

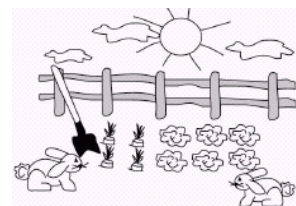
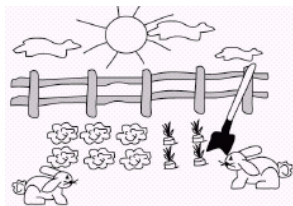
Elmira

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Newsletter

Special Weekly Edition

May 31, 2020



PASTOR'S CORNER

“Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled”

Jesus was right. Wasn't He? He knew exactly where you and I would be now, and what we would have to face. He knew exactly what was coming in the third decade of the 21st century. Even so, He said “Let not your heart be troubled.” And that is my sermon title today. Friends, nothing takes God by surprise. He is prepared for whatever you would face. He says again today, “Let not your heart be troubled.”

Jesus became the best thing that has ever happened for those early disciples. He was more dear to them than life itself. He told them He was getting ready to go back to heaven and they were crushed. But like only Jesus can, He softened their blow and eased their pain of separation. With tender love and caring pity, Christ entreated them in the same words of my sermon today, “Let not your heart be troubled.”

Whether you are a lady or a gentleman, a little child or a big child, a youth or a young adult, God wants to make it clear to you that He loves you. God cares. Christ made that pellucidly clear on the cross of Calvary. He died for you. The more deeply you appreciate this truth in your soul the more peace you will have in your walk with God.

It is very fulfilling to know that our God is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He has all power, is present everywhere, and He knows everything. So choose to take comfort in Jesus Christ. He loves you. When Jesus said “Let not your heart be troubled,” it was a part of one of His parting speeches to His disciples.

Now, Jesus knew that after His resurrection, He would head back to heaven. He was already defeating Satan with a flawless victory. There was one mighty

move ahead that would seal Satan's fate. If Jesus could carry the weight of the world's sins on His shoulders, if He could satisfy the demands of eternal justice, if He could die the second death on the old rugged cross for us, then He could quarantine Satan and limit Satan's movements. At the same time, Jesus would have made the Master stroke in saving humanity. As the Last Adam, He would restore Adam's disgraceful fall. In quarantining Satan to the only world that gave in to his temptations, Jesus knew that the devil would go after His New Covenant, fledgling church with vengeful wrath.

But for that too, Christ was prepared. He arranged for the Third Power of the God-Head to take over just where He left off. Have you ever wondered why many church members do not pray more for, and are not more filled with the Holy Spirit?

Friends, we are easy targets and easy pickings for Satan without the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus arranged for us to receive heaven's most powerful Gift—the Holy Spirit Himself. He brings all other gifts in His train. That means, the Holy Spirit drags, draws, or brings with Him, all the spiritual gifts, godly talents and divine energy to be what God wants us to be and do what Christ says in the Great Gospel Commission. Make disciples of all nations Vision 2020. Each One Reach One for Christ.

Most of the early Christian disciples would face Satan's renewed wrath. Many would face death by the dragon Roman Empire and its vast ramifications throughout the world. Nowadays, many Christians and other religious people face a simple virus (COVID-19) and they are panicking. I am by no means speaking about a reckless approach to this or

any other infectious disease!

But some people make it seem like this virus is God. This virus is not going to end the world. Not even nuclear armed states can end the world. Only God can do that. And God will bring an end to the wickedness of humanity and this polluted world, but all in a His own time frame. It may be in a little longer than you wish, but it could be sooner than you think. Some of them are to be avoided, but some people make it seem like vaccination is the mark of the beast. Some people make it seem like a collapsed or contracting American economy is the end of the world. But it is time we Christians live out the meaning of life in the Bible.

