



A Magazine for Members and Friends of Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church

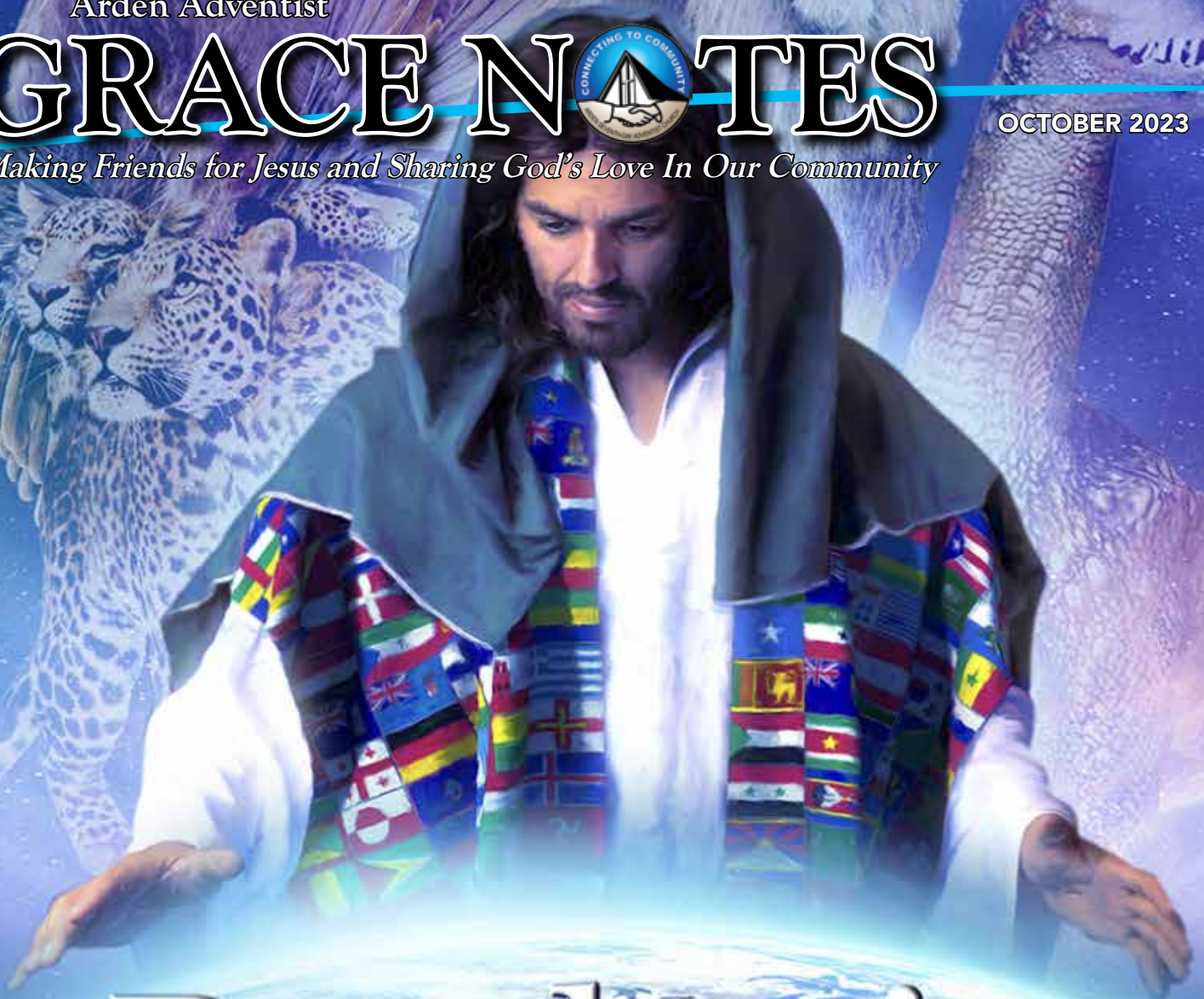
Arden Adventist

GRACE NOTES



OCTOBER 2023

Making Friends for Jesus and Sharing God's Love In Our Community



Prophecies *of* HOPE

Unlocking the Books of Daniel & Revelation

Arden Adventist

GRACE NOTES

From the Pastor's Pen

EVANGELISM

A Interview with Pastor Eric

The Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church is scheduled to hold an evangelistic presentation in October and November of this year. The meetings begin Friday, October 13 and continue through Friday, November 17. For those who have attended Seventh-day Adventist churches for any length of time, this is familiar territory. However, not long ago, Pastor Eric presented a concept of “evangelism all year long—a new concept.” Therefore, a Grace Notes Reporter (GN) interviewed Pastor Eric (PE) to unwrap his thinking regarding evangelism and this series of meetings.

(GN): Let's start from the beginning. What is your definition of evangelism?

PE: Evangelism is the sharing of your personal experience, telling others that you have something good to share with them. Evangelism is not so much interested in changing minds as it is in sharing something wonderful—the wonderful relationship we have with Jesus. And this sharing impacts us in return. It reminds each of us of what we have experienced, and reinvigorates our desire to share this with others.

