

DGSDA NEWS AND NOTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2009

MAKING JESUS THE CENTER OF YOUR HOME

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Jesus in the home
- Teenie Finley; guest speaker November 7
- Working for Jesus
- Caring for Others
- Focusing on the right things
- Upcoming seminar training events
- Just for Kids

Some years ago a married couple came to me for help with what truly was a marriage on the rocks. As I listened to each side of their life story I knew that there was nothing I could do for them personally. Tammy and I met with them several times and prayed, cried and supported in every way that we knew how.

Unfortunately, for them, "things" had taken the place of God and an overzealous controlling spirit was tightening the chains of distress around both of them until they were not able to escape what they themselves had done.

He happened to be an elder and she was a Sabbath school teacher. Both were very gifted but both were not able to hold up spiritually at church while knowing that things were not right at home.

One day the wife was walking and saw what had once been a beautiful tree that was now broken down. As she looked she realized that it was hollow and that had led to its fall, not being able to withstand the winds. She said, "I see our marriage just like that tree, hollow, empty and falling apart and there is nothing that can be done.

At this point I began to

share a story with her, which is part of what I do best given my limited abilities. I said that when Tammy was a small girl, they had a beautiful sycamore tree in the back yard. One day her father noticed that the tree was hollow and beginning to split apart. Having enjoyed all of the many blessings of the tree for so many years they called a tree expert to see if anything could be done to save it. *Continued Pg 11*



GUEST SPEAKER &

LAY BIBLE WORKERS SEMINAR

Teenie Finley will be our guest speaker on Sabbath, November 7.



We are looking forward to a wonderful message!

In the afternoon Teenie

will conduct a seminar for those interested in becoming lay Bible workers. We will be the host church for the seminar as people from all over Chicagoland come to learn how to give Bible studies.

The Seminar will begin at 2:30 and be streamed

live for the benefit of inner city churches where traveling to Downers would be more difficult.

We will be meeting people from right here as we learn more about giving Bible studies. I hope that you can plan now to attend this special class.

SOUP AND SALVATION

Have you ever wondered why many churches have little interest in witnessing? Have you ever asked, "Is there something our church can do to make a difference for the kingdom of God in our community? How can we have a real breakthrough in outreach?" Many concerned church members have asked these questions. Jesus provides us with some answers.

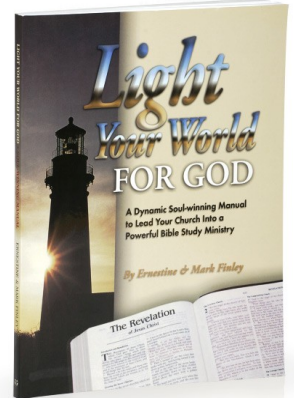
When our Lord called His disciples He said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19) The disciples learned to be effective soul-winners as they

watched Jesus share eternal truths with lost people. Spending time with Jesus, they learned how to win souls. After they were with Him only a very short time, Jesus sent them out as soul-winners. The disciples applied what Jesus had taught them.

You cannot learn to swim in a classroom. It is necessary to get in the water. You cannot learn soul-winning in a classroom either. You learn soul-winning by going into the field. We step out in faith. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to be more effective. When we share what we know, we grow.

In this session we will share a simple soul-winning strategy that is revolutionizing churches. It is called Soup & Salvation. Soup & Salvation is a weekly Bible study program designed to follow up interests and give Bible studies.

You are invited to the pastor's home for Soup and Salvation! Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. We will meet, pray, and plan for Bible studies as part of a personal outreach effort by our church. Soup will be provided. Plan now to come and join in prayer for those around us, and those trying to reach them for Jesus.



CONFLICT AND COURAGE CHAP. 283 "NONE WERE PERFECT"

This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar—to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us. 2. Cor. 4:7, Phillips. {CC 289.1}

All the disciples had serious faults when Jesus called them to His service. Even John, who came into closest association with the meek and lowly One, was not himself naturally meek and yielding. He and his brother were called "the sons of thunder." While they were with Jesus, any slight shown to Him aroused their indignation and combativeness. Evil temper, revenge, the spirit of criticism, were all in the beloved disciple. He was proud, and ambitious to be first in the kingdom of God. But day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and

heard His lessons of humility and patience. He opened his heart to the divine influence, and became not only a hearer but a doer of the Saviour's words. Self was hid in Christ. He learned to wear the yoke of Christ and to bear His burden. {CC 289.2}

