

# HUNTSVILLE CENTRAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

## CENTRAL NEWS

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Central Church Family,

This past month, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law “The Reproductive Health Act.” For those of you who haven’t heard, this law erases the state’s recognition of unborn babies older than 24 weeks as potential homicide victims. In other words, the state of New York now allows abortions to be performed all the way up to birth. Cuomo considers the law a “historic victory for New Yorkers and our liberal values.” Cuomo signed the bill on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in every state. Tragically over the past 45 years it is estimated that our country, “the land of the free and the home of the brave,” has largely been complicit in the slaughter of 60 million of our own children.

Jesus, the express image of loving Heavenly Father, speaks in no uncertain terms of our responsibility to care for the young. Jesus tells us that “whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.” He then says, “But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” ([Matthew 18:5, 6, Berean Study Bible](#)). Strong language indeed.

So what’s to become of our beloved nation? Well, inspiration tells us. In [Exodus 17:8-16](#) we’re told that the Amalekites attacked Israel without provocation. Ellen White tells us that “the Amalekites had long been high-handed sinners, and their crimes had cried to God for vengeance, yet His mercy had still called them to repentance; but when the men of Amalek fell upon the wearied and defenseless ranks of Israel, they sealed their nation’s doom. The care of God is over the weakest of His children. No act of cruelty or oppression toward them is unmarked by Heaven. Over all who love and fear Him, His hand extends as a shield; let men beware that they smite not that hand; for it wields the sword of justice” ([Patriarchs and Prophets, page 300](#)).

Notice that inspiration tells us that God’s mercy “called them to repentance; but when the men of Amalek fell upon the wearied

and defenseless ranks of Israel, they sealed their nation’s doom.”

Could it be that we are witnessing the “sealing of our nation’s doom”? The “wearied and defenseless ranks” of our country are under assault, tragically, in the name of freedom. While intellectual leaders in our country banter about discussions on gender dysphoria, they stand by as other misguided leaders dismember the next generation.

May our Lord Jesus Christ give us courage and strength to work while there is opportunity. There are so many souls hanging in the balances. May we draw ever closer to God and faithfully dispense His love and grace to those who are suffering all around us.

In His Service,  
Pastor Jeff Walper

### WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Pastor Walper** will be the speaker on all Sabbaths through March with these exceptions:

World Youth Group, Cuba Mission, February 16.

Dr. Isaac Olantunji, February 23. See bio under “A Closer Look,” page 5.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 9, Sabbath** – Fellowship dinner will be hosted by Chuck Kittleson’s adult Sabbath School class.

**February 14, “Celebration of Marriage” dinner** for married couples only, Central Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm. Details under “A Closer Look,” page 5.

**February 16, Cross Examination youth rally** at BCCA. Details under “Focus on Youth,” page 3.

**February 4 to March 25, Depression and Anxiety Recovery Seminar** – Central Church is hosting the annual Nedley Depression Recovery Program on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in Central Hall. Details on page 6.

**February 15, Big Cove Christian Academy Open House** for prospective students (pre-K through grade 10). See details under “BCCA News,” page 2.

### REGULAR OCCURRENCES

**Sabbath School** begins at 9:25 a.m. each Sabbath, with classes for all ages.

**A prayer group meets** in the sanctuary every Sabbath morning at 9:10 a.m. Everyone is invited.

**Worship service** each Sabbath starts at approximately 11:00 a.m.

**Mid-week worship (prayer meeting)** is each Wednesday evening at 6:30 in the church sanctuary.

**Choir rehearsal** each Friday evening, 6:00 p.m. in the church. Anyone interested in singing in the choir is welcome! Questions? Contact Malinda McCleary, [malinda.mccleary@gmail.com](mailto:malinda.mccleary@gmail.com)

**BCCA school board meeting** – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m.

**Central Church board meeting** – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday monthly, 6:30 p.m., Central Hall.

**Fellowship dinner** – Second Sabbath of each month, unless otherwise announced.

**NOTE:** If you are a *regular visitor* at Central, and *regularly attend our fellowship dinners*, please be a part of our church family by bringing your favorite vegetarian dish to share with all!

**Come bless and be blessed!** Central presents a worship service most Sabbaths at 1:30 p.m. at Signature HealthCare Rehab Center on Teakwood Drive, just south of the church. Please help with music and/or a devotional. Sign up on the form next to the greeter’s desk in the church foyer. Or just come and spread a little sunshine with your smile! Need more information? Call Ed Toth, (256) 783-9551.

### MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

**Marlon and Heather James** are returning to Central Church from First SDA Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Welcome back!

### Central’s web site, recently updated!

Colorful, interactive newsletter and weekly bulletins, church calendar, Central sermons, a blog – and more!  
Check it out!

<http://www.hsvcentralsda.org/>

## CENTRAL THIS 'N' THAT

**Church directory updates** – It's been about two years since our last church directory, and it is (past) time for an update!

Lifetouch offers us free updates/reprints of the directory for a four-year period, and we definitely need to update the information and add some new pictures.

Before I call and schedule a photo session date (hopefully on a Sunday), we need at least 15 people who will sign up to get a photo made by the LifeTouch photographers. So I'm hoping for at least 15 people to respond. We will try to get a session scheduled sometime soon.

If you are a new member at Central or someone who attends regularly, and you do not currently have a photo in the directory, OR you need an updated photo (new baby, children have changed, OR you just want a new photo) – then this is your opportunity!

ALSO, if the current information listed in the directory has changed since the last printing, we want to update that too (no photo necessary for that).

There is no charge for the photo session or the directory, and you will receive a free color 8x10 of the photo you choose for the directory. You do NOT have to purchase anything but LifeTouch will give you the "opportunity" to purchase any of the photo packages they offer.

To let me know that you would like a photo – OR to update the information in the directory – please contact me at [mapfarr at gmail.com](mailto:mapfarr@gmail.com). (Michele Farr)

**BCCA has two year-round fundraisers.** See how you can participate and help our school. Details, middle of page 3. (The BCCA Box Tops Labels Contest ends on February 16.)

**Provide the sanctuary flowers** for a specific Sabbath by signing up on the new flower chart in the foyer beside the Mother's Room. There are plenty of empty slots which need sponsors.

Sponsoring the Sabbath sanctuary flowers provides a real blessing to the whole church, as we are reminded that our God is The Creator, and that He places beautiful reminders in nature that point to Him. It also gives you the opportunity for a special praise to Him or tribute to a loved one or event.

Cost of sponsoring the flowers for one Sabbath is \$20, which you can place in a tithe envelope marked "sanctuary flowers for (date)." Do this before your special day.

Then send Janet Decker an email to tell her that you are sponsoring the flowers for

(date), and what wording you want to appear in the bulletin (Thanks, Happy Birthday, In memory of, or whatever). Do this no later than Tuesday of the week you are sponsoring, and your dedicatory message will appear in the bulletin on Sabbath.

Take your flowers with you after the service.

**New members Sabbath School class** meets in the room behind the sanctuary organ. Questions? Ask the pastor.

**BCCA fund-raising projects** – Read about them under BCCA News to see how you can easily support our school.

**BCCA always welcomes financial support.** See details under BCCA News.

## BIG COVE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NEWS

**Open House** – Big Cove Christian Academy is excited to announce the date for Open House, February 15! This is a day for prospective students (pre-K through grade 10) to join us for school activities through lunchtime (8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), and to meet the current students and teachers. Lunch will be provided.

If you are aware of anyone interested in Big Cove Christian Academy, please contact the Principal, Lucas Smith: [l.smith at bigcovesda.net](mailto:l.smith@bigcovesda.net) or (256) 518-9642. (Lisa Schmitt, Christian Education Secretary)

**Science Fair winners!** Congratulations to our students, and thanks to all the judges who were involved in these activities.

**Spelling Bee winners:** Joseph Schmitt, Jacob Gohn

**Bible Quest winners:** Avryl Navarro, Jordan Schmitt

**Science Fair winners:** Jacob Gohn, Garren Lawler, Brianna Gohn

**Education Fair** – The above BCCA students and their classmates went to Bass Memorial Academy to represent our school at Education Fair on January 27-28. Students from BCCA as well as other Gulf States Conference schools get together to participate annually in this event.

Some of the categories judged during Education Fair are art, poetry, math, Bible Bowl, and many more events.

We want to praise God for the safe trip, the fun time, and the learning along the way. We would like to share with you the talents and ribbons God blessed our students with at Gulf States Conference Education Fair.

