



Elmira
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Newsletter
Special Weekly Edition
May 3, 2020



PASTOR'S CORNER

“Escape for Your Life!”

These are unprecedented times yet they are not unpredicted times. Our Great YAHWEH God holds and told the future. He does not change with time. But the times are changing. We were told long ago that the final movements will be “rapid ones.” Single-handed changes are hurled at and heralded to us. Many looked to these shores for freedoms elusive elsewhere. But America, “the land of the free and the home of the brave” is becoming daunting. So you owe it to yourself to know the only way to **“Escape for your life.”**

The real war in the world is not the recovery from the economic decimation of COVID-19 pandemic. The real war in the world is not the trade war with China. It is not the war between Cold War rivals. Those are real raging carnal battles. But all those wars are in one way or another part and parcel of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. So, **“Escape for your life.”**

Now, who will win your allegiance? Who will you decide for? Your vote in this matter far outweighs your upcoming November 3, 2020 vote – the vote for Christ the vote you want to cast today. Vote now. Do not vote for Satan. Do not vote with Satan. Vote for Jesus Christ. And you know as well as I do that this vote for Christ is more than cerebral. It is much more than mental assent. It is a full, complete and unreserved surrender of your will and power of choice to the will and guidance of God. Flee to Jesus now. **“Escape for your life.”**

One of the most amazing revelations in the Bible is God’s undying love for you. In order to save you, God was manifested in human flesh. He took a risk. Make no mistake about it. Because God in His greatness cannot die, and the wages of sin is the second death, in order to die for us and satisfy divine justice, God became flesh. This is a huge stumbling block for Judaism. It is foolishness, if not blasphemy for Islam. But it is the gem of biblical Christianity. ***John 3:16*** says:

“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 3:18-19: “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of **the only begotten Son of God**. And **this is the condemnation**, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.”

Anybody who would rather go to hell than go to heaven is not wise. If your house is caught on fire, would you not save the lives of those in your care and **escape for your own life?** Well, this whole world will one day be on fire. There are climate change fanatics who would stop every bit of shale from being processed and every barrel of oil from being extracted. And there are capitalist extremists who will carelessly exploit the resources of nature without any

environmental concern. Both groups are in for a rude awakening. Those shale sands and oil fields will cause fire for the earth to be united with fire from heaven. The whole world will be one seething, boiling lake of fire. The wicked, the lost, some may have even been climate change activists and others may have just been greedy capitalists, if they do not accept Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives and their Saviour from sin, they will all perish in those same shale sands and oil fire. So I am here today tell you how to “**Escape for your life.**”

First of all, we live in a world, where everything else and everyone else that is called god, require their followers to pay obeisance and make sacrifices to them. But the God of the Bible, the only true God, sacrifices Himself for us His followers. What amazing love! Flee to Him and “**Escape for your life.**”

A multi-national group of us were taking a break from our summer’s Student Literature Evangelism Campaign in Ontario, Canada. A few carloads of us were heading to a leadership summit in a caravan. One of the drivers took a detour. In the process of catching up with us later in the journey, I spotted his car closing in at great speed. But ahead, around a very long bend in the freeway, I could see traffic grid-lock. Sadly, Jim’s malpractice of speeding was about to catch up with him. He had been driving a sturdy, heavyweight car over the summer. But on that day, he was driving his mother's lightweight car. It became obvious that he was not well adjusted to the weight change dynamics. This was his **first woe**. Speeding was Jim’s **second woe**. And the **dead** traffic ahead was his **third woe**. Jim caught up with us and cruised right by, completely missing every signal of mine to try and slow him down. But the clock of doom ticked eerily away. There were fearful forebodings. Awful thoughts raced through my mind. Would I have to bury my friends? “**Could they escape for their lives?**” Jim’s speed must have been between 85 & 90 mph as he raced to his doom.

The question for you is, how is it with your soul? What is your response to God? He has been appealing to you with His outstretched arms ever since you could comprehend. He is extending to you His offer of salvation. What is your answer to Him? Time after time, God has been pleading with you. And today, right now, God is pleading with you again. What is your answer to Him? Just like how Jim was approaching his imminent death, your time to die may be fast approaching. None of us really know when our time to die will come. There is no purgatory. There is no thought or consciousness in death. There can be no repentance in the grave. **Psalm 115:17**: “The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence.” That is why I stopped in to tell you who are alive, you who are in the land of the living, now is your time to surrender your lives to Christ. Now is the time to get baptized. Now is the time to be born again. Now is the time to get rid of your virus. Now is the time to flee to Jesus and “**Escape for your life.**”

God is amazing. God loves you. God answers prayers. God cares. God is coming soon. Now, the end to the Great Controversy between Christ & Satan is fast approaching. There is not much time to “**escape for your life.**” Now is the only time you have. If you are ready, Jesus is coming. If you are not ready, still, Jesus is coming. Can you hear God calling you now? Yes, you can because He is. Ready or not, the whole world is headed into a very decisive moment. Those who love God keep His Ten Commandments and are standing under the banner of Prince Immanuel. On the other hand, there are those who openly or secretly in the ranks of Satan. Some of those are even in God’s remnant church of Bible prophecy. But you, flee to Jesus. “**Escape For Your Life!**”

God is calling you like He called Abraham to leave your homeland if necessary. Get away from any personal, family, business, financial and or relationship ties that sever your walk with God. Get away from your home country if you must.