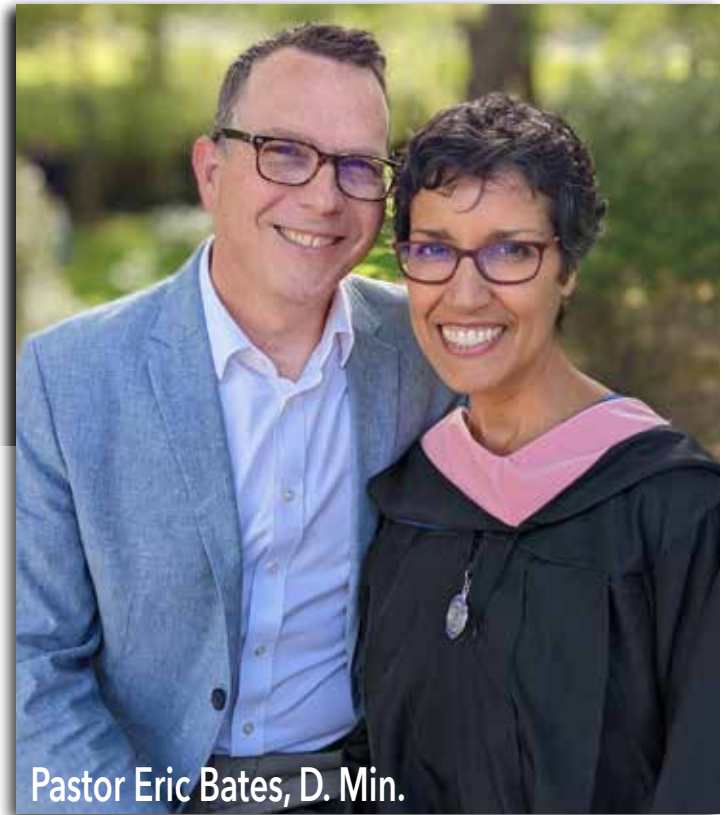
GN: Recently, you explained to us in the Arden Adventist church the concept of “seedWNC.” Please explain again this concept.

PE: “seedWNC” is the concept of evangelism in a cycle, a cycle that lasts all year long. It's a way of thinking about evangelism, not as an event, but as an organic process—much like gardening.

GN: Meaning?

PE: Like gardening, evangelism is meant to be a year-round activity: Preparing the soil; Planting the seed; Cultivating the plants; Harvesting the results; and Preserving the growth.

GN: That seems like a big concept with lots of moving parts. But how does the traditional evangelistic series fit into this overall definition?



Pastor Eric Bates, D. Min.

PE: This a 16-night series, which starts October 13, and is the harvest. It's the opportunity for people to put together all that they have experienced and learned, and to respond with their own personal decisions.

GN: So, what in general will the presentations be about? What is the overall theme?

PE: In general, we will be opening up the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation and discovering Jesus Christ as He is revealed in these prophecies. And what He wants us to learn about Him in these books.

GN: Traditionally, evangelistic meetings were held over four or five weeks, with presentations five nights a week. Why are these meetings being held only on the weekends?

PE: Actually, we have condensed the usual number of meetings down from twenty-five to sixteen. And we will be meeting on only six weekends. So, it isn't any longer than it used to be. But having the meetings on weekend evenings is much more practical. People's lives are so busy these days. They may be working two jobs. And there are kids and their schooling to consider. Weekends work better for everyone.

GN: Speaking of children, what provisions have been made for children at these meetings?

PE: Each evening Pastor Rich Maskelony, our associate and youth pastor, and Whitney Barron, our office man-

ager, will be leading a children's program each night. We are hoping that young families and their children will come to these meetings. The very youngest children will be cared for in the children's meetings. But children from eight to ten years of age and older will be encouraged to come to the regular meetings. This may be the first opportunity they have had to hear the Gospel revealed and explained so that they can understand it.

The children's program will be similar to what some children have experienced at FLAG Camp, if they have attended that at anytime in the past summers here at Arden. In fact, these children's programs will continue even after these meetings are completed. We have an active, ongoing children's ministry here at the Arden Church. The Adventurers Club for ages six to ten, and the Pathfinders Club for ten and older, meet weekly throughout the year. And of course, the children's Bible classes for all ages meet every Saturday morning at 9:30 am.

GN: I know that you will be busy during this time, but what can the church members do to help you?

PE: Well, the most important thing they can do is pray for me and for those who attend. But various teams will be working also and these teams need volunteers to help them. As I said before, Pastor Rich and Whitney will be leading the children's programs, and they will need help. David and Isabel Ruiz will be handling registration. This activity can provide some very interesting interactions with visitors. If this sounds interesting, people can contact them and ask what they can do to help them. Carrie Chavez is organizing the greeters for each night. I think she is working with her church greeters to fill those positions, but she may need more volunteers. Let her know if you like meeting new people and making them feel welcome. Charlene Ingulfsen is leading the prayer team each night to cover the meetings in prayer during the presentations. If someone is a prayer warrior, they should contact Charlene and let her know that they would like to help.

GN: Is there anything else the membership can do?

PE: Yes. Show up.

GN: What do you mean? Attend each night?

PE: Yes. Attend each and every night. Sometimes members think that they have heard all of these presentations before and they don't need to come. But when visitors come, they will see that there is a crowd present, therefore, what is being presented must be

important. We need to demonstrate that we think this is important for us, and for them to think so, too.

GN: Does this go back to what we discussed at the beginning—about sharing a personal experience?

PE: Yes. We weren't able to get a Bible worker to work for three months prior to these meetings. But, it's okay. Each member is a Bible worker. Each member can say, "I've got something great. Now, whom can I share it with?" This is intentional relationship building.

