

LET FREEDOM RING

“Final movements will be rapid ones.”

-San Juan Capistrano Backpedals From Bible Study Showdown-

The Southern California city, San Juan Capistrano, that we reported recently in “Busted for Being a Christian” had issued citations against homeowners Chuck and Stephanie Frumm for holding Bible studies in their home, has reversed course after attorneys for Pacific Justice Institute took the case to court. The city recently dropped its action against the couple and refunded the fines they had paid. However, the city has not yet changed its laws that led to the controversy.

In a letter to the couple, Karen P. Brust, San Juan Capistrano City Manager, who had been working with the Fromms, also stated, “City staff will commence the discussion with the Planning Commission. . . about the issue of the need to clarify the Land Use Code with respect to places of public assembly and gatherings at single family residences.”

Pacific Justice Institute had filed an appeal of the citations in the Orange County Superior Court. While that case had now been favorably resolved, Pacific Justice Institute will continue to press city officials for a resolution of the underlying problems, which include unfettered discretion on the part of code enforcement officers.

Brad Dacus, president of Pacific Justice Institute, noted that the resolution was a timely reaffirmation of core religious values. “From the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, through the founding of San Juan Capistrano as a mission, the freedom to worship God has been a bedrock American principle. This victory is an important reminder of that principle.”

Michael Pepper, who heads Pacific Justice Institute’s Southern California office and handled the case, added, “We will continue fighting to insure that San Juan Capistrano and other cities put

freedom first – especially when it comes to informal gatherings in private homes.”

- Bernie Baerg

Religious Liberty Secretary



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Pastor's Challenge



*Pastor
Don Gettys*

My wife and I have been at our beloved McDonald Road Church for a total of 8918 days. For you time buffs, that would be over 770 million seconds, 12,843,299 minutes, 214,050 hours (rounded down) and 1274 weeks. I have preached approximately 1000 different sermons here. Our hearts have melted together with you in christian love. I hope my sermons have uplifted Jesus and have made each of you better saints.

The apostle Paul wrote: **“I have finished the race,” II Tim 4:7.** I have tried also to finish well. Our journey here with you has been wonderful. Together with Jesus much we have accomplished much in these almost 25 years. When I came we had 400+ members, now we have 1030. I was 45 and now am 70. Back in the mid 1980's we had one service but began to grow and added a second service and the conference added one more pastor. Finally we were big enough to have three full time pastors. We added the Southern Deaf Fellowship. Several times, Our Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs have been the largest ones in the Conference. We, as a church, started the second SDA church web site in the world which to this day has more *hits* than most any SDA church web page in the world. Our tithe was \$317,000. Now it is close to \$1.7 million. Truly God has blessed.

We members put a new insulated roof over our Sanctuary. We paid off the parsonage. We dedicated our church and later our gym debt free. We removed six SS classrooms and closed our balcony so we could expand our sanctuary capacity. We put in new carpet throughout and re-covered our pews. We bought a new Rodgers Organ and put in a new baptistry and stained glass window. We acquired a paid church secretary who now is here 5 days a week. We bought 5 more acres giving us a total of 20 acres of beautiful land. We built a Gym, constructed a 15,000 square foot Children's wing. We remodeled our old SS classrooms and kitchen, expanded our Fireside room, added a flower room, added to our parking lot 4 times and put up lighting. We, as a congregation built a picnic pavilion. We spawned a new church in East Ridge. We truly have been busy. I'm ready to retire. We have grown in Jesus and are two and a half decades closer to Jesus return. My wife and I thank each

one of you for the opportunity and privilege of ministry, friendship and growth in this place. Keep faithful to Jesus.
-With warm love, Don and Cynthia Gettys

Come enjoy a Valentines Banquet on February 12, 2012, at 5:00 in the evening. Share a romantic evening with your special sweetheart. Enjoy a delicious meal (vegan and vegetarian), relaxing entertainment and great conversation. Hurry and reserve-limited seating is available. You can reserve your table by pre-paying (\$25.00 per couple) by January 27. Call the church office from 9 am-2:30 pm Mon-Thurs, and 9 am-1 pm Friday, at 396-3462.