Here are the BCCA students who received special recognition for their participation at the Gulf States Conference Education Fair:

## Bible Quest

First Place grades 7-9: Avryl Navarro (grade 7), Jordan Schmitt (grade 7)

First Place grades 5-6: Brianna Gohn (grade 6)

## Geography Bee

Finalists: Brianna Gohn (grade 6), Jacob Gohn (grade 8)

## Math

First Place grades 7-9: Jacob Gohn (grade 8)  
Second Place grades 5-6: Brianna Gohn (grade 6)

## Poetry

First Place grades 7-9: Joseph Schmitt (grade 9)

## Art

First Place grades 7-9: Camille Myers (grade 7), Jacob Gohn (grade 8), Joseph Schmitt (grade 9)

Second Place grades 7-9: Avryl Navarro (grade 7)

Third Place grades 7-9: Garren Lawler (grade 7), Jordan Schmitt (grade 7)

Third Place grades 5-6: Dana Campos, 2 ribbon placements (grade 5), Brianna Gohn (grade 6)

Congratulations! (Lisa Schmitt, Christian Education Secretary)

**Civil Rights field trip** – The BCCA students had a great time in Montgomery on Martin Luther King's birthday, January 15.

Their historical walk began at the site where Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a bus during the height of racial discrimination. In the distance the students could see the steps of the Capitol building, and they visited Court Square Fountain just a few blocks from the Alabama State Capitol. Prior to the fountain and cast iron décor, the base of the fountain served as a pit and was the central site of the largest slave trading market in Alabama.

Immediately across from the fountain they saw the Winter building. From this building the telegraph directing General Beauregard to fire the first shot on Fort Sumter was sent.

From this historical center the students visited Dexter Church, where Martin Luther King preached the message of freedom. In the basement of the church the students were honored to be in the place where a plan was made to boycott buses, an act which changed history.

The next historic place was King's home, where they saw and learned many facts about the house, and how a potential plot to bomb his house went amiss.

Their learning experience ended at the Civil Rights Museum where there was lots of hands on learning, such as participating in

the Wall of Commitment to not be silent against intolerance, and to the art reflecting the various images of that historic time.

We are fortunate to have a school where the students are taught the love of God for all people, regardless of race or color.

Thank you, Mr. Smith and Mr. Schmitt, for planning this event.

*“Do not take revenge on others or continue to hate them, but love your neighbors as you love yourself. I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:18, Good News Translation).*

**100<sup>th</sup> Day of School** – BCCA celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on Friday January 18. This is a fun day to celebrate that the school year is almost over. Students were to decorate a shirt with 100 on it or dress as if they were 100 years old. Third grader Frankie Osorio gave us a good laugh with his white hair, beard, glasses and limping down the hallway. Each classroom had their own things to do like color sheets that had the 100 theme, number 25 Bible men, women, animals and food. Try it sometime for family worship. The 25 foods was challenging.

Grades 7-10 hid the numbers 1 to 100 in the lunchroom for grades K-6 to find, in teams. Each group of teams had 10 minutes to find and mark off the numbers on a hundreds chart. They were not to let the other teams know what they found. The team that found the most numbers was Brianna and Isabella, coming in second was Josiah and Daniel. The other teams were busy playing a tally game. They were to roll a die and the other would make tally marks of the number rolled. The first team to reach 100 won a prize. Everyone had a chance to win a pencil, book cover, eraser or notebook.

After each team had a chance to find the 100 numbers in the lunchroom, we had the task of taking the numbers down. We found all the numbers except number 45. We looked and looked but never found it in the lunch room. Later in the afternoon a student was reading with his feet propped up and on the bottom of his shoe was a white square of paper. Mrs. Daily asked the student to see what it was. It was the number square 45! We all laughed at how silly that we found it, but on the bottom of a shoe!

A lunch treat provided by Mrs. Price was ice cream sandwiches. (*Sherry Daily, middle grades teacher*)

**Principal’s corner** – Hello Church Family, January was a busy month! We just got back from a trip to Bass Memorial Academy for the Education Fair. Our students placed well in a number of categories! We also went to Montgomery earlier in the month for a life changing experience. We learned about the Civil Rights movement and what a number

of people had to go through due to the color of their skin.

As this month illustrates, life gets busy! In those times, it is easy to forget about relationships with others. It is even easy to forget about our relationship with God.

In talking about a relationship with God, Big Cove teaches the kids to make sure to give God time. The only way to maintain your relationship with God is to spend time with Him. BCCA makes sure we give God time with a Bible class each day and a worship session every week when the entire school gets together. We sing and listen to a message from Pastor Walper or me. In doing this, Big Cove ensures the students give time to God and maintain a healthy relationship with Him.

