

MANNA

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Newsletter of the
McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church

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"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Matthew 6:19-21.

Investment Churches Spark Saving for Mission Work

McDonald Road Investment Leader and craftsman Kenneth Oliver made 121 wooden church banks for church members to take home with them to save money in for their church investment project.

Some church members save pennies or earnings from roadside garden stands for their church investment projects. But Oliver thought maybe the small wooden churches would spark interest in more church members getting involved in saving money for investment.

"We've had a positive reaction from church members," Oliver says. "Many of the people have just about filled their banks." And for those who didn't have the opportunity to get a bank to take home with them, there is a large investment church in the church foyer for people to put their

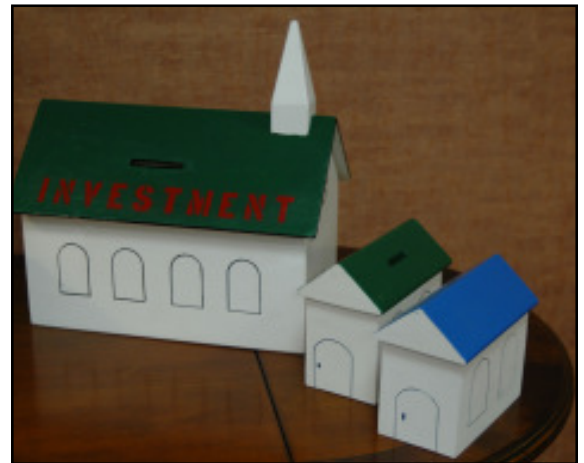


photo by Melissa Turner

investment money in as they collect it.

Oliver says once members fill their churches they can take them home and keep filling them up throughout the year.

Unlike thirteenth Sabbath mission offering, which is collected on a quarterly basis, church investment is a fundraising project that brings in money throughout the year for foreign missions work and new church work, Oliver says.

~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.

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Associate Pastor	Paul Carlson
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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; 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.

McDonald Road
Seventh-day Adventist Church

“Uplifting Jesus”

Pastor’s Challenge

Hold the Torch High

They called him Bloody Hart for a reason. He would live up to his name in his quest for treasure on the island of Ngatik in Micronesia. Captain Hart had heard there were piles of turtle shells there, so he set out determined to strike it rich no matter what it took.



Sailing into the glassy lagoon, he went ashore and met with a local shell trader. When the islanders resisted he sailed away, but he later returned with a few hired guns.

Having survived the ensuing massacre was a man who had been a crew member or slave on an American ship. The hardships of sailing had caused him to turn to God and he had determined to follow Him at any cost. Finally, in order to escape the bad company of the crew, he jumped ship at Ngatik.

As this young African interacted with the massacre widows, he became dismayed at some of their practices. He watched them channel a spirit so they could prophesy. He witnessed them worshipping at a pagan alter. He was shocked when one claimed her son was the child of a spirit. Gently pleading with them, he asked them to turn to God.

Unfortunately for our hero, the ladies were harboring a grudge against him. Somehow they had connected him with Bloody Hart and were looking for revenge. His rebukes infuriated them and they determined to kill him.

First, they asked him to climb a tree to get some coconuts. Kindly agreeing, he was surprised when they threw a net around the bottom of the tree. Suspecting foul play, he climbed as low as he could then jumped out over the net and escaped. Later he learned that they had planned to stab him with the barb of a poisonous fish.

The women pretended to be sorry and he forgave them. But the women were not through with him. One night they made as if they had no more fire. They pointed to a light on a distant island and asked if he would retrieve some. The tide was low and he could easily walk there on the reef, light a torch and walk back. However, the women knew that the tide would peak sometime on his journey. They hoped he would be swept away to his death.

But attempting to show Christian kindness, the young man agreed to go. As the women had hoped, his trip went fine until the return. As the tide rose higher and higher he knew he was in trouble. Yet he raised the torch high above his head and kept

“Pastor’s Challenge” continued on page 5

Sermon Schedule

- “Missing Heaven by 15 Inches” Sabbath, March 3
- by Pastor Don Gettys
- “God’s Steadfast Love” Sabbath, March 10
- by Pastor Don Gettys
- “Moses’ Shining Face” Sabbath, March 17
- by Pastor Don Gettys
- “Wanted Alive: You!” - Communion Sabbath Sabbath March 24
- by Pastor Paul Carlson
- “How to Control Self” Sabbath, March 31
- by Pastor Don Gettys

Reaching In

The Intruder

By Adrian Boyer

How vulnerable we Mortals are,
Regardless of Estate,
For Death is no Respector
Of Earthlings Small or Great

So why should we in Arrogance
Strut proudly with Aplomb,
For who can say what
Night or Day
The enemy will come?