Lot was not going to be left behind. He hitched his wagon to his uncle Abram's Star. Lot sensed Abram's special call and determined to make Abram's God his God too. Abram's name would be changed to Abraham. He would be so blessed by God that his descendants would become innumerable as the stars of heaven. Together, they departed from Ur of the Chaldees in modern day southern Iraq. But the material prosperity of both men became so great that they soon had to separate. **Genesis 13:10-13** "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it [was] well watered everywhere, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, [even] as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar." Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched [his] tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom [were] wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

Choices are the turning point of life. Abraham chose to lead a more quiet life. For context, it is like choosing to live in upstate New York as opposed to living in New York City. I am mindful that some missionaries will have to live in and evangelize the large urban areas and mega cities of our world. But even COVID-19, and the much more deadly disasters to come, has shown that the believer must be very prayerful and intentional about where they choose to live. Abraham chose to lead a more quiet life. Lot chose to lead a more hype life.

Sodom had a reputation for being an exceedingly sinful city state in the face of Almighty God. Sodom and Gomorrah were very proud and progressive cities. They offered many worldly advantages. The stock markets did well. Those city states were great centres of commerce. The Senate, their House of Representatives, Supreme Court, and White House were all located there. They boasted top international universities. But the twin-city states of Sodom and

Gomorrah were also renowned for their licentiousness. They paid large sums of money to anyone who could come up with new evils to gratify their perverted tastes. Human trafficking might have been as rampant then as it is now. There was sexual exploitation. Wealth abounded. So did a host of idlers. The competition to outdo one another was intoxicating. Lot was aware of the reputation of the of the Sodomites and Gomorrahites. But himself a missionary, he hoped to change the narrative. The Bible says he pitched his tent toward Sodom. Soon, Lot was living in Sodom with his family. But Sodom was a doomed city. But before God destroys any person, place or thing He sends clear warning messages. Sodom and Gomorrah were not excepted. Unbeknownst to Lot, Abraham pleaded with God for Lot and his family, his church, and country. God disclosed to Abraham that He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. God told Abraham that if He could find 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, or even 10 righteous people in all the cities of the plains, He would spare the place. In all those five city states of "...Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, & Zeboim, (plus Zoar) which the LORD overthrew in His anger, and in His wrath" Deut. 29:23, not even 10 righteous people could be found. How about your city?

Could your city and any four cities nearby produce 10 righteous people according to God's standard? Abraham must have felt heartbroken. Heaven's angels brought the urgent message to Lot. Genesis 19:12-17. "Then the men said to Lot, 'Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take *them* out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.' So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, 'Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!' But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, 'Arise, take your wife and your two daughters

who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.’ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, **‘Escape for your life!** Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.” You can now see that I drew my sermon topic straight out of the Bible, **“Escape for your life!”**

I got to thinking about each of our guardian angels. How often might they have wanted to deliver us from certain things, but we linger? We prevent them from executing their ministry to the heirs of salvation. And then we turn around and blame God for these same self-made trials. That is on the personal level. But did you know that there is a general probation time for all humanity? Did you know that there is a day coming when you will not be able to reach Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary? Yes. That is why I came crying in the wilderness **“Escape for your life!”**

Revelation 22:10-11. “And he said to me ‘Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy let him be holy still.’”

God will make this final, irreversible pronouncement of Judgement one day soon. None knows how soon. The preaching of the gospel would be over. The last sermon would have been given. The last appeal made. Have you allowed Jesus Christ to save you? Do you now wish to **“Escape For Your Life?”**

Noah preached the Judgment hour message for 120 years. He warned of the Great Flood coming. But only his immediate household of eight people in all the world was saved. Lot preached a Merciful Saviour to the various ethnicities, language, and people groups in the city states of Sodom and Gomorrah. Only three

from his immediate household were saved. Even his wife, Mrs. Lot, was lost. She became a pillar of salt, the monument of a divided heart. We cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve God and politicians. We cannot serve God and tradition. We cannot serve God and opinions. We cannot serve God and money. The Final, Judgment Hour Message —The Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14:6-12, has been preached since 1844. That is for 175 years now. And according to Revelation 7 and 14, 144,000 people will be saved. How will your life story end? Will you matriculate into eternity and **“Escape for your life?”**

