



Hampden Heights Sentinel

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The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. ~ Proverbs 22:3 NIV ~

A Pastor's Final Farewell by Pastor Pete Maldonado

As my family and I follow the Lord's calling to our next assignment, I would like to take the opportunity to thank God for the privilege of having served in the Reading and Fleetwood district. It has been an honor to be your pastoral family and serve those who were willing to accept our family into their hearts and homes. I have no regrets except one: I had hoped to reach more souls for the kingdom of heaven while in this district. I am grateful however for the opportunity the Lord granted to reach the souls we did together.

There are many of you that have risen to a leadership position while I was here, and the Lord is guiding you in what He would have you do. Be still, and know that He is speaking to each of you in a very special way. Do not let those who are jealous or power hungry bring you down. Allow Christ to lead you with the Holy Spirit.

There may be some people that will want to control every aspect of the church. They may think they know best, or simply just feel entitled to do so. Don't worry about that, pray for them, and allow what the Lord puts on your heart to be seen in kindness. Kill them with kindness and show them the love of Jesus Christ. Do not resign your position, do not walk away from what the Lord has called you to do or be in the church. Remember, you are all God's children.

Allow the love of God to permeate throughout His church body. Some will think that dividing the church will help get rid of the goats. Remember, that is God's job, not ours. Show the love of God above all else; it is what He would want you to do, and what I hope for as well. The Bible teaches that we should love one another.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Jesus loved us with an everlasting love. We must show the same love for one another. It is my prayer that we put away envy and strife. Instead, let us search to reflect the character of God to one another.

A wise Arab proverb gives us this advice: "Punish those who envy you by doing good to them." This is what Moses did with Miriam.

Chapter 12 of Numbers describes the rebellion of Miriam and Aaron, two exalted leaders of Israel, against Moses. And although he "was very meek, more than all the men on the earth" (verse 3), he heard about sedition through God himself. We know that you can fool some of the people all the time, and all of the people some of the time, but not all

the people all the time. We can never hide our true intentions in the eyes of the Lord! So, God called the rebels and asked them, "Why, then, were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" (Verse 8). At the end of the chapter, we find a deeply repentant Aaron and Miriam, and Miriam is suffering with leprosy throughout her body. In these circumstances, Moses intercedes for her.

Commenting on this text, Ellen White says that envy was what lit the hearts of Miriam and Aaron in the fire of sedition (see Patriarchs and Prophets).

Envy is more terrible than physical hunger, because it is never sated. The envious one is a corpse that bites, but does not eat. He will never feel satisfied, because envy does not give him anything, unlike virtue. When we look at what others have or do, we lose the sense of what we should do ourselves. Envy is fatal to the heart that nests it, and lasts longer than the happiness of the envied.

The complaints of Miriam and Aaron against Moses showed how unhappy they felt about themselves. Their envy was a sign of inferiority before the superior spirit of a man who responded by seeking God and interceding for them.

(continued on page 2)

A Pastor's Final Farewell (continued from page 1)

Maybe you have been the victim of envy, and also its daughter, called slander. But do not blow against the wind. Persevere in the performance of your duty and keep silent. Trust that God puts all things in their place in due time.

And as Romans 12:21 tells us, "Overcome evil with good."

Remember, let us pray not only for ourselves, but also for those who have harmed us, and continue to harm us and others. The Golden Rule is to treat others as you would want to be treated. This will illustrate the evidence of who lives in your heart.

"But I say to you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit

is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." Luke 6:27-36 NKJV

Please forgive me if I came up short of your expectations. I know the Lord works with me, and He will make up for my shortcomings. But remember this when you find yourself missing my family and me: we have loved you all with the everlasting love of God.

You live in our hearts, you don't pay rent, and we will never, ever kick you out.



We will miss you all very much.



Blessing always.
Pastor Pete, Virginia & kids.



Grace's Outpost by Ashley Richards

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." – Philippians 2:14-15, ESV

Let's talk about gratitude. (And I wince to say it, complaining.)

A little over a month ago, I was informed by my boss that I was being pulled out of catering. (Some of you know this already—most do not. It's been hard to talk about.) I think there are a lot of inner-office politics at work as to why this is happening. Though I've been promised that it isn't because I did a bad job, the words they say and the actions they do seem to indicate two totally opposite things. I don't really understand what is going on, but I've felt hurt, I've felt bitter, and though I've tried to behave in a way that would make Jesus proud, I feel betrayed. I've worked for years to get into catering, was given indication that I'd be doing it pretty much full-time in the coming weeks, and then it was unceremoniously yanked out from under me, and I was left reeling.

I've found myself ranting and raving way more than I know has pleased Jesus.

A very large portion of my frustrations is from the fact that because I no longer do catering, I am receiving hundreds of dollars less each month, and December, I wasn't even able to make ends meet.

I know, at times, I'm prone to over exaggeration and

melodramatics, so I made a decision to wait to speak to management until the first of February, and I said a simple prayer. "God, I don't think the numbers add up, and I'm worried and scared. I desire to trust You, but I don't know what to do. You have promised to open the floodgates of heaven if we return to You what is Yours, so I vow to return my tithe to You, even in this hard time. Please bless this decision and meet my need." And that was that.

I'm not going to lie and say it was easy (it definitely hasn't been!), but of all the lessons I've learned this month, the one I've learned most clearly is this: God Almighty has opened the floodgates of heaven and showered upon me blessing upon blessing. He has met my need in very limited financial confines, and blessed me with funds to spare. When I started this month, I never would've thought I would've been at this place, but what does that verse in Malachi say? "And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Malachi 3:10, ESV). That has been my month. I put God to the test and He has opened the floodgates of heaven over me until there was no more need.

And yet, a couple days ago, I found myself complaining. Oh, I sounded so bitter. So angry. After all God had provided for me, all I could focus on was all that had been taken away from me, and I just kept spewing my venom onto others. It was ugly, and I am so ashamed.

And then, in the quiet of the night, hours later, the Holy Spirit comes to me. Prompts me. "Was the Father's gift not good enough, Ashley? Why do you spit at the generosity of the Father? He provided for your need and gave you surplus to spare, and this is how you repay your God?"

I was instantly ashamed. Horrified. Convicted. How had I done this evil thing in the sight of the Lord?

I had asked for His blessing, and out of the goodness and generosity of His heart, God had provided! And yet, I had spat at His gift.

Philippians 2 instantly filled my mind. A passage I've been convicted by for years, but find so hard to put into practice. "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (verses 14-15).

Wow. The idea that I can be a shining light for my Savior just by not grumbling or complaining still takes my breath away and boggles my mind! What a simple witness, but what a necessary one.

Oh, how I struggle with this! The fast food industry is a breeding ground for complainers, and it has become perfected in me. But I know I am not the only Christian to struggle with this! Our bitterness only serves to needlessly divide us, and oh, how it breaks God's heart!

Let us commit to be the complain-free church. Do we have issues? Of course we do! We're still Jesus' work-in-progress. But let us bring our complaints to our Heavenly Father—the One who meets our every need!—rather than our fellow man—whom we can plunge into hell by our foolish deeds and corrupted witness—and let the Holy Spirit rid us—rid *me*—of this evil so we can shine as lights in the world! Has not Jesus done enough for us? Can we not be grateful for what He has given us? This road is not easy, but it will start with me.

I will be Jesus' light today.

Going Deeper by Barbara Snyder

Growing Up

I have a modern-day parable to illustrate individual growth in Christ, and as the basic preparation in soul winning. I hope you like this parable and I pray you read to the very end so that we will as a church have individual spiritual growth and solid background for our evangelistic programs.

Jesus told parables; ministers tell parables. I have a parable for you from my favorite minister. I have elaborated on it and found that it is conducive to much expansion. I have repeated it in various levels to most of the children at RJA. I have yet to tell the Pre-K and K, and the 9th and 10th graders, so please don't steal my thunder! I can't wait to tell them. The parable is a story about an elevator, simple and easy to understand. The only difficulty the first and second graders had was understanding what an elevator was. They preferred the escalator, but an escalator doesn't quite fit the story. Please imagine yourself as the individual using the elevator. To begin...