Regard each moment as a
Boon
From Heaven's Largest drawn--
A modest Honorarium--
For soon it will be gone.

Be grateful for each Mote of
Time--
We know not what's in Store,
Or at what Hour dark Death
may knock
Relentless at our Door.

This sinister Intruder stalks
The Earth incessantly,
And no One Anywhere is
spared
This Scoundrel's Infamy.

Homeschoolers Bond Through Recreation Program

Every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30, McDonald Road Church gymnasium echoes from the shouts of up to 50 homeschooled students playing organized games as part of the homeschool recreation day. The kids run, chase, tumble and laugh with their friends while Pam Lewis, the coordinator of the weekly program, ensures everyone has good sportsmanship. The non-competitive program offers "good clean fun" to the participants and social opportunities to their parents.

Local homeschooling families arrive for the recreation time and, due to its impact, attend church on Sabbaths. The program also gives Adventist young people a positive image of the church to remember later in life. Explaining this significant benefit, Pam Lewis says, "They will look back on it and say, 'Yes, I really like it.'"

In addition, the weekly recreation serves to enhance the bonds of friendship among members. Homeschool families



contributed photo

new to the area find in the group an environment for making friends and becoming part of the church. "We really feel loved and accepted," comments Dottie Herrod, a homeschooling mother whose family recently moved to the McDonald area.

Bonding the homeschool members together, introducing the community to Adventists in a beneficial way, giving young people an image of a church relevant to their lives--these are only a few of the many benefits of the recreation program. Homeschooling mother Taresa Vanderof sums up the attitude toward the project: "We love it."

~Briana Wever, guest contributor

Now Is the Time to Contribute to New Vegetarian Cookbook

McDonald Road Church is going to put together a new "Vegetarian Cookbook" for raising funds to pay off the mortgage on the new children's wing. All recipes should be turned in no later than March 31. There is a recipe box in the church foyer where recipes may be left. Or recipes may be given to one of the cookbook committee members: Cynthia Cannon, Mae Cusson, Barbara Granada, Margaret Halverson, Arlene Lewis, Margaret Rempfer, Julie Roy, Linda Roush, Mary Anne Turner, Janice and Warren Oliver.

Reaching Out

"Pastor's Challenge" continued from page 2

walking. He would repay evil with good. The one thing the ladies had not counted on was his height and he was able to keep his face out of the water as he walked back to shore. Reaching shore, he calmly walked up to the ladies and handed them his torch. The women were shocked and impressed. They could see that his God was more powerful and they were impressed by his selflessness. Their attitude toward him began to change and he was able to witness freely. Soon his love for one of them grew so strong that he married her.

At this point we could easily say, "and they lived happily ever after." But the story is not over. As time went on, two clans of people developed on Ngatik. The first were the descendants of our African friend. The second were the children of the boy "fathered" by a spirit. As time went on, the spirit worshipers developed a strong hatred toward the Christians. They found every opportunity to harass them. But the Christians prevailed.

When missionaries arrived, the spirit worshipers got religion. They were "converted" and helped build a mission church. Yet they kept worshiping the spirits while they practiced their Christian faith.

Ngatik was in this state when one of the African's great-great grandsons moved to Pohnpei. Here he rejected his Christian roots and became an alcoholic and a criminal. Finally, in the depths of despair, he gave his heart back to God. About this time he came in contact with Adventists and the rest is history. Soon he was doing all he could to bring his new-found beliefs to his home island. His dreams came true when he was able to start a church among his relatives, the faithful Christians. With the help of missionaries, they gathered supplies to build an Adventist church.

But the old animosities were still there. One morning the new Adventists found their supplies dumped in the ocean. Along with this came a death threat to the founder of the church.

The Adventists persisted and finally built a church. About this time our latest hero went off to school to be a pastor. After he left a missionary called Solomon came to pastor the church. But after a few months of doing amazing work, tragedy struck. Solomon became deathly ill. Too late, he radioed an urgent message for help. Hours later an Adventist missionary was flying to the island with medical supplies. As they drew close, the missionary was filled with grief as he learned they would not be able to land. The airport was just weeks from completion. Desperate they dropped the supplies and hoped for the best. But their efforts failed. The young missionary died with the sound of an airplane in his ears. It hasn't been proved, but many believe he was poisoned.

A few years later another young missionary visited that island. He had the privilege of visiting the church with some of its members. Afterward the locals led him to a nearby grave. Standing there, he was awed at being so near the grave of someone who had died in the service of Christ.