GN: Which is why the members should come to the meetings?

PE: It is just as important to retell your testimony, in order to remind yourself.

GN: So, what interesting events are planned for each night?

PE: Well, on Friday, October 13, we will host a video of Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy program, as an introduction to what we will be presenting for the rest of the series. Then, on each following night, we will have a special music presentation, many by our local Arden Church members. This church is known for its excellent musicians. A free, special study Bible will be given to everyone who attends the meetings for seven nights. And there will be other door prizes given out each night.

GN: Anything else?

PE: On Sabbath, November 18, we are planning baptisms for those who have chosen to commit themselves to a trusting, faith relationship with Jesus, and are prepared to publicly declare it.

GN: This whole concept of the yearly cycle of evangelism, and these meetings that will reap the preparations for this process, sounds very exciting.

PE: I am praying that is true. I want to ask every attendee, "Where is your heart? To whom are you committed?" And I'm praying that, in return, people will ask themselves, "Do I want to be free? Do I want to recognize that I am a slave to the various entrapments the devil has prepared for all of us, and I want to be free?" This is a battle for the Holy Spirit to carry us through. I am praying that everyone who comes to our meetings will hear that message loud and clear and want to commit themselves to Jesus now, and for the rest of their lives.

GN: Amen.

SEE MEETING DETAILS ON THE BACK COVER.



Gailon Morisette, Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES

IF I were the devil—if I were the Prince of Darkness—I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of it's real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree—Thee [you].

"So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispermongers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve, 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that the Bible is a myth. I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington. . . .'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten television with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom ever I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest of them with pills.

"If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

"If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions—just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you would need to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

"Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money.

"If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

"If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give

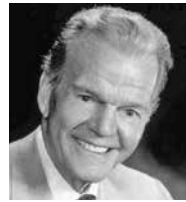
A Transcript of a Paul Harvey program "The Rest of the Story" entitled, **If I were the devil. . .**

to those who wanted it until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, and in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, and that what you see on television is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.

"In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing. Paul Harvey, good day."

An update to today. . .

Paul Harvey Aurdant (September 4, 1918 to February 28, 2009) was an American radio broadcaster for ABC News Radio. He broadcast News and Comment on mornings and mid-days on weekdays and at noon on Saturdays, and also on his famous *The Rest of the Story* segments. From 1951 to 2008, his programs reached as many as 24 million people per week. Paul Harvey News was carried on 1,200 radio stations, on 400 American Forces Network stations, and in 300 newspapers. □



From *Great Controversy*, Ellen G. White, pages 42-46.

"Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God by planting his banner in the Christian church. If the followers of Christ could be deceived and lead to displease God, then their strength, fortitude, and firmness would fail, and they would fall an easy prey. . .

Under a cloak of pretended Christianity, Satan was insinuating himself into the church, to corrupt their faith and turn their minds from the word of truth. . .

Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God's professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance. This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan, so that false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful of ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ."

If you have a prayer request, come join with our Intercessory Prayer group which meets every Tuesday at 9 am. Or fill in the information below, cut out and send to:

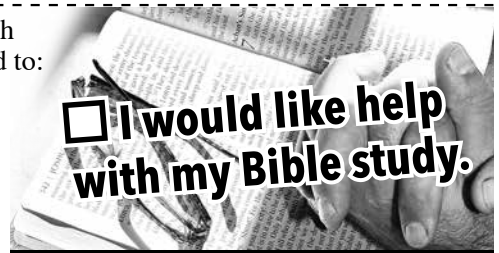
Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church, 35 Airport Road, Arden, NC 28704
You may email your request to: prayer@ardenadventist.org or contact us on our website at www.ardenadventist.org and click on the Ministries heading.

My Prayer Request: _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

"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 I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH AND THE ARDEN ADVENTIST CHURCH IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT: ardenadventist.com/resources/

Arden Adventist MINISTRIES *in* ACTION

by Jean Davey

A Life-Saving Opportunity

The Arden Seventh-day Adventist church decided in 1989 to have a new community outreach ministry which was to have blood drives at the Arden church. This new community outreach was led by Arden church member Connie Hayward and it was held on one Sabbath that year. The Red Cross facilitated this wonderful opportunity for the Arden church to be involved in this new ministry to help others.

At first, there was a little bit of a push back by some church members about having a blood drive on the Sabbath. But Jesus Himself healed people on the Sabbath and the feeling of our church was that He wants us to do the same. The blood drives that we participate in can give life-saving opportunities to others. So, it was decided to continue to hold the blood drives on the Sabbath.

When the Arden church began doing Community Health Fairs each year, the blood drives became a part of the Health Fairs and were held during the fairs for a number of years. Connie Hayward again helped to organize these. Arden church member Sharon Brown was also very involved, calling people and setting up the appointments for them. The Community Health Fairs were eventually stopped, but in 2018, the blood drives began again. They are now scheduled twice per year, usually in the spring and the fall. The Community Outreach Committee continued to hold the blood drives even during the COVID-19 pandemic because the hospitals were in dire need of blood.

Arden church member DeWayne Butcher was involved with this ministry because he was in charge of the Community Outreach Committee and the health fairs. But starting in 2018, DeWayne has taken charge of each blood drive and now picks the two Sabbath dates for each year they are to be held. Of course, they must also be approved by the Community Outreach Committee and the church board.

