

THE LOOK FORWARD...

Pastor's Corner

by Roger Schmidt

The Good Hand of God

We've all heard the expression, "Good things come to those who wait," and while I want to believe it, the cynical side of me wonders if the person who uses this expression has ever spent time in the waiting room at the dentist's office, or the DMV. Sometimes a long wait is rewarded by something even less desirable.

Waiting can be one of the most frustrating human experiences. Most of us are impatient by nature and don't like to wait. Think of how many times you've walked into a restaurant, taken one look at the crowd, and left. Or worse, how many times have you felt your blood pressure rise as you wait in bumper to bumper traffic. People don't like to wait, and yet, the frustration of waiting is a part of the human experience. We all know, instinctively, that we have but a finite amount of time to live our lives and we don't want to waste it waiting in line at Piggly Wiggly.

So the marketplace responds. We've been given drive-through windows, ATM's, instant coffee, same-day deliveries, microwave ovens, fast food restaurants, and instant credit, just to name a few. We don't just want it all—we want it all NOW! Is it any wonder that we have a hard time waiting on God? We've become so accustomed to getting what we need, without having to wait, that we project that expectation onto God.

The dilemma is that God often wants us to wait because of the blessings associated with it. Consider these examples:

Micah 7:7 "I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation."

Psalm 62:5 "My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him."

Romans 8:25 "But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

We all know that waiting on God builds character, patience and trust. But we should also recognize the role of hope. Our period of waiting on God can and should be a hopeful experience. This can be accomplished by using the waiting time as an opportunity to prepare for God's miracle. Here's an example:

Nehemiah was an exiled Jew and a servant in the court of the King of Persia during the time when the Jews had been given permission to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, Nehemiah heard discouraging progress reports from Jerusalem. The project had come to a stop for lack of leadership and vision. These negative reports saddened Nehemiah but also motivated him to do something about it. He decided to use his access to the king to get help, so he went to the Lord in humble prayer and asked that the king would be compassionate. And then he waited...four months.

In four months, it's easy to forget about your prayer. It's easy to get discouraged and frustrated. It's easy to console yourself by saying, "Sometimes God says, 'No.'" But Nehemiah didn't do any of that; he simply waited. But he waited in a hopeful way. He used his waiting period to get ready for God's answer.

When the king eventually asked what he could do for him, Nehemiah had an action plan ready to go and ready to present to the king. He had thought about the details, he had planned for contingencies, he knew what to say. As a result, the king granted his request. Nehemiah recognized that this result was an answer to his prayer. He said, "The king granted [my request] because the good hand of my God was on me (Nehemiah 2:8)."

What an example for us! You see, after Nehemiah prayed, he lived his life as though he believed that God would answer his prayer. What we can see from our vantage point was that God was not waiting to answer, he was giving Nehemiah time to prepare for the answer. In other words, the wait was a part of the answer.

When we go to the Lord in prayer, let's trust Him and His perfect timing. Let's assume that the wait we experience is a part of the answer. Let's use the time of waiting to prepare for the day when the Lord will reveal that His good hand has been on us the whole time.

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------



	1	2	3	4 HES Storytime 10:30 a.m.	5 Sunset 7:11 p.m.	6 Worship: Roger Schmidt \$ Church Budget Fellowship Dinner – Fellowship Hall Adventurers – 4:00 p.m. Gymnix Homeshow – 8:15 p.m.
7 CS Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 p.m. Pathfinders 5:00 p.m.	8	9 CS Thrift Store 9:30-12:00 Moms in Progress 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee 6:00 p.m. Church Board 7:00 p.m.	10 Prayer & Praise 6:00 p.m.	11 HES Storytime 10:30 a.m.	12 Pathfinder Sunset 7:17 p.m.	13 Worship: Easter Cantata \$ Christian Record Services Campout
14 CS Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 p.m.	15 HES Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Prayer & Praise 6:00 p.m.	18 HES Storytime 10:30 a.m.	19 Sunset 7:23 p.m.	20 Roger Schmidt \$ Church Budget Adventurers – 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Jaime Jorge Concert
21 CS Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 p.m. Pathfinders 5:00 p.m.	22	23 Moms in Progress – 6:00 p.m. CS Thrift Store 9:30-12:00 noon	24 Prayer & Praise 6:00 p.m.	25 HES Storytime 10:30 a.m.	26 Sunset 7:29 p.m.	27 Worship: Pathfinder Sabbath \$ KY-TN Advance Adventurers – 4:00 p.m.
28 CS Thrift Store 1:00-4:00 p.m.	29	30 Moms in Progress – 6:00 p.m. CS Thrift Store 9:30-12:00 noon				



HES Receives Second STEM Grant Award



Highland Elementary has received a STEM grant from the Versacare Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. It is the purpose of Versacare to serve humanity by engaging in activities that will further the kingdom of God and restore the Image of God in man. Versacare believes that this fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus urges them to emphasize human health and dignity and the search for knowledge. For the first time the Versafund board voted to fund every STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) grant application for 2019, amounting to \$920,000 for 118 Seventh-day Adventist Schools. This is the second time Highland Elementary has received a STEM grant from Versacare in the amount of \$10,000. Highland Elementary plans to use the grant money for the purchase of 20 additional iPads, a storage cart, a mounted projector and educational apps for use by our students.

Jump Rope for Heart

Highland Elementary students in grades pre-8th all participated in Jump Rope for Heart on February 28. HES has been actively participating in Jump Rope for Heart since 2006. This year the students raised about \$1,350 for the American Heart Association. Students spent all of February focusing on personal fitness in physical education class.



What's Happening at Highland...



Exodus 14:14

"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still."

Info on the Church web site

Be sure to check the church website for the updated church calendar as occasionally things change. Archived sermons are also available to listen to by clicking the **Livestream** link.

Calling All Busy Moms! *Moms in Progress*

Tuesday Evenings at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

A special time of fellowship just for YOU!

Gymnix Homeshow 2019

Saturday night, April 6, 8:15 p.m.
in the Raphan Ley Auditorium

Special appearance by the Highland Elementary School **Tumble Crew**

Come early for a good seat!

Jaime Jorge

The

Healing Music

Concert Tour

Highland Church
Saturday, April 20, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy this **FREE** concert. CDs and DVDs available following the concert.



Happy Birthday

1. Marcy Bieber, Ron Mateo
2. Jeri Bradley, Rachel Hacker, Jonathan McPherson, Kylan Stanley
3. Joel Aldrich, Richard Bagshaw, Christy Cooke
- 4.
5. Iliana Corcino, Jonathan Harrison, Katie Jones, Larry Lawrence, Andy Wade
6. Amy Cirigliano
- 7.
8. Noelle Clinton
9. Charles Chamberlain
- 10.
11. Kaye Allen, Heidi Canosa, Judy Hall, Lauren Schmidt
12. Sophie Anna Carvell, Mindy Rogge
- 13.
14. David Swatzell
15. Nick Bradley, Preston Bradley, Jenny Jewett, Polly Tucker
16. Kimberly Day, Denice Dial
17. Gabrielle Groft, Corinthia Lopez
18. David Beckworth
- 19.
- 20.
21. Brittany Day, Melanie Meekma
22. Rita Scott
23. Bonnie Haviland, Brandon Rogers
- 24.
- 25.
26. Jonathan Fuller, Jane Jollay, Peggy Parrish
- 27.
28. Will Anderson, Jr.
29. Kenneth Culbreath

May you be blessed on your birthday and in the coming year!