

# MANNA

February 2007 Vol. 20, No. 2

Newsletter of the  
McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church

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"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land," II Chronicles 7:14.

## Southern Professor Presents Prayer Meeting Lecture Series

"Jesus is our mighty prayer warrior," says Dr. Philip Samaan, professor of religion at Southern Adventist University. "In fact, He is our greatest prayer partner. He is willing to unite His mighty prayers with our weak prayers. He lives to intercede for us."

Dr. Samaan has spent the last month sharing the inspiration of praying like Jesus and praying with Jesus. "Prayer is not a solo activity," he says. "It is a sacred joint venture with Jesus." Author of six books, Samaan refers to his most recent "Christ's Way to Pray" as the text book for the lecture series he is presenting at McDonald Road's Wednesday evening prayer meetings.

More than 150 church members and friends have joined together each week to participate in this year's first prayer meeting series. Come and be blessed throughout the year



*More than 150 people have been attending the weekly Wednesday evening prayer meeting series.*

photo by Paul Carlson

ahead during this worship experience. Make it a goal to set aside this mid-week time for focusing on Jesus at Prayer Meetings at 7:00 p.m.

The next prayer meeting series will follow-up on Dr. Samaan's lecture series, including answers to prayer, testimonies and more in-depth group discussion on prayer. In March, Pastor Carlson will start a series on the Beatitudes with a "singing through the Bible" approach that will make an enjoyable memory device for adults and children alike.

*-Melissa Turner, editor*

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

<b>Head of the Church Pastor</b>	<b>Jesus Christ</b>
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	<b>Don Gettys</b>
<b>Associate/Youth Pastor</b>	<b>Paul Carlson</b>
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>David Cook</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Kim Rollins</b>
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The church office is open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

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**Submissions Deadline:** Noon on the third Friday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Submit items in writing at the church office; by fax (396-3433); by e-mail [manna@mcdonaldroad.org](mailto:manna@mcdonaldroad.org); or by mail at 5440 McDonald Road, McDonald, TN 37353. Submissions by phone are not accepted.

**Electronic Submissions:** Submissions may be made via e-mail with the following attachment formatting: Word or WordPerfect documents, Adobe PDF text files and graphics or photos saved as jpeg, bmp or gif files. Please submit electronic files by e-mailing them to: [manna@mcdonaldroad.org](mailto:manna@mcdonaldroad.org).

McDonald Road  
Seventh-day Adventist Church

“Uplifting Jesus”

# Pastor’s Challenge

## Where’s the Love?

I read about you in 1 Corinthians today. Have you read it lately? It’s simply astounding. No other scripture passage paints so boldly what genuine Christianity really is. Here are verses 1-7 from *The Message*: “If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, ‘Jump,’ and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”



That’s part one. Don’t stop there. Keep reading for part two: “Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.”

Does this love chapter describe you? Your answer can only be one of two possibilities: Yes or yes—depending on which part you look at. First it describes you and me whenever we are consumed with the formalities and traditions of church life without loving people genuinely and unconditionally. Rules without relationships. That’s the creaking-of-a-rusty-gate part. The second part describes us when by God’s grace we care more about the needs of others than about our own selfish desires. No need to file spiritual bankruptcy there.

So which part fits you? 1 Corinthians 13 describes us exactly in either case, just like a mirror does. But even if we don’t measure up, the God who is love is in the business of healing. He’s a great physician. That second part describes Him exactly. I especially like the part “never gives up.” Our God keeps working with us.

My prayer is that we would trust God to heal our wounds and allow Him to transform us. Without Him, we’re lost. With Him, we can love and not hurt those around us. What a powerful God! Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’ve got to pray for more love.

