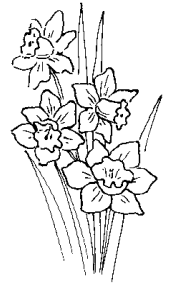




Elmira
 Seventh-day Adventist Church
 Newsletter
 APRIL 2020



*Christ is ready to receive all who come to Him in sincerity.
 But He will not tolerate one particle of pretense or hypocrisy.
 He is our only hope. He is our Alpha and Omega.
 He is our sun and our shield, our wisdom, our sanctification, our righteousness.
 Only by His power can our hearts be kept daily in the love of God.
 In Heavenly Places, p. 49*

PASTOR'S CORNER

“Hold On!”



How merciful is our God! We are still alive though we are very sinful beings. We are still alive in times like these. COVID-19 poses such a viral threat, killing people indiscriminately. But we are still alive. We are spared.

But no one is talking about the most deadly virus. Only God knows why the COVERT-sin-6000 virus has not wiped us all out. So I urge you cling to Jesus. “Hold On!”

I named the virus COVERT-sin-6000 because of how it operates.

It operates by stealth.

It has been terrorizing humanity for nearly 6000 years now.

COVERT-sin-6000 is deadly.

You know, the virus of sin is more deadly than SARS, MERS, HIV, EBOLA, or COVID-19. Sin is more dangerous than all other viruses combined. Now, if

there was no sin in our world, there would be no sickness, disease, or death.

But “Hold On.” A rough and ready preacher named John the Baptist told us long ago that the COVERT-sin-6000 virus has been remedied. The only One who could have hatched & executed the plan of salvation to save us from sin is God. He mobilized the National Guard of angel armies. But God has successfully quarantined the sin virus. He is managing the crisis from a His Great White Throne in the heavenly sanctuary. But Hold On. There is more.

In order to save us, God made the ultimate sacrifice. He became like one of us. The Bible calls God’s great condescension the mystery of godliness. The more I think about it, the more I am astonished. God became One with us. Can you imagine that? God folded up Himself into a little bundle of humanity named Jesus. And what did God say in Matt 1:21? “And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.”

When Christ’s mission was to go public, both on a local, national & global level, He first went and was

baptized by John the Baptist. So, the Bible says in John 1:29, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

If God did that for us, since God became the Sacrifice for us, since God took our fall, since God took our place, there is nothing else that He will not do for us.

But some are still trying to make excuses could for not going all the way with God in perfect obedience. Perfect faith produces perfect obedience. You may say, "pastor, you don't know how messed up I am." But let me remind you, it is because of how messed up you are, it is because of how messed up I am, that Christ came into the world. So "Hold On."

Paul said in I Timothy 1:5. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

God saves the chiefest of sinners. No one in earshot of my voice, or who eyeballs the transcript of this sermon, has any good reason to be lost. But everyone in earshot of my voice and who views any transcript of this sermon has a thousand reasons to be saved. We may have well over a thousand sins. And only God can pay such a debt.

So bend all your energy toward God. Give God "the time of day" in your life. Don't give it to COVID-19. Some people just sit around all day imbibing the negative news in the media. Up until now, some were so consumed with money matters that they had no time for God. But in times like these, we need much more than money.

In times like these, we need much more than the news in the media. In times like these, we need something more. In times like these, we need the good news. In times like these, we need the truth that will set us free. In times like these, we need the unadulterated, everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

And I am here to give you just such a message.

For I have heard a joyful sound.
Jesus saves. Jesus saves.
Spread the glad news all around.
Jesus saves. Jesus saves.

Tell yourself and all around.
Jesus saves. Jesus saves.
Tell the virus going around.
Jesus saves. Jesus saves.

If Coronavirus comes to your village, city, or town:
Don't suffer in silence or be cast down.
Get on the internet, house phone or smartphone,
And be determined to make the good news known.

No man is an island.
No man stands alone.
So wake up sisters, brothers
And claim Christ as your own.

The much-feared virus sure looks like a crown
But be brave my soul, don't not be cast down.
It may feel like it, but you are never alone.
There's a Friend/Companion on heaven's throne.
So cheer up my friend, you are not your own.
You were bought at a price, to be Christ's very own.

So, never give up. Jesus is coming. Never give up.
Jesus is calling. "Hold On."

It is true that we would like some answers to make sense of what is going on. But even if we don't get the answers and cannot understand why, the one thing we can still do is to trust God by and by. So, by faith, "Hold On."

This Coronavirus has really leveled life's playing field in many ways. From the Stock Market powerhouse on Wall Street to the small-man in his small corner, wherever.

The insatiable/unquenchable materialism of this post-modern society has been checked. The wealthy are in unease. Some are realizing that their wealth is really no full-proof security. The poor who thought that they could glory in their poverty have had a rude

awakening. And the middle class, the milking cow of taxation governments here and around the world, has been forced out of sleep too. All that we have, all that we are, have the ability to be deemed useless, overnight. The final movements will be rapid ones.

1 Tim. 6:17-19, "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

So, just in case you missed it, just in case I have not made it very clear, God's message to you today is to "Hold On," to Eternal Life."