Give God time every day. We only have a limited amount of days before He comes! Spend time with Him now so you can spend time with Him in eternity! (*Lucas Smith, BCCA Principal*)

Check out “BCCA Messenger,” the school newsletter, to see some pictures of these recent activities.

<https://www.smore.com/yrck8-bcca-messenger-february-1-2019?ref=email>

**Provide a birdhouse** – Our BCCA property has an abundance of birds. We would like to erect bird houses on the school property. Contact Sherry Daily if you can provide birdhouses for BCCA.



**BCCA has two year-round fundraisers** which are *super easy* to do! First – every time you shop, select products bearing the label “Box Top\$ for Education.”

Clip these labels out, and place them in the “Box Top\$” container in the church foyer. Each box top label is worth ten cents (.10)! This can add up to a lot of money for the school if each member will participate. Thank you for your support!

**NOTE:** Right now, the three classrooms are having a contest to see which room can bring in the most box tops. *The contest ends February 16 but the fundraiser continues year-round.*

A second way to support our school is to simply sign up for a Publix Partners account at Publix.com (if you don’t already have one), and select BCCA as the school of your choice, then enter your phone number at checkout. A percentage of each eligible transaction made using your account is allocated to BCCA. Thank you for supporting Big Cove Christian Academy! (*Janet Decker, BCCA Home and School leader*)

**It is the goal** of Huntsville Central that all the children in our church family receive an Adventist education. If you believe you may need financial assistance for the current

school year, please contact Kathy Aitken, BCCA treasurer, [kathyo@raitken.net](mailto:kathyo@raitken.net), (256) 536-0033.

If you are interested in sending your child or children to BCCA, or if you know someone who is, please, right away, contact either of: Lucas Smith, BCCA principal, at [l.smith@bigcovesda.net](mailto:l.smith@bigcovesda.net), (256) 527-5043. Jeff Green, school board chairman, at [j.green@bigcovesda.net](mailto:j.green@bigcovesda.net) (256) 509-5557.

**Support BCCA monthly** with tuition assistance for worthy students, or to the Nelson or Christensen memorial funds.

#### FOCUS ON YOUTH

**Outreach** – The personal ministries team has been praying together once a week to ask God for guidance on how to move forward in the outreach at the Chasewood Apartments. The Lord inspired the group to try a different approach. We will be going door-to-door on February 9 to simply ask if the people we meet have a special need they would like us to pray for. We will then see if there is anything that we as individuals or as a group can do to help out. Please continue to keep this outreach effort in your prayers!

**Save the date!** Cross Examination is on March 16 at BCCA. Our speaker this year will be the chaplain from Bass Memorial Academy, Pastor Steven Ferguson. The musical group AmBASSadors will also be coming with Pastor Ferguson to lead out in music. (*Evelyn Green*)

#### PATHFINDER RAMBLINGS

**Huntsville SpaceWalkers** were busy through December and January working on their Investiture classwork and honors, having fun events and doing Share Your Faith Activities.

In December the Pathfinders gave food and Christmas gifts to two needy families, sang carols at a nursing home and had a Christmas party.

In January the club had a gym night at BCCA which started with worship, followed by a pizza dinner and games. The club has been working on honors such as Knot Tying, Drilling and Marching, Cultural Diversity and Christian Citizenship.

In February the Pathfinders will have a Pathfinder Sabbath and a Lock-In.

The Pathfinder Club meets at BCCA on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and is open to youth grades 5-12 who are willing to abide by the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. For more information contact the directors, Rick and Kelly Riley, (256) 566-2181 or email [RKAARiley@aol.com](mailto:RKAARiley@aol.com) (*Kelly Riley*)

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6, NKJV).*

We have a long list of individuals who have requested our prayers, or prayer has been requested for them. Jeff Irwin, Hugh Wilson, Lee Hipps, Thomas and Joanne Lang; Norma Harrison, Dee Theiss, Deb Saylor, Gloria Radke, Clarence Baughn, Tim Hendel’s brother Rick, Reyes’ daughter Dia White, Sherry Bray and her sister Barbara, Vernelle Browning and family, Decker’s children and grand-children, Beth Gohn’s mother Sheryl Carte, Betty Nelson, Gailynn Haynes, Randall Rierson, Jennifer Olmstead’s mother, Delores Cochren’s daughter Kimberly Kirton, Louise Parsons, Annette Helms, Ed and Jeannie Stover, Ryan White, Roger Hunter, Sheila Evans, Cassie Hamer, Fran Scheidt, Craig Moore, Bob Moore, Johnnie Mae Edwards’ daughter.