## Sermon Schedule

- “A Ceaseless Approaching to God” Sabbath, February 3
- by guest speaker Pastor Gordon Retzer
- 
- “Husbands: Love Your Wife” Sabbath, February 10
- by Pastor Don Gettys
- 
- “Short & Longevity” Sabbath, February 17
- by Pastor Don Gettys
- 
- Pathfinder Sabbath Sabbath, February 24

# Reaching In

## *The Road to Tomorrow*

By Adrian Boyer

I  
How long is the Road to  
Tomorrow  
That leads to the Perfect Day?  
The Sign by the Roadside points  
Westward,  
But how Far it does not say.

II  
No Traveler has ever returned  
Describing the Distance there,  
Or what to expect in Tomorrow,  
Or how Long the Thoroughfare.

III  
Maybe it's Somewhere past  
Sunset,  
A little beyond Today,  
Or maybe it's just a Mirage,  
A Myth that passes away.

IV  
Wherever it is we Mortals  
Pursue it with hopeful Zeal,  
Trusting we'll one Day discover  
If Tomorrow is really Real.

V  
Now if there be such a Region,  
However Remote it seems,  
Perhaps on Life's Westward  
Journey  
We'll reach that Haven of  
Dreams.

## MP3 Sermons and Children's Stories Now Streaming on Church Website

McDonald Road Church has served over 2 billion bytes of audio to the world in just the last month! McDonald Road Media Ministry began back in 1998 with installation of our RealServer so that we could participate in hosting portions of Net 98. Since 1998 we have streamed "Steps to Christ" as well as selected sermons with RealAudio; but until recently we have limited our audio presentations so as to conserve bandwidth.

This past year we have upgraded to a business class Internet connection with more speed and bandwidth available to us. This has enabled us to stream our sermons and children's stories in MP3's as well as RealAudio without overloading available bandwidth. We have now added Podcasts to the options available from the McDonald Road Church website.

The sermons and children's stories are available for you to listen to from our website each Sabbath. You can listen to the latest sermon in RealAudio or in MP3 or you can download the MP3 to listen to at a later time. With the new option of Podcast, you can now subscribe to the sermons or children's stories, and your computer will automatically download the latest sermon for you, making it instantly available to transfer to your MP3 player whenever it is convenient. That way, if you are on the road a lot, you can update your MP3 player when you come home, and then listen to the sermons while you are on the road! Visit our website at <http://mcdonaldroad.org/> for more information.

-Dean Saunders, Internet Ministry Director

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## Area Seniors Invited to Attend Collegedale 55+ Club

The objectives of this organization are to enjoy Christian fellowship, to encourage social contacts and gatherings that will be helpful to the members of the organization and the community and to encourage cooperative efforts to support church and community activities.

Membership is open to all individuals age 55 or older who are in harmony with the above stated objectives, regardless of church membership. Bring your friends and neighbors as guests. Membership dues are \$5.50 per year.

Fellowship consists of a vegetarian "potluck" lunch and a program of special interest to seniors. Meet new people and expand your horizon of your church and community and your social experience.

Come and enjoy Christian fellowship. The Club meets every other month beginning in January, usually the second Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in the Collegedale Church Fellowship Hall. For more information, please call (423) 396-9635 or (423) 396-3978.

-Hugo Christiansen, guest contributor

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## A Note from the Church Fundraiser:

I would like to thank everyone for giving to the building fund in 2006. Eighty automobiles have been sold, plus other items. We are looking forward to 2007 and to hearing of your experiences of God's blessings. We still need your prayers as we press on to the goal of paying off our church debt.

Your fundraiser, Warren B. Oliver.

# Reaching Out

## Youth Mission Trip to Belize is Shaping Up, Funds Still Needed Though

The mission trip to Belize is shaping up. We now have twenty-four members of McDonald Road planning to go. We have filled all staff positions and have already had a good start to our fundraising. *We have raised nearly \$12,000 of the \$29,000 needed for the trip.* But we have raised only \$600 of the \$4,000 needed for building supplies. If you have a desire to give to this project you can mark a tithe envelope for the "Belize Mission Trip" or leave your donation at the church office. Donations can be turned in up until February 15.

