

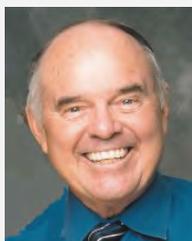


The Good News Letter

February 6, 2019

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32 (NKJV)

PASTOR’S MESSAGE



Dear Church Family:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who

persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his son to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. (Matt. 5:43-45.)”

With a good look at the cross, these words from Jesus begin to make sense. Because Jesus loved us when we did not love him and died in our place “while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8), then offering self-giving love toward those who do not share and are even hostile toward our beliefs should be one of our most fundamental, core commitments.

The more conservative we are as Seventh-day Adventists and believe that the words in Scripture are true, the more liberal we should become in how we love and treat every kind of person. To understand how loved and forgiven we are, we will be among the least offended and least offensive people in the world! We will also be among the most loving, others-oriented, and life-giving people in the world.

C.S. Lewis made an amazing observation when he said that as we read history, we will find that those who did the most good for the present world were also the

one who thought the most about the next! It is true that Christians have made some serious and hurtful missteps along the way, to be heavenly minded is to be more earthly good not less.

As people of faith come under greater pressure to forsake their most deeply held beliefs about God, and his Word it provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate that they indeed light in the world of darkness.

It maybe that love across lines of difference and deep disagreement will be Christians’ best opportunity to live as the aroma of Christ in the world. More and more we should be asking ourselves, “What would it look like for us to commit our lives, our families, and the communities and organizations that we lead to extend neighbor love to a hurting world even when that same hurting world views us as part of the problem?”

I am looking forward to worshipping with you this Sabbath. We are having a special ordination and dedication for the new officers in the church. This Sabbath I will be speaking on “Leaders and Followers.” Remember to sign up for the special Valentines Dinner to be held this Sunday.

Pastor J. Lynn Martell

CALENDAR

Sabbath, February 9

- 9:15 am Veranda Fellowship Ministry
- 9:45 am Children’s Sabbath School Classes
- 10:00 am Adult Sabbath School Class
“Jesus’ Messages to the Seven Churches”
- 10:00 am Leccion do Escuela Sabatica
- 11:00 pm Sermon: Pastor J. Lynn Martell
“Leaders and Followers”
- 12:30 pm Fellowship Luncheon
- 1:00 pm Spanish language sermon
- 1:30 pm Choir Practice
- 2:30 pm Bible Memory Class (Psalm 1)
- 3:00 pm Health: “Autoimmune Secrets”
- 5:30 pm Sunset in Los Alamitos

Sabbath Worship Speakers

- Feb. 16 Speaker: Timothy Standish, PhD
Senior Scientist at GSRI
- Feb. 23 Speaker: Don Yancy
- Mar. 2 Speaker: Pastor J. Lynn Martell
- Mar. 9 Speaker: Pastor J. Lynn Martell
- Mar. 16 Speaker: Pastor Don Vollmer
- Feb. 23 Speaker: Don Yancy

Special Events

- Feb. 9 Sa 3:00 pm Health Series (2 of 7)
“Autoimmune Secrets”
- Feb. 10 Su 4:30 pm Valentine’s Day Banquet,
Pre-registration
- Feb. 23 Sa 3:00 pm “Autoimmune Secrets” (3)
- Mar. 2 Sa 3:00 pm “Autoimmune Secrets” (4)
- Mar. 9 Sa 3:00 pm “Autoimmune Secrets” (5)
- Mar. 16 Sa 3:00 pm “Autoimmune Secrets” (6)
- Mar. 23 Sa 3:00 pm “Autoimmune Secrets” (7)
- May 4 Sa 3:00 pm Health Series (1 of 8)
“Diabetes Undone”
- May 11 Sa 3:00 pm “Diabetes Undone” (2)
- May 18 Sa 3:00 pm “Diabetes Undone” (3)
- May 25 Sa 3:00 pm “Diabetes Undone” (4)
- Jun. 1 Sa 3:00 pm “Diabetes Undone” (5)
- Jun. 8 Sa 3:00 pm “Diabetes Undone” (6)

MEET THE FAMILY

The Lord Is So Good to Us

I was spending a few days with my mom, who lived alone in her secluded home in the mountains of Western North Carolina. We were sitting at the table on her sun porch as she paid her bills and I read. I knew she was writing a check for her tithes and offerings when I heard the familiar litany, "The Lord is so good to us."