High School Retreat, Feb. 3-5, at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp - Come experience the outdoors, new friends and activities. Take this opportunity to step out of your day-to-day routine and listen to God's voice, relax and be refreshed! This event is open to all Adventist students, grades 9-12, not attending Adventist schools. Registration deadline is Monday, January 30. Register online at www.registration.gccsda.com

Disaster Response Training: This course will be offered at the Greeneville, TN SDA Church on Sabbath afternoon and all day Sunday, Jan 21 and 22, 2012. All are welcomed to attend church and stay for a potluck Sabbath lunch with the Greeneville church members. The program session begins at 2:00 pm and ends at 6:00 pm. Sunday's session will be from 8:30am - 5:30pm and will include Sunday lunch. There is a small fee. Attendance at both sessions is required for NAD basic certification. A picture ID and lanyard are also available to those attending both sessions. Attendance is limited to 40 participants. Please register online at www.registration.gccsda.com For questions on program content, call Terry Haight at 423-236-5409. For questions on registration call Caryn at 800-567-1844, ext 340

Christmas Cheer

By Janice Parker

Sunday, December 18, the Deaconess gathered in the Fireside room to fill Christmas bags for the shutins and others in our church. They brought many gifts to fill the bags with, baked goods, fresh fruit, hand made dish clothes, toiletries, books and many other things were in the bags. After filling the bags each lady took some bags to the people. They were much appreciated and brought joy to those who received them.



**"A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all."
-Psalm 34:19**

January Offering Schedule



- 07 Our Church Budget**
- 14 Our Conference**
- 21 Our Church Budget**
- 28 NAD/Religious Liberty**

January Sermon Schedule

Sabbath, January 7, "Keeping Hope Alive"
By Pastor Paul Smith

Sabbath, January 14, "Living In Troubled Times"
By Pastor Tim Rosenburg

Sabbath, January 21, Religious Liberty Sabbath
Todd McFarland Associate General Counsel General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Sabbath, January 28, "Where Are You Lord?"
By Pastor David Cook

A New Year's Day Letter

By **Ellen G. White**

(Written to Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Kellogg, January 1, 1886.)

I wish you a happy new year. The old year with its burden of record has passed into eternity. Now let every thought, every feeling be that of remembrance of God's love. Let us gather up one token after another. . . .

The evidence we have of God's care and love for us is expressed in the lessons Christ gave to His disciples upon the things in nature. . . . The eye is not to be fastened upon deformity, upon the curse, but upon the riches of the grace of Christ that has been provided so abundantly, that we may live in this world, and act our part in the great web of humanity, and yet not be of the world. As pilgrims, as strangers looking for the bright things of God, the joy that is set before us, seeking a city whose builder and maker is God, and by beholding the provisions made for us, the mansions Jesus has gone to prepare for us, talking of the blessed home, we forget the annoyances and the fretting cares of this life. We seem to breathe in the very atmosphere of that better, even the heavenly country. We are soothed, we are comforted; we are more than this, we are joyful in God.

We could not know that gracious purposes of God toward us, but for the promises, for it is from them alone we learn what He has prepared for those who love Him. As the flowers in God's wise economy are constantly drawing the properties from earth and air to develop into the pure and beautiful buds and flowers and give forth their fragrance to delight the senses, so shall it be with us.

We draw from God's promises all that peace, that comfort, that hope that will develop in us the fruits of peace, joy, and faith. And by bringing these promises into our own life we bring them always into the lives of others. Then let us appropriate these promises to ourselves. . . . They are like the precious flowers in the garden of God. They are to awaken our hope and

expectation, and lead us to a firm faith and reliance upon God. They are to strengthen us in trouble and teach us precious lessons of trust in God. He in these precious promises draws back from eternity and gives us a glimpse of the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Let us then be quiet in God. Let us calmly trust in Him and praise Him that He has shown us such revelations of His will and purposes that we shall not build our hopes in this life but keep the eye upward to the inheritance of light and see and sense the amazing love of Jesus.