Last month, I introduced you to some of the people we will be working with on the mission trip. Now would you like to meet some more people we will be helping in Belize?

The boys who are pictured at the right are two of Wilhem's boys (you met Wilhem last month). They inherited their father's happy face. They are happy in spite of the conditions in which they go to school. Do you see the buildings behind them? These are classrooms that have never been finished. They and over three-hundred of their friends meet in four classrooms. They only have out-houses for bathrooms and their dad just put a roof on one of their school buildings! Sadly, we won't be able to finish these classrooms, but we will be helping to make the others more livable.

Olga is a young girl who is actually step-mother to nine children. She is raising her family in squalid conditions. We plan to build her a nice house that will keep the rain out. We are doing this in order to make an impact on the village we mentioned earlier in last month's update—the village of San Antonio. Olga and her husband and children live right on the road through San Antonio. We hope the people there will be touched by God's grace as He uses us to help this family.

I'm glad I have been able to introduce you to some of my Belizian friends. I hope you will be praying for us as we seek to follow God's plans for this trip. -David Cook, youth pastor



photo by David Cook

## Bethel Bible Village Needs Help for At-Risk Children

For over 50 years, Bethel Bible Village has been caring for at-risk children coming from family crisis situations and for unwed teenage mothers. A Christian haven for children, Bethel Bible has four cottages with houseparents to offer care 24/7. Interventional programming is provided to help children realize their potential for success. "We serve children as young as five and up to 18 years of age," says Executive Director Myron Wilkins.

While Bethel Bible has a 50-year history of serving hurting young people, they have recently lost federal funding, making their operations much more challenging. Wilkins says there are many ways community members can help though.

Donations can be made of non-cash dry goods, fruit juices, toiletry items and toilet paper. These items can be dropped off at the Bethel Bible campus at 3001 Hamill Road in Hixson or at a Bethel Bible Thrift Store.

Volunteers can give of their time at Bethel Bible, helping with lawn care, gardening or office work. Church groups are invited to volunteer during special events, "adopt-a-cottage" or pick a child to sponsor. -Melissa Turner, editor



contributed photo

More information about these "helping" opportunities can be found at [www.bbv.org](http://www.bbv.org).

# Kids' Corner

## Uncle Burney's Critter Corner

How would you like to wake up one morning and find yourself a citizen of a different country? Back in 1845 that's exactly what happened. That is when everything north of the Rio Grande River became part of America. All the Indians, resident Mexicans, settlers and wildlife woke up one December morning American citizens. The Indians had called this land Tejus or Friendly Land. Some natives remained friendly and some did not, but like it or not they were all part of Texas and America.



Can you imagine what the first Americans must have thought when they saw their first armadillo? Well now, was it a possum or tortoise? I'll bet they had a real close look at that critter. At that time Señor Armadillo became a Texan and an American. Right away he began to expand his home territory. I've been told, by reliable sources, that sometime during the 1920's a whole crate of those little critters got loose in central Florida. The wooden crate dropped off a circus wagon while it was traveling through to the next show. Since that time the armadillos have migrated as far north as Atlanta, Georgia. Before that time I have found no record of armadillos living east of the old Mississippi River.

The Nine Banded Armadillo, our only native armadillo, has very small teeth and has little or no front teeth at all. Therefore, it eats mostly soft worms and grubs. Some we rescued managed very well on soft dog food for the few months while in our care. They are not aggressive and will run at the first sign of danger. They are unable to roll up in a ball like some members of the armadillo family. However, they have very powerful digging claws, front and back, and can burry themselves in a hurry in case of danger.

Their shell is made of scales on bony plates and is very flexible. Their dens are dug under palmettos or fallen trees. Sometimes they take over the gopher tortoise holes. The Nine Banded Armadillos always have 4 babies (identical quadruplets) at the same time. At birth the babies are pinkish-white with a very soft, almost see-through shell. They are cute but can be very difficult to raise as babies. Their good hearing and sensitive nose make up for their very poor eyesight. I do believe though, that the intelligence level of these little critters is very low. When startled they run for their hole and often they stop right at the entrance. They look around as if to see if they really needed to run. Too late! That's when I'll grab 'em.