Some people are speeding through life as fast as Jim was going down the highway. I call it carelessness. Like Jim, it will be too late when many people will be shocked into the reality that there is dead traffic ahead. They were driving down life’s highway too fast and totally oblivious of important indicators. When Jim saw the dead traffic ahead, he began to swerve away from other cars with his lightweight Toyota Tercel. He swerved from left to right dangerously skipping lanes. He dodged one high speed accident after another. His car bobbed and weaved in and out of traffic. He made razor thin escapes from rear-ending other vehicles. But time was running out. So was space. Utter confusion and panic began to set in. Forced to watch all this, I braced for the worst. With no more room to maneuver, and in a desperate bid to avoid swiping out a whole line of cars, Jim made one, last swerve to the right. He lost control. His car quickly mounted the high embankment. It reeled to and fro like a drunkard. It seemed to be in a deadly dance of death. Synthetic material gave way. All human skills failed completely. The car flipped. Then it flipped again. By the third flip, we knew it was over. Death was inevitable. No one in that car could **‘escape for their life.’** Riding shotgun in my car was the dazed and now-desperate fiancée of a rider in that doomed car. She saw death of her fiancée and friends coming. Frantically, she sighed: **"Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!"** So let me tell you. There’s power in the name of Jesus In the name of Jesus demons flee. The rulers

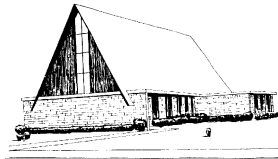
of the darkness of this world tremble at His might. My problems disappear in Jesus name. In the name of Jesus I get victories. In the name of Jesus I lack nothing. I find sweet escape to Christ. How about you? Are you ready to flee to Jesus and “**Escape For Your Life**”?

In the Bible we see that in the name of Jesus the dead have been raised and diseases have been cured. In the name of Jesus, the crippled have walked, the dumb have spoken, and the deaf have heard. In the name of Jesus the blind have seen and sinners have been made righteous. So, when Jim’s car had flipped for the third time, it was now airborne. I pondered whether Jesus would intervene and save the day. All this time I was silently dialing Heaven. The Commander in Chief came on the line. Yes. Jesus spoke. He said as in

Psalm 81:10, “I *am* the Lord your God, Who brought you out of **Open your mouth** wide, and I will fill it.” So I opened my mouth and Divinity spoke through me. The words were “Car, in the name of Jesus, stand still! Stand still!” Instantly, that airborne car landed on its wheels. The car was folded up and totaled out. But God had spoken. The word from the Divine had flowed from my lips. The car obeyed. It stood still. All occupants walked away from the wreck, virtually unscratched. They all “**Escaped with their Lives.**”

Will you now walk away from the wreck of a life without Christ? The Saviour is waiting. Will you flee the wrath to come and “**Escape for your life**”?

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.

MAY OFFERING SCHEDULE

May 9	Disaster & Famine Relief	May 23	New York Excel
May 16	Local Church Budget	May 30	New York Conference Evangelism

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter is for the Trans-European Division.



SUNSET SCHEDULE

Friday, May 8 – 8:14 PM
Sabbath, May 9 – 8:15 PM

CAMP CHEROKEE

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and to position the camp in the best possible place to open, some modifications to the summer schedule have been made. They are as follows: Teen Camp will run from July 5-12; Junior Tween Camp from July 12-19 and Adventure Camp from July 19-26. The New York State Department of Health will make the decision if Camp Cherokee is allowed to be open this summer and under what conditions. Additional health screening is planned for the arrival at camp, including temperature checks. The registration process will be different this year. If the camp is limited on how many children may attend each camp, admission will be by pre-registration based on the order the applications are received. Check the Conference website (www.nyconf.org) or the Camp Cherokee/New York Conference Facebook pages for updated information.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



A blood drive is scheduled for Friday, May 29 from 11:30 AM until 4:30 PM..



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.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

TEN-FIFTEEN



Remember to spend at least ten minutes praying and fifteen minutes studying God's word each day. As we are living in earth's last days, how much more we need to be in prayer and in the Word.

*Ministering angels are waiting about the throne
to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ
to answer every prayer offered in earnest, living faith.*

Selected Messages, book 2, p. 377



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 (Lesson 6) is entitled "Why Is Interpretation Needed?"



Memory text: *But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6*

Texts for this week's study: Luke 24:26-45; I Corinthians 12:10; I Corinthians 14:26; Acts 17:16-32; and John 12:42, 43.

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.

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.





*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church

c/o Jim & Sharon Reynolds

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED