Care Initiative." Flyers are available in the church foyer.
- ◆ Upcoming Evangelist Series beginning March 28th.

To God's People--HAPPY NEW YEAR in the LORD!

Together saints, let us purpose in our hearts that we will LIVE and ACT as though we KNOW and BELIEVE that Jesus is coming to get us and take us to our REAL HOME!

Questions to answer:

1. Do I really want to go HOME? or
2. Am I comfortable on this planet in its present state?
3. Am I really preparing for the trip HOME? In what ways?
4. Do I hate sin and abhor it for what it has done to mankind and for the price it cost the Son of God?
5. Am I thinking and doing as Jesus did while on this earth?

"I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work." (John 9:4)

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BACK SURGERY AND BALANCE

BY WILLIE E. HUCKS II

In early 2010, I underwent back surgery. My surgeon assured me that after six weeks of rest and recuperation, followed by a prescribed regimen of physical therapy, I would be as good as new.

When I started the physical therapy, something I previously never had to endure, I found it mentally and physically grueling. I was making progress, but that progress lured me into a false sense of security—that everything was back to normal and I didn't need to complete the full course of treatment. I felt good.

But the passing of time has revealed things that I didn't see right away. I can't jump as high as I once could. I struggle to walk in a straight line. While standing to pray, I have to either keep my eyes open when I bow my head or touch something if closing my eyes. Why? Because I have balance issues.

In ministry, so-called success has occasionally lured me into a false sense of security—causing me to believe that everything is as it should be. But as I start this new year, I find myself analyzing whether or not my life and ministry are balanced. What must I do to either regain or maintain balance?

Nurture my relationship with my wife

Everything that my wife and I do seems to revolve around our two adult children's growth and development. But to what degree do we take time for each other? To what degree do I constantly remind her that she is my queen?

The need to balance home and professional life does not exclusively reside in the realm of ministry. Even as I write these words, my wife is working on lesson plans for her students. Yet, I still need to remind myself that the ever-pressing demands of my calling must occasionally yield to the higher calling of actively demonstrating to my wife that she is the most important person in my life.

Read a book each month

Recently, I packed a book in my suitcase—with hopes of reading it while on a short trip to visit my parents. Unfortunately, I fell short of my goal. There seemed not to be enough time to spend with my parents and tend to other responsibilities. As pastors, we owe it to our church members and others to be informed and conversant about various issues. More than that, we owe it to ourselves and our families to exercise our minds, providing appropriate mental stimulation that potentially wards off debilitating diseases.

Exercise several times each week

My work schedule has always created unexpected obstacles to regular, consistent exercise. I find it easy to relegate physical activity to the *back burner*.

I have discovered that regularly taking my 40-minute walk a minimum of four times per week leaves me feeling less stressed and more refreshed. And as an added bonus, it provides more time with my wife—because we usually walk together. I struggle with consistency; but laboring for that balance pays tremendous dividends both mentally and physically.

Remain in touch with the community

During that aforementioned recent visit with my parents, I drove them around as they ran errands. While doing so, I could not help but notice the changing demographics of the neighborhood in which I was raised. Suddenly, I realized that I spend so much time doing the work of the church that I don't spend nearly as much time as I once did assessing and addressing the needs of those in *my* community who need to see Jesus.

A key element of professional balance is to spend time with the often unacknowledged church members *and* the disenfranchised residents in our communities. My ministry should not be defined by adherence to programs; rather, it should be recognized by attention to people.

My vow for 2016

God has created us as "wholistic" beings—a wonderful blend of spiritual, mental, social, emotional, and physical. And, because He wants me to reflect the fullness of His intentions for me, I must strive for that equilibrium in every aspect of my life.

Will you join me in making this vow?

(Submitted by: Pastor Joseph Perricellia)

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, And receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; And he shall be tormented with the fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, And in the presence of the Lamb“ (Rev 14:9-10)

“To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God. ... If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth

commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false Sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls 'My holy day', you receive the mark of the beast.”

(Ellen White, Study Bible, p 510)

This breakthrough piece of writing instills very much more than the couple of phrases I included.

Is Ellen White just dreaming these things up, or is there reason involved? If we acknowledge her as having the meaning of a present day Prophet, it behooves us to try to come up with different meanings to her statements. And to honor the men and women who manage to

come up with different solutions for our fundamental theological problems. By “honoring” these people I do not mean worship them. I mean allowing them to present their different views without scoffing at them.

I for one hold the view that Ellen White is a Prophet. Her theological basis is solid. In her you find Unity is a matter for the One Who is Many. And this means that each man or woman must decide what is right and good, what is moral, but each must unify around the Church and act as the One who is the most important: Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Ken Wilson



“Egg Shaped Equality”

I just had another one of those nights where sleep eluded me. I must say that this was one of the strangest subjects on my mind for quite some time. I couldn't stop thinking about eggs. Yes eggs! I told you it was strange.

I remember as a child we would visit my grandparents. They lived on a small farm and raised chickens. One of my favorite childhood memories were going to the hen house, collecting fresh chicken eggs and having my grandmother cook breakfast with farm fresh eggs.

