

Faith talk



A publication of Crossville Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Longing for Home

The year was 1943. For two years American families had been torn apart and devastated by war. At home sacrifice, disappointment, and heartache filled every home and on the front, morale was low among the battle-worn and homesick GIs. As the year came to a close and Christmas songs started filling the air, a new song captured the attention and hearts of all. The rich, homey voice of Bing Crosby breathed hope into a war-weary nation both at home and on the battlefield.

I'm dreaming tonight of a place I love / Even more than I usually do

And although I know / It's a long road back / I promise you

I'll be home for Christmas / You can count on me

Please have snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree

Christmas eve will find me / Where the love light gleams

I'll be home for Christmas / If only in my dreams.

It's been 75 years since that song buoyed up our nation's spirit. But today we may need it even more. We too are battle-worn, homesick, and wearying of conflict. As Bing's voice wafts through the air this Christmas season, let us be reminded that we are not far from Home. It may still be a long, challenging road but very soon we will be Home. Thanks to the infinite sacrifice of our Homeland, we have a Savior and through Him we are assured of arriving Home. Very soon, our dream will become our reality.

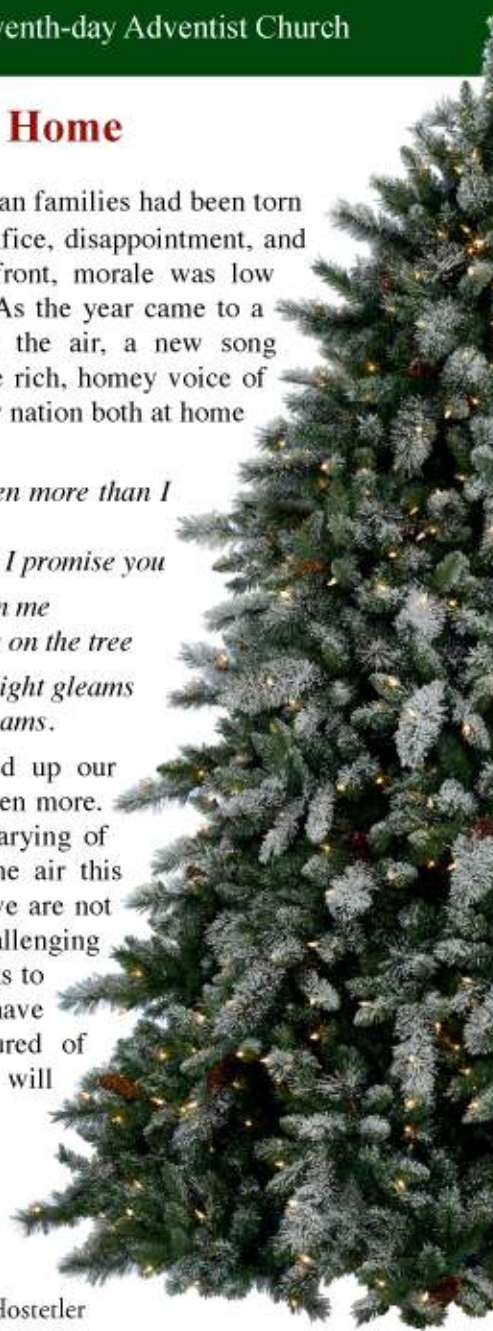
I'm dreaming tonight of the Place I love . . .

And although I know it's a long road back

I promise you

I will be Home . . . you can count on me.

- Janel Hosterler



December 2018

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Prayer Meeting - every Wednesday at 6 p.m.



Adieu

This year has seemed to fly by, and to be honest, we have felt like we have been living in the next month all year in order to make sure the *FaithTalk* newsletter has gotten out prior to the first of each month. Anyone who has worked on monthly projects knows that feeling.

The Communication team has appreciated working together in producing this newsletter and trust you have looked forward to receiving it each month. Due to several contributing factors, we need to reconsider its future. We are contemplating having a quarterly or semiannual publication in lieu of the monthly issue.

It has been a privilege to serve our church by producing *FaithTalk* over the past year, and we look forward to working with you in providing continued communication for our church family.

Marilyn Maples • Janel Hostetler
Faith Lyons • Jerry Stevens



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Inez Wrenn School News

“Servant hearts, open hands,
Willing feet His love demands.
Move us, Lord, to kingdom plans
With servant hearts and open hands.”

