

THE CONNECTION

THE PALO CEDRO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWSLETTER
FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

BECOMING THE CHURCH GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE

On Sabbath morning we sing:

“Like a bride waiting for her groom
We’ll be a church ready for You.
Every heart longing for our King.”

Are we this church? Are we longing for our King?
Are our hearts filled with the Spirit as we lift up our praise?

Or are we just going through the motions.

“We are cold,” says Elder Anne Haddad matter-of-factly. “And we can’t really change without prayer.



Jerry Williams



Anne Haddad

We can make plans, but we’re not going to go anywhere without prayer. It’s pretty basic.”

The story of Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York demonstrates the power of prayer. This church began with a handful of people in a rundown building in a rough part of the city. From ten people the church has grown to over ten thousand. How was this possible?

WHAT’S INSIDE

-  **Update on the Pastoral Selection Process**
-  **Progress Report on Hal Williams**
-  **Special Feature: “The Jump” by Roy Stephens**

Brooklyn Tabernacle Pastor Jim Cymbala writes about the growth of this church in several books: “Fresh Wind and Fresh Fire” and “Fresh Power.” “His message is simple,” says Anne. “Growth comes from prayer, not the pastor, not the praise teams, not the church programs. Cymbala says the church has to be based in prayer.”

Elder Jerry Williams talks about the place of prayer at Brooklyn Tabernacle. “During the service there is a back room where people are lifting the pastor up in prayer as he preaches. Cymbala says that without the prayer ministry the church would be gone, but it is not something that can be forced. It has to be through the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit.”

THE CONNECTION



Brooklyn Tabernacle

“We are so used to doing things liturgically, systematically,” says Anne, “but not really on our knees asking, ‘Holy Spirit what do you want us to do right now?’ It is such a simple thing, but such a critical thing. It’s *the* most critical thing. God said, ‘My house will be a house of prayer.’ And this is a promise.”

“When there is a problem at Brooklyn Tabernacle, the people come together to pray,” says Jerry. “People are on it and praying. It is a praying church. No gimmicks, no programs. The main thrust of the church is prayer, and through prayer they have witnessed the workings of

the Spirit. Cymbala has seen homosexuals completely change. So much of what we see today is man trying to manipulate the Holy Spirit or coming up with psychological stuff that is not even real.”

Jerry continues, “It is not some kind of campaign or outreach seminar that will bring people to church. We watched the user-friendly approach of Rick Warren and Bill Hybels. I never could buy into that. Prayer is what will build up a church. We need to start praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit here at Palo Cedro to empower us to witness and for healing. Some people have not let go and forgiven. We are not moving anywhere as long as this exists.”

“The prayer meeting will be the barometer of the church,” says Anne. We need to fall before Him on our knees. He answers prayer, but we are not praying. I mean heavy prayer. All of our churches are needing that.”

Research organizations like Pew show that the church in North America is not really growing. “What is basically happening,” says Jerry, “is that people are just moving around between denominations. We need to get new souls! We need to get back to the commission that Christ gave, not Adventizing, and for this we need supernatural power. You can not force it. The Holy Spirit has to take each individual personally. We are basically praying for revival. The whole purpose of the church is to win souls. The Great Commission does not change. As a church, it is our commission.”

Jim Cymbala’s books encourage Christians to seek the Holy Spirit in their every day lives. They challenge the church to depend on prayer and on the Holy Spirit rather than on man-devised programs. “If we start praying for fresh wind, fresh fire and fresh power, we will come to realize that we are totally helpless and that we need to become completely dependent on God. We will see that all the glory goes to Him,” says Jerry. “Only the Holy Spirit can get the church moving. Coming together for corporate prayer will make the difference,” he says.

Pastor Catrina echoes the call for prayer. “Our God is ready and willing to pour out all of heaven on our behalf, but we must seek Him!”

Please join Anne and Jerry and others in the church library at 9:30 on Sabbath mornings as we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Palo Cedro and for a Spirit-filled pastor. You do not need to pray out loud. Your prayerful presence alone will strengthen the prayers.



THE CONNECTION

UPDATE ON THE PASTORAL SELECTION PROCESS

In December 2019 Palo Cedro members attended a church board meeting to give input on the direction of the pastoral selection process. (Note: the church board is serving as the pastoral selection committee)

As of September 2019 the pastoral selection committee had seven names that had been submitted for consideration. The board selected three individuals to pursue and prioritized the names. While one name was withdrawn by the Conference, preliminary interviews were conducted with the other two candidates via Skype. In the process of moving forward, one candidate withdrew to take another call. The second candidate had scheduled a time to interview in person at Palo Cedro, but because of a sudden serious health issue in his family, he had to withdraw.

The situation put Palo Cedro back at square one, casting about once again for the person who will become our next pastor. Church members who attended the December board meeting were given the opportunity to express opinions on how to proceed. The board wanted feedback on two options for moving forward. First, to interview former Associate/Youth Pastor Don Smith who has been on the list of possible senior pastors. Second, to start the process over again including the name of Pastor Smith. Some concern was expressed at the possibility of bringing someone to Palo Cedro who had already been in pastoral service here. The board voted to begin the process anew with Pastor Don Smith included in the list of possible candidates.

So the process begins again. Palo Cedro continues looking for the person who will lead the flock. Elder Mike Copithorne reminded all attending the meeting, "Let's remember that God is in control. He has a pastor for us," he said.

Jose Marin from the Northern California Conference reviewed the process for gathering names. Any member may submit a name for consideration by sending it to Church Secretary Linda Koenig who will then forward it to Jose. Jose will also seek out pastors who might have an interest in Palo Cedro. If the name of someone from another conference is submitted, or if the NCC identifies a pastor outside of our conference, Jose will call that conference to get permission to contact that person.

At the beginning of this pastoral selection process, Palo Cedro developed a profile of its ideal candidate. The profile included a leader who will get people involved with church life, someone committed to the school, and an individual who supports community engagement. These are the qualities any candidate should possess.

At a late January 2020 meeting, Jose reported that he had made contact with several pastors whose names had been submitted by Palo Cedro members. Of those contacted only two had submitted resumes which he shared with those present. The board discussed the resumes but took no official action on them. The general consensus was to wait for more candidates to be vetted by the Conference. The next pastoral selection committee meeting is set for Wednesday evening March 4th. Jose promised the committee that he would be more aggressive in moving the process forward in 2020.

If you have the name of a pastor you would like to be considered, please submit it to Linda Koenig at the church office at 547-4777 or at pcadventist.org@gmail.com

THE CONNECTION



**A Huge Palo Cedro Praise for Hal Williams' Successful Surgery !
Please Continue Praying for a Strong Recovery.**



Hal with Jackie Several Weeks After His Surgery

photo by Ginny Yost

THE CONNECTION



THE JUMP

by Roy Stephens

**Special
Feature**

She climbed over the safety rail, scooted up to the edge of the concrete border, and looked down over the precipice with the full intention of jumping. She judged the fall to be around 200 feet but it would be over in seconds. Sweat poured down her forehead in rivulets, and her knees trembled as she pressed on with her decision. She knew distant friends and family would never understand why she would take such drastic action. But that would not stop her now, it was too late to turn back.

She had confided in a few of her closest friends but they didn't seem to take her seriously. "You have everything going for you," some said. "Why would you even consider throwing it all away?" No one really knew what was going on inside but she felt driven as if by some unknown force. I can't take it any longer she thought as she positioned her toes closer to the point of no return. She searched vainly through the recesses of her mind another time, hoping to find one reason to say no, to put away this so called foolish notion, to climb back across the rail to certain safety. Many things in her past had led up to this decision and it felt like her destiny. She had rehearsed this moment in her mind over and over until "do it" was the constant drum beat sounding in her ears.

As she stood at the precipice, a crowd began to assemble along the safety rail. Some callously urged her to "get on with it." Others sensing her hesitation tried to coax her back from the edge. When it appeared that she was actually going to jump, a person thought to be a casual observer eased closer, cupped his hands by the sides of his mouth and whispered something to her. She seemed to know him and nodded her head in approval then stepped back a few inches. He then crossed over the rail and took a spot beside her. Some applauded. "She's changing her mind" someone said. Several people turned and walked back to their vehicles thinking the unfolding drama was over. The fear in her eyes was now gone as she turned her face toward the companion and smiled. Then in an instant she wrapped her arms around him and they leapt over the edge together.