That night the visiting missionary was lying in a room a few feet from Solomon's resting place. Unable to sleep, he replayed the events that God had directed. He pictured the story from the arrival of the young African to the death of Solomon. In the end he knew that God would win. He thought it fitting that the grandson of the African would soon return as pastor.

As he lay there he re-dedicated his life to God. He determined he would stick with God's "clan" no matter what. He also recommitted to being a pastor someday and prayed he would be as dedicated as Solomon and the others.

Well, you guessed it. This is one of those, "and boys and girls, I was that young man" stories. Yes, I was the missionary who slept near Solomon's grave. To this day I marvel at God's history in the island of Ngatik. It is just a microcosm of the conflict that is being fought all over our planet. In the end I pray that you and I will take up the challenge I felt that night. The challenge to hold the torch high, no matter the cost.

Youth Plan to Blog on Belize Mission Trip

By the time this issue of the Manna has arrived at the homes of each of our church family members, the McDonald Road Youth will be on their mission trip to Belize in Central America.

Several years ago, during a church-wide visioning meeting, the number one goal McDonald Road Church members wanted to see accomplished was to give our church's youth the opportunity to go on foreign mission trips. That dream is finally coming to fruition.

For ten days, the McDonald Road Youth and other church members will be building a house for a needy family of eight, helping repair the Adventist church school and putting on a VBS for children in a local town where there isn't much of a Christian influence.

We encourage those who stay behind to pray for your fellow church members, youth and others alike, that this experience will not only touch their hearts as they see God work through them, but that they will touch the hearts of those they help during this mission trip.

As you remember the Youth Belize Mission Trip in your prayers during the week of March 1-10, you can also keep up with what's happening during the trip by visiting the Youth Mission Trip webpage on the McDonald Road Church website. There you will find blog entries written by the youth while on their trip, and you will find a photo gallery with updated photos as well.

Take the time to become a part of this mission trip, pray for the mission team, visit the website and see the progress take shape. Thank you for your support!

~Melissa Turner, editor and youth leader

Kids' Corner

Uncle Burney's Critter Corner

A bird with one of the strangest instincts lives right here in the U.S. and many live here in Tennessee. It is known as the Cow Bird. It is not particularly pretty nor does it have a very pretty song. The Indians used to call them the Buffalo Birds. They rode on the backs of the Buffalo and ate the ticks and flies that congregated around those large animals.

When America was young the buffalo herds numbered in the millions and the Cow Birds followed the herds. When the buffalo moved on so did the Cow Birds. There was no time to build nests or raise babies. So what did they do? Did you ever hear of a bird that doesn't build its own nest or raise its own babies? Cow Birds don't. Isn't that a little strange?

This very dull colored blackbird, with a brown head, developed the odd habit of laying its eggs in other bird's nests. The mother Brown Headed Cow Bird never sees her own babies. She never feeds her own babies and never teaches them how to be Cow Birds. The sparrow family is often the one to raise the baby Cow Birds. The mother Cow Bird just finds another bird's nest and waits till the other bird leaves the nest. She just moves in and in a matter of a few minutes she drops her own egg in beside the other eggs and flies off leaving the other mother to do all the work.

One day as I was sitting near a window, overlooking the nest of a pair of Song Sparrows, I watched this spectacle. I saw the Song Sparrow leave her nest and out of nowhere a female Cow Bird flew in and quickly laid her large egg next to the two smaller eggs. That new egg was almost three times the size of the sparrow's eggs.



Surely the mother sparrow would remove this huge egg when she returned, but no, she just looked it over a couple of times. She then jumped in the nest and did her motherly duty and sat on those eggs until they hatched. She and her mate worked themselves silly trying to feed the big, bully bird. Eventually one of her little eggs did get pushed out of the nest.

After they hatched it was strange to see such a big baby next to the tiny baby in the same nest. It wasn't long before they grew wing feathers and followed the little mother sparrow around begging for food. I guess you know who got the most. After the mother sparrow had done all she could do, the young Cow Bird flew off to join his own flock. He never knew who his real family was but his instincts still told him he was a Cow Bird. He eventually joined all the other Cow Birds down at the barn eating seeds and bugs.

There are a lot of theories as to why this bird has such a strange habit. I really think that our Creator might have something to do with it, don't you? I'm very thankful that some people, like Song Sparrows, adopt and raise little children that are not their own.