Also in 2018, the blood drives were switched from being held for the Red Cross to being held for The Blood Connection. The reason is The Blood Connection provides all the blood collected to hospitals in Western North Carolina. Depending on the time or how much blood was needed, an incentive was given by The Blood Connection that provided either a \$25-\$50 gift card to those giving blood. Many church members felt they shouldn't accept these on the Sabbath. Therefore, the church developed the idea that this amount of money be given directly to the church for the Community Outreach program.



For most people, one pint of blood is given and that one pint can be used for three patients. Some people are able to give a double donation but must meet certain criteria to be able to do that. During each blood drive, around 20-40 people sign up to give blood. It is very important for whoever is giving blood to eat a good meal in the morning and drink a lot of water prior to giving.

The blood drives on the two Sabbaths during the year are done during the Sabbath School time on designated World Sabbath days. Sabbath school meets in the sanctuary and is focused on world mission emphasis and often has participation of the children's divisions. The Sabbath School and Outreach Committee decided these days would be a good time to simultaneously have the blood drives.

So how can the Arden church support this Community Outreach ministry? By giving blood themselves and/or by telling their friends, family, and neighbors about it so they can also have an opportunity to give blood. The blood drives are not only for members of the Arden church, but are also open to anyone who is willing to give this life-saving gift.

The next blood drive at the Arden church is scheduled for October 14th and will be held in the Seminar Room of the Community Life Center across from the Sanctuary. People can participate from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, contact DeWayne Butcher at 828-777-7774.

LIFESTYLE FOCUS

A Pain in the Nerves

by Max Hammonds, MD, MPH, MHA

The most complex system of the body is the brain (the central nervous system) and the spinal cord, its communication network with the rest of the body. All two-way traffic to and from the brain passes through this huge, major cable system.

The human body is segmented along the spine, much like an earth worm. The nerves from the most distant/distal body segments—the tail bone and then the legs—are layered into the spinal cord complex first. These nerve bundles are gradually pushed more centrally by nerve bundles from segments closer to the head (proximal layering in), joining segment by segment from the farthest out (distal) to the ones closest (proximal) to the brain. All these nerve bundles travel inside the spinal cord from the brain to the tail bone through a continuous passage through the back bones—the spinal canal—until they exit at their designated segmental levels.

The sensations of pain—touch, pressure, hot and cold, and the location of the body part in 3-D space, proprioception (without the use of eyes)—all of these sensory abilities are transmitted to the brain through relatively smaller, sensory nerves, contained within the segmented nerve bundles as they join the spinal cord. The brain's instructions to the muscles are transmitted from the brain through relatively larger motor nerves contained within the same segmented nerve bundles. Therefore, any pressure or damage to a nerve bundle will affect both the sensory nerves carrying information to the brain and the muscular nerves carrying instructions from the brain.

A single nerve is the tubular extension arm of a single cell. The main body of the cell is located in the spinal cord. The extension arm extends from the cell out to the body part that it serves. Nutrient food and fluid travel through the length of this extension arm, feeding the entire length of the nerve. The electrical signals transmitted by the nerve travel over the surface of the nerve and are modified by the protective coating on the nerve. Blood vessels are contained in this coating and in the segmented nerve channels to feed the nerves.

The bones of the spine (vertebrae) sit next to one another, with a cushion (intervertebral disc) between each pair to decrease the stress of standing, twisting, or bending. Also between each pair of vertebrae is a hole (foramen) formed by a notch in the first vertebra matched by a notch in the second vertebra. The nerve bundle at each segment level exits

the spinal cord and passes through this hole (foramen). The nerve bundle is allowed to slide back and forth through this foramen to allow standing, twisting, or bending.

If the nerve bundle carrying the nerves gets caught or “pinched” (entrapment) in the foramen for any reason, the nerve is restricted from sliding, and this causes stretching of the nerves inside the nerve channel, which is very painful. Bony overgrowth of the foramen, intervertebral disc intruding into the foraminal space, or swelling from repeated trauma to the nerve bundle within the foraminal space may cause entrapment of the nerves within the nerve bundle.

If the nerve bundles are still located inside the spinal canal before exiting, bony overgrowth (spinal narrowing or stenosis) or disc protrusion into the spinal canal will decrease the space within the canal, squeezing and entrapping the nerve bundles while still inside the spinal canal. Again, the nerve bundles can't slide freely. The nerves are then stretched, causing painful sensations in the entrapped nerve bundles.

As the entrapment gets worse, the fluid inside the individual nerves is restricted and the blood supply to the nerves is restricted. The decreased function of these life support systems causes the nerves to no longer function properly. The smaller sensory nerves—carrying pain, pressure, touch, etc.—being smaller, are affected first. Here pain is our friend, warning of a situation that can become very serious.

If the entrapment is relieved, either by steroid injections—in the case of swelling—or by surgical means, the smaller sensory nerves will recover quite quickly. However, if the situation continues without intervention, the nerves going to the muscles will become compromised. The signals they send to the muscles no longer get through to the special surface area of the muscle (muscle end-plate) and this part of the muscle eventually ceases to exist. In this case, even when the entrapment is relieved, the nerves going to the muscles no longer get a response and the muscle is permanently paralyzed.



DO NOT ignore the warning signal of shooting pains down the legs or “electric-like” shocks in the legs on assuming certain positions. These are the early warning signals that something is wrong and needs to be addressed. If ignored, the next warning will be decreased muscle reflexes followed by paralysis of the affected muscle groups, which will probably not be reversible, even with interventions.

