



Elmira

Seventh-day Adventist Church



Newsletter

AUGUST 2009

## FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER



### Watching and Praying

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6-7.

As you walk through the scriptures you come across these two words over and over again. Watch and pray. Our admonition is to watch and pray. Why? Specifically, because we are living in the *hour of judgment!*

Let's look at a few verses and see if we can come to any conclusions.

- Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
- Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
- Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find **watching**: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Each verse encourages us to be on the lookout, to be awake. Those that are watching will be ready for the second coming of Jesus.

While we are to be watching we are also to be praying.

- Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

“The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privileges that God has given them in the divine appointment of prayer. Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence? Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path. The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation” (Steps to Christ, 93-95).



Prayer is what links us to heaven. Without effectual prayer, one cannot expect to be transformed in heart and mind. And without this type of transformation it will be impossible to enter the gates of heaven.

Jesus on the eve of His crucifixion was found praying, and while praying He found strength to endure the greatest test that would ever test humanity. Jesus invited His closest companions in the hour of trial to watch and pray with Him.

Matthew 26:38 “Then saith He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me.”

Back and forth Jesus went, agonizing in prayer and seeking the comfort of His closest companions. Instead of finding comfort, He found them disinterested and asleep.

Matthew 26:40-41 “And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

So the master looks to us – can you not watch and

pray for one hour? If we are living in the hour of judgment wouldn't it be well if we spent our time in prayer and in watchfulness, that we might be better equipped to endure trial and persecution?

Therefore watching and praying is not an option, rather, it is a requirement. If the Christian would be ready for Christ's coming, pray that you enter not into temptation and watch so that you may be found worthy to stand before the presence of God and the Lamb.

Many blessings,  
Pastor Curtis

## CHURCH NEWS

### CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING



The next Church Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 7:00 PM at the church. Please have any agenda items to Elder Curtis by Monday, August 3.

### EVANGELISM WEEKEND

Friday evening, August 14, and all day Sabbath, August 15, will be Evangelism weekend at the Elmira Church. The theme is “Bridges in Heaven.” Elder Roger Curtis from the Elmira Church, Pastor Jenks Brutus from the Friendship Church, and Pastor Dustin Hall from the Cornerstone Church will be leading out. The fellowship luncheon that week will be at the school. Please bring a dish to pass.

### EVANGELISTIC SEMINARS

Seminars will be held August 9-13, at three locations – Hill Top Inn, 171 Jerusalem Hill Road, Elmira; Joint Education & Training, Inc., 2205 College Avenue, Elmira; and Adventist Christian School 809 Maple Avenue, Elmira. Topics include: men's health, health & nutrition, parenting, teen issue's, finance, and women's issues.

### 3ABN UPDATE

Help raise \$31,800 to upgrade Channel 21 to digital. We will have the opportunity to reach 167,000 people in our area with 3ABN TV, 3ABN Latino, 3ABN Radio, 3ABN Kids TV and Radio 74. Mark your tithe envelope 3ABN upgrade.



### IN MEMORY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Becky Gottshall, who passed away June 28. Becky was the daughter of Bill and Priscilla Haesche, 2342 Knapp Rd., Dundee, NY 14837-9728.

## WEEKEND GUEST SPEAKER

Elder Richard O’Ffill will be our guest speaker for the weekend October 10 – 12. He is an author, revivalist and seminar speaker who has served in Southern Asia and Latin America, as well as North America.

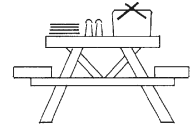


## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS



Everyone is invited to our luncheon each Sabbath following the worship service. Please bring a dish to pass.

Our next picnic at the lake is scheduled for Sabbath, August 22, weather permitting.



## LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Please continue to save your General Mills Box tops and Campbell’s UPC symbols for the Holbrook SDA Indian School in Arizona. Box tops and UPC symbols can be given Joyce Cmelko. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

## PRAYER LIST

Ernest Miller  
Mildred Rosekrans  
Doris Stewart



Ileen Smith  
Cindy Taft

Check out our Church website at: [www.elmirasda.com](http://www.elmirasda.com)  
Downloadable sermons are available at this site.



## SABBATH SCHOOL

During the months of August and September, we continue our study of the Epistles of John. Please join us as we study each Sabbath morning. Song service begins at 9:20. Classes are provided for adults and children.



Mission videos during August and September will be from the South American Division. 2.6 million Seventh-day Adventists live and worship the South American Division, which is composed of eight countries that speak mainly two languages: Portuguese and Spanish. Topics covered will include: “Amazon Adventist University” in Brazil – In the North Brazil Union, many young people who have desired a college education have had to travel far from their homes because of the lack of higher educational facilities in their own union. That is changing now with new construction of a college in the region of the Amazon; and “Evangelism and Education in Ecuador.” Radio Nuevo Tiempo (New Time) is a voice that is heard by thousands of people in this region. Upgrades are desperately needed to continue the efforts of this station. In order to increase enrollment and growth at the Adventist college of Ecuador

the main building of the boys' dorm needs to be renovated and a new wing will be added to improve some of the living conditions.

## INVESTMENT



Thank you for saving your newspapers, magazines, and health food labels for Investment. See Alvin Jackson, our Investment leader. **Please be sure the UPC symbol is on the food labels.**

## PERSONAL MINISTRIES



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



26 units (22 pints whole blood and 2 donations Double Red Cells) were collected at our drive on June 16. Our next scheduled drive is August 18, 1:00 – 6: 30 p.m, in the church fellowship hall.

## NATURE'S GARDEN

STORE HOURS      Thursday, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – September 20

CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 607-734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Ave, Elmira, NY 14904 or e-mail us at: [webmaster@elmirasda.com](mailto:webmaster@elmirasda.com).



For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,  
saith the LORD,  
thoughts of peace, and not of evil,  
to give you an expected end.  
Then shall ye call upon me,  
and ye shall go and pray unto me,  
and I will hearken unto you.  
And ye shall seek me, and find me,  
when ye shall search for me with all your heart  
Jeremiah 29:11-13

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,  
where moth and rust doth corrupt,  
and where thieves break through and steal:  
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt,  
and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
For where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also.  
Matthew 6:19-21*

**Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church  
c/o Jim & Sharon Reynolds  
813 Maple Ave  
Elmira, NY 14904**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