Published in The Upward Look, p. 15.



New Members



Ron and Christine Bee

Kid'z Korner *January*

ADVENTURES WITH MATILDA MARIE

By Janice Parker

Hi! My name is Matilda Marie, My eyes are green, my hair is auburn and wavy, and I am 10 years old. My family lives in Roscommon County, Michigan. It is the summer of 1922 and a lot of exciting things are happening. We live in a log cabin not far from Higgins Lake. Today is going to be a very special day, I'm so excited. The huckleberries are ripe and our whole family is going to spend the day picking berries. Melvin and Len, my two older brothers, have the team hooked up to the wagon, Stewart, my younger brother, and I must get the pails and the washtub. Ma is fixing a picnic lunch and some milk. Soon we will be leaving. Pa told us to look out for snakes and maybe a bear. We have bears in the woods in these parts and they love huckleberries just like I do. Last night I dreamed about berry jam, berry cobbler and my favorite, berry pie. Ma says we can eat our fill of the berries. I can almost taste their sweet juiciness in my mouth. With all of us working hard maybe we can get a whole wash tub full. We will need a lot of berries to last us through the winter. Everything is in the wagon so off

down the road we go. Pa drives the team and Melvin sits next to him on the bench. Ma and we kids ride in the wagon with our dog Flossie. Ma starts a song and we all sing while we are riding along. We go around the last bend, and then Pa pulls the team under some shade trees. Soon our adventure will begin. As we all get out, Flossie jumps out a head of us. The area is a large meadow with berry and other bushes. I'm in a hurry to get started. Pa puts a rope through the handle of our pail's and ties it around our waist. That way we can pick with both hands and not spill the berries. Keep an eye on your brother ma reminds me. My little brother, Stewart, is 5 ½ and can be a real pest. He is full of mischief and wanders off sometimes. I take his hand and we go for the nearest bushes. The bushes are just loaded with berries and it doesn't take long to fill our pails. I hurry over to the wagon to empty Stewart and my pails. After a while Stewart gets tired of picking and eating berries. I turn around to look for him and he is gone. Flossie comes to help me

search. Ma, Pa and the older boys are on the other side of the meadow. All at once Flossie stops and lets out a low growl and the hair on her back stands straight up. I look to the left and there standing on its hind legs and sniffing the air is the largest bear I have ever seen. I want to scream for Pa, but nothing comes out of my mouth. Silently I pray. Flossie barks loudly as she dashes towards the bear. The bear looks at Flossie and drops down on all fours and ambles off into the woods. That was close. My knees are like jelly and I lean against a bush. "Pa!" I scream. "There is a bear!" Pa and the boys come running. Just then guess who shows up? My little brother Stewart. "Where have you been? I have been looking all over for you," I scold. "I just wanted to see the bear." he says. That evening we thank Jesus for His protection and care.





LORIES IN THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING

By Nels Angelin

There are many things of interest in the sky above that we can see with our eyes and whatever means you may have to see what is up there. The closer you can look the better but even a good pair of binoculars will show alot to give some good oohs and ahs. I would like to open the views you might see of the sky to share with all you that find the stars of interest and how it relates to us as Adventists too. I would like too to extend to you our church family if you would like to see some feature of the stars or astronomy, what would interest you. Send me a note to my address, nels@mcdonaldroad.org.

The Bible mentions a number of things in the heavens too so I would like to take a little tour of some of the features of things that are happening in space and of all the universe around us on our little planet we call home. Space gets very, very big very quickly no matter where we might look or seek to travel in any direction. In another feature, we will explore the scale of how big is our world and others and how far is far in the universe.