Shooting pains down the legs and muscle weakness are an emergency and needs to be cared for immediately. Don't ignore it! □

Disease is an effort of nature to free the system from conditions that result from violation of the laws of health. In case of sickness, the cause should be ascertained. Unhealthy conditions should be changed, wrong habits corrected. Then nature is to be assisted in her effort to expel impurities and reestablish right conditions in the system. —*The Ministry of Healing*, page 73.

Editor's Note: The sole purpose of any health information provided by Grace Notes is for **information only** and is not intended to recommend or assist in self care, or to be a substitute for diagnosis and/or treatment by your personal physician. Please see Disclaimer on page 11.

reflections

How I Learned to Return Tithe

by Nancy McMillan

From the King's Daughter, Nancy

From an offering call that has retained some of the oral presentation style.)

To this new Adventist in Maui, the explanation of the Sabbath was understood and accepted...but what is with this tithing business?! And the big issue? How much is appropriate? *What? 10%?* And this is 10% of my gross income, not net?

How was I ever going to do that? A single woman, living on one income, in the clerical world pay structure, with Hawaii's astronomical cost of living. *Impossible!*

Trying to process all that I was learning in my new walk with Jesus, this was a "solid" situation. I had no idea how it was going to work. I would start out the best I could with a couple dollars here and a couple dollars there, hoping it would "cover" my obligation. Slowly I was able to increase the amount until it reached \$5 and then \$10... but this was still not at 10% of the net, let alone at the gross level.

Then the week came—actually on a Friday—when I realized at work that I had nothing left to put into the collection plate. I headed to lunch in the company cafeteria, not realizing that God is always working. When I got up to leave, I found a \$10 bill on the restaurant floor. I picked it up and passed it along to the host, Eddie, and said, "*This must belong to a server or guest, it's not mine.*"

Later at 3:00 pm that afternoon, Eddie stopped by my desk and tossed the \$10 bill on my desk and said, "*No one claimed it. I asked everyone. And usually someone will claim it, even if it isn't theirs, so, it's yours.*" So, here was my offering for tomorrow—a no brainer—to use that \$10 as my meager contribution. Totally, a *God thing*, but I still didn't know it.

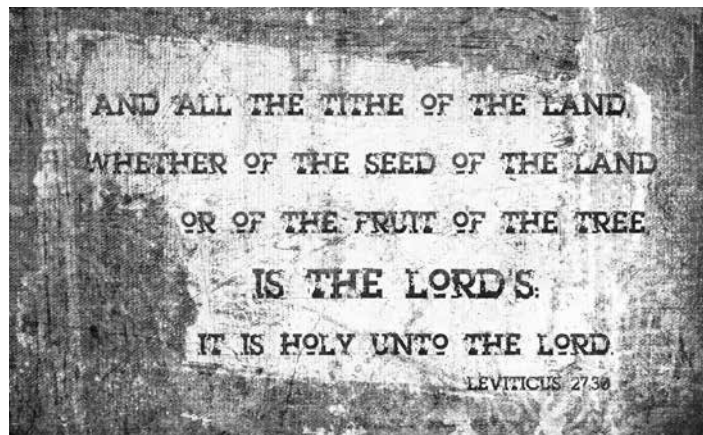
It wasn't much longer until, again, I had no funds "left-over" to contribute. Yes, I was still in the "left over" stage—the first fruits thought process wasn't even a glimmer yet. And, yes, again, I found myself in the same situation of nothing to put into the collection plate.

The Lord often uses the United States Postal Service with me. There was a letter waiting for me in my mailbox. The letter contained a check for \$25 from my sister in New York who didn't have two nickels to rub together nor was she aware of my "tithing issue."

Okay. God, you've got my attention. It wasn't my birthday

nor a holiday, so I was clueless as to why she sent me the check. When I called to ask her, she replied, "I can't tell you why...I only did what the Holy Spirit told me to do." What was going on here? Yup...another *God thing*.

We have an expression in Hawaii that says: "chicken skin." On the mainland it's called goose bumps. And I've got "chicken skin" from what just happened. Okay—so, I have that \$25. That's going in the offering plate—and I'm slowly getting the hang of it, slowly catching on to what tithing is all about.



Little by little, like entering a lake with my toe, testing the water, I moved up to the net level. A couple of months passed by and for some unknown reason, financial ends were being met. What was going on? Was I ready?

So far, it was "I" and not "God" that I thought was managing my finances. Yeah, it was all about me. So, I stepped it up again to the next level. Here it comes...*10% of gross!* Breath held...and *wham!* It worked...rather, *He* worked! Our God is so awesome. Not only did I never look back after that, He blessed with housing, employment, health, transportation, and many other countless blessings.

We don't give to the Lord in order to get from the Lord. No where in the Bible does it demand that you give, nor is it in the top 10, but it is an unspoken expectation. The Bible does say that God loves a cheerful giver, those who support His work by spreading His word, supporting children, the homeless and countless other avenues.

Am I rich beyond my dreams? Yes, you could say that... *rich in our Lord!*

From the King's Daughter, Nancy □

The Long View

by Max Hammonds

How Great Thou Art: The Great Promise

Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3

O LORD God, my Father. Hear my voice when I call to You. I am struggling for words to describe my thoughts and feelings. Those of us who remain are continuing to present your precious plan of salvation and your promises to those who will listen. And we are hiding from those who continue to persecute us, imprison us, and wish to destroy us. These days are exceedingly hard.

