

Tempe Trumpet

Lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring!



Pastor's corner

Pastor Ray Navarro

The nature of objective truth is that it will always be the truth regardless of circumstances, opinions, current knowledge, era, or place. Earth is a sphere, not flat, regardless of popular belief a few millennia ago. Two plus two equals four, and north is the opposite of south. Likewise, God's words are true regardless.

Long ago, God told the prophet Jeremiah to write on a scroll a prophecy about the nation of Judah—a chilly warning about its end and an appeal to avert disaster through repentance. God then told Jeremiah to share these words with the king of Judah, Jehoiakim. When Jeremiah dictated God's words to his secretary Baruch, Baruch read these words the following year to the king's officials who then repeated them to the king.

And what was the result? The king took the scroll, tore it, and threw it in his fireplace. In fact, he wanted to hunt down Baruch and Jeremiah, but some of the king's honest officials had hid them. You can read the story in Jeremiah 36. Perhaps the king felt angry, insulted, or incredulous that something like this could happen, but it didn't matter because that scroll played out: Babylon invaded Judah and that was the end of that kingdom. (see next Column)

King Jehoiakim's personal, opposing opinion about the truth he heard could not invalidate God's words.

I hope that we can all be lovers of truth. It is far better to embrace God's truth—tough as that can be sometimes—than to try and tear or burn it (aka, denial).

His truth will always be truth...regardless.

Head Elder's corner

Darin Anderson

The school year just ended recently so I have the next few months off from work. I don't say this to make anyone jealous, but instead to focus on endings and beginnings. The school year is a cycle that I have had most of my life, but that most people stop after highschool or college, and don't deal with much unless they have kids. To me it is a time to refocus my mind and rest before beginning to toil again. In this way, the beginning and ending of the school year reminds me of the beginning and ending of each week.

Each week we begin with Sunday, which is a day many of us rest, but it is not like the Sabbath since it does not have the same focus on God that the Sabbath has. Monday is then the beginning of the work week for most of us. This day is not a day we generally look forward to, but it is the day we begin again to contribute to society and labor to provide for our families. There are many texts that encourage us to work diligently. Colossians 14:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Proverbs 14:23 "In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty." It is good to remember that this time is good for us and is a blessing from God. I believe in heaven we will have work we do. I do not believe we will spend eternity lazing around. (Continued page 2, second column)

Outreach

Chris Albrecht

“They triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony” - Revelation 12:11. Everyone has a testimony. A testimony is you sharing a story of how you have experienced God in your life. This could include one or more of the following: the story of how you gave your life to Christ, how your life changed positively after accepting Christ, an answer to prayer, something you appreciate about God’s character, a verse or passage from Scripture that stood out to you, a struggle you overcame, or some way you feel God directed your path. Sometimes testimonies can be shared in a few seconds, sometimes much longer. Don’t worry if your testimony is short; it is still a real experience that can have a positive impact on someone else’s life.

Here is a recent example of my own. On a recent flight I struck up a conversation with the person next to me and we had a long conversation about many different things, including our religious backgrounds and beliefs. She grew up Hindi but is currently agnostic with an openness towards Christianity. I shared about my upbringing as a Christian and gave three brief reasons why I am still a Christian today. Firstly, the Bible’s description of God’s character of love and humanity’s selfish human nature matches what I observe in the world. Secondly, prophecies such as Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2 provide supernatural evidence which can support our faith. And thirdly, my relationship with God has been meaningful to me and I am satisfied with this experience. There were other aspects of Christianity we discussed in the course of our conversation and I was able to suggest a Bible study series she could look up. I pray this short testimony I shared will encourage her to continue to search further and to accept Christ into her life.

(Elder’s Corner, continued from page one) It is important to remember that as important as work is, rest is also crucial. Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” I believe too much of either will break us. As much as I look forward to and enjoy the Summer, the Sabbath and the weekend, the work of my life is during the school year and during the week. I believe the best thing to do during these times of rest is not just to be lazy but to make sure we are spending time with God, building our relationship with him more firmly when we have the extra time to do so. This means we need to be careful not to neglect our time off as a time to rejuvenate and reaffirm our relationships, especially our relationship to God.

Baptisms

Pastor Ray Navarro

On May 8, 2021, the Tempe church family was thrilled to witness the baptisms of Daniel Martinez and Thomas Trent by pastor Ray Navarro.

Daniel Martinez was the first to be baptized. Daniel is 9 years old, the son of Joel and Eunice Martinez, faithful Adventist members (the family recently returned to Honduras). In late 2020, Daniel spoke with pastor Ray of his strong desire to be baptized. Pastor Ray then gave a set of the It Is Written Bible Studies for Children to Daniel’s parents who studied with him for several months. Daniel eagerly finished all the lessons. Daniel is a very smart, inquisitive, and energetic boy. He loves Jesus and absolutely loves participating in church activities. We will miss him!

Thomas Trent is from Apache Junction and his first contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church was just over one year ago through Good News TV. Before retirement, Thomas was a teacher. He came to love what he was learning and called Good News TV “my church.” Thomas saw a 60-second devotional by pastor Ray, then called Good News TV and talked with Susan Skelton asking to meet him. Susan called pastor Ray who then visited Thomas a few times before his baptism. Thomas is happy to be baptized into Jesus and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His love for Jesus is very evident.

Please pray for our two newest members. And introduce yourself to Thomas when you see him at church!

Editor's Note:

For this month's note, I thought I would just bring out some highlights of the newsletter. And we do have a wide variety of articles this month. Everything from baptisms to the GC session. Let's start with these two different events that help to make us a church. As both pastor Ray and Mildred brought out they are very important and we need to keep our new members in our prayers as well as the GC session. We need to keep our new members in our prayers that they will stay encouraged as they seek an even deeper relationship with Christ. The GC session is where delegates come from all over the world to make major decisions for our church. We need to be praying for the Holy Spirit's leading in these decisions now more than ever.

I really enjoyed reading Chris' article this month about sharing our testimonies and the example he shared. Speaking of stories, you won't want to miss part two of Bianca's story from last month.

We may be a small church, but we do have some talented writers in our congregation.

Speaking of our congregation we have several new faces. Let's introduce ourselves and get acquainted with one another.

Along with these new faces, several of our previous members have moved on. So many, in fact, that it has been very hard to keep up with all of them and get each individual story in our newsletter each month.

All these farewells remind me of the day when goodbyes will be no more and we will see our friends again in an earth made new. Let's all be sure we are ready for that day.

Until next month,
Denise

GC in Session June 2022

Mildred Flores

The General Conference (GC) Session is the forum for electing world church officers, voting changes to the church's Constitution, and share reports from each of the 13 administrative regions of the church. Per the church Constitution, the GC takes place every five years and at least 50 percent of the delegates must be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and non-administrative employees of both genders, representing a wide range of age groups and nationalities.

After two postponements in the past 10 months, finally, tens of thousands of people from all over the world will be attending the 61st General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The General Conference Session is scheduled from June 6 to June 11, 2022 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and CDC recommendations, this is the first time that general attendees are not encouraged to attend in person, instead, the entire program will be live streamed to allow the world church to participate via website at session.adventist.org. In addition, only the session itself is being held, exhibition booths and other activities are not planned, in order to reduce on-site participation.

The general conference requests our prayers for God's leading during the session; please keep the session in prayer and feel free to connect and watch the live session.

The Driver In My Life (Part 2)

Bianca Clinton

Last Month: *we were introduced to 16 year old Dylan who had a close relationship with God in this short story. One day the Lord showed up in a shiny new car and invited him for a ride. At first Dylan was very excited as they rode along but then the excitement began to fade. Later they rode pass a place where loud music was being played along with flashing bright lights. Afterwards, Dylan wanted to go back there but the Lord insisted that it wasn't for him. It was then that Dylan asked if he could drive. The Lord granted the request. It is here that we pick up our story this month:*

Now Dylan did have a driver's license, but he was still kind of inexperienced. He only drove a certain distance because of his parent's rules. He didn't even own his own car. He was saving enough money to buy one of his own one day. Dylan only drove his mother's car, when she wasn't driving it.

After adjusting the rear view mirror and buckling his seat belt, he pulled off and made a u-turn going the opposite direction. Dylan then smirked at the Lord through the rear view mirror. He bit the corner of his bottom lip and his grin widened as he pressed his foot more down on the accelerator. He slowly took his eyes off the Lord and sped up. He switched lanes three times while passing several vehicles, when all of a sudden he heard a noise coming from outside of the car. Dylan glanced at both of the side view mirrors. He saw nothing. He then heard some faint popping sounds. Dylan still looking at the side view mirrors saw nothing. He was getting closer to that place he wanted to go. Dylan's eyes grew brighter and his grin deepened. He then heard the small popping sounds again, but it was getting louder. "One more exit," he thought to himself. Dylan then heard the most terrifying sound ever. It sounded as if someone popped a balloon, but the sound was coming from inside of the car. Then he heard some loud flapping sounds. (continued in next column)

Dylan gasped and began to panic as he tried to control the steering wheel. The look of terror was on his face. Dylan had to swerve to the right side of the road to keep from getting into a collision. Because of him speeding, he lost control of the car and the car landed off the side of the road in a ditch. Dylan's forehead hit the steering wheel just before the airbag launched out. And the car came to a stop.

Dylan opened his eyes and slowly rose his head up. He was pretty shaken up. His eyes met the Lord's eyes through the rear view mirror. The Lord had a solemn look on His face. Dylan winced, but not from the mild pain coming from his throbbing head, but because of how his Lord was staring at him. He was afraid to speak. He then closed his eyes and exhaled softly.

"Lord, you can be the driver." Dylan finally spoke, while his eyes were still shut. The Lord placed His right hand on Dylan's shoulder and climbed out of the back seat.

So what have you learned from this story? Has the Lord ever said, "no or not for you?" How did you respond? What should have Dylan done? How do you think the story should have ended?

Kid's corner

Autumn Mittemiller

I'm sure you are familiar with the summer time here in Arizona...it gets so hot that you can cook cookies in a car or eggs on the sidewalk! When it's that hot, we need to always remember to have water with us so we don't get sick or hurt. Just like how we need water when it's super hot, we need God with us! God is our refuge from the heat and His word quenches our thirst like water on a hot Arizona day! So when it's super hot outside during summer, be sure to drink in God's word as well as actual water throughout the day!



