

Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter FEBRUARY 2010



FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER



Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28

The Greek word for Minister is: Diakoneo {dee-ak-on-eh'-o} which means to be a servant. It is very interesting to me that the Son of Man, another name used for Jesus Christ, came to serve and not to be served.

The irony of this lesson is uncanny. If you think about it for a moment, Jesus deserves our servitude now and always. Why?

1. Because He is our Creator
2. Because He is our Lord
3. Because He is our Savior

These three are worthy enough to require our service. After all what earthly king does not require the service of his subjects?

Jesus of course was leaving a trail behind for us to follow in His footsteps.

“Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted.” The Ministry of Healing, p. 149.

Notice once again, the strong evidence for the

Inspired to Serve

purpose of God's church is service. Notice that there are no exclusions – black or white, old or young, rich or poor – all are called to service for the unconverted.

If we have vowed through baptism to serve Jesus, we then have enlisted ourselves in the “Service” – the service for the unconverted. Service brings inspiration; it is usually not to our liking to serve. This is why we have communion and the ordinance of humility, to remind us of our place with our fellow man. However, inspiration typically will come after we have served. There is great joy for those who choose to serve for their Master.

... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me (Matthew 25:40)

When we serve others, we then are really serving Jesus.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (Philippians 2:6-7)

This verse should ever impress our minds when we come to the point of discouragement regarding service. A careful look at this familiar verse shares with us great spiritual insight.

Jesus, who is God, thought it not something to be

grasped or to hang onto to be God, but laid aside His equality with God and subjected Himself with humanity and became our Servant.

O, the depths of His Greatness that Jesus the Son of the Universe came to ransom His life so that we may have life eternal!

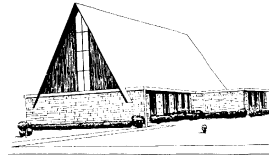
I don't know about you, but this is enough to encourage me to offer my service to the Master

rather than the hereditary disposition to selfishness.

Let love for our fellow man bind our hearts closer together as we serve the unconverted masses and strive to be a rich blessing to our heavenly family.

Many blessings,
Pastor Curtis

CHURCH NEWS



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.

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

The next Church Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 6:30 PM at the church. Please have any agenda items to Earle Stewart or Malcolm Dwyer by Monday, February 1.

OFFERING FOR HAITI



Our prayers go out to the millions of Haitians including our Seventh-day Adventist brothers and sisters who have been affected by the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit the region on Tuesday, January 12. The Atlantic Union and Conference administrators have decided to designate Sabbath, February 6, 2010 as the Sabbath to collect a Special Offering for relief efforts in Haiti. Let us continue to remember in prayer the people in the country of Haiti.

COMMUNION SERVICE




Sabbath, February 13 is our next planned service of foot washing and the Lord's Supper. *Every disciple is called upon to participate publicly, and thus bear witness that he accepts Christ as a personal Saviour. It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence....All who come with their faith fixed upon Him will be greatly blessed.* The Desire of Ages, p. 656.

The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. Fundamental Beliefs, 15.



ADVENTIST TELEVISION **Faith for Today** MINISTRIES

The offering on February 13 will be for Adventist Television Ministries – Breath of  Life

Life, It Is Written, and Faith for Today – sowing the seed over the airwaves. We can support our church’s media through this offering, as these ministries labor to touch lives and change hearts.

VESPERS/GYM NIGHT

February 13 will be a family/youth night. Vespers will begin at 5:00 PM followed by games, a movie, and refreshments. This will be combined Elmira and Friendship Churches. All are invited.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled drive is February 16, 1:00 – 6: 30 p.m, in the church fellowship hall.

LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE

The New York Conference Lay Training Institute will be held in Auburn, February 26 – 28. The deadline for the early bird registration is February 15, 2010. Speakers are: Paul Richardson, Joe Kidder, Josh Schmieder, Ben, Charles, and Josh Rietman, Ron Vincent, Tom Kimble, and Gary Wagner. Anyone who is interested in attending, please see Earle Stewart. The church board has voted to sponsor three people to attend.

THE CHILDREN’S OFFERING

The children’s offering taken during the worship service sponsors our children at Camp Cherokee next summer.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Everyone is invited to our luncheon each Sabbath following the worship service. Please bring a dish to pass. Soup & Sandwiches is the fourth Sabbath of each month. The second week of each month we will be recognizing Birthdays.

3ABN UPDATE

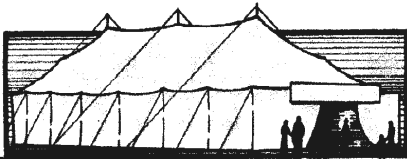
Help raise \$31,800 to upgrade Channel 21 to digital. We will have the opportunity to reach 167,000 people in our area with 3ABN TV, 3ABN Latino, 3ABN Radio, 3ABN Kids TV and Radio 74. Mark your tithe envelope 3ABN upgrade. We currently have \$3,454.00 toward our goal.



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Our Liberty funds sponsor LIBERTY magazine to government officials and religious leaders throughout North America. They also support the North American division litigation fund, and aid in religious liberty promotion and education in the Atlantic Union. Anyone wishing to receive LIBERTY magazine or sponsor it to others, please have names and addresses to Mac Dwyer by March 13. Money should be turned in by March 27.

CAMP MEETING



This year's Camp Meeting at Union Springs, NY, will be June 11 – 19. This is early due to the General Conference Session June 23 – July 3 in Atlanta, GA. For information on Camp Meeting accommodations, contact Priscilla English at the New York Conference Office, 4930 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215-4203, Phone: (315) 469-6921.

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
John & Martha Pack
Lorraine Parker



Doris Stewart
James Waters
Our Shut-ins

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



SABBATH SCHOOL



During the remainder of the first quarter, our adult Sabbath School studies continue in "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 this quarter, shown the first Sabbath of each month, come from The East Central African Division, located in the north and Eastern section of the African continent. Many of its countries are former European colonies that are struggling with independence and young government.

Our February DVD will be "Burundi's Health Clinic." Burundians in Bujumbura have a great need for a new medical clinic. Hospitals are few. Adventist Christians can witness to the citizens through the medical work growing in this city.

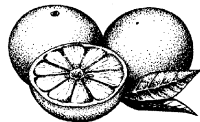
In March our DVD will be "Rwanda's University Reborn." Kigali is home to the University of Central Africa. After war and overgrowth in population, it has a new home on a beautiful hillside. Your mission offerings can help build a church and classrooms.

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: 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.

Each month there will be a bake sale during the fruit sale for the Youth. Your baked goods and donations are always appreciated.



NATURE'S GARDEN

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – March 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.



*Christ has given to the church a sacred charge.
Every member should be a channel
through which God can communicate to the world
the treasures of His grace,
the unsearchable riches of Christ.
There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much
as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character.
There is nothing that the world needs so much
as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love.
All heaven is waiting for men and women
through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity.
Maranatha, p. 128*

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Come now,
and let us reason together,
saith the LORD:



*though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as wool.*



Isaiah 1:18