Every day we encourage one another with the stories of Your fulfilled promises to those who have gone before us. For we know that You are a God who keeps Your promises. Daily, we read about the promises You made to Abraham; that he should count the stars and “so shall your descendants be.” And his descendants came out of Egypt at the end of the 430 years—just as You promised him—all of the descendants of Israel, 603,550 men, plus women and children. You promised Abraham that he would have a son by Sarah, his wife. And a year later, even in her old age, she birthed Isaac—just as you promised—through whom all those descendants were produced.

LORD, we read the stories of Moses and the promises You made to him that you would give him the words to say to Pharaoh and that You would redeem all the children of Israel, by his hand. And the Angel of Death passed over those who, by faith, painted their doors with the blood of the lamb—as You instructed Moses to tell them to do. And by the hand of Moses, You divided the Red Sea and allowed the Children of Israel to escape the fury of the Egyptian army, while they themselves were drowned—just as You promised.

And we wish so much we could have been present when Jesus explained all the prophecies—the promises of the Old Testament that applied to Himself—and how they were fulfilled. And what a joy it would have been to be with the disciples as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit, and then to be in that Upper Room when the promise was fulfilled. LORD, what glory! I am sure the disciples were astonished at the gifts they were given when Jesus sent them out to minister two by two. What a greater demonstration of Your promises and Your power to have experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

We are grateful and we are humbled as You have shared Your power with us in teaching and preaching in these last days. We have looked back on the history, experience, and protection of the Christian Church as John described it in Revelation, and recognize that every prophecy and every promise was fulfilled up to this moment. Yes, Laodicea has finally recognized that she is the Remnant who is assigned the task of making Your last appeal to the world. And we are in the throes of that task even now.

Yes, LORD, the Holy Spirit is guiding us through these very difficult days. Yes, LORD, we are welcoming many who have made their decision to follow You, even in the persecution that



we are experiencing. But, LORD, this is not easy. We are struggling. We are losing people right and left, to prison, to slavery, and, yes, some to death. We remember Jesus told us that if they did it to Him, they will do it to us. We know this. But it doesn't make it any easier.

Your promises concerning the Time of the End are also being fulfilled. The Shaking Time has devastated our ranks as many that we thought would be firm to the end, have now turned against us. The shaking began first in the church—as You promised—and has now spilled over into the world.

LORD, You are the God who keeps His promises. You promised us a hiding place in You. You promised us unity, fellowship, and peace in the church as we worked together. You promised us a deeper understanding and a closer walk with You, as we follow you, like the original disciples did. All these promises have been fulfilled. What You have promised, You are well able to perform. Nothing is too hard for You.

And now, we are waiting for the final Great Promise to be fulfilled. Even in the darkness of our surroundings here, we are able to read 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 with great anticipation. You promised, and we cling to Your Great Promise with every particle of faith we have.

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3).

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen and amen. ☐



Max Hammonds is a retired anesthesiologist, writer, health lecturer, musician, and sailor, and writes from his home in Hendersonville, North Carolina.



Many organizations work together through Adventist Laymen Services & Industries (ASI) with the Seventh-day Adventist Church to reach foreign mission fields. This is a true story from, one of those ministries.

Stories of World Missions

Every Bicycle Needs a Bible

I wish you could meet Hussein, the security guard for the building where my wife and I live as tentmaker missionaries in the Middle East. From the time we first met him, we could tell he observed his faith carefully and lived with sincerity. I liked him.

Hussein has visited our home many times, and he has invited us to his. We have often conversed about the simple things in life and even sometimes about spirituality. At our initiative, he has graciously joined us in prayer.

As our friendship grew stronger by God's grace, we sought to take a new step in our friendship. We began to pray for the right moment to give him a Bible.

One day, Hussein was upset. He impatiently explained that his bicycle, his only transportation to work, had been stolen. He was preoccupied with trying to find a bicycle to borrow. That day, I began praying for a bicycle for my friend.

Several months passed, and we received an unexpected gift of US\$40. I was puzzled. It seemed like God had sent the money directly from heaven. As I was praying a short time later, the distinct thought came to me, Show Jesus to your friend. Buy a bicycle for Hussein. I set aside the \$40 and began adding to it.

But the country's economy worsened by the day, and no matter how much money I saved, it wasn't enough to buy a bicycle. Still, I kept praying and saving. I also went to many second-hand bicycle shops. I began imagining what it would be like to give Hussein a bicycle for his birthday!

Celebrating Hussein's Birthday

When Hussein's birthday came, my wife baked a cake, I planned a special menu, and we invited him to come for supper at 5:30 PM. Certain that God could still answer with a miracle, I went looking for the bicycle we had prayed about for so long. At 5:00 PM I returned home, unsuccessful and discouraged. My wife reminded me that God knew how much we wanted to help and how much we had prayed.

"He's taking care of the situation," she assured me.

The supper was a perfect surprise. Hussein was delighted! He told us how blessed he was to have us in his life. We enjoyed the meal together, presented him with the cake, and had a special prayer for him, thanking God for his life. But we had no bike. No gift.

The next day, still searching for a second-hand bike, I was startled by an online post indicating that a Russian man had listed a bicycle for sale at a very good price only 10 minutes earlier. I couldn't believe the price, the photo, or the condition

of the bicycle. Grabbing my phone, I contacted the owner and even bravely asked for a small bargain.