"The Lord is so good to us." How often growing up had I heard that observation from her lips as my mom returned tithes and offerings. As adults, my brother, sister and I had heard from my folks' admiring tax accountant, who was also a family friend — that a third of my dad's annual income went to the causes of the One who was "so good to us."

And indeed the heavens were open in our home as promised. Not that we were better off financially with some material return from the Lord (my best guess is that we remained the poorer for it), but we enjoyed a domestic harmony and happiness, and a positive relationship to the church that no amount of money could have ever secured. Looking back, there did seem to be a correlation between Dad and Mom's trust and generosity and the heaven we remember in our childhood home. Our parents' gentle and good-humored nurturing over meals, around the piano, before the fire, and at play made credible Mom's assertion, "The Lord is so good to us." We found security in our parents' values and learned to share in the satisfaction and delight that comes from financing mission, even if it means what some would think of as sacrifice.

Though Dad was a doctor and we could see the earning potential of his profession (I say potential because, true to his character, the time he took with each patient limited his income), when it came time to choose a life's work, the question of how much money we might make at what we did, or what lifestyle we might afford for ourselves, never entered our calculations. Our parents' values of mission enabled us to experience and grasp for ourselves a wonderful and divine irony: sacrificial benevolence that may limit our lifestyle yields the happiest of lives, a rare contentment, and domestic tranquility.

After all, the Lord is so good to us.

Pastor Don Vollmer

SABBATH SUNSET TIMES

02/09 5:30 pm 02/23 5:43 pm

02/16 5:36 pm 03/02 5:49 pm

BIRTHDAYS 2/7-2/13

2/11 DeeDee Santoyo

2/11 Denise Thomson

Let us know if we are missing anyone.

FINANCES

Tithe Income \$14,488

Church Budget Income \$10,967

Budgeted Amount: \$15,581

YTD totals as of 2/2/19

INSPIRED THOUGHTS

"The Life-giver is coming to break the fetters of the tomb. He is to bring forth the captives and proclaim, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' There stands the risen host. The last thought was of death and its pangs. The last thoughts they had were of the grave and the tomb, but now they proclaim, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' The pangs of death were the last things they felt. 'O death, where is thy sting?' The last thing they acknowledged was the pangs of death. When they awake the pain is all gone. . . .

Here they stand, and the finishing touch of immortality is put upon them, and they go up to meet their Lord in the air. The gates of the city of God swing back upon their hinges, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There are the columns of angels on either side, and the ransomed of God walk in through the cherubims and seraphims. Christ bids them welcome and puts upon them His benediction. 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.' What is that joy? He sees of the travail of His soul, and is satisfied."—*Manuscript 18*, 1894.

ORANGWOOD ACADEMY

Orangewood Academy is launching the Enrollment Period for the 2019-2020 school year. As an incentive to all new-to-OA students, we are offering \$400 off their first month of enrollment at OA. They are also welcome to contact Mr. Hernandez in the Business Office and make an appointment to review all of the Financial Aid opportunities.

We realize that sending your child(ren) to an Adventist school is an investment into their future and for some of you a real sacrifice. As an incentive, we are offering the following discounts for your 2019-2020 Preregistration:

Return the completed pre-registration packet and pay the registration fee by Thursday, **February 14**, the registration fee is only **\$50**. Return the packed by Thursday, **March 14**, the registration fee is **\$150**. Any registration packets turned in after **March 14** will incur the regular registration fee of **\$250**.

Phone: 714-534-4694.

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Health Presentation

Join us for this very informative series at 3:00 p.m. Sabbath, February 9.

This week the topic is "When Your Body Attacks: How to Win the War on Lupus, Arthritis & Thyroid Disease."