Please note: For urgent prayer requests needing to be passed on to the church family, please contact Jon Barfield at (804) 586-5919 or [jondbsept24 at aol.com](mailto:jondbsept24@aol.com)

## RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

**Religious liberty** is pursued by many Christian denominations as well as by countless religions. Holding fast to what these groups believe is quite admirable and no doubt expected. We truly would expect nothing less than that, as they cling strongly to what they believe and fight to maintain their God given right to express their faith.

We SDA’s are unique though, in that we do not just fight for *our* religious liberty, but stand up for other religions’ right to practice their faith.

The late Uriah Smith (SDA author, minister, educator, theologian, editor of the Review and Herald for more than 50 years) stated the following in his book [\*Daniel and the Revelation\*](#). (Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1882), pages 592, 593:

“Struggle Against Religious Tyranny – When certain religious groups made appeal that “explicit acknowledgment of the only true God and Jesus Christ” be made in the Constitution, their request was denied. In writing of this incident, Thomas Jefferson said: ‘The insertion was rejected by a great majority, in proof that they meant to comprehend within the mantle of its protection the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and Mohametan, the Hindoo, and Infidel of every denomination.’

“The House Judiciary Committee, February 18, 1874, in reply to a similar petition, reported: ‘As this country, the foundation of

whose government they were then laying, was to be the home of the oppressed of all nations of the earth, whether Christian or pagan, and in full realization of the dangers which the union between church and state had imposed upon so many nations of the Old World, with great unanimity [they agreed] that it was inexpedient to put anything into the constitution or frame of government which might be construed to be a reference to any religious creed or doctrine.’

“History attests the fact that these great men who laid the foundation stones upon which the United States was erected looked forward with almost prophetic vision to the dangers to personal liberty which would someday confront the country: The fears were well expressed by Thomas Jefferson: ‘The spirit of the time may alter, will alter. Our rulers will become corrupt, our people careless. A single zealot may commence persecution, and better men be his victims. It can never be too often repeated, that the time for fixing every essential right on the legal basis is while our rulers are honest and ourselves united. From the conclusion of this war we shall be going downhill. It will not then be necessary to resort every moment to the people for support. They will be forgotten, therefore, and their rights disregarded. They will forget themselves, but in the sole faculty of making money, and will never think of uniting to effect a due respect for their rights. The shackles, therefore, which shall not be knocked off at the conclusion of this war, will remain on us long, will be made heavier and heavier, till our rights shall revive or expire in a convulsion.’”

This excerpt from Smith’s book illustrates beautifully how the founders of our country wanted religious liberty for everyone.

Please reflect on the truths so wonderfully articulated as you consider what the Lord would have you contribute to this year’s campaign for religious liberty. Your contribution is greatly appreciated! (*Religious liberty leaders: George and Janet Decker*)

## FAMILY BOOST

**Something more for parents to worry about** – Are your kids’ friends “vaping,” or “Juuling”? Vaping (using an electronic cigarette, an “e-cigarette”) or other vaping device is quite popular among teens. E-cigarettes are battery powered and deliver nicotine through a liquid called “e-juice” which turns into a vapor when using the devices. The liquid comes in flavors such as mint, fruit, or bubble gum, which appeal to kids. Juul, which is by far the most popular e-cigarettes product, does not offer nicotine-free flavors. Many teens may not realize

they’re almost certainly inhaling harmful, addictive, cancer-causing chemicals.

Learn more about vaping and how to talk to your kids about it.

<https://5210.psu.edu/what-parents-need-to-know-vaping-juuling/>

<https://www.familyeducation.com/teens-vaping-5-things-parents-need-know>

## DISCERNING THE TIMES

**Controversy in the church** – If you have been attending the Adventist Church and paying attention over the past several years, you will know that our denomination is struggling with some of the same issues as other denominations, such as how to relate to societal pressures regarding the LGTBQIA+ agenda and gender equality, with one resultant facet being whether women should be ordained to the gospel ministry. This social issue threatens to divide our church, just as it has divided other denominations.

