



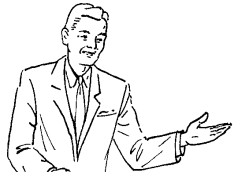
Elmira



# Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Newsletter

APRIL 2010



### FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER

#### THE RACE

You may have heard the saying, “*Just when you think you’re getting ahead of the rat race along come faster rats*”. It’s the one step forward, two steps back topology.

It’s as though with vain effort you try to succeed - you try and try and try but to no avail. This is the great controversy in action in our lives. Throughout the Bible we are to rejoice in this experience because it’s God’s way of strengthening our faith.

We are reminded not to look at those around us, but to focus on our own salvation with fear and trembling. So, who cares if faster rats come along, let’s run the race that God has set before us with perseverance!



Paul says: “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Whether we like it or not we are in the race for life and eternity. The only way to win the race is to fixate our eyes on Jesus. If you begin to look at the faster rats in this life you will lose confidence. This is why, over and over again, the Bible encourages us to keep our eyes focused on Jesus;

this is our only security if we are going to win the race.

If you have ever watched a baton race you will notice the runner never seems to focus on his or her opponents, but rather, they fix their eyes several yards down the track and on the next post. Why? If you pay too close attention to your opponent, constantly looking back to see where he or she is you might lose valuable time and, worst of all, lose track of your footing and possibly stumble.

The same is true for us, keeping our eyes on Jesus enables us to keep our footing and the goal ever present in our view. What is the goal anyway?

“*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible*” (1Corinthians 9:24-25).



“*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*” (2 Timothy 4:8).

According to these verses, the goal is eternal life. All of a sudden the running and competing with the faster rats in this life seem to make it all worthwhile. Our race is not for earthly things - but heavenly. We are not looking to win an earthly crown - but a heavenly.

So then who cares if faster rats come our way - who cares if we lose a few steps in the race for life, the point is – keep running. Fix your eyes on Jesus; the prize is worth all the enduring.

Let me leave you with this verse,

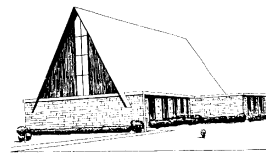
*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted*

*up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15)*

May God truly bless you and give you the patient endurance to run the race that is before you.

Pastor Curtis

## CHURCH NEWS



### NEW YORK CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

The New York Constituency meeting will be April 11, 2010 at Union Springs, NY. Elmira Delegates are: Earle Stewart, Derek Colaw, James Reynolds, Luke Moss, Jr., Sue Haesche, Alvin Jackson, Martha Jackson, Joyce Cmelko, Bradley Proctor; Alternates: Henry Colaw, Edna Driskill, Pastor Roger Curtis. Any delegate who is unable to attend, please give your information packet to an alternate.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Our next scheduled drive is April 20, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m, in the church fellowship hall. To make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

### CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

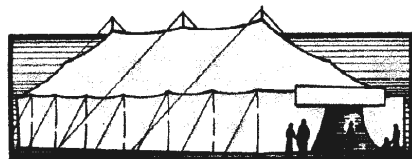
The next Church Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 6:30 PM at the church. Please have any agenda items to Earle Stewart or Malcolm Dwyer by Monday, May 3.

### THE CHILDREN’S OFFERING

The children’s offering taken during the worship service sponsors our children at Camp Cherokee this summer. Applications are in. If you are interested in sending your children to camp, see Jim Reynolds.



### CAMP MEETING



It is time to begin planning to attend 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. Our theme is "We Would Show Jesus." This year our speakers will include: David Smith, President, Union College, Lincoln, ND; Jerry Page, President, Central California Conference, Janet Page, Prayer Coordinator, Central California Conference; Mark Black, Lay Person, Spokane, WA; and Sean Brace, Pastor, Northern New England Conference. 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.



## 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.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A vote at the business meeting extended the church officers for another year. If you are unable to continue in your current area of service, please see one of the elders.

## 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 \$4,189.00 toward our goal.



## PATHFINDERS



The Pathfinder Club would like to thank the members of the Elmira Church for their support – the many prayers, donated time, money, and the many super good baked items that were sold at our bake sales. The Club has done so much, with the help from the church members. The Pathfinders ask for your continued prayers. We have so much to learn and get done with your help. Thank you from all the Club Members.

## 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.

The Holbrook Indian School is in need of materials for: crocheting, knitting, scrapbooking, and embroidery. Crochet hooks, especially sizes J and K, knitting needles, yarn, fleece material for making blankets, card making/scrapbooking materials, embroidery needles, hoops and thread are some of the items needed. See Joyce Cmelko if you can provide any help in this project.

## IN MEMORY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Edna Cleveland, who died March 22 Edna was the oldest member of our Elmira Church. She would have been 100 years old in May.



We also express our sympathy to Luke Moss and his family on the death of his brother, Jimmie Lee Moss, March 27.

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



## PRAYER LIST

Don & Alice Congdon  
Bill & Marie Kaiser  
John & Martha Pack  
Lorraine Parker



Doris Stewart  
James Waters  
Our Shut-ins

## SABBATH SCHOOL



During the second quarter, our adult Sabbath School studies will be "Health and Healing."

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.**

## NATURE'S GARDEN

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

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – May 20

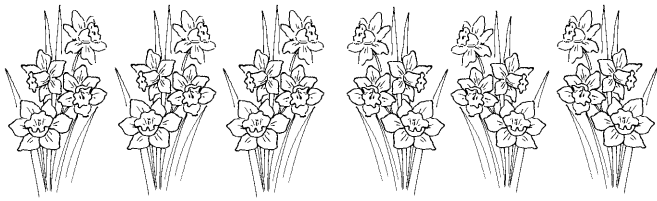
CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 607-734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Ave, Elmira, NY 14904 or e-mail us at: [webmaster@elmirasda.com](mailto:webmaster@elmirasda.com).



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*Let the soul be drawn out and upward,  
that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere.  
We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial  
our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun.  
Steps to Christ, p. 100*





For as the rain cometh down, and  
the snow from heaven,  
and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth,  
and maketh it bring forth and bud,  
that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:  
So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:  
it shall not return unto me void,  
but it shall accomplish that which I please,  
and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

|saiah 55:10-11



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**