

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

June 2009

It is my privilege to be the new pastor for the Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Two years ago I began praying for the Lord to let me labor in His fields. I realized the Lord is an employer with many job openings. "Please, Lord," I prayed, "pick me to fill one of those openings." On June 1, 2009, I believe the Lord answered my prayer. I thank the Ohio Conference President and the Lancaster Church Board for the opportunity to pastor in Lancaster, Ohio.

Currently, this poses a unique challenge. According to MapQuest, my house is 478 miles from the church. In the Lord's timing I believe this distance will be greatly reduced. But in the meantime, we have to believe that the Lord has orchestrated these circumstances to be a blessing. The Lord has taught me that difficult situations are one of His ways of tugging our hearts closer to His.

There's a saying, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." My wife and I have found this to be true in our relationship. I'm sure in our pastor/church relationship we will find this to be true as well. Now listen to what Jesus says in John 17:24, "I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am." Jesus does not like being so far away from us. The unsettled feeling we have from being so far away from each other, Jesus feels too.

Let us not get used to being so far away from Jesus. Let us do all we can to make the day come soon when we will see Him face to face.