Why are we allowing current cultural pressures to obscure the mission God has assigned to the remnant church – that is, the preaching of the three angels’ messages of [\*Revelation 14:6-12?\*](#)

The first angel’s message calls us to preach the everlasting gospel – to fear and worship the Creator, because His judgment is come.

Satan has successfully turned the Christian world away from the Creator by propagating the theory that earth came about by a big bang, and that life grew from the mud and developed over eons of time. We are to refute evolution in all its forms and lead people to revere the Creator as revealed in His word – Jesus created the world and all that is in it in seven literal days, and created mankind as male and female ([\*Genesis 1, 2\*](#)).

The second angel’s message calls us to announce that Babylon (the impure woman sitting on the scarlet beast in [\*Revelation 17\*](#)) has fallen, and has deceived all nations with her wine. More than 500 years ago the Protestant Reformers recognized Babylon to be the Roman Church. The popes exercised great power over the nations, coercing these political powers (beasts, in prophecy language) to persecute and kill millions of people who refused to compromise Bible truth.

Many today, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, revere the pope as the ultimate authority on earth. Even now the pope is dictating world policies. With the pope in charge, humankind can solve the world’s problems, it is believed. We don’t need Jesus to come and save us from the mess we are in. Intoxicating wine indeed.

Babylon is also called “that great city,” of which Jesus says, “Come out of her, my

people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” ([Revelation 18](#)).

With the recent public exposure of the numerous sins of the Roman Church (Babylon), many people are waking up as to her character. However millions are still devoted to the Church and have no idea that God is calling them to separate from her. We are to give them opportunity to understand this.

[Revelation 13:1-8](#) concludes with “all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him [the blasphemous beast, or political power], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

The third angel’s message ([Revelation 14:9-11](#)) calls us to warn the inhabitants of earth that whoever worships (or obeys) the beast or his image, and receives his mark, will suffer the wrath of God which will be poured out without mercy.

John next saw, in contrast to those who worship the beast, the saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus ([Revelation 14:12](#)).

Is it possible for us to focus on preaching the three angels’ messages with clarity, calling people away from Babylon and her daughters the fallen churches, if we ourselves fall into line with the fallen churches by bowing to social pressures which necessitate turning our back on Bible truth regarding God’s order in creation?

Surely the devil’s smoke screen is dulling our senses and blinding us to our mission!

In a most recent e-letter from White Horse Media ministry, founder-speaker Steve Wholberg said: “The fact that Adventists are wrestling with this controversy shouldn’t surprise anyone. Adventists are faulty humans too (just like everyone else), and are not immune to such conflicts. Our particular controversy concerns the issue of women being ordained to the gospel ministry. During three worldwide SDA General Conference Sessions (1990, 1995, 2015), this issue was voted upon by Adventist leaders. Each time, the majority said ‘No’ to women’s ordination – not out of disrespect for women, but out of respect for God’s word. In Scripture, *women were never ordained as priests*. Unfortunately, within our church there is a sizable faction that refuses to accept those votes. This is what has created somewhat of a crisis inside our ranks.”

The e-letter goes on to say that White Horse Media has just released an “eBook Bundle” primarily for Adventists, on this topic. The eBook Bundle includes Wholberg’s new ebook entitled, *God’s Remnant Church Divided: What Does the Future Hold?*, plus

an audio ebook, plus a separate audio message of Wholberg’s called, “I AM Ready for the Future. Really? Lessons from Peter.”

*God’s Remnant Church Divided: What Does the Future Hold?* is a clear and concise overview of the issue, how we got to where we are now, and how it relates to our mission as a church. This book has been receiving very good reviews.

Go to [GodsRemnantChurchDivided.net](#), White Horse Media’s new website. On the main page, a short video gives a quick summary of this issue in our church. The eBook Bundle is available for only \$5.00 on this webpage. Your Ebook Bundle is immediately available to you.

Be informed about this issue in our church, and tell other Adventists about this webpage and eBook Bundle.

Most of all, we need to pray for our church during this time of conflict and controversy, that our own hearts will be stirred to develop a deeper relationship with God, and be open to the subduing of His Spirit in our relationships with others. May we have the zeal to fulfill our mission before it is forever too late. (Kathy Lamson)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**African Americans in SDA history** – The Seventh-day Adventist denomination is truly a North American religion. American Adventism has been greatly influenced by people of heritages other than Caucasians.