You've heard about a wonderful place where all are welcomed and loved. Such a perfect place was atop a huge skyscraper where the view was perfect, the air clear and comfortable, and where everyone was joyful and busy doing what they wanted. You want to go, of course, and set off to find the building. It is no hard decision to take the elevator unless you want to take the stairs, work hard to advance, and find out that whatever you do, however

physically fit you are, the stairs are an impossible feat, discouraging, and meaningless. But there is an elevator.

You press UP; doors open, and you enter. There are others in the elevator, some empty handed, some with baggage either in their hands or on the floor, backpacks, laptops, cell phones. Only one man has nothing. He is standing in the back, has a long white cloak, and is talking to anyone who approaches him. It is welcoming to talk to him, or just to stand near, enjoying his presence. Elevator doors open and shut on every floor. Some people enter; some leave, but the elevator is always going up. Sometimes when the door opens people throw out some of their baggage. There is no need for it. At other times the owner or others in the elevator trip on the baggage. When they trip, they fall. When they fall down, lo and behold, they are still going up, aren't they? Because they are in the elevator. The man in the long white cloak never attempts to leave the elevator. He is always there.

Now let's squeeze the meaning out of this modern-day parable. Who's the man in white? Easy answer. What does the baggage signify? Also an easy answer...sin, history, faults, failings, weaknesses, loves, yes, even good loves sometimes. You fill in the rest. You name your baggage. That might not be so easy. Don't forget the ego, self-centeredness, a desire to be lazy etc. Write

your answer here.

Where is the elevator going? We could think, "Why, it is going to heaven, of course." But I would challenge you to think more deeply about that one.

What happens when YOU fall down in the elevator? Are you "going" up or down? Elaborate on that too.

What does the elevator mean? Some of you would say the church. I'd like you to think more about that because my premise is the building might be the church, but the elevator is something else.

The story of the elevator is the Good News. But what is the elevator itself? How about relationship; can the elevator be relationship? As long as you are in a relevant, growing relationship, as long as you stay with Jesus, you are in the elevator and going up. As there are always people wandering around on different floors of that building, pressing the down button, and yes, always people leaving the elevator, leaving the PERSONAL relationship with Jesus, there is work to do. When the doors open (a parable in itself) you can call out to those wanderers. But you must never leave the relationship, no matter how much "work" you have to do. Your preparation, your work is to cling to a relationship with Jesus. He will take you as far and as fast as you are willing to go. The relationship changes you and your work with others, Christlike relationships with others.

Now I am going to tie the elevator into our church's planned Faith for Family Program. Faith for Family's mission is to reach out with our Jesus Himself, our Good News, our Righteousness by Faith message, to call souls into the elevator. The program is a good one, an effective one, and a blessed one. I'm calling all of us to stay in the elevator and while we are there, grab the Lord as often as possible, many times a day and ask Him for blessings, and harvest, and growth; personal growth first and foremost. Jesus attracts.

I would like to add one more thing: Prayer is not always words. It is not always specific thoughts. Prayer is knowing His presence in our lives and living our appreciation, breathing our gratitude, embracing our redemption, hugging our creation, and sitting in our closet waiting to hear His voice. May God bless you as you ask Him for prayer as a gift. Everything good is His gift. And never leave the elevator. In the translation *The Message*, Paul writes in the letter to the Colossians 1:22-23, "But now, by giving Himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in His presence." You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned into the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other message - just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message...

Alleluia! Amen.

Meet a Member by Ashley Richards

This month's meet-a-member article profiles someone very special to my own heart—Shirley Blackerby! She was my secret sister last year, and blessed me many times over with her prayers and encouraging words (okay, the fudge and books definitely didn't hurt!). I'm very blessed to call her a friend, and am forever grateful that God brought her into my life in such a special way.