Since those early memories I realize that things have changed. We no longer get our eggs from chickens. Somehow they genetically enhanced plants to produce eggs for us. We've all heard of egg plant, right? I'm a little confused since every time I've seen egg plant it was purple in color and didn't resemble eggs as I remember them. Maybe the eggs are inside of the purple part we normally see. I've come to think that those must be the exotic variety of eggs and not the same eggs that we use in our normal lives.

Today of course, we get all of our eggs from one place called “Egg land”. I know this because I've seen the commercials on television. They have even developed some way to judge how good those eggs are before you crack them open. Maybe they x-ray them or do ultra sound tests on each egg. I'm not sure how they do it but they can tell which eggs will be the best ones and they get a special stamp showing that they are the best that “Egg land” has to offer. An old saying comes to mind about not being able to judge a book by its cover so finding a way to tell which eggs will be the best once you crack them open is simply amazing.

Now the part of my thinking that really bothered me and kept me awake was the fact of how eggs are just like real life. Eggs come in two basic colors, white and brown. Inside of an egg there is a white part and a yellow part, also known as the yolk. No matter what color the outside is, the inside is the same. Some cooks and chefs may tell you that one is better than the other but that's simply not true. I have a hard time believing that even those eggs that are supposed to be the best that “Egg land” has to offer are any better than any other eggs. I'm reminded that just like eggs; people also come in two basic colors, white and brown. Just like eggs we judge each other by our color. There are no tests or procedures able to tell us that what is in our hearts is determined by our outward color. There is nothing about the color of our skin that makes us a better or a worse person. God made us all the same. God made us all uniquely different while still equal in His eyes.

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THE MESSENGER OF OUR 3 CHURCHES

(NEW YEAR Continued from page 7)

"God...separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, to REVEAL His son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen;..."

(Galatians 1:15,16)

"...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the TRUTH."

The church has no other business than "Go ye into all the world."
What do you say church—Almond, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids?
Let us GO FORWARD—TOGETHER in this YEAR of EVANGELISM!

MARANATHA!!!

Submitted by Maria Frank



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If you would like to become a part of this publication, we would be honored to have your help. Please contact us...

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Mission Statement: To share the good news of Jesus Christ through our testimonies and through open communications, spreading our love so that people everywhere will be ready for the soon coming of Jesus.

Vision Statement: To bring the churches of our small district together as one, by openly sharing communications and enjoying significant relationships among the churches and then sharing this love throughout the community.

(Egg Shaped-Continued from page 9)

At this point I began to thank God for pointing out a shortcoming in my life since I have been guilty of judging others by what I see on the outside. It may have been because of their color or just because of the way they look or even dress. I prayed that God would take that attitude of judging others from me and thanked Him again. Shortly after that I was asleep until morning.

God tells us in His word:
Matt 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

Luke 6:37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Submitted by Rick Felts

Almond Church November Events

(Visit our NEW website!)
www.almondsda.org



- Jan. 1 Prayer Mtg. (Unity) 7:00
- Jan. 2 Sabbath—Vegetarian Potluck after at Ferguson's (Msg. by Doug)
- Jan. 2 Church Plant Mtg. 3:30 being held in Wautoma
- Jan. 3 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Jan. 6 Community Bible Study (Great Controversy) 7:00
- Jan. 8 Prayer Mtg. (Unity) 7:00
- Jan. 9 Sabbath—Vegetarian Potluck after (Msg. by Eric Anderson)
- Jan. 9 Church Plant Mtg. 3:30 being held in Wautoma
- Jan. 10 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Jan. 13 Community Bible Study (Great Controversy) 7:00
- Jan. 15 Prayer Mtg. (Unity) 7:00
- Jan. 16 Sabbath—Vegetarian Potluck after (Msg. by Pastor Joseph)
- Jan. 16 Church Plant Mtg. 3:30 being held in Wautoma
- Jan. 17 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Jan. 20 Community Bible Study (Great Controversy) 7:00
- Jan. 22 Prayer Mtg. (Unity) 7:00
- Jan. 23 Sabbath—Vegetarian Potluck after (Msg. by Maria Frank)
- Jan. 23 Church Plant Mtg. 3:30 being held in Wautoma
- Jan. 24 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30
- Jan. 27 Community Bible Study (Great Controversy) 7:00

Looking back and looking ahead!
A time for reflection

Looking back...

Q: What do you feel were the highpoints of your life in 2015?

Looking ahead...

Q: What would you like to experience spiritually in 2016?

Q: What are your relationship goals for 2016? (Both physically and spiritually?)

Q: What are your ministry goals for 2016?

Community Bible Study - Wednesday 7PM

We are currently studying The Great Controversy by Ellen G. White

Unity Prayer Meeting - Friday 7PM

"Christ is leading out a people, and bringing them into the unity of faith, that they may be one, as He is one with the Father." EGW, Testimonies for the Church, v1, p324, p1

Bible Study - Anderson Home - Sunday 5:30PM

This study begins with fellowship and potluck before we dive into the book of John for an in depth study.

- Jan. 29 Prayer Mtg. (Unity) 7:00
- Jan. 30 Sabbath—Vegetarian Potluck (Msg. by Bill Boehm)
- Jan. 31 Bible Study (Anderson Home)