

Tempe Trumpet

Lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring!

COPING WITH COVID-19

Pastor's Corner

As a result of the corona virus world pandemic (as of April 14, there are 1.9 million cases worldwide according to the worldometer), most of us are experiencing what others have been experiencing for a while: being home bound, shut out from physical contact with others (think of some church members, or nursing homes and care facilities). And in regards to the slowing of our daily pace, less busyness and traffic, and less crowds, this is the norm for those who live in the country and wee towns that are barely on the map. Homeschoolers are already home, and in some countries, grocery shelves are empty anyway and food hard to come by. I am by no means minimizing the seriousness of our pandemic plight, but let's not think that our new lifestyles—for some of us—are a society novel or the threshold for the end of the world; the world is much bigger and diverse than our local way of life. I would encourage us to express gratitude to God for what we have and who we have. I would encourage us to not take for granted our daily provisions. And I would encourage us to think outside of ourselves (easy to do during this time) and reach out to others (my wife and I are doing small projects for the community). On a very practical note, I would encourage us to be cautious about our stuck-at-home life, i.e., to watch our habits and to keep busy and productive. Last but not least, continue strong prayers for God's mercy and for those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Be safe, wise, and trusting in God.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our newsletter is very different this month. The few events we had in March are featured along with our regular features. But you will find here more articles than usual featuring some of our members. Each one of our members we consider special. The members featured here are just a sample of our church body. Each one of us is unique and that is what make us a church. I hope that should you ever be approached by one of our reporters you will be most happy to let them interview you. Many interesting things can be learned about each one of us.

Health Ministry

By Judy Long

Hello from Health Ministries! This has been a crazy time in our state, country and world with the Covid-19 pandemic. There is much we do not know about how to prevent it, cure it and stay safe. In the Adventist Church we have so much good information on health and now is the time to share it. Last Sunday, on YouTube there was a symposium on the Corona Virus from Loma Linda University and Hospital with several Adventist doctors and theologians. Wonderful and very encouraging. If you have a chance to view it, please do. It is put on by AWR Health.

Dr. Neil Nedley was one of the participants and he had some good recommendations. High anti-oxidant fruits and vegetables, no or very low sugar intake is a great nutritional plan, daily aerobic exercise, adequate hydration when traveling with no touching face or mouth unless hands are washed right beforehand, frequent hand washing, and one of the best immune enhancers is alternating hot and cold showers, ending with a minute of pure cold. Getting good sunlight and fresh air, adequate rest and trust in God will ALL help. This sounds like God's Health Plan and it is definitely the best for us. Take care and stay healthy.

Women's Mini Retreat

By Denise McNally

On Sunday, March 15, Rosa Chaira and I were very blessed to attend the women's mini retreat that is held every year at the Paradise Valley Church. The theme this year was "Fullness of Joy" and was presented by our own Dawn Goad. Dawn did an excellent job with this theme. Included in her talks were several Bible verses that she encouraged us to claim by inserting our own names into the verses. Each participant walked away with a huge blessing and much joy. And as always, our food was very delicious!

Our usual weekend retreats are held the second weekend of October each year. I am unclear as to whether or not we will have one this year. The last I heard it was in the plans and the wife of Shawn Boonstra will be this year's speaker. So at least pencil it in on your calendar and I will keep you informed as the dates draw closer. I would encourage that if this event occurs each of you ladies consider going. The retreats are always such a blessing not to mention the relaxation and pampering that comes with them.

I am truly sorry that all of our local activities had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Hopefully all will change soon and we will all be together again. God bless and stay safe!

Eddlemon's Thank You Message

By Jacquelyn Van Sant

On Sabbath, March 7, 2020, the church held a memorial service for Sheri Eddlemon Clem, daughter of Vernon and Dottie Eddlemon. Sheri was born at the Tempe hospital, and she was baptized and married to Lynn, her husband of 38 years, in this church. The service was well attended by many who knew and loved Sheri and the entire Eddlemon and Clem families.