## Water Wonders

### "Moray Eel"

A Story by Mrs. Janice Parker

Murry, the Moray Eel, sticks his head out of a crevice in the coral reef of the Western Atlantic Ocean. He doesn't go far from the coral reef as this is his home. His long, slender body has a dorsal fin that starts at the back of his head and extends down his back and joins his anal fin over his tail and up under his stomach.

Mucus-covered and scale-less, Murry resembles a snake with his patterned colors that range from blue-brown to yellow-green. In some species, the skin can contain a toxin which can cause fish poisoning if they are eaten.

Murry's small eyes on each side of his head don't help him to see very well, but his highly developed tube nostrils help him to smell food that is coming his way. There is a camouflage pattern in his mouth that helps him to blend in with his surroundings. With a wide jaw and large teeth he can tear his food instead of chewing it. These teeth can make a nasty wound when he bites. Murry feeds mostly on other fish and crustaceans that swim past his open mouth. His mouth opens and closes constantly to take in water so he can breathe. This water passes over his gills and then goes out through an opening at the back of his head.

Moray Eels range in length from about five feet long up to thirteen feet long, which is the length of the Slender Giant Eel, the largest of the eels. Their natural enemies are few, mostly larger eels and grouper. Scuba divers like to look at them up close, and some eels are collected for commercial aquariums and pet trade.



Check Out Uncle Burney's Critter Corner on the Church Web Page at:  
<http://mcdonaldroad.org/kids/corner>

# Connecting

## Who Is Uncle Burney?

Sharing stories and capturing the beauty of nature with pen or paintbrush, Uncle Burney is McDonald Road Church's own resident naturalist and wildlife artist.

Burney Tompkins, affectionately known as "Uncle Burney," grew up in Florida where he loved exploring the great outdoors. "From my earliest memories there

could only be one place to be and that was outside," Tompkins says. The son of a biology teacher, Tompkins enjoyed catching butterflies and carving for plants and

animals. "Pictures in Dad's biology books planted the seeds of wonder and amazement about the natural world even though I couldn't read," he adds.

Later when Tompkins was in grade school an artist from the Audubon Society visited and produced beautiful drawings of birds on the blackboard. "Never again would life be the same," Tompkins exclaims. "It seems my whole life has been spent learning how to reproduce nature and trying to help young people see the wonderment of God's creation. I've never had an art lesson or carving instructions and never considered myself an artist," he says. Formal training or not, Tompkins has captured hundreds of sketches and paintings of the animals he loves to tell stories about. He also carves birds and animals in wood.

Tompkins learned much about wildlife from a Seminole Indian boy he met while spending some time at the reservation in the Everglades during

high school. He didn't study biology or ecology in college though. Tompkins graduated from Southern Missionary College with a nursing degree.

But being the outdoorsman he is, Tompkins brings nature inside the hospital walls as he shares nature stories with his patients. "People all seem to relate to some form of nature or another," he says.

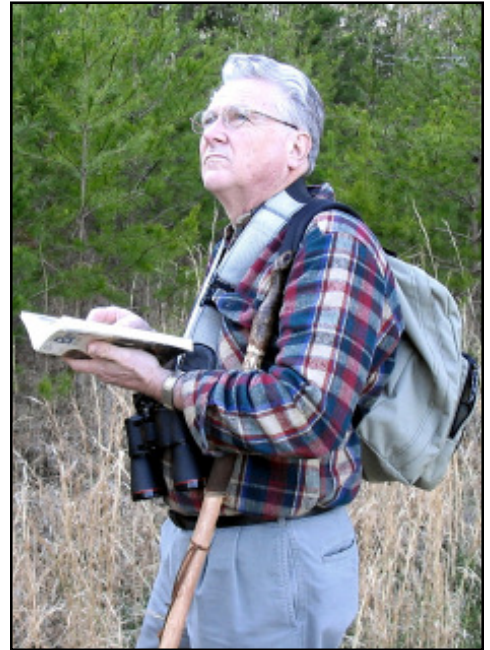
"Many times when patients are on the way to heart surgery, I'll share a little nature nugget with them and offer to have a short prayer. Often the response, even from tough ol' codgers, is a tear in the corner of their eyes."

