

Tempe Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter
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Tempe Trumpet

Lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring!



CHOICES

Pastor's Corner

“And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, ‘Sons of Thunder’); and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him” (Mark 3:16-19).

If you don't know much about these guys, here's the skinny: Simon Peter, a fisherman, usually spoke before thinking and denied He even knew Jesus; James and John at one point wanted to burn people alive (Luke 9:54); Andrew was Peter's brother and a natural missionary (also a fisherman); Philip was probably a fisherman; not much is known about Bartholomew; Matthew was a hated, Jewish extortioner working for the Romans; Thomas doubted things he couldn't see; James the son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus were probably brothers (Thaddaeus was also known as Judas and was a Nationalist dreaming of world power); Simon the Zealot was also a Nationalist with a crazed hatred for the Romans; and Judas Iscariot was a lover of money, enough to double-cross Jesus for some cash.

So what do you think of Jesus' choice?

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The next three weeks are going to be very different for our church. Services are being livestreamed and Pastor Ray will be speaking to empty pews. Regardless, may we still be very attentive while we listen from our homes. And let us urgently and very fervently pray for each other during these uncertain times. All events have been cancelled at least through March. There are also some that have been cancelled in April including the International Food Festival (as Elisa mentions in her article on page four), the Prayer Vigil for women, the blood drive, breakfasts and potlucks. During this time of social distancing may we not forget each other. I think especially of our singles. There is still means of communication: texts, e-mails, letters, and phone calls.

Your sister in Christ,
Denise McNally

January and February Evangelism

By Pastor Ray Navarro

With the presidential campaigns set for 2020 and America poised for debates and voting, speaker-director of the Voice of Prophecy Shawn Boonstra launched “The Final Empire”, a four-session seminar on the founding of the United States and what prophecy says about her future. Of course, our church was on board and held this event January 23-25. The video presentations were superb, followed by pastor Ray’s live Bible study. Guests were in attendance and we all learned amazing things about the founding of our country. This event was followed up by “Daniel Revealed”, a month-long seminar on the book of Daniel, from January 31-February 29. Pastor Ray presented this with hand-out lessons and media presentations. As usual, I (pastor Ray) end up being the most blessed in sharing these messages. Guests registered online for both events, thanks to the Adventist marketing company *Sermonview*. Although attendance was not as anticipated, we had a consistent showing of those hungering for God’s Word. May we continue in the study of these amazing prophecies!

Health Ministry

By Judy Long

Greetings from Health Ministries! Spring has sprung I believe. Beautiful weather and a good time to get outside and enjoy God’s Nature.

I wanted to let you know the experiences of some of those who took part in the Daniel Challenge. It was 10 days of plant based eating with no sugar and just water to drink as well as exercise and prayer. I heard from several people that they had a real struggle with sugar, me included. One member stated that she had a rough start but got back on track and with prayer made it through. Two families went through the challenge and had good experiences. One of the families was making changes in their diet and even their young son took part. He had an experience when he went to school and they were having cake. He felt bad but got on track again afterwards. Wonderful example of God working with our children. I am so glad that we did this challenge. It made us think about what we were putting into our bodies and whether there is another alternative for the unhealthy things we do. It affected us spiritually as well as physically and I am hoping that with God’s help we can continue to follow His Health Plan.

I wanted to bring up the Corona Virus a little bit and give some encouragement about this disease. There is no need to panic for God is in control and we can claim His promises. I was looking up some of the statements by Ellen White and in the Bible and found so much on cleanliness and good nutrition. These were important in the ages past and they are especially important now. Keeping ourselves and our homes clean and eating what is best for our bodies. We need to remember that “Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan in the destroyer; God is the restorer. The words spoken to Israel are true today of those who recover health of body or health of soul. “I am the Lord that heals you.” MH 113.1 ,2. Exodus 15:26. Take care of yourselves and continue to pray for one another.

Religious Liberty

Juliette Sasek

I interviewed Julie Silva this week about the Religious Liberty Magazine that she has been talking about every year in January for the last few years.

What is it exactly?

Basically, it's a magazine that goes out to various government officials, libraries, judges, people in legislature, non-SDA churches in the area, even the mayor, to educate them on the separation of church and state. Headed by editor Lincoln Steed, it contains stories of people who are struggling with being able to keep the Sabbath and follow their religious, both in the workplace, in their schools, and even in their homes in many countries.

What is it for?

The intent of this magazine is to inform people, especially our leaders about religious freedom issues, here and abroad and encourage them to uphold changes in how our constitution's first amendment is supported.

How much does it cost?

It only costs \$6 a year for one subscription and each SDA church has a goal to help meet this need. Each year we have reached our goal and gone beyond it, praise the Lord! Our church's goal this year is about \$400 and we currently have less than \$200. The deadline this year is March 15, which is coming up fast. Please consider giving to this cause in support of our religious freedoms.

Can I get a personal subscription or is it just for others?

Yes, you can get a personal subscription, but I would encourage you to donate as well, so that more people can be informed.

Contact Julie Silva at church for the form to fill out and if you have any more questions. Please help us reach our goal this year.

I was also able to look up their website, which has many of the issues there. So if you want to read some of the stories that are in the magazine, please go to LibertyMagazine.org. I hope you will be inspired to donate this week for a yearly subscription that only costs as much as one smoothie from Jamba Juice, and will help educate others about religious freedom around the world.

Beginners Sabbath School

By Jacquelyn Van Sant

Hey, parents and grandparents! Did you know Tempe has a Beginners Sabbath School class? It is for little ones from newborn up to their 4th birthday. Come join us! Beginners, sometimes called Cradleroll, is a fun place for your little one to learn about Jesus and the Bible.

We use the Beginner GraceLinks lessons. Stop by the classroom to pick up your copy or go online to www.gracelink.net/beginner. Each month we have a new lesson story, and each Sabbath we present the lesson story a little differently. For the month of March, we are learning about how God blessed Abraham and Sarah with the baby Isaac. Our class encourages participation through singing, music, movement, storytelling, and play.

Our doors open 9:30am for free play, and the lesson begins at 10am. Questions? See Jacquelyn Van Sant or Linda Van Sant. Hope to see you there!

Note: Due to the very young ages, an adult must accompany and stay with the child for the duration of the Sabbath School time.

"Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children." Luke 18:16

"An Night in Paris" Church Banquet

By Elisa Navarro

Our church banquet on the night of February 15 in our church courtyard mimicked a French café restaurant. We called it "*La Cour Parisienne*" (The Parisian Courtyard) with specialized lighting, Eiffel tower décor, beautiful table settings, an amazing menu and buffet table, and, of course, great fellowship. One fun highlight was our very own Autumn Mitemiller, who came dressed as a French mime. She kept us all very entertained! Our evening program included French café background music, an interactive activity with a focus on love in various relationships (friends, singles, siblings, married, etc.), a couples' game, a special song by our children, live music by Joel Martinez (exceptional!), and beginning and ending the evening by thanking God for His love. The food was superb thanks to our French chef Susan and her excellent helper Jeffrey Sasek. Stephanie, not an Adventist member, was the most gracious and courteous of café hostesses. Socials like these help us to know each other in a different context other than a worship setting. We mingled, laughed, and practiced our social graces. But these socials require lots of preparation, so on behalf of the Social Committee—Teresa Solis, Maria Baker, Eunice Martinez—we want to thank every individual for your time, effort, and your cheerfulness in helping us travel to Paris for an evening. We could not have accomplished this without you!

Our next social was slated for April 4, "International Food Festival", but because of Covid-19 (coronavirus), it has been cancelled. God willing we may have it at another time.