So goes the chorus of the song Inez Wrenn students sang for special music at church in October. The children sang with enthusiasm and conviction, for they have been busy this year living out the words of the song.

Taking seriously Jesus’ commission to be His feet and hands to the world around us, the students and staff are being intentional in our outreach to others.

The grades 6–8 class has been preparing soup twice a month for the Bread of Life Rescue Mission. The day of “soup making” finds students arriving early and eagerly jumping into soup prep, which usually involves peeling lots of potatoes and chopping up several bags of carrots, celery, and other veggies. The younger students in the school participate by joining with the older ones in making cards with Bible verses to pass out to the people at the mission, and we blanket all of it with our prayers that the recipients will be blessed and that God will be glorified.

Another fun outreach project was our October 16 visit to Dominion Senior Living Center here in Crossville. There the students sang, played chimes, and then strummed guitars while leading out in a fun sing-along with the residents. Afterwards, the children greeted each senior, giving them blessing cards. One gentleman, whose wife lives at Dominion, shared with a teacher that he rarely sees his wife smile these days, but he said she smiled throughout the IWS children’s visit. It is very obvious that blessings flow back and forth when young people and seniors spend time together, especially when music is involved.

Of course, the school’s card ministry continues this year. Students enjoy designing cards for people who have gone through rough times and need some words of encouragement and accompanying prayers.

Galatians 5:13 states that we Christians are to “through love serve one another.” It is our desire at Inez Wrenn School to help our students develop servant hearts and to provide opportunities for them to use their open hands to bless the world around us.

~ Wanda Moore



Meet the Pastor

We don't need to tell you that God is good! And we don't need to tell you that often our God tests our faith in waiting to answer our prayers! But in the case of arranging for our church's new pastor, we firmly believe He has chosen to promptly answer the prayers of the Crossville Seventh-day Adventist Church as well as the prayers of Pastor Larry Owens and his wife Becky.

The Owneses come to us from the Gulf States Conference where they have been serving the Lord for 9 years; the past 22 months at Bass Memorial Academy in Lumberton, Mississippi. They previously lived and worked just down the mountain from us in the Dayton area. Prior to joining the ministry full-time, Pastor Larry worked for the Bishop Baking Company in Cleveland, Tennessee, for 25 years.

Becky and Pastor Larry have been married for 36 years. They have no children of their own, but Becky has certainly been able to fill her arms and heart with the many babies she has cared for as a labor and delivery nurse and as a "mother in Israel" in her various church families.

Becky's hobbies include sewing, travel, and bird photography. She has a display in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference office in Calhoun, Georgia. Pastor Larry loves studying the Bible, fellowship, and serving others both spiritually and practically. They both enjoy eating out, especially Mexican cuisine.

Our pastoral couple have already settled into a home located on 231 Oakley Dr., Crossville, TN 38555, and are feeling blessed to be here with us.

~ Marilyn Maples



Thoughts From His Word

*"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doth shall prosper."*

Psalm 1:3

H. M. S. Richards tells this story: Looking down from a high mountain, I once gazed across the Arizona desert. Across its sun-scorched face ran a green line to the far horizon. It was the strange, upside-down Hassayampa River. The waters flowing sometimes unseen beneath its sandy bed nourish the luxuriant trees that mark its course across the desert. "Like a tree planted by the rivers of water," the child of God lives, grows, and bears fruit in the desert of this world. This is God's promise: "He shall be like a tree."

Visiting the Sequoia National Forest in northern California, your eyes take in the amazing site of Sequoia trees that have been there for centuries. These majestic trees have been through severe storms: fire, wind, rain, hail, snow; yet they continue to thrive on planet Earth in all their God-given beauty. To our delight, we too can flourish through the storms of life if we choose to stay connected to our Lord and Savior with the study of His Word, prayer, and sharing what Christ has done for us. We are told to "ask and ye shall receive," "we can do all things through Christ Jesus," and "I will never leave you nor forsake you." May we all remember always to stand firm on the promises of God, that we will be ready to meet our Lord and Savior at His imminent return.

~ Linda Belz

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Visit us online at our
Web site:
www.CrossvilleSDA.org

*We'd love to have you come and
worship with us this Sabbath!*

9:15 a.m. Study & Praise

11:00 a.m. Worship



2335 West Avenue • Crossville, Tennessee 38571