We made the deal and met for the exchange. As I lifted the bicycle into the back of my car, I knew God had answered our prayers. The bicycle cost the exact amount that I had saved over many, many months.

As my wife and I inspected the answer to our prayers, we wondered aloud, "What if we give Hussein a Bible with the bicycle?"

We wrote a card and wrapped the Bible that we had bought many months earlier. We prayed for the best moment to present him with the gifts. I carefully planned what to say. I knew that the bicycle would be meaningful, and I hoped that the Bible would be a sensitive step toward sharing truth.

Indescribable Joy

Hussein was overwhelmed with emotion when we arrived at his door with the bicycle. The bicycle looked impressive! But I never expected the expression on his face as he gently held the Bible and carefully turned its pages. He was in awe. He was delighted. I don't know who was happier—him or me. After two years of friendship, I was finally giving my friend and brother a Bible, the gift

I had prayed about the most! My joy was indescribable.

A few days later, Hussein invited me to his home for tea. When I arrived, I found him reading the book of Genesis. His eyes sparkled. He explained that he had never read the Creation story before. I knew we had much to talk about, and I prayed for the Holy Spirit to give me the right words. That evening, we spoke of heaven and death. I showed Hussein some beautiful verses in his new Bible.

As we spoke, Hussein kept quietly leafing through the pages of the Bible. He seemed so engrossed with the Bible that I sensed God urging me to offer to study the Bible with him. I heard myself giving that wonderful invitation, "Would you like to study the Bible together?" To my astonishment, he accepted—and with great eagerness.

That week, we began our Bible studies. God continued His amazing work, and He is still working. Hussein and I are both growing closer to God and each other.

My heart is filled with thanksgiving to God, and I am awed by the privilege of sharing God with Hussein. I am thankful to my wife for her kind and faith-filled support. I am thankful to relatives in my homeland who have prayed with us for Hussein. I am thankful for believing friends who have prayed for us during this experience. I thank God for sending us the money to buy the bicycle and giving us the courage to share His Word with someone who is thrilled to learn about God for the first time. □

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Our Family Focus this month features Carol Onuska. Carol has been a member of the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1986.

Carol was born in Detroit, Michigan, and was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist. She was born at home in 1936 at 9:17 a.m. on a Sabbath morning. Her Dad told her she was born in time for Sabbath School! She had two older brothers who are both deceased.

Carol went to public schools until she was in the seventh grade. An Adventist church school, Southfield Adventist Academy, was built close to their home and so she began attending there from the seventh to tenth grades. She then graduated from Adelphian Academy in Holly, Michigan.

She continued her education in pre-nursing at Emanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) and then graduated from Hinsdale Sanitarium Hospital with her RN nursing degree. In 1964 she also graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia Union College and then received her Master's Degree from the University of Central Michigan in Health Care Administration.

Carol worked as a nurse for fifty years! She worked in several different places and her last position was at Pardee Memorial Hospital in Hendersonville, North Carolina, where she worked for twenty-one years. She has been retired now for fifteen years.

Carol was married to Bill Onuska for thirty-eight years before he passed away in 2017. They met through a mutual friend. His baby sitter and Carol were attending the same church. Bill visited that church and he and Carol met and started dating in August of that year, and decided to get married in December of the same year.

Carol has two children from her first marriage, Arden church member Kevin Hirsch and a daughter, Michelle, who lives in Oregon. Carol has three grandchildren, four step grandchildren, and three great step grandchildren.

Carol has lived in Washington State, and in Maryland for twenty years. When her husband, Bill, was ready to retire, Carol wanted them to move to a location where she already knew someone. Her wonderful friend, Arden church member Sandy Spencer's parents lived in Hendersonville. So they moved here in 1986.

Her hobbies include cooking and she enjoys having guests to her home. She also enjoys needlepoint, and has just recently learned how to quilt. Carol attends a bible study at the Hendersonville church and that is where she learned of a group who makes quilts. She and Bill traveled quite a lot on mission trips and so she decided, for her first quilt, to make a king size quilt made out of the t-shirts that she accumulated from all of their mission trips, because they hold special memories for her.

Carol has traveled quite a lot and she and Bill went to many countries on mission trips including Africa, Tanzania, Russia, Costa Rica, Honduras, India, and Czechoslovakia. They also visited several other countries for pleasure including China, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and several Scandinavian countries.

Carol has been a member of the Arden Adventist church for thirty-seven years and she and Bill started attending because Sandy Spencer's parents attended Arden. They both loved the fact that there were people of all ages. Carol now attends the Sabbath School class led by Raymond Assiongbon-Foly. She helps with the Grace Notes mailing and is also a cashier for the church. For many years, she served as the Arden church organist.

We are so happy that Carol is part of the Arden church family! □



Jean Davey is retired from the University of South Carolina, where she worked as a computer programmer in the Payroll, Budget and Human Resources Departments. Jean writes from her home in Hendersonville, North Carolina.



**Arden Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Is a Safe Place to Grow.**

Our Purpose is, by God's Grace, to reflect His character in our community, to demonstrate a quality of life that will attract all to be reconciled to Jesus Christ, and to encourage people to become His loving, maturing disciples.

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Comments, suggestions and praises are always welcome. Please email or contact the church office.

