

MANNA

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Newsletter of the
McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church

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May the grace of the
Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy
Spirit be with you all.

- 2 Corinthians 13:14

Kindergarteners Provide Winter Coats for Kids

Did you know that many children on the Pine Ridge and Standing Rock Reservations in North and South Dakota don't have warm enough coats for the winter? On the Pine Ridge Reservation, the average low temperature in February is 16° F, with the average high at 41° F (www.weather.com).

The McDonald Road Kindergarten Sabbath School class learned this and wanted to help the children on these reservations, so they helped with a program called "Coats for Kids," sponsored through the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

"We thought it would be a neat outreach project for the kids," says Sabbath school leader Kathy Cook. For three weeks the Kindergarteners brought money to Sabbath School. The kids donated \$93.46 and leaders rounded it out to \$100, which is enough to make five children in the Dakotas warmer this winter.

The money was sent to Dakota

Conference Native Ministries and used to purchase new coats during January when there are clearance sales and the average cost is about \$20 per coat. According to Dakota Conference Native Ministries, "Having new coats is important because many of the children receive used coats that are either too big/small or so worn that they do little for warmth. Some children wear only sweatshirts all winter because of the lack of coats and January - March are some of the coldest months in the Dakotas."

If you would like to help provide warm winter coats for kids next year, send your donations to the Dakota Conference Native Ministries, P.O. Box 520, Pierre, SD 57501. Mark donations "Coats for Kids project."

- Kathy Cook & Rebecca Brooks



Photo by Rebecca Brooks

The Kindergarten Class collected money so kids in North and South Dakota could have warm coats this winter.

MANNA

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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The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

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Submissions Deadline: The third Thursday 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, 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.

"Uplifting Jesus"
McDonald Road
Seventh-day Adventist Church



Pastor's Challenge

Snow Day Magic and Other Rituals



Pastor Paul Carlson

Have you heard of the Pajamas-Inside-Out, Spoon-Under-the-Pillow-Snow-Day Ritual? If you already know about it, the following is for those who don't know. First of all, it is supposed to only work if there's a chance of snow in the weather forecast. With that in mind, kids put a spoon under their pillow and go to bed with their pajamas inside out to insure the next day is a snow day.

Mark Dursin, a high school English teacher, found out about PIOSUPSDR, as it is referred to, one day when talking with one of his students. Upon explaining the ritual to him, she said, "See for yourself. Look it up online."

He did, and his eyes were opened. Students all over the eastern United States are serious about it. He even discovered a reference to a Tennessee schoolteacher who learned about the ritual during her first year of teaching 25 years ago!

When he asked if the ritual worked, some said, "Yes, definitely!" and could count off the times that it worked. Others acknowledged, "Only sometimes," but even they still practiced it.

Isn't it surprising that many of these same teens also enjoy modern technology? Think about how the average teen's life is inundated with GPS, iPods, WiFi access points, cellphones, text messaging, and Facebook pages, all the while researching for school papers on web sites like wikipedia. But these same teens will turn aside from technology on the night before a possible snow day and grab a very low-tech spoon to put under their pillow and wear their pajamas inside out. (Read more about it at courant.com/news/opinion/commentary/hc-commentarydursin0120.artjan20,0,3094270.story or just search for PIOSUPSDR.)

There's a term for this ritual: magical thinking. And yet before we look down our noses at these teens, let's consider if we actually practice our own kinds of "magical" thinking. In other words, are we doing things the same way, expecting different results? Do we have our own de facto belief in irrational magic?

- continued on page 4 -

Sermon Schedule

- "God's Great Grace" Sabbath, February 2
- by Don Gettys
- "Crock Pot Wives and Microwave Oven Husbands" Sabbath, February 9
- by Don Gettys
- "Last Things" Sabbath, February 16
- by Pastor David Cook
- Pathfinder Sabbath Sabbath, February 23
- "Your Powerful Potential"
- by Don Gettys

Church Business

Offering Schedule

Feb. 2	Local Church Budget
Feb. 9	Adventist Television Ministries (NAD)
Feb. 16	Local Church Budget
Feb. 23	Georgia-Cumberland Ministries Offering

Samaritan Center Needs:

Women's deoderant, baby wash (different from baby shampoo), conditioner, liquid dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, diaper rash cream, paper towels, toilet paper, household cleaners, women's shave gel, children's toys. If you can help with these items, bring them to drop-box in the church lobby.