The remaining observers leaned over the rail as far as they safely could, trying their best to witness the descent. The woman and her companion fell out of sight in seconds and a momentary hush settled over the remaining observers. Tears filled the eyes of some while others just shook their heads. "Wasn't that a kind gesture!" one lady commented. Another said, "If I ever decide to do it, I hope someone will go with me." The words trailed off as another observer yelled, "There they are, they're coming back up." The lady and her companion came briefly into view and then headed down again. With each fall the extension of the bungee chord lessened until there was no rebound left. Within minutes the jump was over, everyone cheered wildly. A designated helper stepped forward, attached the jumper's safety ropes to an electric spooling device that hoisted the ecstatic duo back to the top. As they removed their bungee jumping equipment, the lady turned to her companion, smiled and said, "What a rush! Now that it's over I wonder why I hesitated so long?" The instructor replied, "I know, I've done this many times before."

conclusion on the following page

THE CONNECTION



Spiritual Application:

If you are following God and seeking His divine direction, expect Him to ask you to take dramatic leaps of faith along the way. When He does, be prepared for others to discourage your actions and some may even call you a fool. Also expect Him to be patient while you struggle with your decision. He will never push you over the edge but when you have made your decision to follow his direction in faith, He will never allow you to jump alone. Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV) 6 *“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”* Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6. in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

News from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

The NAD has approved Pastor Catrina for its

“Women in Ministry” Initiative for three years.

This means that the NAD will provide two-thirds of her salary

with the remaining one-third

being split between the Northern California Conference

and the Palo Cedro Church.



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

01 Jodi Frenna	13 Riley Roberts	23 Emma Gruber
01 Jodel Heier	13 Nicole Srp	23 Marlene Marzocchi
01 Carol Ort	13 Javona Tucker	23 Bill Moon
02 Tyler Davis	14 Adriann Coley	23 Vernon Stainbrook
02 Mark Fisher	14 Max Schalo	24 Jo Grove
02 Charles Witthar	15 Nickolas Hofmann	24 Tanner Roberts
03 Everett Farmer	16 Andrew Boehm	24 Tristen Roberts
03 Bobbi Hunter	17 John Carter	25 Rick Gregory
05 Jakey Whiteley	17 Wyatt Gray	25 Anita Nunn
06 Luke Fannin	17 Brock Schalo	25 Betty Stevenson
06 Wally Quirk	17 Caroline Schalo	25 Christy Wilson
06 Margie Van Zant	18 Sheila Brown	26 Rick Ellis
07 Taylor Ballard	18 Danielle Douglas	26 Rodney Ford
07 Tyler Krick	18 Steve Meyer	27 Kiana Garcia
07 Aaron Wolff	19 Christina Greenlaw	27 Muriel Ketelsen
09 Sheila Martin	19 Sherrie Hoodenpyle-Borg	27 Robert LiVolsi
09 Robin Miller	20 Mary Diegel	29 Angela Ovando
09 Richard Post	20 Shelby Ford	29 Makayla Turk
11 Sharlene Ballard	20 Julia Tomayly	30 Judee Adams
12 Brandon Lewis	20 Krystal Zasada	31 Logan Baker
12 Karen Sundin	21 Kathy Baum	31 Sheryl Finch
13 Steve Bautista	22 Sara Beveridge	31 Bruce Gregory
13 Barry Lyons	22 Renee Isaac	

22585 Silverlode Lane
Palo Cedro, CA 96073

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Vision: To Transform All People into Completely
Committed Followers of Jesus Christ

The Palo Cedro Seventh-day Adventist Church

(530) 547-4777 www.pcadventist.org

Interim Pastor: David Osborne Associate Pastor: Catrina LeSure
Church Secretary: Linda Koenig

Sabbath School 10:00

Family Service 11:05

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Diane Butler
Photographer: Diane Butler
Technical Advisor: Sam Meek

**Videos of all Palo Cedro sermons
are now posted**

on the church website

www.pcadventist.org

Click on "Online Sermons" at the top