Life is fickle. You could be here today and be gone tomorrow. This could be my very last sermon. We never know. But what we know is: Jesus saves. Jesus saves!

In speaking of Jesus, we are told in Hebrews 7:24-25, "But He, because He continues forever has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

So what is it that scares you the most? As I look over my relatively short life, nothing in the world really scares me.

Not death, not COVID-19, not the lack of or the lavish spending of money. No, the things of this world don't really scare me. Except one!

My carnal nature is a monster. When I look at myself, I wonder, how on earth can I be saved?

But when I look at Jesus, I wonder, how under heaven can I be lost?

So perspective means a whole lot. Doesn't it? Yes. Amen.

So, as enfeebled & defective as I am, I choose to lean on Jesus. I choose to start over I choose to start afresh with Him today. What do you say?

Rather than worry, let us each turn to God in repentance for the sins of yesteryears. That is what I am claiming for you, for me, for our families and friends.

"LORD, please cut me loose from my sins of yesteryears and beyond. Please free me. Release me now Lord. Forgive me for every sin that I have ever committed, attempted, or cherished. Oh, Lord Jesus Christ, please come & reign on the throne of my heart once again. Like Jonah, Lord, I feel like I am at rock bottom, at the bottom of the mountains under the sea. The only direction to go from here is up. I want to go up with You now LORD. So, I claim Your promise today, Lord, that says in II Peter 1:4

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

"Nothing good I have to bring.
Simply to Your cross I cling.
Thank You for Your cleansing.
By faith I ask, allow me in.
In the name of Jesus Christ I pray.
Amen."

Elder Warren Muir



Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6, 7

CHURCH NEWS



CHURCH SERVICES

All services and luncheons at the church are currently suspended until further notice due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

Join us on Facebook at 11:30 AM Sabbath mornings for livestreaming of the church service.

<https://www.facebook.com/vhsda>

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may donate via www.adventistgiving.org.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

At the time of this writing, there is a blood drive scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, April 14 from 1:30 – 6:30. Blood drives are considered essential services and the blood supply is currently extremely low due to COVID-19. If possible, we will plan to go ahead with this drive. Donation Types: Double Red Cell and Whole Blood.

MAKING MASKS

Masks are needed in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you like to sew and would like to participate in making masks, contact Ginger Miller.

VISION 2020: EACH ONE REACH ONE FOR CHRIST



The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 1 Peter 3:9.
Let us, each one, make it our goal to be used of God to lead at least one person to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ in the coming year.

TEN-FIFTEEN

Remember to spend at least ten minutes praying and fifteen minutes studying God's word each day.
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



Check out our church website at www.elmirasda.com
Downloadable sermons are available at this site.



PRAYER LIST

Gary Bennett
Bob Cau
Joyce Cmelko
Jim Eldridge
Elius Sylvestre
Harold Washburn, Jr.



Coronavirus pandemic
Non-attending members
Our shut-ins
Ongoing Bible studies
Outreach in Elmira

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Take therefore no thought for the morrow:
for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.
Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.
Matthew 6:33, 34*

If you have someone to be added to our prayer list, please let us know.

SABBATH SCHOOL

During the second quarter, our Sabbath School lessons are "How to Study Scripture." Be sure to continue your study at home while we are not able to meet together.



*All scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,
for instruction in righteousness:
That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Timothy 3:16, 17*

RECIPE CORNER

Minestrone Soup

3/4 c. diced celery
2 carrots, diced fine
1 c. slivered green beans
1 lg. chopped onion
2 young green onions tops, chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
1/4 c. chopped parsley
1 c. shredded cabbage
1 c. diced zucchini squash
2 c. cooked kidney beans (or navy, pinto or red)
1 qt. canned tomatoes
1-2 c. water, to desired consistency
2 tsp. salt, or to taste
1 tsp. basil

1 bay leaf
1/2 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. thyme
1/2 tsp. oregano
1/ tsp. marjoram
1 tsp. McKay's beef seasoning
1 c. diced potato
1 c. green peas
1/2 c. dry vermicelli (spaghetti, noodles, or macaroni), optional
2 T. olive oil or margarine



In a large saucepan or crock pot, add all ingredients except potato, peas, vermicelli, and oil. Simmer until vegetables are beginning to soften. Add potatoes and peas. Cook until almost desired doneness. Add oil (margarine) and vermicelli and cook for 15 minutes. Yield 12 servings.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – March 20 – CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904, or e-mail us at newsletter@elmirasda.com. Please limit your articles to approximately one half to one full page. Please take note of the season, if your article is seasonal. All articles should properly acknowledge the author and include permission to print.



*We must gather about the cross.
Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation,
of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion.
We should keep in our thoughts every blessing we receive from God,
and when we realize His great love
we should be willing to trust everything
to the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.
Steps to Christ, Pp. 103, 104*



*The hand that upholds the world,
upholds and strengthens the weakest and most sinful human being.*

*The great Master Artist,
whose skill is infinitely beyond the skill of any human being,
who gives to the lily of the field its delicate and beautiful tints,
and who cares for the little sparrow,
cares also for His children.*

Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, October 10, 1900



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