Tompkins met his wife, Judy, at the hospital where he worked while living in California for a while. They had some rather unusual dates, collecting creatures. "On many of our dates we spent hours riding in the hills and back roads, collecting tarantulas and snakes and other desert critters."

Later on, the Tompkins' children got to experience the great outdoors their father so enjoyed while growing up as a young boy in Florida. "Our three children grew up out in nature and canoed the lakes and rivers of Florida," he says.

Today, Uncle Burney's children help him with his Critter Corner stories and digitizing his artwork for publication and websites. Uncle Burney's nature tales and artwork can be found each month on the Manna's Kid's Corner page and on the church website.

**"From my earliest memories there could only be one place to be and that was outside," Tompkins says.**



contributed photo

*From the time he was a young boy growing up in Central Florida, Uncle Burney has enjoyed spending time outdoors exploring God's creation.*

**Coming Soon to a Church Newsletter Near You. . .**

**More  
New Member Intros  
&  
Profiles**

Get to Know Your Fellow Church Members Right Here on the "Connecting" Page

**Connect!**

# What's Happening

## High School Retreat:

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference is sponsoring a High School Retreat for Seventh-day Adventist students who are not attending Adventist schools. The retreat will be taking place at Cohutta Springs Camp. For more information call 1-800-567-1844, ext. 346.

**Pep Boys & Girls:** A widow, widower support group in our church, was organized several years ago, and meets each Monday at 1:00 p.m. for a lunch, fellowship, and a short conversation visit afterward. No dues are charged. We each pay for our meals at a restaurant private room, or meet in a members home by invitation. If one wishes to join or has any questions, you are welcome to call the secretary, Irene Mitchell at 396-2927.

**Recruiting Reporters:** Do you like taking pictures or writing about events? If so, you are a prime candidate for helping cover news at our church. To learn more, e-mail Church Communications Director Becky Brooks at [bebecky@gmail.com](mailto:bebecky@gmail.com). No experience necessary. Digital camera required.

**Help us promote our new website address at:** <http://mcdonaldroad.org> as well as our new e-mail address at [mcdonaldroad.org](mailto:mcdonaldroad.org). Be sure to bookmark it for yourself—and if you have a personal website, include our new web address in your links!



## Regular Programs -

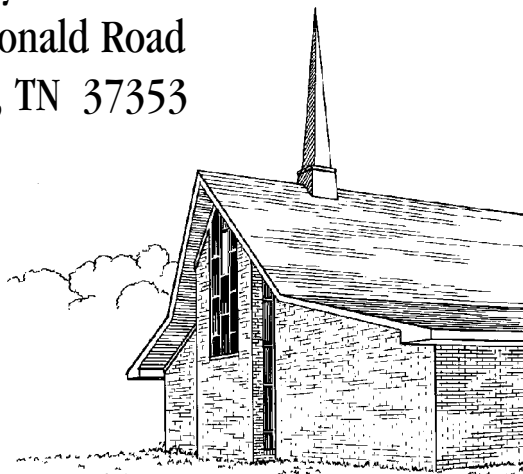
Weekly Worship Services  
First Service  
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.

Second Service  
Saturdays at 11:25 a.m.

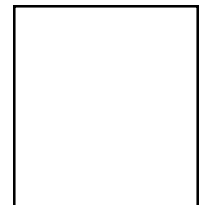
Sabbath School  
Saturdays at  
10:00-11:20 a.m.

Prayer Meeting  
Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

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“Uplifting Jesus”



Return Service Requested