Shirley didn't grow up in a Seventh-day Adventist family, but she did grow up in a Christian one. She was baptized as a baby in the Windsor Street Methodist Church, and was later confirmed in the Schwartswald UCC Church as a teenager, although she had no specific denomination's affiliation after she was on her own. In 2009, she received a flyer from the Hampden Heights Church, advertising meetings regarding a Revelation seminar—right after she had announced to her husband, Eric, that she was planning on ending their 25-year marriage (What timing!). She calls it divine intervention. Eric decided to attend the meetings, and, after having left the Adventist church 40 years previously, was rebaptized into the Adventist church a couple months after the meetings began!

Three months after that, Eric invited her to the Pennsylvania Conference marriage retreat. She hesitated, but eventually agreed to go. "It was a near disaster," she admits. But after that, she began attending church at Hampden, separately from Eric, and then Sabbath

School. She was then baptized in 2012, a couple years after Eric's rebaptism. "I am forever grateful to the Romans, Jaegers, Freeses, Johnses, and Gloria [Goodrich] for praying for me and Eric, and instantly including us and helping me through many Bible and spiritual challenges," she shared. Since her baptism, she's been the Sabbath School Secretary for many years now. She also helps Eric with the AV for the second year now, and also helped with the food bank for two years. As every deaconess will attest to, Shirley is an unofficial deaconess, and helps out with nearly every potluck since she started attending! ("I've been known to perform some deacon duties as well!" she admits.) She loves helping out behind the scenes.

Shirley grew up in Berks County, and has never lived anywhere else! She worked for AAA for 46 years—starting out with a school work program in high school, all the way to her retirement in 2015, working in various departments (Membership, Emergency Road Service, Accounting, Administrative Assistant to the Corporate Secretary, and Human Resources Secretary!). The timing was perfect, she explains, for her retirement afforded her the time to care for her father (whom we have all known by the name Boots and dearly loved!) before his passing in 2017.

She admits to not having a favorite Bible passage—she loves too many!—but loves to write down passages that touch her heart on index cards so she can remember them more clearly. She loves reading the book of James for direction.

"My favorite thing about Jesus is His loving, caring, gentle personality. I just want to be able to hang out with Him, to see Him, touch Him, hear Him, and be hugged by Him!" she says.

Some Things You May Not Know About Shirley:

1. Between a previous marriage and her current marriage to Eric, Shirley has 4 children and 8 grandchildren! (She says, "Unfortunately, I have not raised my kids in a church setting and grandkids follow the same path, but we are faithfully praying for the Holy Spirit to convict them. May I solicit you prayer warriors reading this to add them to your pray list too? One can never have enough prayers!")

2. Shirley and Eric have dabbled in a lot of holistic, non-religious spiritual activities searching for peace, happiness, and contentment. (She says, "[We] never found it completely. I have found it in Jesus and the Bible. It just took me a long time. I look back at my past now and can find God's hand in caring for me in many difficult and challenging times. I just didn't know it at the time. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!")

Author's note: We here at the Sentinel are sad to announce that this is to be the last "Meet-a-Member" section of the newsletter—at least for a while!—as we make room for other features for the newsletter. We will always be grateful for all the love this section received, and all of you who agreed to share your heart and your lives with us—your church family!

RJA News Corner by Lee Stahl, Principal

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO?

Ms. Cindy's class knows!

The pre-K and Kindergarten class has been following live animal web cams each morning from zoos around the world. The children watched as an alligator snapping turtle got a pedicure, and a blind tiger got his checkup for his prosthetic eyes. We have seen a baby kangaroo, elephant, koala bear and giraffe being born and watched their daily progress, and checked in on an animal refuge in Australia to learn how they're working to save penguins from extinction. Mr. Harold Lebo also visits us bi-weekly to teach us about local animals and birds. We are having SO MUCH FUN that we have been sharing the highlights with Mrs. Peterson's 1st and 2nd grade class each Friday.

WHY ARE KIDS IMPATIENT, BORED, FRIENDLESS, AND ENTITLED?

Below is an excerpt from an article written by Victoria Prooday, OT. The entire article can be found on the link below. I encourage you to read it. She provides some great insight to a problem that continues to grow in our society.