It may surprise us to discover that in many African cultures the truths of the Seventh-day Sabbath, as well as the second coming of Christ, have been known, believed, and kept alive for hundreds of years. No doubt these truths were carried to North America in the hearts of some of the unfortunate peoples who were captured and removed from their native lands to be bought and sold in this country. Oppression of the enslaved people made the hope in the soon return of Christ especially precious to them well before the Millerite Movement of the mid-1800’s focused on the imminent return of Christ. Millerism was composed of members of many denominations, and pre-dated the formation of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination by several decades. (Read about the Millerites here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millerism>)

It should not surprise us to learn that some of African descent became Millerites – adherents to the teachings of William Miller – and joined him with strong voices proclaiming the soon return of Jesus Christ.

So what roles did people of African descent play in early Adventism? To help answer that question, Maury Jackson and Sydney Freeman have authored an article which

appeared in Adventist Today online issue of October 21, 2018. Benjamin Baker’s article was in the November 19, 2018 issue. Both of these articles deal with “The History of the Origin of Black Adventism.”

*Editor’s note: I do not recommend Adventist Today website, but found these two articles to be informative.*

<https://atoday.org/adventist-history-herstory-and-ourstory-towards-a-peoples-history-of-the-origin-of-black-adventism/>

<https://atoday.org/more-peoples-history-of-the-origin-of-black-adventism/>

#### GET INTO THE WORD

**Do you want to better understand Bible prophecy?** Our adult Sabbath School lessons are helping us to understand the book of Revelation, but there is much more to learn about Bible prophecy. Bible Prophecy Truth, by Amazing Facts ministry, is a beautiful website devoted to helping people from all religious backgrounds clearly understand the major prophecies of the Bible. Therefore it is a wonderful resource to share too. Check it out, then pass it on! <https://www.bibleprophecytruth.com/>

#### A CLOSER LOOK

**Worship service speaker, February 23** – Isaac Olatunji Jr., PhD, Religion and Theology Professor at Oakwood University, teaches Fundamentals of SDA Beliefs, Introduction to the Bible, The Gift of Prophecy, and Orientation Seminar. He is pastor of Stateline SDA Church in Ardmore. Olatunji is speaker/director of the God-supported “Project Latter Rain Ministries.” <http://www.projectlatterrain.org/index.html>

Some of his sermons are available at AudioVerse, <https://www.audioverse.org/english/sermons/presenters/441/isaac-olatumji.html>

Dr. Olatunji is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/isaac.olatumji>



**“Celebration of Marriage” dinner**, hosted by Family Ministries, will be February 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Central Hall, married couples only. Come join us for a delicious Italian meal while we go over biblical principles to having a happy marriage. This event is free. Childcare will be provided by the Pathfinders. Please donate to the Pathfinder Club’s Oshkosh 2019 trip. Sign up in the church foyer by the visitor’s log, or by contacting the following:

Jenny: (256) 724-0224  
[jandjbroussard at gmail.com](mailto:jandjbroussard@gmail.com)  
Maggie: (256) 503-8990  
[mnavarro.vazquez at gmail.com](mailto:mnavarro.vazquez@gmail.com)

**Depression and Anxiety Recovery Seminar** – Central Church is hosting the annual Nedley Depression Recovery Program on DVD which began with a free introductory session on January 28. If you missed this session, you can still get in on this valuable seminar. The program will run for eight consecutive Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in Central Hall, from February 4 through March 25.

Neil Nedley, MD, has put together this program from his many years of research and clinical experience. He has served thousands of families through his medical practice and extensive, worldwide lecturing. He educates students of all ages in nutrition and healthy lifestyle principles through his radio shows, satellite and cable television, and live appearances.

More than 19 million people in the U.S. suffer from depression annually, and during stressful times this disease can intensify. During this seminar, participants will learn to identify the underlying causes, or “hits,” which can bring on depression, such as having unrealistic goals, financial stress, family expectations, and change of schedule or eating patterns. But the cure is not as difficult as you might think. Actually, just a few basic lifestyle changes can help you break free of the trap of depression.

Dr. Nedley, author of the books *Proof Positive* and *Depression: the Way Out*, will teach participants how to improve brain function, maximize IQ in children, increase energy, boost concentration, engage in healthy sleep habits, improve physical performance, and gain renewed hope. In addition to the essential information on lifestyle and diet, Nedley will also cover the benefits and risks of psychiatric counseling and drug medications.