Jesus reproved His disciples, He warned and cautioned them; but John and his brethren did not leave Him; they chose Jesus, notwithstanding the reproofs. The Saviour did not withdraw from them because of their weakness and errors. They continued to the end to share His trials and to learn the lessons of His life. By beholding Christ, they became transformed in character. . . . {CC 289.3}

As His representatives among men, Christ does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. . . . {CC 289.4}

Having been in peril themselves, they are acquainted with the dangers and difficulties of the way, and for this reason are called to reach out for others in like peril. There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ. {CC 289.5}

We are to be laborers together with the heavenly angels in presenting Jesus to the world. {CC 289.6}

"We are to be laborers together with the heavenly angels in presenting Jesus to the world"

SACRED MUSIC WORSHIP SERVICE NOVEMBER 14

Annette (VanScoy) Campbell and her husband, John, have been married 23 years and have lived near Madison, Wisconsin their entire married life. They have 2 grown children, Heather and Darrell, who are married and beginning



families of their own. Two beautiful step-grandchildren help to enlarge the family circle. On August 12th their family grew again when their daughter gave birth to twin girls.

Annette uses her gift of a clear, mellow, alto voice to sing with the Wisconsin Conference evangelistic team and currently serves as the team's music coordinator. She says, "There is no greater honor than knowing when the Holy Spirit is using you to touch the hearts of His people."

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Psalm 122:1



PRAYER MINISTRY STARTING NOVEMBER 7

Starting November 7. We will be meeting Sabbath mornings 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. and Sabbath afternoons immediately following the service. Please contact Rosetta Sodora to be part of a prayer ministry.

There are two kinds of prayer,--the prayer of form and the prayer of faith. The repetition of set, customary phrases when the heart feels no need of God, is formal prayer. "When ye pray," says Christ, "use not vain repetitions, as the hea-

then do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." We should be extremely careful in all our prayers to speak the wants of the heart, and to say only what we mean. All the flowery words at our command are not equivalent to one holy desire. The most eloquent prayers are but vain repetitions, if they do not express the true sentiments of the heart. But the prayer that comes from an earnest heart, when the

simple wants of the soul are expressed just as we would ask an earthly friend for a favor, expecting that it would be granted--this is the prayer of faith. The publican who went up to the temple to pray is a good example of a sincere, devoted worshiper. He felt that he was a sinner, and his great need led to an outburst of passionate desire, "God be merciful to me a sinner." {ST, August 14, 1884 par. 8}



Jesus was often found in prayer.

{RH, May 30, 1871 par. 15}

PLEASE BRING FOOD, WE NEED FOOD!

The Community Service Team has organized the food drive for this years community needs again. The Pathfinders have gone out and collected food for our neighbors.



There is a greater need this year that is reflected in the giving of the community which gives us an opportunity to take a more personal roll in meeting

the needs of others. Each year the community services team makes up and fills gift boxes for those families who have been brought to their attention.

Because of the downturn in donations we are asking if you could please bring non-perishable food items and drop them in the bins that are in the lower hallway.

This week there will be grocery bags given out at church to each family to bring back with their food offering. This food will be used to fill Thanksgiving, and Christmas Food Baskets for our Community. A few things each Sabbath would help out greatly. Thank you!

If you would like to know more about Adventist Community Services [Click here](#) ore on the picture.

The Chapter That Defines Our Work.-- The whole of the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is to be regarded as a message for this time, to be given over and over again.--Special Testimonies, series B, no. 2, p. 5. {WM 29.1}

BIBLE MARKING CLASS

November 21, we will begin a Bible Marking Class in the sanctuary right after lunch. These classes will last for 1 hour and continue every 1st and 3rd Sabbath or other Sabbaths when there is fellowship lunch.