<https://yourot.com/parenting-club/2016/5/16/why-our-children-are-so-bored-at-school-cant-wait-and-get-so-easily-frustrated>

I am an occupational therapist with 10 years of experience working with children, parents, and teachers. In my practice, I have seen and continue to see a decline in kids' social, emotional, and academic functioning, as well as a sharp increase in learning disabilities and other diagnoses. Today's children come to school emotionally unavailable for learning, and there are many factors in our modern lifestyle that contribute to this. As we know, the brain is malleable. Through environment, we can make the brain "stronger" or make it "weaker". I truly believe that, despite all our greatest intentions, we unfortunately remold our children's brains in the wrong direction. Here is why:

1. Technology

Using technology as a "free babysitting service" is, in fact, not free at all. The payment is waiting for you just around the corner. We pay with our kids' nervous systems, with their attention, and with their ability for delayed gratification. Compared to virtual reality, everyday life is boring. When kids come to the classroom, they are exposed to human voices and adequate visual stimulation as opposed to being bombarded with the graphic explosions and special effects that they are used to seeing on the screens. After hours of virtual reality, processing information in a classroom becomes increasingly challenging for our kids because their brains are getting used to the high levels of stimulation that video games provide.

The inability to process lower levels of stimulation leaves kids vulnerable to academic challenges. Technology also disconnects us emotionally from our children and our families. Parental emotional availability is the main nutrient for child's brain. Unfortunately, we are gradually depriving our children of that nutrient.

2. Kids get everything they want the moment they want

"I am hungry!!" "In a sec I will stop at the drive thru" "I am thirsty!" "Here is a vending machine." "I am bored!" "Use my phone!" The ability to delay gratification is one of the key factors for future success. We have the best intentions -- to make our children happy -- but unfortunately, we make them happy at the moment but miserable in the long term. To be able to delay gratification means to be able to function under stress. Our children are gradually becoming less equipped to deal with even minor stressors, which eventually become huge obstacles to their success in life. The inability to delay gratification is often seen in classrooms, malls, restaurants, and toy stores the moment the child hears "No" because parents have taught their child's brain to get what it wants right away.

3. Kids rule the world

"My son doesn't like vegetables." "She doesn't like going to bed early." "He doesn't like to eat breakfast." "She doesn't like toys, but she is very good at her iPad" "He doesn't want to get dressed on his own." "She is too lazy to eat on her own." This is what I hear from parents all the time. Since when do children dictate to us how to parent them? If we leave it all up to them, all they are going to do is eat macaroni and cheese and bagels with cream cheese, watch TV, play on their tablets, and never go to bed. What good are we doing them by giving them what they WANT when we know that it is not GOOD for them? Without proper nutrition and a good night's sleep, our kids come to school irritable, anxious, and inattentive. In addition, we send them the wrong message. They learn they can do what they want and not do what they don't want. The concept of "need to do" is absent. Unfortunately, in order to achieve our goals in our lives, we have to do what's necessary, which may not always be what we want to do. For example, if a child wants to be an A student, he needs to study hard. If he wants to be a successful soccer player, he needs to practice every day. Our children know very well what they want, but have a very hard time doing what is necessary to achieve that goal. This results in unattainable goals and leaves the kids disappointed.

(To continue reading go to the website link listed above.)

Faith for Family by Nancy Stump

Hampden Heights is hosting Faith for Family this year! For those who do not know, this event began in 2015. It initially was designed to bring families together to pray for one another to have a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. This was also the year when the pope came to the United States, and the Pennsylvania Conference leaders wanted to bring awareness of Jesus through the family. "Over 1,300 believers, consisting of teachers, pastors and Christian students converged on Philadelphia and Reading, and shared more than one million pieces of literature about Jesus with people. As a result, 120 small groups were started and more than 100 people gave their lives to Jesus through baptism." www.faithforfamily.org, 2018.