Services each Saturday morning:
Sabbath School Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

Location: 35 Airport Road, Arden, NC 28704
Located on Highway 280, (Airport Road),
1.5 miles east of I-26 exit 40, and a quarter
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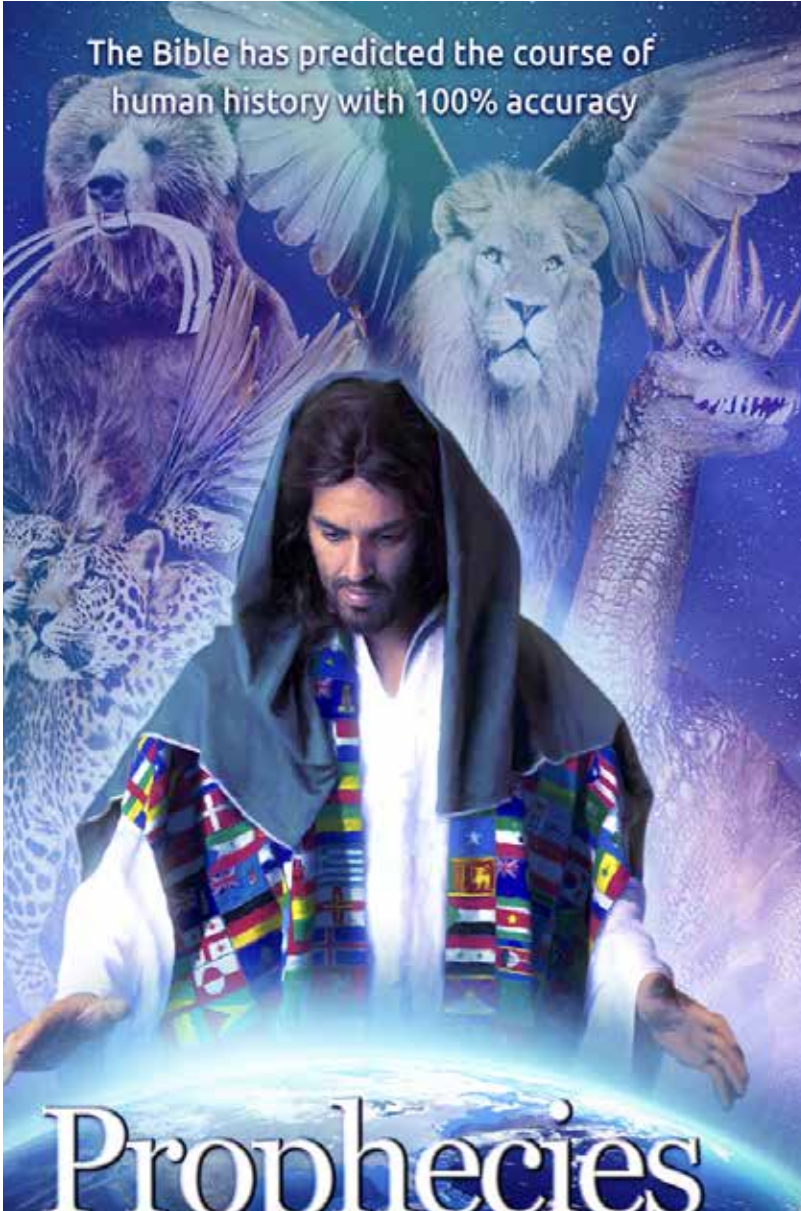
Grace Notes is published monthly by the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church. Subscription is free by calling or emailing the office. †
If you have questions about what Adventists believe? Would you like to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Would you like to study the Bible? You are invited to attend a Pastor's Bible Study Class. Please call for location and time. All are always welcome.

†Disclaimer—The contents of Grace Notes, such as text, graphics, images, and other material contained in this magazine of the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church are for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of a qualified healthcare provider, who is knowledgeable and experienced in the use of specific medical or Lifestyle Medicine interventions, or about questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Never disregard professional medical advice, or delay in seeking it, because of information published in this magazine. Neither Grace Notes nor the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church recommend or endorse any specific tests, products, procedures, opinions, or other information that may be mentioned in published articles. Reliance on any information provided is solely at your own risk. If you may have a medical emergency, call your healthcare provider or 911 immediately.

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The Bible has predicted the course of
human history with 100% accuracy



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SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 2023 / 7:00 PM

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE—A MESSAGE OF HOPE

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DON'T MISS OPENING NIGHT! SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 2023 / 7:00 PM New World Order

Bible prophecy predicts the rise and fall of nations up to 2000 years into the future! Then a new world order is prophesied as the last government on Earth. Is it already here?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 / 7:00 PM

Session 2 | On the Verge of the Apocalypse

World events today are aligning with the prophecies of the Bible. Discover the keys to unlocking these mysterious symbols in the books of Daniel and Revelation, and what the Bible says will happen next.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023 / 7:00 PM

Session 3 | Three Angels of the Apocalypse

We hear of a judgment day, but what does the Bible really say about judgment? Join us as we explore this and learn why we don't have to live in fear, but can look to the future with hope.

Your Speaker is Dr. Eric Bates

Eric Bates has taught Bible prophecy internationally. Eric's clear grasp on prophetic times has given hope to many as he unfolds, with clarity, the keys to understanding Bible prophecy. Even if you have never opened the pages of the Bible, this seminar will give you a sense of peace and well-being as you learn its relevant application to your life.



EVENT LOCATION

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