This seminar is excellent for people who are prone to depression, but also for those who want to achieve peak mental performance or just improve overall brain and body health, spend less time frustrated by stress, decrease the risk for many diseases, say goodbye to negative thinking, and understand the true power of positive thinking.

Here are some of the things attendees will learn:

- Identify depression and its causes
- Improve your emotional intelligence
- Enhance your energy levels and mood
- Overcome depression through positive lifestyle choices
- Eat for optimal brain function
- Manage stress without distress
- Live above loss
- Improve brain function
- Defeat depression through right thinking
- Achieve peak mental performance

Dr. Nedley will show better ways to combat depression – how to know what you can change and what you can’t, the importance of minimizing drug medicine use, and how to make use of effective natural therapies.

Encourage family members and friends to attend even if they do not struggle with depression. Everyone can benefit from this information.

Contact Jenna Dow or Carolyn King with any questions and please register by phone: (256) 881-4351 (leave message); or email: [depressionrecoveryprogram at yahoo.com](mailto:depressionrecoveryprogram@yahoo.com)

**IT PAYS TO SERVE GOD!**

*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 3:10, 11).*

**Maasai mockings and miracles** – In the most recent newsletter from Adventist World Radio, president of AWR Duane McKey tells of



Abraham, a wealthy Maasai livestock owner in Tanzania who was recently baptized and regularly listens to Adventist World Radio broadcasts from a nearby station built to target Maasai tribes. As he listened he learned many new things – including healthful living and the blessings of tithing.

Abraham wanted to be faithful to God, so he placed his cattle in large pens and counted them as they walked through the chute. Each tenth animal was marked for God. His friends thought he was crazy! The Maasai measure wealth by the number of cattle and children one has. Cattle are almost as important as people to a Maasai, and not to be given away – even to God!

The mocking of Abraham ceased abruptly about nine months later when 40 of his cows gave birth to twins (a rare occurrence in cattle), and many of his goats and sheep had triplets! God was blessing him as he had blessed Jacob, the Bible Abraham’s grandson! (You can read that story here: [Genesis 30:25-Genesis 31:13](#). God showed Jacob that it was *His* doings and not Jacob’s cunning which caused Jacob’s flocks to prosper.)

Abraham the Maasai was so happy with God’s blessings, he decided to give *two* of every ten cattle to God! And that is not the end of the story yet!

In Tanzania and other countries of Africa, open ranges make it easy for thieves to steal livestock. However, when Abraham’s cattle were stolen they would mysteriously find their way back to Abraham’s herds as if guided by unseen hands! Thieves became nervous about stealing his stock!

Many of those who had mocked Abraham for giving his cattle to God, now wanted in on the blessings! They told local pastors, “We want to tithe just like Abraham is doing!” And that is not the end of the story either.

In a village nearby a local Maasai chief built a pond, then charged the other Maasai herders for watering their stock there. Abraham had an inspired idea. He built a larger pond and let the other Maasai water their stock at *his* pond for free! However, he hired a Bible worker to preach to them about Jesus while the watered their animals!

The Maasai traditionally were difficult to convert to Christianity, but nowadays many are becoming Christians. Abraham’s testimony and generosity have influenced some to listen to Adventist World Radio. They have been surprised to learn that they share some beliefs with Adventists. Maasai believe in God and not ancestral worship or witchcraft. They also believe that death is a sleep. So far, 35 Maasai, many of them former mockers, have accepted Jesus and been baptized as Adventists!

AWR is *our* mission radio, broadcasting the Adventist message of hope to people around the world. In many places people live their entire lives in a very small radius. They will likely never have TV, internet, or even any electricity, so radio is a lifeline. It delivers news from near and far, provides entertainment, creates community, and is the sole source of the gospel for hundreds of thousands of listeners. Adventist World Radio shares the Adventist hope in Christ with the people groups of the world. Programs in more than 100 languages can be heard via shortwave and AM/FM radio, solar players, podcasts, on demand, mobile apps and a call-to-listen service. Producers around the world create unique content that is relevant to their local listeners.

Learn more about Adventist World Radio: <https://awr.org/> Here you can listen, read stories, view videos, see the many projects, and of course make a donation.

Or you may send donations to: Adventist World Radio, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904; or call 1-800-337-4297.

*AWR Annual Offering takes place on March 9, 2019.* Let’s be generous so that many more people groups can hear the gospel in their own languages just as the Maasai are doing!