Light refreshments followed the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asked for contributions to be made to the Kassie Clem Memorial Fund, which is a scholarship for Adventist Education.

The Eddlemons would like to express their gratitude to the entire church family and everyone who volunteered to make this memorial special.

"Everyone went above and beyond their duty to make this event as wonderful as possible. We (the whole family) are so grateful. Thank you doesn't seem like a big enough word to express our feelings."

Thank you for all the prayers, beautiful sympathy cards, flowers, and donations to Kassie's memorial fund.

Scott Michael Bennett Concert

By Denise McNally

On Sabbath, March 7, our church was blessed to have Scott Bennett, a former member, with us to present a concert for the worship hour. Scott introduced his family to us which now includes two small girls and presented several songs to us of courage and hope. Scott has a warm voice and was a joy to listen to. That evening he was a comfort to many as he presented music at the memorial for Cheri Clem. We are most grateful that he agreed to be with us.

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Les and Judy Long

By Judy Long

Les and I were married in February 1970 here in Tempe. We both grew up in the area. We actually met a few blocks from where we live now at my parent's former home. We were set up on a blind date by Les' sister who I knew in high school. It must have worked out because we just celebrated our 50th anniversary. We went out to the Medieval Times restaurant to celebrate and really enjoyed the show and dinner.

We enjoy spending time with our family when we can. We have three sons and seven grandchildren, (no great grandchildren yet!). They are all very busy with their lives but we hear from them quite often and usually see them on holidays.

We joined the Tempe Adventist Church in the early 1980s. Les and our oldest son attended a Revelation Seminar and they were baptized at the end of the seminar. It took a little longer for me but I also took studies and was won over by many wonderful people in the church. We have never left and consider the Tempe Church our home. We were put to work right away in the Junior Sabbath School class, Pathfinders and wherever the Lord put us. We have never regretted our decision to join the Adventist Church.

A lot of things have changed over the years in the world and in the church but one thing has not changed when it comes to Les and I; our love for God, our church, and our family. We are determined to be ready for Jesus' soon return and to help others to be ready as well especially our own family. For all the married couples out there, we would say, stay close to God and you will stay close to one another.

Editor's Note: We each would like to wish Les and Judy a Belated Happy Anniversary! You two are a great example of what putting God first can do for a marriage. And thank you for all your dedicated and lots of hard work in the various leadership roles in which you have served in our church! It is greatly appreciated by all of us! So many times you have gone above and beyond and without notice. May God continue to bless you both in your marriage and in your ministries to our church.

“True love is not a strong, fiery impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals and is attracted by qualities alone. It is wise and discriminating, and its devotion is real and abiding.....It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart.” E. G. White, 2 Testimonies p.133

Rick and Beverly Bell

By Beverly Bell



Let's Get Acquainted! This month we are getting acquainted with a delightful Christian couple, Rick and Beverley Bell, who joined the Tempe church in March of this year. We are happy that the family will continue to deepen their relationship with God through our church community. Rick was born and raised in Iowa in a Methodist family with 7 siblings. After graduating from Iowa State University, he obtained an MS in chemistry from Cleveland State University. Rick was a chemist in the steel industry for 17 years,

then worked in the aerospace industry until his retirement in 2006. In addition, he was treasurer of SDA & Methodist churches for 37 years.

Upon moving to the Loma Linda area, Rick became acquainted with the beliefs of the SDA church and was baptized in 1979. From there he moved to Santa Clarita, CA where he lived for 32 years. Rick enjoys hiking, biking and bowling and was an active hospital volunteer in California. His two sons, Robert & Ryan Bell, live in California as do his 6 grandchildren, ages 13-23.

Beverley was born in Canada to an SDA family and lived in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario until she finished college at Andrews University in Michigan. She lived in Loma Linda, CA for 13 years where her two sons, Steven & Robert Wirsz were born. After that she lived in Tampa, FL for 17 years then Santa Clarita, CA for 18 years.