This 16-part series is intended to teach most of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church utilizing a topical Bible marking format. The curriculum is designed to be extremely flexible for use in nightly evangelistic series, as a church sermon series, Sabbath

school class, or in a small group environment. Our goal is to get you all of the ministry resources you need. Titles for each Bible marking class are;

- (1) Soul Food
- (2) Are You My Mother?
- (3) Is There Hope for Me?
- (4) Just Desserts
- (5) The Blessed Hope
- (6) Hope for Your Driving

- (7) Racing With Hope
- (8) Body of Hope
- (9) Rechargeable Hope
- (10) Window of Hope
- (11) Growing With Hope
- (12) Driving Hope
- (13) Hope Mortuary
- (15) Mission of Hope
- (16) Living Bread; Forgiving Wine



10 PRACTICES TO WELCOME CHURCH VISITORS PART 2

WRITTEN BY: EVANGELISM COACH ON AUGUST 12, 2008



6. "Secret Greeters"

Some churches will go beyond simply training greeters for points of entry at the church, such as the front door. A good idea is to encourage others to be "secret greet-

ers." These folks are part of the greeting team but are not in the obvious places like the front door or as an usher.

I had a fellow in my congregation who never served on a greeting team. However, he was always in the sanctuary, taking the initiative to greet people personally and visit with them for a little bit. He functioned as a "secret greeter." This someone went beyond the "professional greeter" at the door or the welcome center.

If for some reason a visitor gets to the sanctuary with a greeting from someone, this person is there to continue that greeting.

7. Pulpit recognition

Most churches that I have experienced will have the worship leader give some kind of welcome to the greeter. Here, the advice from McIntosh is best (source: Beyond the First Visit: The Complete Guide to Connecting Guests to Your Church, Gary McIntosh, Review)

Whatever you do, take great pains not to embarrass the newcomer. Among other things this means you should not identify new people by placing a ribbon, flower, or nametag on them. Do not ask visitors to stand and speak before the entire congregation. A survey of one thousand adults 18 years of age or older reported that "making a speech" was the number one event causing adults to be nervous. It ranked first, ahead of, in order, getting married, interviewing for a job, going to the dentist, a first date, and getting a divorce. (p 110).

My wife and I recently visited a church where this wasn't done at all. She commented that it simply feels nice and warm when the worship leader acknowledges the presence of visitors and encourages the church to say hello.

8. Friendship Pads, Fellowship Books.

These are books that gather attendance information and provide a place for visitors to identify themselves by checking a box on the form.

The idea is that other people in the row would see a check in

the visitor box and take the initiative to greet. Church multi-purpose this form for attendance tracking.

However, I have been in churches where I check the box, and still no one greets our family. This practice seems to be falling out of favor because the pads become a doodle bin, the pencils are hard to keep sharp and it's becoming an administrative nightmare.

There are other ways of getting visitor contact information, particularly the response card system mentioned in Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church (which I think is the best Assimilation book available right now). They use a Connection card that is distributed with the bulletin and every one (members, attendees, and visitors) fill it out as part of the service. This information is used in their assimilation process, described in detail in their book.

9. Quality Snacks and Beverages.

The basic idea is a informal reception area where people can gather after the service. For some, this is the lobby area (some call that a narthex). For others, it could be in the fellowship hall or auditorium.

As our evangelism training ministry takes us to churches throughout the Americas, many American congregations provide some kind of refreshment after the service, to allow for a social setting where people can talk one on one. (Observation: In my travels in 10 different Spanish speaking countries and countless churches, only one church practiced this idea).

Beverages:

Juice, ice cold water are nice. If you choose to use bottled water, offer a recycle container for empty bottles.

Food:

Whatever snack items are offered, make sure they are fresh. Stale sweets, or frozen items (poke a little fun) that had been thawed simply taste cheap and do not make a great first impression. Consider common food allergies and either avoid those (like nuts) or provide an appropriate sign.

In our health conscious time, provide healthy options for those that don't want sugary cookies or sticky sweets.

Connecting:

Church members should be on the lookout for visitors again in this time. Some visitors are obvious – standing around, reading the news items on the bulletin board, and generally being overlooked. **Members ought to take the initiative and start a conversation.**

This can be a time to help make connections and perhaps introduce people to the pastor. Pastors should make themselves available during this time to meet and greet people, not rush off to the study and prepare for the following service.

In the international church I served, we stressed the importance of introducing our visitors to the pastors. *We had been told that many people from non-American cultures consider it an honor to be introduced to the pastor.*

10. Sabbath School Greeters and Hosts

Some visitors will partake of the Sabbath School offerings. Many have a strong program here that attracts visitors who come for the first time.

