



WESTVALE NEWSLETTER

Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church
2511 W Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13219
Pastor: Seong Cho

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Editor: Maria L. Lopez
westvalenewsletter@twcnny.rr.com

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Romans 15:13 | NIV

Seeing The End Through Faith Pastor Cho’s letter

On July 4, 1952, 34 year old Florence Chadwick attempted to swim the 21-mile Pacific channel from Catalina Island to Palos Verdes, coast of Los Angeles, California. Long distance swimming was nothing new to Florence. After all, she had been the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions!

But on that day in July, the water was unusually choppy and ice-cold. The support boats that accompanied her were surrounded by a fog so thick she could hardly see them. The tides and current were against her. On several occasions, prowling sharks and stingrays had to be driven away with rifles. But at daybreak she decided to go for it. Many hours passed but the fog never lifted. Florence swam more than 15 hours and 55 minutes before deciding she couldn't go on, and was taken out of the water. She found out that she was less than a mile from the coast. The fog had made her unable to see her goal, and she failed to get to the end.

Often, our visions and dreams are challenged by obstacles in our way. Our life experience is riddled with occasions where we have failed to reach our goals. However, the Bible reminds us that by the sovereign promise of God and through faith in Christ Jesus all things are possible (Phil. 4:13). That’s how faith works. *Through faith we are given a vision that will help us get through the fog.*

Two months later Florence Chadwick tried again. The day started with an ominous note for Florence and the rest of the support team - the fog was just as dense as before. Despite the poor visibility, she began her swim. Hour after hour she swam with sheer determination, but she was getting tired and wanted to quit. Then she did something different. She said that she kept a mental image of the shoreline in her mind while she swam. At last, she arrived at the shore and crossed the channel in 13 hours and 47 minutes breaking a 27-year-old record by more than 2 hours. She becomes the first woman ever to complete the swim. She said that if it had not been for *the vision*, she wouldn’t have completed the journey.

In the Bible, Goliath was an ominous enemy. He had the pedigree of a perfect warrior. He was 9’9” tall,

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Teen Institute

“Teen Institute (TI) is a 4 day drug prevention/awareness and leadership conference. After completing a participant year, high school students have the opportunity to return as staff, either youth or senior youth staff. When selected for the position, staffers have to plan the TI conference for that year. They choose everything from the theme, to workshops that will take place over the 4 days, and even design the t-shirt. The planning process is 6 months long and is complete with staff trainings, overnight planning sessions, and day meetings. The hard work is all worth it in the end when you get to see the product of your labor and how much of an impact you’ve made in the lives of participants.” ~ Elisha Strachan

**Congratulations to Alaina,
Elisha, and Omame on being
selected as Teen Institute youth staff!**



Alaina Burghardt, Jessica Pitcher,
Elisha Strachan, and Carla Goettsch.



Omame Robinson

Jessica and Carla are the YAYA (youth and young adult) co-leaders and mentors. God bless them and all those who work together with the YAYA of our church!



Parkview students delighted family and friends during their piano recital at Westvale on Sabbath afternoon, June 2nd. Piano teacher Kathy Strickland was very proud of how her students prepared for their recital. Thank you, students!

Picnic at Ryder Park, 6/16

According to Joan Payne, who arranged the picnic for YAYA (youth and young adult) and all adult SS classes, it was very well attended by all age groups. Joan says that between 50 to 75 people attended.

After their meal, some enjoyed further fellowship by taking walks together in the lovely summer day.

Otinie (OT) was baptized at the Union Springs SDA Church by Pastor Cho on June 30th, the last Sabbath of camp meeting. We join his parents, Emmanuel & Sarafina Ndeze, and OT's siblings in extending heartfelt congratulations and blessings! Welcome to the Westvale family, OT!!



Seeing The End Through Faith

and wore at least 175 pounds of armor. Not counting the armor, he would have weighed approximately 600 pounds. There was no question as to what the outcome of the battle between Goliath and David *should have been*. Goliath had a greater advantage over David. This was a no-brainer. But David had quite the attitude. Listen to what he said to King Saul, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you! (1 Sam. 17:37). You'd think David went bonkers! But we know how the story ends. **His faith gave him a vision of victory in God's name.** At the end of the day, David remained standing.

When you're faced with giants in your life, don't be afraid. Instead, **have courage in the Lord** because He works behind the scenes to fulfill the improbable outcomes. And at the end of it all, you shall overcome.

Red Cross Blood Drive at Westvale, July 6th

There were 12 donors (one was a 1st time donor).

10 pints of blood were collected that day.



Maria Lopez (bottom left) helped with registration. Joan Payne (top left) and Kathy Wohlers (bottom right) offered refreshments to the donors and assessed whether they were feeling okay before leaving. Pastor Cho was a strong supporter of the blood drive, and encouraged others to donate.



2 lives became one on July 8th at Westvale Church as this happy couple exchanged vows before God and guests.

Congratulations to Esther Kamanda & Eric Ercule as they begin a new journey as husband and wife. May God always be at the center of your home!