Since the initial start, the event went to the west, the

In all these areas, people from various parts of the state travelled to help those areas by passing out fliers, handbills, and doorhangers. For one day each year, the people would come together from various parts of the state and sing, worship together, and help launch a campaign for Jesus Christ. The literature being handed out is for Bible studies, possible events at a local church and fliers about an upcoming evangelistic series in the area. It is a day for making new friends and sharing the love for Christ with others. The people who go out into the city/towns are excited about being there and wanting to share Jesus. Those who stay behind are either praying for safety for those out in the streets and

others are helping with food preparations and clean up.

There is something to do for all ages. For the past three years, total membership involvement has increased with baptism, with 555 being last year, and an increase in tithe giving by 15%. This year, the southeastern part of PA is being targeted for evangelism. Reading Hampden Heights, along with Kenhorst and possibly Fleetwood, are churches in this area that are looking to participate in this event. This event starts before the September 14th date. Our church will be looking to have prayer meetings and social events, church trainings and church beautification. All ages are welcomed to participate and invite others to join.

Areas in Need of Help:

- PRAY (anytime and look for dates to participate)
- Cleaning bees for church (look for upcoming dates)
- Community events (Invite *and* participate!)
- Food Preparation {Someone or several people to organize} For Sept. 14th - Lunch and Dinner
- Bible training in sharing (Anyone interested may come and participate— look for upcoming dates)

More information will be given as events come about. Keep February 9th or 16th open if you are interested in participating in a Commitment Rally. This will be in the local area and waiting for latest information from the Pennsylvania Conference.

Calendar of Events for February submitted by Wendy Hughes

Date	Day	Event	Time	Committee/Speaker	Chairperson	Location
2-2-19	Saturday	Communion	11:00AM	Elders		Sanctuary
2-2-19	Saturday	1 st of the Month Bible Study and Potluck	12:30PM	Wayne Johns	Wayne & Arleen Johns	Fellowship Hall
2-2-19	Saturday	Game Night	6:00-8:00PM	Young Youth	The McLeans	Fellowship Hall
2-3-19	Sunday	Lay Pastor Training	10:00AM-2:00PM	Lay Pastors	Lance Moncrieffe	Fellowship Hall
2-5-19	Tuesday	Pathfinders	6:00PM	Pathfinders	Virginia Maldonado	Fellowship Hall
2-9-19	Saturday	Baking & Movie Night	6:00PM	Adventist Youth	Wendy & Daren Hughes	Fellowship Hall
2-10-19	Sunday	Friendship Dinner Fundraiser	5:30	Pathfinders	Virginia Maldonado	Fellowship Hall
2-12-19	Tuesday	Pathfinders	6:00PM	Pathfinders	Virginia	Fellowship Hall
2-17-19	Sunday	Valentines Dinner	1:00PM	Social Committee	Arleen Johns	Fellowship Hall
2-23-19	Saturday	Movie Night Fundraiser	6:30	Pathfinders	Virginia	Fellowship Hall
2-26-19	Tuesday	Pathfinders	6:00PM	Pathfinders	Virginia	Fellowship Hall

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www.HampdenHeightsChurch
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The Children's Page by Ashley Richards

Oh, no! Someone has told a very special Bible story, but some of the letters are missing! Can you figure out what the story says?

O_ce u_on a ti_e, th_re _as a ma_w_o l_ved a lo_g, _ong t_me _go i_ a l_nd fa_, far a_ay. H_s _ame w_s Jo_. J_b fol_owed Go_—so mu_h t_at it _ade Sat_n an_ry! On_ d_y, S_tan ca_e to a m_eti_g _efore G_d in h_aven, an_ Go_ b_asted a_out _ow a_azin_ Jo_ _as, ho_mu_h he _oved God a_d h_w ki_d _nd _ood an_ ho_y _ob wa_. _atan _id no_ a_ree. He b_amed G_d! He s_id t_at of cou_se Job hon_red G_d, becau_e Go_ h_d gi_en _ob ma_y g_fts! (An_ it _as tr_e—Job _as a _ery wea_thy _an, wi_h lo_s o_cr_ps an_ he_ds of anim_ls, a_ife, _nd e_en t_e_ch_ldren!) Sata_sa_d _hat if _od too_ aw_y t_ose _ifts fro_ Jo_, t_at _ob _ould cu_se Go_ t_ H_s _ace. Go_ a_reed to l_t S_tan tes_ Jo_ wi_h al_ _is b_longings—his p_operty, h_s a_imals, eve_hi_chi_dren—bu_t_at _atan w_s _ot to ph_sicall_ ha_m Jo_ hi_self.