I experienced a warm welcome in a 14,000 member mega church because of my experience in the bible study class. I arrived early enough to pick a class. Once I found it (a kind person in the hall pointed out where I needed to go) I was welcomed by a person and ushered to a place to sit. The small talk was not intrusive but just enough to help me feel at ease in a strange place with total strangers (I was by myself). When the Class was over, this person showed me to the sanctuary and took me to a usable seat. After asking if there was anything else I might need, they left.

I learned later that this church was very intentional in their efforts to welcome class visitors. Each class had a person in charge of the beverage, the teaching, and the greeting. I felt welcome, overcame the sense of being lost on their campus.



Do not neglect to show hospitality; for, through being hospitable, men have all unawares entertained angels. Hebrews 13:2

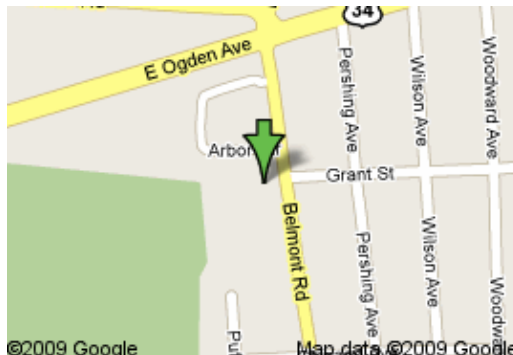


“Church members should be on the lookout for visitors and ought to take the initiative and start a conversation.”

OPEN GYM NIGHT NOVEMBER 14, 8-10 PM

There will be a gym night located at 4500 Belmont Road Downers Grove, IL 60515 (630) 960-7250

There will be a gym night at the Downers Grove recreation center November 14. Plan now to come enjoy some social activity and good sportsmanship together. This is open to all churches or friends in the surrounding area. The recreation center is



"YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR"

When I was a boy growing up outside of New York City, I was an avid fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers. In fact, I have not yet quite forgiven them for moving west. The archenemy in my childhood was the New York Yankees. I had seen them only on television and heard them only on the radio until I was invited by my father to skip school and to go to the World Series game between the Yankees and the Dodgers.

I'll tell you, it was one of the great thrills of my childhood. I remember sitting there, smelling the hot dogs

and hearing the cheers of the crowd and the feel of it all. I knew those Dodgers were going to shellac those Yankees once and for all. Unfortunately the Dodgers never got on base, so my thrill was shattered. I tucked it away somewhere in my unconscious until, as an adult, I was in a conversation with one of these fellows who was a walking sports almanac. I mentioned to him when I went to my first major league game. I said, "It was such a disappointment. I was a Dodger fan and the Dodgers never got on base."

He said, "You were there? You were at the game when Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in all of World Series history?"

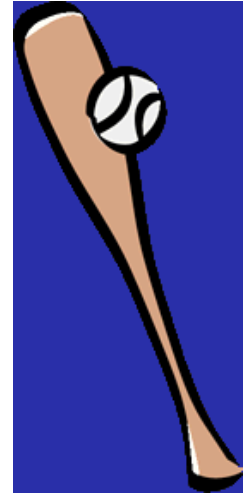
I said, "Yeah, but, uh, we lost." I was so caught up in my team's defeat that I missed out on the fact that I was a witness to a far greater page of history.

-- Leith Anderson, "Unlistened-to Lessons of Life,"

See: Ex 6:1-9; Eph 4:18;

Ps 119:37

I hope to see you in church this Sabbath!



STRESS BEYOND COPING TRAINING EVENT

This Sabbath afternoon, Nov. 7, from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Pastor Skip MacCarty, author of the program, will provide a free training event for this stress management seminar.

The training will take place at the Independence Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist Church which is located at 3808 W. Polk St., Chicago, IL 60624. Materials will be made avail-

able for purchase after sundown or they may be purchased online at www.stressbeyondcoping.com. You may attend even if you didn't register.

NEDLEY HEALTH SOLUTIONS "TRAINING THE TRAINER"

December 6-7, 2009 Dr. Neil Nedley will provide training on utilizing his depression recovery program for community outreach. There is a cost

involved in this training, please go to www.drnedley.com to get more information and register. This training will take

place at the North Shore Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 5220 N California Ave., Chicago, IL 60625.

COOKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Celebrate the holidays with us by attending our **2nd Annual Holiday Banquet & Health Seminar**. Several physicians and a dietitian will answer your health-related

questions followed by food demonstrations and a banquet. Nov. 15 from 3:30 to 6:30 PM at the Hinsdale SDA Church, 201 N. Oak St, Hinsdale. Please register & bring

a friend! Phone: 630-323-0182 or Email: healthministry@hsdac.com. No charge but donations are welcome.

"We are witnesses to far greater events in history than we often realize"



Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 2

CLOUDY THINKING

Youth Culture Lesson

Finding Teachable Moments in Culture

From *YouthWorker Journal* and youthworker.com

Cloudy Thinking

Balloon Boy's Family Grounded

By Paul Asay

Posted: Oct. 30, 2009

What Happened:

On Oct. 15, a strange, saucer-shaped balloon floated up from a rural Colorado property. In a later call to 911, balloon owner Richard Heene told officials his 6-year-old son, Falcon, was on board.

For much of the afternoon, the country was riveted. Rescue workers pursued the balloon for 50 miles until it finally settled in a field. Falcon, however, was nowhere to be found. He later was discovered hiding in the attic of his home.

Just days later, officials accused the Heenes of concocting the whole episode – a hoax later confirmed by Falcon's mother, Mayumi Heene. The Heenes, who had twice been featured in

the reality show "Wife Swap," were angling to cut another television deal, this one based on the exploits of his family.

The Heenes are now undergoing an impromptu psychological examination by much of the country. Many have focused on young

Falcon, who was asked to lie by his own parents. "If a parent tries to coerce them into something, they are not able to make a valid decision about whether it makes sense," says psychiatrist Diane DiGiacomo. "Kids just don't have the cognitive ability to be able to do so."

Source: *New York Daily News*

The Heenes are not alone. A recent study found that 80 percent of young adults had been told that lying is always wrong; 88 percent of those same young adults said their own parents had lied to *them* on occasion.

Talk About It:

Why do you think the Heenes lied? Was it understandable? What do you think the consequences for

them should be?

Have your parents told you that it's bad to lie? Have you done it anyway? When? Why?



Have you ever caught someone you trusted in a lie? Your parents? Your teachers? Your friends?

Is it ever OK to lie?

What the Bible Says:

"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight" (Prov. 12:22).

"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape" (Prov. 19:5).

"Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity" (Jer. 9:5).

"... as long as my breath is in me and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit" (Job 27:3-4).



"Rescue workers pursued the balloon for 50 miles until it finally settled in a field"



REPORT: COLLEGES RAISING TUITION

By Chris Well | October 25, 2009

If you have kids in your youth group preparing for college, they have some bad news: A report from the College Board last week says that tuition at public and private colleges for the 2009-10 academic

year outpace inflation. At the same time, family net income has barely budged over the past decade. The spiraling cost of higher education comes at a time when institutions are reeling from the aftershocks of shrinking state aid, battered endowments, and significant budgetary

pressures. The average annual in-state tuition and fees at four-year public colleges for the 2009-10 academic year is \$7,020, up \$229 from last year. Those numbers don't include room and board, which adds another \$8,193. (Business Week)



Colleges raising tuition!

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Here are the first books of the Bible. Can you find them in the word grid? They may be written vertically, horizontally, backwards or forwards, and even diagonally!

Print out this page and get your pencil sharpened!



GENESIS	E	X	O	S	R	S	M	L	A	S	P
EXODUS	D	M	Y	U	J	O	S	H	U	A	M
LEVITICUS	C	E	T	C	U	L	H	S	J	M	O
NUMBERS	R	H	U	I	D	N	E	R	B	U	N
DEUTERONOMY	O	A	S	T	G	U	J	E	U	E	O
JOSHUA	N	I	K	I	E	V	Z	B	V	L	R
JUDGES	I	M	I	V	S	R	I	M	O	Z	E
RUTH	N	E	N	E	A	E	O	U	R	J	H
SAMUEL	G	H	G	L	D	S	N	N	I	K	T
KINGS	N	E	S	U	D	O	X	E	O	T	S
CHRONICLES	E	N	J	N	E	H	E	M	G	M	E
EZRA	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	Y
NEHEMIAH											
ESTHER											
JOB											
PSALMS											

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

JUST FOR KIDS(RIDDLES)

Q. What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?

A. Lily

Q. What do you call a man with a seagull on hid head?

A. Cliff?

Q. What do you call a special agent in a washing up bottle?

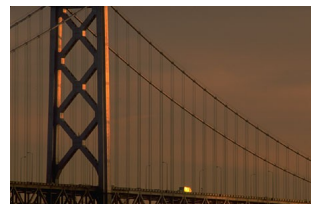
A. Bubble - O 7

Are you groaning? Do you know any better rid-

dles? Send them in and give us a laugh! If we like them we will try to put them on this page.

