



Weekly newsletter, May 16, 2020

Pastor's Message

Greetings, Apopka Church Family!

This week I read through a fascinating passage: 1 Kings 8 and Solomon's prayers at the dedication of the Temple. Just to give some highlights, from *The Message*...

O God... there is no God like you in the skies above or on the earth below who unswervingly keeps covenant with his servants and relentlessly loves them as they sincerely live in obedience to your way. You kept your Word to David... You did exactly what you promised... Keep it up, God, O God of Israel!... Can it be that God will actually move into our neighborhood?

In the following verses, Solomon appeals to God to hear his personal matters, to hear cries for justice, cries for rescue and relief, calls for provision, appeals from foreigners, for victory, and for return to Jerusalem from exile resulting from sin. All of this is asked in the context of forgiveness. It almost seems like these are mostly provisional prayers for forgiveness and redemption, with the exception of prayers from foreigners, prayers regarding war, and personal petitions.

This was a very public prayer. God is still the *audience* of that prayer, as He is of any true prayer. But this one requests of God to come true, even to continue coming true, on His promises. It is a plea for Israel to move forward in solidarity and agreement under God's promises and faithfulness, and in agreement with what they'd do when they go off course.

Solomon's prayer reflected God's faithfulness, even in the light of human frailty. He proved Himself faithful in their past. They were bound to sin and suffer consequences. The appeal, "God, remain faithful! Remind us of Your faithfulness, forgiveness, and power to make us right!" may seem to be as much for the benefit of the people.

Here's the thing: It is God's desire to hear His people. It is God's desire to forgive and heal and make people right.

We must remember in our prayers, first and foremost, Who God is. Our own prayers flow from an understanding of Him, and should inform our prayers.

Our stated mission... to extend the ministry of Christ to our community with hope and wholeness... needs our prayers. We, like Israel of old, may get off course. We may need correction. Even now, when we pray... individually or as a church family... let us remember God's faithfulness even when we are frail. Let us remember that He has proven Himself over and over again. Let us always move forward as a church in solidarity and unity under His mission and love, in agreement that we will always appeal to Him, whether on course or off.

He will always be faithful!

James Johnson
Youth Pastor,
Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church

Virtual Services

Virtual Sabbath Worship Services: Go to www.apopkasdachurch.com for our local Sabbath School options and the worship service.

Local Sabbath School Options

- **“Perspectives” Sabbath School, James Johnson: 7:00 PM**, Friday evening. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/597674660>.
- **High School Sabbath School, 10:00 AM**, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84523787323?pwd=dkVGajg4UGNuSEJlZkQ4SlhxBz09> Meeting ID: 895 1979 8035, Password: 2PYKey.
- **Adult Sabbath School Quarterly 1, George Crawford: 10:00 AM**, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/914391071>.
- **Adult Sabbath School Quarterly 2, Jack Carey: 10:00 AM**, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/601759026>.
- **Adult Sabbath School Quarterly 3, Hugo Kennedy, 10:15 AM**, Sabbath morning, Go to <https://zoom.us/j/3999743097>. Meeting ID: 399 974 3097. Dial by location +1- 929- 436-2866, US (NY).
- **Seeker’s Class, Scott Shelton: 9:55 AM**, Sabbath morning. Go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2249739986>. Password is - 287556
- **Junior Sabbath School** - We now have an online Junior Sabbath School each Sabbath morning at **10:00 AM**. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82360827579?pwd=eTZPVngwNzZDQmdSdGZMN1Y5VXE4dz09> (Meeting ID: 823 6082 7579; Password: Juniors).

Every Wednesday at 7:00 PM, anyone who is part of our Juniors Sabbath School Class is invited to a virtual “check-in” to be able to say hello to our friends we haven’t been able to see for awhile. Join us at...

