

# Elmira

## Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter

### DECEMBER 2009



FROM THE  
PASTOR'S

#### CORNER



#### Lamp Unto My Feet

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee”.  
Psalm 119:11,105



The Bible has 3,566,480 letters, 722,746 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters and 66 books. It can be read in 70 hours & 40 minutes from cover to cover.

The Bible is a source of strength and power for our lives. Some may say that they do not need the Bible or its instruction. Ellen G. White once wrote: “Do we receive the Bible as the "oracle of God"? It is as really a divine communication as though its words came to us in an audible voice” (5T 533).

Notice that it is as the audible voice of God. What a dynamic to consider; God speaking to us directly via the 66 books of the Bible. Here we find just the opposite of many worldly minds. The pursuit of happiness is not defined in what we have, neither in the pleasures in this life, but is found in the abiding presence of Jesus. John 14:27 says, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

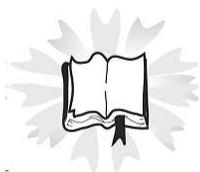
How can we obtain this peace without the study of

God’s word? Personally, I do not think it possible. Finding peace, in my estimation, is living in harmony with God’s will and not my own. So then the Bible is our life’s instruction book for all time. Notice II Timothy 3:16, 17, “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, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

And, my most favorite quote: “There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that is rarely seen in these times” (CE 58).

God in His wisdom formulated the written word, so as to touch the depths of the human heart, enabling God and man to commune with one another. It is here in the Bible, that we find the precious gems of the love of God toward humanity. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life,” John 3:16.

Without the word of God we wouldn't have the wonderful knowledge of Jesus and Him crucified. Neither would we have the plan of salvation or glimpses of heavenly things.



To neglect the reading of God's word is sure to bring one to utter ruin. The Bible is our light in darkness. When the enemy strikes at the depths of mind and spirit, it provides hope. It is our shield against sin and temptation. In it we find the power to transform the most wretched of sinners.

If you are seeking revival, study the word. If you are discouraged, study the word. If you are troubled,

study the word. It is the study of the word that will enlighten the world. When His church, you and I, study the precious truths and search the scriptures as our daily bread, then we will begin to see great things happen.

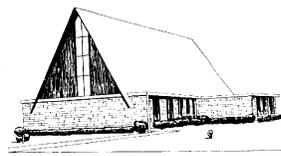
Dear children of the heavenly King, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

May the God of peace bless you and yours this holiday season.

Pastor Curtis

## CHURCH NEWS

### CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING



The next Church Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 6:30 PM at the church. Please have any agenda items to Earle Stewart or Malcolm Dwyer by Monday, December 7.



### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sabbath, December 19, we will be remembering our Savior's birth with music and scripture.

### IN MEMORY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Fred Morgan, who died unexpectedly November 23. Fred was a member of the Albany SDA Church and attended in Elmira during his frequent visits to see his parents.



### LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE

The New York Conference Lay Training Institute will be held in Auburn, February 26 – 28. Anyone who is interested in attending, please see Earle Stewart. The church board has voted to sponsor three people to attend.

### INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS



2010 devotional books are available from the Adventist Book Center, for ages Preschool through Adult. A sign-up sheet is provided on the bulletin board, with special pricing through the church. Order now to be

ready for the new year in your family worship and personal devotions. Sharing books are also available. Please sign up by December 12.



### FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

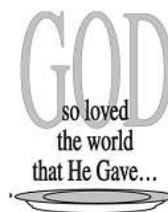
Everyone is invited to our luncheon each Sabbath following the worship service. Please bring a dish to pass. There will be no luncheon December 26 and January 2 due to the holidays. In January, we will return to Soup & Sandwiches on the fourth Sabbath of each month.

### TOWN HALL MEETING

There will be a Town Hall Meeting, January 30, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the church. New York Conference leaders will meet with the church members at that time.

### 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. We currently have \$2,854.00 toward our goal.



### 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

Don & Alice Congdon  
Congdons' great, great granddaughter  
Theresa Kerr



John & Martha Pack  
Doris Stewart  
Our Shut-ins

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



### SABBATH SCHOOL



During December, our adult Sabbath School studies continue in *The Book of Numbers*. First quarter of 2010, beginning in January, we will be studying "The Fruit of the

Spirit,” by Richard O’Ffill. This “will explore how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of those who have surrendered their hearts to Christ.” Bible Study Guide, Oct, Nov, Dec 2009, p. 112. Please join us as we study each Sabbath morning. Song service begins at 9:20. Classes are provided for adults and children.

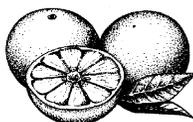
Mission DVDs are shown the first Sabbath of each month.

## 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.**

## FRUIT SALES



2009-2010 Fruit Sale Dates are planned for: December 20, January 24, February 21, and March 21, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Oranges and Pink Grapefruit are available by the full case, half or quarter. To order fruit or to offer your help, contact Mac Dwyer.

## NATURE’S GARDEN

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

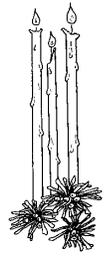
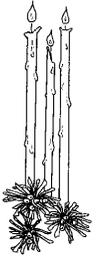
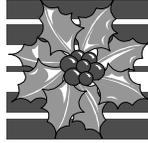
### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – January 20

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).



*His birth was without worldly grandeur.  
He was born in a stable and cradled in a manger;  
yet His birth was honored far above that of any of the sons of men.  
Angels from heaven informed the shepherds of the advent of Jesus,  
and light and glory from God touched their harps and glorified God.  
They triumphantly heralded the advent of the Son of God  
to a fallen world to accomplish the work of redemption,  
and by His death to bring peace, happiness, and everlasting life to man.  
God honored the advent of His Son. Angels worshiped Him.  
The Story of Redemption, p. 196*

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



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

For unto us a Child is born,  
unto us a Son is given:  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder:  
and His name shall be called Wonderful,  
Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting  
Father, The Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6