Water Wonders

"Sea Lions"

A Story by Mrs. Janice Parker

Stella, the Steller Sea Lion, and her friends swim in the water along the offshore islands and rocks of British Columbia. They differ from other Sea Lions as they have an external ear that they can close when they enter the water and their hind feet or flippers point forward. True Seals have no external ear and their flippers point backwards.

Stella is a member of the mammal group because she must breathe air, she gives birth and she nurses her offspring. She uses her web-like flippers to walk on land and rocks. In the water, she uses her flippers to swim in a breast stroke style and she can reach speeds up to 17 miles per hour.

Stella's diet is made up of bottom fish like skate, squid, small sharks and various fish that live in the rocks. Her sharp teeth, like those of other flesh eaters, help her to tear her food.

During breeding season, from April until mid-July, Stella and her female friends gather on the rocky islands. The bulls fight over who will have the female cows. Only the largest and strongest bulls will be over 15 to 30 cows each. It takes about nine months for Stella's baby pup to be born. She will nurse him for over a year and he will be about four feet long at birth and weigh up to 40 to 60 pounds.

Baby Sea Lions are slate gray when they are born and change to dark brown when they are about six months old. When they are full grown they will be tan in color. Full grown Sea Lions grow to be about eight to 12 feet long and can weigh up to a ton.



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

Connecting

On the Court at Tuesday Night Volleyball



Carl Tate, volleyball leader



photo by Melissa Turner

Carl Tate has been socking volleyballs for 24 years, and this year marks 10 years that he has been leading out in Tuesday Night Volleyball at McDonald Road Church. "When they built the gym, I said 'I'll lead out volleyball for you,'" Tate says. "It's something I like to do."

Each Tuesday night, church members, community members and Southern students come out to the McDonald Road

Church Family Center to enjoy a night full of volleyball and fellowship.

Throughout each evening, players trickle in starting around 7:00 p.m. and the playing goes on until the last person leaves, Tate says. Games can vary from 3-on-3 matches up to 22 players divided up on three teams, depending on how many people come out on a given night.

Volleyball players of all skill levels are invited to play--from beginners to ad-

McDonald Road Church's Tuesday Night Volleyball Marks 10 Years. Come out on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. to enjoy the fellowship and exercise.

vanced. "We try to divide it up so it's fairly even," Tate says. "I'd like to get it to where more of our adult church members come to play," Tate says.

Tate began leading out in volleyball

in the Collegedale area with a recreation league meeting at Collegedale Academy since 1984. "I really enjoyed it," he says. "I did it for years and years."

Enjoying the association with other people and getting good exercise both physically and mentally is what keeps Tate coming back for more volleyball. He encourages other church members to get involved. "Come out and enjoy the company and exercise," he says.

"Come out and enjoy the company and exercise," Tate says.

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

Collegedale Academy:

Now accepting applications for new students for the 2007-2008 school year starting March 1, 2007. For additional application information and fee schedules please see www.collegedaleacademy.com/registrar.

New Prayer Meeting Series Teaches Scripture Memory Through Singing:

Do you want God's Word in your mind permanently? Experience the easiest, fastest way to memorize scripture for all ages as we sing and discuss the Beatitudes. Starting Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the McDonald Road Church Fireside Room.

Women's & Teen Retreat: March 30-April 1, 2007. Sponsored by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Women's Ministries Department. Registration forms are available at www.gccsda.com or call 1-800-567-1844, ext. 341.

Keep Up with the Belize Mission Trip:

Visit mcdonaldroad.org to keep up with the Belize Mission Trip March 1-10. Blogs and photo galleries will be posted on the church website to update members back home about the progress.

Help us promote our new website

address at: <http://mcdonaldroad.org> as well as our new e-mail address at 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

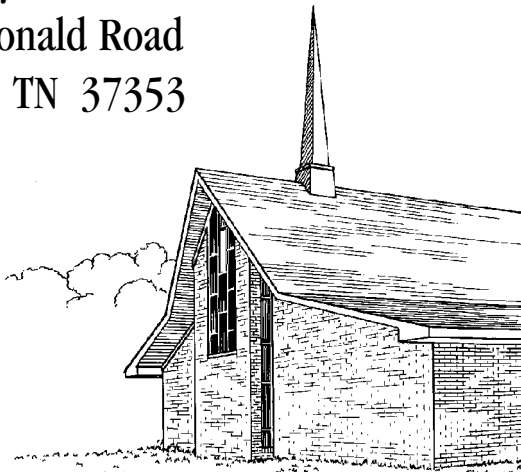
First Service
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.

Second Service
Saturdays at 11:25 a.m.

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

Prayer Meeting
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**McDonald Road
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