Membership Transfers

January 21, 2008

Total Membership	1020	(12/31/07)
Total Families	572	(12/31/07)

Church Board Minutes, Financial Information, and Membership Transfers are not available in the online Manna Highlights. If you would like to know this information, please contact the McDonald Road Church office at 396-3462.

Reaching In

Of Time and Chance

By Adrian Boyer

Of Time and Chance we all are
bound —

For what befalleth One
Befalleth All both Great and Small
Who dwell beneath the Sun.
Since Adam and his Helpmeet ate
The Fruit forbidden them,
Their disobedient Act did All
The human Race condemn.

Millennia have come and gone
Since Eden's fair Domain
Was lost to Adam's Progeny,
And nevermore regained.
And thus from History's primal Dawn
Sin's dark and dreadful Pall,
Like some miasmatic Plague has cast
Its Shadow over All.

But by God's Grace the Paradise
Will one Day be restored,
And all the Blest will enter in
The Garden of the Lord.
Then Time nor Chance can e'er
perplex,
Nor cause Anxiety,
For All shall dwell in timeless Peace
Thru out Eternity.



Photo courtesy of Amazing Facts

*Pastor Doug Batchelor will
be speaking at McDonald
Road March 7-8, 2008.*

Faith Summit 2008

Come be renewed, revived, and inspired!

Beginning Friday, March 7 at 7:00 P.M., Pastor Doug Batchelor of Amazing Facts will be holding an enriching Faith Summit weekend at the McDonald Road Church.

You will hear thrilling testimonies, moving music, and uplifting sermons as part of this faith-building event, even that will let you share in the challenging vision for the Lord's finishing work. The weekend meetings will continue March 8 at 8:50 a.m., 11:25 a.m., and 4:00 p.m.

Doug Batchelor, an energetic soul-winning evangelist and author, took the reins of Amazing Facts in 1994. He is an innovative speaker with an unusual ability to communicate not only to churchgoers, but also the unchurched throughout the world. To learn more about the Doug Batchelor and the ministry of Amazing Facts, visit www.amazingfacts.org.

Pastor's Challenge - continued from page 2 -

I do realize, for example, that we sometimes expect the sermons to wow us into having a spiritual life, without taking the time to personally read the gospels and pray ourselves. Is that magical thinking?

And are we sometimes critical about our schools, our church, our leaders or teachers or work associates, our spouses or children, without offering positive suggestions for improvement? And do we at the same time believe the sun will shine and the birds will sing in our spiritual life and that our friendships will blossom even though we have allowed ourselves to have a critical spirit? Is that also magical thinking?

So here's my challenge to all of us:

1. Lovingly and kindly give the church, and its leaders, timely, specific and practical ideas for improving the services. The same approach works wonders for our spouses and our children, too. (Remember the Apostle Paul's advice to speak the truth in love.)
2. Put our focus outside of ourselves by spending time reading the gospels in order to cultivate a love-relationship with Jesus. Let's do that individually and as families.
3. Get involved in one of the several outreach teams listed on the church bulletin board and learn how to share Jesus with our friends, neighbors and work-associates.

In the end, the question should not be, "What can the church do for me?" We will instead want the question to be "What can I do for the church?" Or better yet, since *we* (all of us) *are the church*, what can *we* do to help make the church better?

In short, let's do something different, get different results *and* experience a different kind of magic: God's love in action.

- Pastor Paul Carlson

Reaching Out

The Gift That Kept on Giving

One of the gifts that McDonald Road Church donated to the Samaritan Center's "Gifts for Jesus" program helped a mother give her son a new start.

When leesha Slay lost her job and came to the Samaritan Center for Christmas help last year, she had no idea what she was getting into.



leesha chose one of the "Gifts for Jesus" presents given by McDonald Road Church for her son this Christmas.

"In the Samaritan Center's special Christmas 'Toy Store' that they fill once a year with new toys for clients, I struggled to choose gifts for my eleven-year-old son, Dejuan," leesha remembers. "Now, though, I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't picked out one gift in particular: skates."

The skates and the other gifts that leesha brought home from the Samaritan Center's Christmas 'Toy Store' were the only ones that made it under the Christmas tree that year. On Christmas morning, her children were elated. Dejuan's full appreciation of his skates, however, didn't come to fruition immediately.