The Apostles and the first Christians who comprised Christ's New Covenant Church really knew about hardships. Many of them were made outcasts by their own ethnic group. Many of them were severed from family ties. Many of them were thrown out of their own homes. Many of them were stripped of their livelihoods. Many of them were driven from their homeland. Many of them were fed to hungry, wild animals, for the sport and pleasure of government forces. It was as common a thing as we see black men being mowed down by unscrupulous cops across America. But it did not seem to bother the minds of the masses. Some people even cheered the indiscriminate lynchings. Real Christians stood up and spoke up.

We are faced today with a single virus and many so-called Christians are ready to quit their faith. But America is faced with two big problems. One is the current COVID-19 virus. The other is the longest running pandemic in American history. It is called racism. It is sad. And if you deny it, you may need to search your soul. We must fervently and urgently and consistently teach the real everlasting gospel.

We must give the world, and America, a higher concept of God. Equal justice for all is a part of the gospel charter. All Twelve Minor Prophets were trumpeters for social justice. Micah was not excluded. He said this about God in Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

One of our greatest and most urgent needs is to love each other genuinely. This can only come through

personal encounters and experiences with God. Too often, religion remains a thing in the Book. We urgently need our faith to translate into experimental heart-warming deeds and actions. We cannot simply refer to our religious texts and think that we have done our duty to God. We need God's power, real power in our lives II Timothy 3:1-5 "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Turn away from the godless way of life. Make friends of God's children. Shun every appearance of evil. In the privacy of your homes, in the common jokes, look out for racism. Now is the time for righteous indignation against racism of every kind. We can no longer be silent. Let us not become guilty by contributing to the madness of this now generation. There is an insane increase in ungodliness. Sometimes even the church appears to have lost her witness.

But, dare to be like Jesus. Dare to be like Daniel. Dare to be like Esther! And if any moment calls for it, dare to stand alone. Dare to hold God's purpose firm. Dare to make it known. There is no room in God's plan for wilted saints! It is born-again time.

Christians cannot shine only in religious spaces and when it is convenient. We need to be Christians everywhere. Help us, LORD, to be bloodbought Holy-Spirit-filled Christians. We need warriors of the cross. We need individual Christians. We need home Christians. We need school Christians. We need work Christians. Put Christianity into working clothes! We need Christianity in our businesses. We need to be community activist Christians. We need to be Christians in our stand for justice. We need to be Christians in mercy. Leave no room for the devil. Fully occupy your minds with Christ and thoughts of Him. Think to help humanity around you. We need to be Christians who are totally sold out unto Christ. Do not allow this viral pandemic or the epidemic of fear to spoil your covenant, saving relationship with God. If nothing else, the virus and all its ramifications should have pushed you closer to God. Don't allow it to drive a wedge between you and God. There are still

tougher times ahead.

Jeremiah 12:4-5 “How long will the land mourn? And the herbs of every field wither? The beasts & birds are consumed for the wickedness of those who dwell there? Because they said, ‘He will not see our final end.’ ‘If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?’”

You can still buy and sell now without the mark of the beast. Yet some people get very worked up and upset and are ready to give up. What will they do when the real Time of Trouble comes?

Jeremiah 30:5-7! “For thus says the Lord: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it. And, it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.’”

Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled.” God is doing the thing being done. It says God will save Jacob out of His troubles. There is deliverance with God. COVID-19 and its ugly threat will not be here forever. God will deliver His people. Those who trust God and confess and forsake their sins will have help from God. They will have peace for their souls. Jacob turned to God on the banks of the River Jabbok. He bowed down before God. He surrendered all and found mercy. Proverbs 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

So in times like these, we are not to become faint. But pray. In times like these, let each person who is a part of God’s church do the right thing. Now is the time to demonstrate the difference between those who have been merely sitting on the premises and those who have been truly standing on the promises. Now is the time. Now is the time to turn to God with all you’ve got. Seek God with all your might. Seek Him with your whole heart. I wish Psalm 20 upon you. Please read along with me. Psalm 20:7. “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled.” There is great peace, sweet peace for those who trust in and remember the name of the Lord our God. Whenever we turn fully to God, peace is what we experience like Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled.” Jesus calls you to choose Him as in Hebrews 3:15, “while it is said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’” John 16:31-33, “Jesus answered them, ‘Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.’”

