



Elmira
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Newsletter
Special Weekly Edition
April 6, 2020



PASTOR'S CORNER

“Shut Up!”

Scripture Reading – Mark 4:35-41

God is in control. Some men, groups, secret societies, even legitimate governments and agents, and operatives, think that they are in control. But if they were, now would be a good time to prove and #Stop Covid-19 right now. But from Washington to the Vatican, from Moscow to Beijing, from London to Berlin, and Rome to Paris, leaders are worried sick. But Jesus can and will tell this virus when to “Shut Up!”

This is my Father's world. I don't want you to ever forget. Though the wrongs often seem so strong, God is the Ruler yet. God has absolute power. He will tell your storm when to “Shut Up!”

Some people like to go viral. But COVID-19 poses the real viral threat. It is killing people indiscriminately. It has humbled mighty nations. Even mighty America has its back against the wall. Trumpuchadnezzar has been humbled. He is asking for and has received foreign help. Friends, to be clear, what we need now is not some other thing. But who we need now is a friend in high places.

And there is no better time than now to be a friend of God. We need Jesus now more than ever. We are sailing in stormy weather. It's time all God's children get together. For we surely need Jesus now more than ever.

Speaking of stormy weather, let us look at Mark 4:35-39. “On the same day, when evening had come,

He said to them, ‘Let us cross over to the other side.’ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”

When Christ's disciples trembled from fear of the lashing winds and howling storm, when they dogged angry waves and the terrifying storm, Jesus was sound asleep. But when Jesus was earnestly sought, how quickly He sprang into action.

A more forceful translation from the Greek has Jesus saying to the storm, “Be quiet. Shut Up.”

Now, John 14:40 continues: “But He said to them, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?’ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’”

I answer, it is Jesus Christ, the Almighty God, Who became like one of us in a bid to save. It is He who made the heavens, and the earth, and the sea. But what are you doing about Jesus in your life? Like the wind and the wave, do you obey Him?

Now, America is perplexed and overwhelmed by COVID-19. So much so, that the leaders have turned to the most unlikely places for help. In the week ending on Sabbath, April 4, 2020, a plane-load of medical supplies was flown into the US from Russia!

That is America's Cold War enemy. Russia was called upon to supply the US with critical apparatus in a bid to halt the rapacious COVID-19 .

But America's cry for help from Russia may be a very truth telling moment. Wonder if America is gone mad? The US seems to have lost its moral compass. You may be witnessing the beginning of the end of time described in Revelation 13.

While America's turning to a Russia for help concerns our physical, social and financial well-being, there is a spiritual undertone. The physical, mental, and spiritual operation of a human being act in solidarity with each other. So watchman, what of the night? What is happening in the spiritual realms these days?

Jesus is still the answer! A life hid with Christ in God is needed now more than ever. Jesus is still the answer for all humanity's problems, 2020 and beyond. Jesus is still the answer for all our concerns, worries, and fears. Jesus is the Almighty God. He is the only One with enough power to tell COVID-19 to go away at once and "Shut Up!"

Jesus is the answer to the COVID threat. Jesus will still be the answer when the COVID-19 threat has passed.

Now, in John 14:22-30, "Judas, (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach

you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. 'And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.'"

God rules the universe. He rules over every earthly ruler. Yet the God-Man, Christ Jesus, says that Satan is "the ruler of this world." John 14:30

Are those two statements conflicting? Not at all! You see, Satan used deception, trickery, usurpation, and sleight of hands to con Adam and Eve. Satan hijacked the first dominion that God gave to them over all created things on earth. So Jesus had to step in later on as the last Adam and reclaim humanity. He told Satan to "Shut Up."

But, make no mistake, until the Great Controversy is ended, until the Battle of Gog and Magog, and the Battle of Armageddon is over, Satan still has a lot of pull on earth. He has unprecedented hatred towards all humanity. But God will make him "Shut Up!"

God's prophetic messenger to His remnant church says in GC589, "Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses (and) children were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures, and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world has shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would. He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the

same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs, he will bring trouble upon others, lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power.

He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly, taint and thousands perish by the pestilence.

These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast.”

Isaiah 24:4-6 “The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.”

The world is now in a similar situation to Isaiah’s. We live in perilous times.

Awake now, church. With few exceptions, humanity is lost.

Now is the time to speak up. Now is not the time to be quiet or to Shut Up!

Elder Waren Muir

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.



APRIL OFFERING SCHEDULE

April 11 Christian Record/Union Springs Academy
April 18 Local Church Budget
April 25 New York Excel



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.

IN SYMPATHY



Joyce Cmelko went to sleep in Jesus Friday, April 3 at the age of 95. She was born March 18, 1925. A long-time member of the Elmira church, we especially remember her for leading out in our Kindergarten division. She also always enjoyed telling the children's story for church. Joyce was a nurse by profession. Let us remember her daughters Andrea and Mary Jane in our prayers at this time of sadness. We look forward to our Lord's second coming when "...the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first..." 1Thessalonians 4:16

VISION 2020: EACH ONE REACH ONE FOR CHRIST

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.



*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.*

*For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.*

John 3:16, 17

TEN-FIFTEEN



Remember to spend at least ten minutes praying and fifteen minutes studying God's word each day. *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*
Isaiah 65:24

*Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.
Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are,
but in order to enable us to receive Him.
Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.
Steps to Christ, p. 93*

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. This week’s study is entitled “The Origin and Nature of the Bible.”



Memory text: *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. Thessalonians 2:13*



Texts for this week’s study: 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Deuteronomy 18:18; Exodus 17:14; John 1:14; Hebrews 11:3, 6.

*...Those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty
will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions.*

*The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity,
one grand golden thread running through the whole,
but it requires patience, thought, and prayer
to trace out the precious golden thread.*

Selected Messages, book 1, pp. 19, 20

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – During our time of “sheltering in place” because of the Coronavirus, we will be planning to send out a weekly newsletter, including Elder Muir’s sermon notes. Any other news of interest or articles should be submitted by Sunday evening.



Please Stay @
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Don't Be
255.255.255.255

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.



*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*I will say of the Lord,
He is my refuge and my fortress:
my God; in Him will I trust.*

Psalm 91:1, 2



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