"It wasn't until he had a bike injury that tore his heel entirely off that he really, really started wanting to skate," leesha reflects. "He wasn't supposed to walk or do anything at all that would put pressure on it, so for a while skating was not an option. Of course, that was when his little brother started doing it, so of course Dejuan wanted it, too—now more than ever."

Eventually, as it grew plain that Dejuan's heel was up to the challenge, leesha gave in. Still, at first she was terrified, fearing the worst as she watched him totter back and forth around the house, learning how to keep his balance.

"But then he got better and better," she recalls. "Before I knew it, he was skating around like a pro and looking for any excuse he could find to put his beloved skates on. 'Mom, can I skate to the trash can? Mom, can I skate to the car?'"

Once leesha saw the good that was coming from the skates, she began to fear less and cheer more. After all, his increased level of activity was helping him kick the depression and the excess weight that had inevitably accompanied three months of minimal exertion.

As she watched her son's transformation, leesha also felt a personal call to action.

"So I went to the Samaritan Center and bought a pair of used skates for myself," she shares. "I'd never skated before and didn't much like the idea, but I saw a new way my boys and I could spend quality time together, and I couldn't resist. I knew that if I just gave it a chance, I, too could learn to love the activity that nursed my sweet son back to health."

- Angela Baerg



Dejuan has been enjoying his roller skates thanks to the McDonald Road Church and the Samaritan Center.

Submit Your Stories and Pictures

If you know of something interesting going on at McDonald Road Church, share your news and pictures with the Manna! Just write down a few paragraphs and take a few pictures so we can keep our church members and community well-informed. Send submissions to manna@mcdonaldrd.org or see the sidebar on page 2 for more information about how to submit your news and photos.



Kids' Corner

Jungle Jaunts with Jack and Jerry

Jack and Jerry have just left the hippopotamus pond. "What is the next animal we're going to see?" asks Jerry.

"Do you know what the tallest animal is?" questions Oscar. The boys think. Is it an elephant? No, it can't be an elephant because we have already seen them. Soon they come to an area where there are more trees. They both stare out the window looking at the landscape closely. Up ahead they can see some animals. As they get closer they can see that the animals are right by the side of the road. A group of giraffe are eating the leaves on the trees. Oscar stops the van a little distance from the giraffes so he doesn't disturb their meal.

"Just look how tall they are," says Jack. "I think we could walk underneath them and not even bump our heads."

Jerry takes out his binoculars so he can see the giraffe's head better. "How can you tell if this giraffe is a male or a female?" exclaims Jerry.

"Well, all giraffes have horns, but the male is taller and his horns are bare on top, but the female's horns have tufts of hair on them," explains Oscar.

"Well, this one is a male then," states Jerry, "because he is really tall and his horns are bare."

Jack gets the Wild African Animals book and looks up "giraffe." He reads, "Giraffes are the tallest of all land living animals. Males can be up to 18 feet tall and can weigh up to 300 pounds. Females are usually shorter and don't weigh as much as males. Giraffes are yellow with brown spots that cover their entire body except their bellies. Each has its own unique pattern of spots.

"They have very long necks, which they use to reach the leaves in the trees for food. Because they are so tall, they can see all around and warn other animals of danger. The males also use their necks for 'necking' a function for combat. Battles can be fatal, but are usually not that severe. The longer the neck and the greater the head, the more force they have to deliver a blow

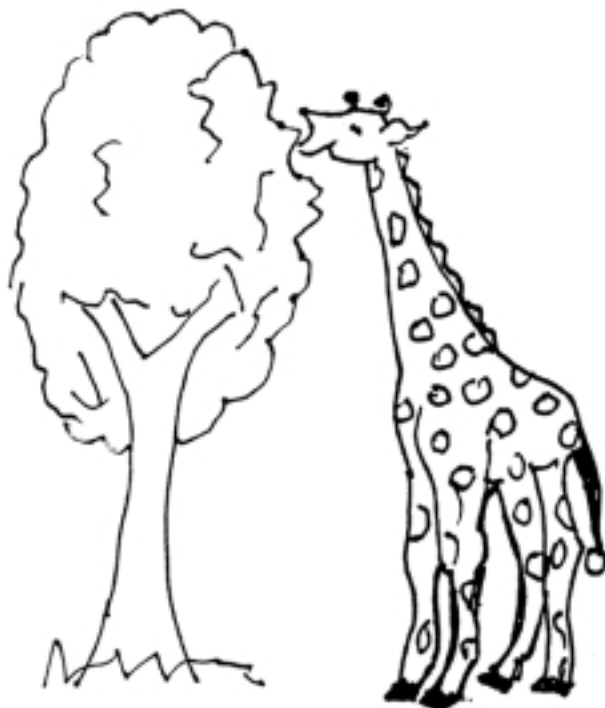
to the other giraffe, knocking their opponent to the ground. The giraffe that wins gets to be one of the giraffes to mate with the females. They also use their necks to show affection, lovingly rubbing each other with their necks.