S_ _atan _sed e_ery po_er he co_ld, a_d he _illed Job' _t_n child_en, a_d des_roye_ a_l of _ob's c_ops, pro_erty, _nd ani_als, _ut S_tan d_d n_t t_uch Jo_ h_mself. An_ Jo_ mou_ned t_e l_ss o_ a_l th_ t_ings tha_ Sa_an ha_d stroy_d, b_t he sa_d, "Na_ed I c_me fro_ my m_ther's wo_b, a_d _aked I s_all re_urn. T_e Lor_g_ve, and _he Lor_h_s t_ken a_ay; bl_ssed be _he n_me of _he Lo_d!" T_rough al_ of _his, J_b d_d _ot si_a_ainst _od.

A_ter _his, Sat_n a_ain m_ets bef_re Go_, _nd _od aga_n a_ks Sa_an a_out H_s ser_ant, Jo_, _ho wa_ks b_ame_ess_y wi_h G_d. _atan aga_n b_ames Go_, sa_ing _hat on_e _ob's _ife i_ th_eat_ned, he wi_l sur_ly c_rse Go_ to Hi_fa_e. S_, to _how th_t He is fir a_d fu_l of m_rcy, _od a_lows Sata_ to at_ack Jo_'s heal_h, co_mand_ng on_y tha_ Sa_an no_ki_l _ob. Sat_n a_flicts Job' _bo_y wi_h pai_ful sor_s al_ov_r, a_d t_ets to b_so_ad th_t _ob's wi_e t_lls Jo_ to c_rse Go_ an_ _ie.

Jo_re_uses. _hen Jo_'s f_iends c_me to s_e Jo_ _o en_ourage h_m, th_y thin_ they o_fer hi_a_vice, bu_t_ey sa_ aw_ul th_ngs li_e tha_ he mus_'ve sin_ed for G_d to _ave t_eated hi_so ba_ly. _ob d_es no_ cu_se _od, b_t he b_com_s ve_y bit_er in _is pa_n an_ sa_s angr_ th_ngs.

Fina_ly, _od co_es in a w_irl_ind an_ in_er_upts t_e ba_a_vice of _ob's fri_nds. _e te_ls J_b to be b_ave _nd to ans_er Hi_ que_tion_. Q_esti_ns I_ke, "Wh_re w_re yo_ wh_n I la_d th_ fo_ndation o_t_e_e_rth? Tel_m_, if _ou h_ve un_erstan_ing!" Jo_re_lizes th_t t_ough h_d _ot cur_e G_d, he d_d no_ resp_ct the p_wer, auth_rity, an_ goo_ness of _od as he sh_uld h_ve. Go_ fo_gives Jo_ and re_tores to hi_al_th_t he _ad l_st (t_ice as m_ch pr_perty as he h_d o_ce ha_!), in_luding t_n mo_e chil_ren. Jo_ l_ved a ve_y l_ng li_e a_d fol_owed a_ter Go_ wi_h a_l of _is _eart!

Recipe of the Month by Arleen Johns

Halvah Candy

1 C tahini (sesame seed paste)

1¼ C soy milk powder or rice milk powder

½ C honey

Slivered almonds or chopped pecans for topping (optional)

Mix the honey and tahini together first, then mix in the milk powder.

Press into square dish, top with nuts if using, and press down.

Refrigerate to cool for at least 1 hour.

This is a quick and yummy healthy dessert.

It reminds me of my grandfather, because every summer at Soquel Camp-meeting (CA) he would buy us Halvah that came in a can. I can almost taste it now!

Enjoy.