For a fun game go to the following web site address!

<http://christiananswers.net/kids/breakout/>



Caption describing picture or graphic.

WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE LEAF?



Think of leaves as being like little solar panels for trees. Just as solar cells use light to produce electric energy, leaves use light from the sun to produce food for trees. This process is known as photosynthesis, which means “to put together with light.” When light enters the leaf, a special part called a chloroplast (klo-ro-plast), uses the light to change carbon dioxide and water into breathable oxygen and a sugar called glucose. Inside the chloroplast is a chemical called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is very important, because it is the chemical that allows photosynthesis to take place, and it gives leaves their green color.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WEATHER STARTS TO CHANGE?

When autumn comes and winter is on its way, you’ll notice that it doesn’t stay light outside nearly as long as it did during the summer. That means that the leaves don’t get as much light as they used to, and the amount of chlorophyll starts to decrease. Remember, chlorophyll is what gives a leaf its green color, so as there is less chlorophyll, the leaves lose their strong green color.



WHERE DO THE COLORS COME FROM?

There are always small amounts of other certain colors in every leaf, so when the green starts to fade, the other colors start to become visible. Some of the colors that might hide in leaves until fall are browns, yellows, and oranges (the color, not the fruit!). Colors like reds and purples are made by chemical reactions inside the leaf.

WHAT DO THE COLORS MEAN?

- *Brown*: The leaf is dying or already dead.
- *Yellow and Orange* - These colors are made by chemicals called carotenoids (keh-rot’n-oids’). These are always present in small amounts, but they become more visible when the green color starts to fade.



Red and Purple - These colors are made by chemicals called anthocyanins (an-tho-SI’ah-ninz). These are formed by chemical reactions that usually take place as the weather starts to change in the fall. Leftover food (glucose) in a leaf can also make a leaf look red.

All of these colors can combine to form even more colors. That is why you might see so many different colors on the trees in your yard, or even on a single tree.

BEAUTY IN CREATION



It’s a lot of fun to see how God did so much more than just make things work; He made them look good, too! Watching the leaves turn colors in the fall is just one example of the wonderful beauty that God created here on Earth.

WHY DO AMERICANS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING DAY?

Many Americans think of Thanksgiving as a wonderful time to celebrate getting out of school for a long weekend, and eating a great dinner. Or, maybe they think it is the start of the Christmas holiday season. What is the real meaning behind Thanksgiving? Catherine Millard writes:



We can trace this historic American Christian tradition to the year 1623. After the harvest crops were gathered in November 1623, Governor William Bradford of the 1620 Pilgrim Colony, "Plymouth Plantation" in Plymouth, Massachusetts proclaimed:



"All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at

the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings."

This is the origin of our annual Thanksgiving Day celebration. Congress of the United States

has proclaimed National Days of Thanksgiving to Almighty God many times throughout the following years. On November 1, 1777, by order of Congress, the first National Thanksgiving Proclamation was proclaimed, and signed by Henry Laurens, President of Continental Congress. The

third Thursday of December, 1777 was thus officially set aside:

"...for solemn thanksgiving and praise. That with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor;... and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them (their manifold sins) out of remembrance... That it may please Him... to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety under His nurturing hand, and to prosper the

means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth of 'righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost'..."

Then again, on January 1, 1795, our first United States President, George Washington, wrote his famed National Thanksgiving Proclamation, in which he says that it is...

"...our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue is... our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced..."

Thursday, the 19th day of February, 1795 was thus set aside by George Washington as a National Day of Thanksgiving.



Many years later, on October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, by Act of Congress, an annual National Day of Thanksgiving "on the last Thursday of November, as a day of Thanksgiving and

Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." In this Thanksgiving proclamation, our 16th President says that it is...

"announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, by the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people..."

So it is that on Thanksgiving Day each year, Americans give thanks to Almighty God for all His blessings and mercies toward us throughout the year.