"The females live in groups of a dozen or so members. Sometimes a few young males may live with them. The males form 'bachelor' herds with some of the older males who mate with the females. It takes about 15 months for a female giraffe to have a baby calf. The newborn calf will be about 6 feet tall and can run around just a few hours after it is born. For the first two weeks, the calves must rest a lot and they become prey for lions, leopards, spotted hyenas, and wild dogs. Less than 50 percent of the calves will reach adulthood.

"Giraffes have the shortest requirement for sleep of any animal. They sleep less than 2 hours out of a 24-hour period. Giraffes are thought to be mute, but have been heard to make different sounds."

Jerry takes out his notepad and writes, "giraffe."

"What animals will we see next," he wonders. "I guess I will have to wait and see."



Can you unscramble these words?

EFRIAFG _____

CEKN _____

SETRE _____

VELESA _____

TSOPS _____

LOWYLE _____

WROBN _____

- Janice Parker

Connecting

Kathy Cook shares this Hawaiian Chicken recipe from the recent Luau held at McDonald Road Church.

Hawaiian Chicken

1 lb package frozen pepper stir fry (red/yellow peppers/onions)
1 large can fri-chik rinsed and drained and cut into 5 pieces
1/2-3/4 jar (12 oz) of Apricot jam
Soy sauce or Braggs Amino Acid
Very lightly brown Fri-chik in pan
Add stir fry package and cook approximately 5 minutes
Add Apricot jam and sprinkle soy sauce or Braggs to taste.
Serve over Rice

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the McDonald Road Church office at 396-3462.

What's Happening

Online Giving: is now available by clicking on a link on our church website. 100% of the tithes and offerings donated in this way will still be handled by our own church; you will receive a receipt from McDonald Road church for all of your giving, whether online or in our offering plate. Just click on the *Online Giving* link at <http://mcdonaldroad.org> to get started.

Children's & Family Ministries Convention: Sign up by Jan. 30 for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Children's & Family Ministries Convention. It will be held Feb. 22-24, 2008 at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center. To learn more, visit www.gccsda.com and click on the link under Feb. 22, 2008 on the Conference Calendar.

High School Retreat: Questions come at an alarming rate: What's my life going to count for? Where am I going? What matters most to me? The world tries to answer these questions for you with solutions of it's own, but what do you really believe? 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! Sign up for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference High School Retreat (for Adventist students not attending Adventist schools) by Jan. 28, 2008. Learn more at www.gccsda.com.

Regular Programs

Weekly Worship Services

First Service
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.

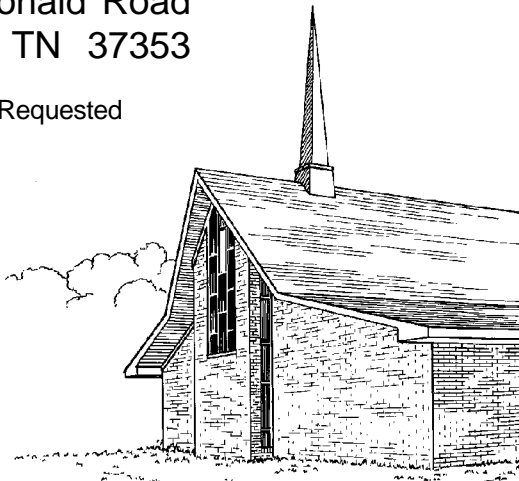
Second Service
Saturdays at 11:25 a.m.

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

Prayer Meeting
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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

Return Service Requested



"Uplifting Jesus"