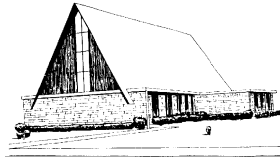
The Bible is clear. You will have tribulation in the world. But even amid the troubles of the world, you may have peace in Jesus Christ. “No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.” Focus on Jesus. Take your focus from off the coming storms. Don’t even follow on the COVID numbers too closely. That noisome pestilence must go. No place on earth is a safe haven from the harbingers of the end. Your only shelter of safety is the Most High. Hide in Jesus in the Most Holy Place of His heavenly sanctuary.

Even nature seems upset at man’s inhumanity to man. The tornadoes are now veering out of their courses leaving fresh destruction in their path. They threaten new places now that were once considered safe. Fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, cyclones, famines, biological weapons, covert/overt state terrorism, floods, disease in diverse places, will increase in frequency and intensity as we near Jesus’ second coming. Jesus told us they would. The signs of the times are speaking. We are real close to Christ’s appearing. He is almost here. Let us go back to our scripture reading text as I move to my conclusion.

John 14:1-4 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me....”

John 14:25-31 key point in vs. 29, “And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.”

Elder Waren Muir



CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES

Join us on Facebook at 11:30 AM Sabbath mornings for livestreaming of the church service.

<https://www.facebook.com/vhsda>

JUNE OFFERING SCHEDULE

June 6	Local Church Budget	June 20	Local Church Budget
June 13	Local Church Budget	June 27	New York Excel

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may donate via www.adventistgiving.org.

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



SUNSET SCHEDULE

Friday, June 5 – 8:40 PM
Sabbath, June 6 – 8:40 PM

*The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul.
No one who in penitence and faith has claimed His protection
will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power.
It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour,
who cast out the evil one from heaven.
Satan is pleased when we magnify his power.
Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?
The Ministry of Healing, p. 94*

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 whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning,
that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

Romans 15:4

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.



*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord;
and in His law doth he meditate day and night.*

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Psalm 1:1-3



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



COVID-19 caused the cancellation of about 1,700 blood drives across New York at the beginning of the pandemic in March. All of those cancelled blood drives translated into about 40,000 uncollected units of blood. **We were very pleased with the turnout at last Tuesday's drive. 31 units were collected: 27 whole blood and 2 Double Red Cells = 4 units. This is potentially enough to help up to 93 people.** Future blood drive dates are: June 9, August 4, October 13, December 15.

VEGETARIAN NON-VIRTUAL FOOD SALE



Pick-up Locations:

Sunday, June 14, 3:30 PM– 5:00 PM – New York Conference Office

Sunday, June 14, 7:00 PM–8:30 PM – Union Springs Academy

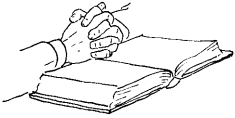
Monday, June 15, 11:00 AM – Noon – Bay Knoll Church, Rochester

Derek will be transporting items from Union Springs to our area Monday morning or mid-day, meeting at the Cornerstone Church.

Order deadline is June 4. To order, contact Ami Wells: 518-638-6150 or amimarsa@yahoo.com
Accepted payment: Cash, Check or Credit Card.

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 10) is entitled "The Bible as History."



Memory text: *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exodus 20:2.*

Texts for this week: 1 Samuel 17; Isaiah 36:1-3; Isaiah 37:14-28; Daniel 1; Daniel 5; Matthew 26:57-67; Hebrews 11:1-40.

RECIPE CORNER

Broccoli Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 bunches broccoli florets, cut up small
- 1 cup red onion
- ½ cup raisins or red grapes
- 1 cup sunflower seeds

Dressing:

- ½ cup vegan mayonnaise
- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 Tablespoon honey
- pinch of salt



Prepare first four ingredients in a bowl. Combine ingredients for dressing and pour over salad. Mix well.

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.



*The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.
Numbers 6:24-26*

*O worship the LORD
in the beauty of holiness:
fear before Him, all the earth.*

Psalm 96:9

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