MAKING JESUS THE CENTER OF YOUR HOME CONTINUED



The tree expert came out, looked over the tree and said that he thought it could be saved. Tammy's father gave him permission to do whatever needed to be done to save the tree. Before long he was cleaning all of the dead wood out of the hollow part of the tree. Next he began to cover the inside of the tree with black pitch or tar. Not much later a large concrete truck was there and strangely enough he filled the hollow of the tree all the way to the top with concrete.

As the years passed by, slowly but surely the tree began to grow around the concrete. In time you could not see the concrete at all because it was completely covered. When Tammy and I first started dating 25 years ago, the tree was about 3' in diameter. Every time I have thought about that tree I have felt sorry for

the person who would ever try to cut it down. It reminds me of the verse in Mark 10:9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

I see many valuable insights through this simple true story and I am sure you do too. As I shared this story with a distraught wife, and husband I said; you saw a hollow tree but I see what God can make your marriage to be.

That tree would have died without the help of the expert tree man. When he cleaned out all of the dead wood it reminds of things that may need to be cleaned out of our marriages that lead to greater decay.

He then coated it with pitch or tar. This is derived from oil. One of the reasons that oil was looked for in the Middle East is because the bible says that Noah covered the ark with pitch. Oil in the bible represents the Holy Spirit. As God cleans us out he also gives to us a special coating of the Holy Spirit which is essential in the healing process.

Lastly, the tree was filled

with solid rock that was soft and flexible to meet every area of need but also gave strength and stability the longer it was there.

After all of that was done, there just needed to be time for the healing to take place. Are there some areas here that you can identify with? Tammy's father was responsible for putting the tar and the rock into that dying tree. In the same way, God the father gave His only begotten son and sent the Holy Spirit in order that we might be healed.

They separated for a time and began to realize the joys that they were each missing while being apart. Eventually the husband and wife decided to sell their home and start life over again together. God became the rock of their salvation. They bought a new home and now they and their children are happy together once again.

It occurs to me that they each felt that their marriage was falling apart and they didn't know what to do.

Jesus, speaking of Himself said; "Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on

whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." Luke 20:18

At the beginning of the story, they said that the tree looked like it was hopeless and soon to fall. As I think on the things that have been shared I am reminded that only God can keep us from falling.

Maybe you can relate to this true story today. I just want to encourage you, that when your life seems hollow, married or single, that if you ask Jesus to come into your life He will. When He does, He brings the healing balm of the Holy Spirit with Him. He wants to do that for you today. Why don't you ask Him to right now and He will.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Keep the faith,
Pastor Joe





November 2009

DOWNERS GROVE SDA CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
7 Daylight Savings Ends	2 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	3 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Soup and Salvation	4 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Faith & Finance (DG Library)	5 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Faith & Finance (DG Library)	6 4:39 PM Sunset	7 9:30 AM Sabbath School 10:55 AM Worship - Teresa Friday 12:30 PM Fellowship Dinner 1:30 PM Pathfinder Club 2:30 PM Teresa Friday Service 4:30 PM Sunset 5:00 PM Vespers 6:00 PM HVA Fall Festival																																										
8 10:00 AM Pathfinder Club 12:00 PM Pathfinder Staff Meeting	9 7:00 PM Church Board Meeting	10 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Soup and Salvation	11 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Veterans Day	12 7:00 PM Week of Prayer	13 4:32 PM Sunset	14 9:30 AM Sabbath School 10:55 AM Musical Worship Service - Arnette Wessley Campbell 3:00 PM Outer Club 4:30 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Vespers 6:00 PM Open Night & School Lock In																																										
15	16	17 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Soup and Salvation	18 7:00 PM Week of Prayer	19 7:00 PM Week of Prayer	20 4:27 PM Sunset 7:00 PM Week of Prayer	21 9:30 AM Sabbath School 10:55 AM Worship - Freda Joe Arner 1:20 PM Fellowship Dinner 1:30 PM Bible Word Study Class 3:30 PM Nursing Home Visit 4:28 PM Sunset 4:30 PM Week of Prayer																																										
22 10:00 AM Pathfinder Club	23	24 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Soup and Salvation	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 4:23 PM Sunset	28 9:30 AM Sabbath School 10:55 AM Worship - Adri Lammor 3:00 PM Outer Club 4:22 PM Sunset 5:00 PM Vespers																																										
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