All the stars that twinkle in the sky at night, how far would it be to the nearest star to us that we know of? Hopefully you would know that to be our sun that gives us our daylight and keeps us warm and provides life to our planet. On these winter nights you might wonder where the warm is from the sun when it is freezing your fingers and nose. Another time we will look at the warm and cold of space too but how far is the sun, our star, to us. In general terms it is 93 million miles from earth on the average or light from the sun travels about 8 minutes to reach us.

Earth is in a very favorable location to the sun which astronomers call it the habitable zone. Just the right distance for life to flourish, not too hot and not too cold. Interesting isn't it that there in not another planet in our Solar System that has the right temperature for life. Also in our habitable zone is our atmosphere of air to breath and water in abundance as well. If we were too close to the sun the water would all boil away. Further out it would all be frozen. Interesting there are other planets that have an atmosphere as does the planet Venus the next planet

nearer the sun. It has so much atmosphere you cannot see its surface at all. What we know of Venus is from spacecraft taking radar readings. Venus is not livable with over 96 percent carbon dioxide, 90 times the pressure and clouds of Sufuric acid. If that is not bad enough, the temperature ranges over 800 deg. Farenheit.

Mars is the next planet out from earth and has very little atmosphere but there is a little atmosphere, though again it is mostly carbon dioxide and only a tenth of the atmospheric pressure as earth. Little oxygen and little nitrogen. There is no life on Mars.

The only other world in our solar system with an atmosphere is the largest moon of Saturn which is actually larger than the planet Mercury. but half the size of earth. Its atmosphere is also thicker and denser than is our earth and is largely composed of Nitrogen but it is so cold and so far from the sun it certainly has no life.

So what do we find from this brief tour of our Solar system? "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, 'Who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord there is no other.'" -Isaiah

45:18

"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth." Isaiah

40:22

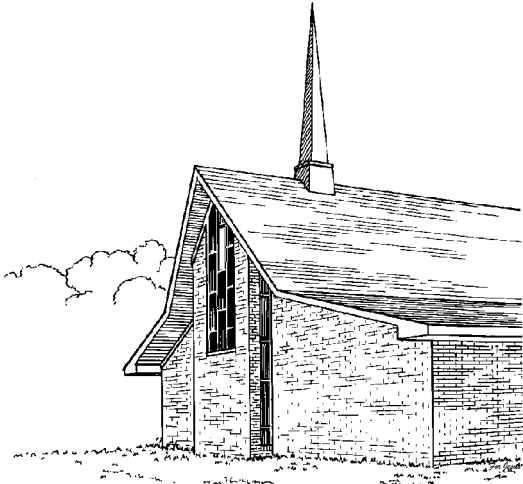


-The Women's Ministries recently had a Merry Mystery Dinner Party
-Happy New Year!

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Associate Pastor	Paul Smith
Associate/Youth Pastor	David Cook
Church Secretary	Eva Burchard
Newsletter Editor	Mia Spicer

Please send address changes to:

McDonald Road Seventh-day
Adventist Church
5440 McDonald Road
McDonald, TN 37353

Phone: (423) 396-3462
Fax: (423) 396-3433
Web: <http://mcdonaldroad.org>

The church office is open:

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(unless otherwise announced)

Weekly Programs

Worship Services:

1st Service

Saturday at 8:50 a.m.

2nd Service

Saturday at 11:25 a.m.

Sabbath School

Saturday at 10:05 a.m.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



Manna

The Manna is the official newsletter of the McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published monthly and distributed to members of the church.

Submissions Deadline for the Manna:

The third Tuesday of each month unless otherwise specified.

How to submit items:

Bring to church office, fax or mail to the church, or e-mail to: manna@mcdonaldroad.org

Submissions by phone are not accepted.

Electronic Submissions:

To make submissions via e-mail, please make attachment in the following formats:

Word, WordPerfect or text files.

Graphics: jpeg, bmp, or gif files.

E-mail to: manna@mcdonaldroad.org