Beverley has an ARCT (Univ. of Toronto) in piano performance and a MMus in music. She taught music in SDA, Jewish, Lutheran, and Presbyterian schools and worked as a church organist/choir director for 50+ years. Her hobbies include bird watching and nature study.

In 2006, her son, Steven, had a car accident which resulted in a C4 spinal cord injury (quadriplegia). He went back to school and got an MS in computer science, then taught upper division computer science courses at California State University for 2 years. He has now completed the first 2 years of a PhD program in computer science at ASU. He lives with his brother, Robert, who is an Occupational Therapist for the Scottsdale Unified School District. Rick and Beverley moved to Arizona with them so that Beverley could continue to take care of Steven. (continued page 6)

(Rick and Beverly Bell, from page 5) Favorite Bible Verses: Rick's favorite verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Beverly's favorite is Isaiah 41:13 "For I, the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee."

John and Maria Baker

By Gideon Gyimah Addai Poku



Let's Get Acquainted! This month we are getting acquainted with a delightful Christian couple, John, and Maria Baker. John met Maria at the Casa Grande Homeless mission in 1999, and they got married in 2001. This is their second coming to the Tempe SDA church after they transferred memberships to the Casa Grande SDA church in 2007. The Tempe SDA church accepted their transfer and membership in March 2020. We are thrilled that God has directed them here again to set up their home and ministry. John Baker is

remembered for his contributions towards the renovations of the entry going into the church, the women's bathroom and air conditioners in the Tempe church.

Bio: John was born and raised in Missouri, however, graduated from high school in Colorado. Maria was born and raised in Mexico until 2001, when she moved to the United States. Unfortunately, she was illegally deported back to Mexico in January 2002. After the Lord's intervention, she got her documents and returned to the US with John in 2007.

Conversion experience: Maria was born a Catholic but converted to Seventh-day Adventist when she learned about it from a neighbor in Mexico. She believed in the Adventists teachings as the true word of God, therefore, was baptized in 1996 in Mexico. John was first baptized a Catholic; second a Pentecostal; and finally, an Adventist. After serving in the Navy, John was exposed to the world and did not know anything about his Lord and Savior. Mysteriously, he met Kevin Wilson in prison after being accused of (Continued on page 7)

(John and Maria Baker from page 6) bombing a Mormon Church in Heber Overgaard in 1999. Kevin lead him to the bible. John's faith in God was affirmed through a mission to reunite with his lovely wife in Mexico.

In Mexico, Deacon Roberto offered to him Mark Finley's Revelation seminar, and that was when John "started investigating into the Seventh Day Adventist church and found out the true word of God". Having watched the Revelation Seminars, John found out how "men's traditions, customs, and beliefs, was contrary to the true Word of God, the Sabbath, and the state of the dead." Through these revelations, John converted and was baptized in 2003 at the Nogales Seventh Day Adventist Church in Mexico.

Employment/Hobbies: The Baker family is currently not working. John enjoys outdoor activities such as camping; however, he has not done it in years. Maria enjoys walking, sewing, gardening, and crochet. John has two stepchildren and two grandchildren through Maria.

Favorite Bible Quotation: John's favorite verse is Psalm 37:5: "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and He shall bring it to pass. Maria's favorite verse is Exodus 33:15: Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here".

Reaching Out to Our Communities During COVID-19

By Denise McNally

Many are starting to notice that COVID-19 will be with us for quite some time and there are many people are in great need. I googled "reaching the community for Christ during COVID-19" and was surprised by all the ideas I found for reaching out. If you have a computer or smart phone I suggest you do the same. Here is just a sample of what I found:

1. Pray for those are sick and for those who have lost loved ones as well as those who are working the frontlines.
2. Listen to others or share a comforting word. Make a phone call. Mail a letter to your neighbor with contact information.
3. Drop off food and supplies to the elderly and shelters. Maybe even consider a takeout meal from a local restaurant.
4. Know where to find different resources in the community and assist where you can.
5. Most importantly, take every opportunity to share the gospel. Tell others how God is working in your life.