<https://us04webzoom.us/j/77111838436?password:TFNOTXJyNmRkUXcvOGIhb2FEdk40Zz09>

- **Message:** “The Gospel in the Neighborhood,” James Johnson. **Scriptures:** Selections from John 4; Proverbs 20:5; John 14:9; John 12:49; 1 Peter 2:9, 12; 1 Peter 3:14-15
 - **Next Week’s Message:** "Remember, and Celebrate" (Online Communion)
 - **Online Communion Next Week** - Next week, we will celebrate "online communion." To participate, buy or bake unleavened bread, and pick up 100% Grape Juice. We will provide a link to a recipe on our website this week. We encourage you to participate in washing each other's feet within your family before enjoying the Lord's Supper with each other online.
 - **Your Next Step "Connection Card":** Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9FCMY3Z> to specify what "next step(s)" you want to take with Jesus!
 - **Every week** is a new opportunity for us to invite people to take a step in their lives with Jesus! We encourage each of you to fill out an online connection card after viewing our service this weekend. We intend to continue this with physical and digital connection cards when we are able to worship together again!
 - **Build 7** will be presented by Isabel Broome and Juliet Nelson.
- Featured Offering** for this week will be presented by: Larry Campbell. Our offering this week is for the Local Church Budget. Please remember our “Build 7 – Building Fund” as well. Thank you for your support of God’s work in our community! You can give online at <https://adventistgiving.org/#/org/ANTBBB/envelope/start>
- **Children’s story** this week by Josue Sotomayor.
 - **Family prayer** will be presented by Lou Badillo.

Church Life

Morning Prayers: Every weekday morning at 7:30, we invite you to join together in prayer via Zoom. The gathering is hosted by Elder George Crawford, and it is a tremendous blessing. Simply go to the internet, and go to <https://zoom.us/j/150286450>, or dial in by phone at (929) 205-6099 and enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 150286450.

Journey Through the Word: We continue to study Matthew on Wednesday evenings. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/676008518>, or dial in at (929) 205-6099 and enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 676 008 518.

Announcements

Thank you! I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of support and love I received during my mother's time on hospice, and then at the time of her death. It's so very difficult to lose someone you've loved your entire life, especially the one who gave you life in the first place. I can't thank you enough for all your generous thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards, food, flowers and for showing up even during this crazy corona virus. Our church family is the absolute greatest, and I'm so thankful for each of you! I've been blessed with many wonderful friends, and I thank you and love you each and every one! Thank you Steve Jencks, James Johnson, Carys Johnson, Wally Frost and Lou Badillo and Robbie Locke for the wonderful service. One day very soon, Jesus will come in the clouds of Glory to reunite us with all our families and loved ones, and what a glorious day that will be! My love and gratitude! Cindy Locke and family.

For Your Prayers

- Tim McGuire, son of Kristen and Norm McGuire, as he continues to recover from his automobile accident.
- Cindy Locke and her family, grieving the loss of her mother Peggie Youngs, and supporting her through her brother's recovery.
- Pat Marshall recovering from surgery
- COVID-19: The health of our families. Those who will be facing financial difficulty. Our young people as they are dealing with isolation and a new way of being educated. Teachers, who continue to work hard to continue to provide a good education,
- First responders and healthcare workers who are dealing with this crisis first-hand.
- Residents and staff at nursing home and assisted living facilities who are vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19.

TCI Initiative: COVID-19

Thank you for your support by making it possible last Sunday to assist 16 families who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 pandemic. The Apopka Church will continue this service each Sunday to support our members and community as long as a need is felt. If you, your family, or someone you know have been affected, please drive by the front entrance of the Church this Sunday, May 17 from 2:00 – 3:00 P.M. A bag of food staples as well as a gift card to ALDI will be provided. If you need help understanding the entitlements or in contacting one or more Federal or State agencies, a resource outline will be available. If you need a ride to the grocery store, pharmacy, medical appointment, please call or text Judy Blair, for assistance. If you would like to volunteer and desire to help with food distribution or transportation, please call Judy Blair.

Contact information:

1. Financial Aid resources: Bill Nutt, 321-277-7097
2. To volunteer time: Judy Blair, 303-968-9731
3. To donate food: Judy Blair, 303-968-9731
4. To donate cash: go to the Church web-site, "Online Giving"