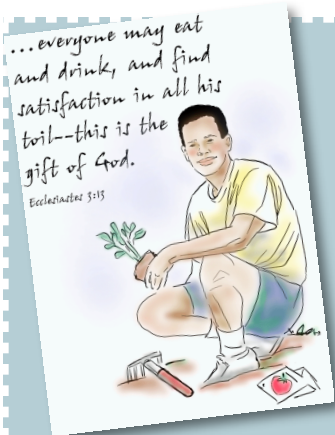


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MARCH / APRIL 2010 EDITION

FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY



*I dreamed that,
as I wandered by the way,
Bare Winter suddenly was
changed to Spring,
And gentle odors led my
steps astray,
Mixed with the sound of
water's murmuring ...*
-Percy Bysshe Shelley from
The Question



✧ Who's Afraid of the O.T. God? ✧

On March 5-6, Professor of Biblical Studies and author Dr. Alden Thompson will be presenting a series entitled "Who's Afraid of the Old Testament God?" based on his book by the same title (Zondervan, 1989). Meetings will be at Toledo First on Friday, March 5, 7 PM, and Saturday, March 6 at 11 AM & 5 PM.

This is a thoughtful inter-denominational event open to anyone who has ever struggled with reconciling the violence of God in the Old Testament with the actions of Jesus in the New. With sensitivity and clarity, Thompson will also help us grapple with the devastation of catastrophic suffering today such as the fallout from the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. There will be plenty of opportunity for open dialogue and discussion.

A leading Old Testament scholar in the Adventist Church, Dr. Thompson has published several books and hundreds of scholarly and popular articles.

The lecture series is free, but donations for Haiti will be collected at each session. Invite your friends and family to this timely event. What breaks the heart of God—even the God of the Old Testament—should still break ours. Join us this Friday and Saturday. ##



"Every Christian occupies some kind of pulpit and preaches some kind of sermon every day."

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“Happenins” at Toledo First

We welcomed new members, Ellen & Curtis Cascagnette who have just received their welcome basket from Hospitality Chairperson, Donna Schuster in the first photo above. We're happy to have this young couple with us. The

International Food Fest is featured in the second photo of Cassandra & Brandon. Mmm, ice cream! Carl & Teresa Wilkins (third photo) joined us at the Valentine Banquet where Carl gave us an eye-witness report about Murwira Orphanage in

Zimbabwe which received over \$3,000 from our benefit banquet. The group in the fourth picture were some of the tobogganers who enjoyed the day at Pokagon Feb. 28. The final photo is of Juliana & Joe Oppong-Baidoo's wedding

which took place at Toledo First in November. Best wishes to the happy couple! Thanks to Jeff Batchelder for most of the pics. Thanks, Glen Cross, for the toboggan photo! ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAR 5 & 6
Alden Thompson speaks

MAR 13
Talent Show
7 PM

MAR 20
Film Fest
6:15 PM

APRIL 7 - 11
Just Claim It 2 @
Columbus
Convention Center

Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting toledofirstadventist.org

Winter Film Fest concludes



Leymah Gbowee and the Women of Liberia are the central figures in the 2008 award winning documentary *Pray the*

Devil Back to Hell. This celebrated film concluding our Fall and Winter Film Fest series tells the dramatic success story of the women's peace movement of Liberia where Christian and Muslim women banded together to pray [!] which ended their country's civil war. You will not want to miss this!

Join us at Toledo First on March 20 for worship @ 5 PM and stay for the film starting right afterward @ 6:15 PM. Free snacks and beverages provided. You and every guest

you bring will be entered into the drawing for the "Andrew Award" mystery prize given at the conclusion of the discussion.



RSVP is required.
419.882.6200 or dee@toledofirstadventist.org. [Film may not be suitable for all children] ##

Ben Carson to speak

Noted neurosurgeon, Dr. Ben Carson, will speak

as part of University of Toledo's centennial celebration. His free talk is set for Thursday, April 15, 7 PM at Savage Arena. ##

New film coming

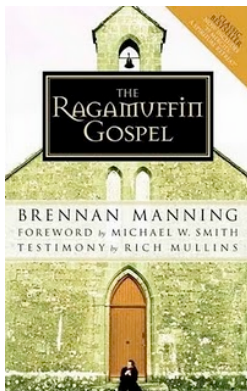
The Adventists, to be released by Journey Films will be broadcast on public stations during the week of April 5 - 11. The film focuses on the health ministry of our church. ##

The Focal Point is published bi-monthly by Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church ~ 419.882.6200 ~ toledofirstadventist.org

Join us for “The Ragamuffin Gospel” Discussion

Many believe God’s grace in theory. But somehow we cannot apply it in our daily lives. Yet God gives [and continues to give us] His grace, willingly, because He loves us like crazy!

Join us on Wednesday nights (6 PM for soup; 6:30 discussion) in Toledo First or follow along as we discuss one of my favorite books of all time—*The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning. Everyone at Toledo First willing to read this book can have one for free while supplies last.



BTW, a few years ago, I got to hear Brennan live in Cleveland. Brennan’s now-classic meditation on grace and what it takes to access it—simple honesty—has changed thousands of lives [in addition to my own]. Let it change yours as well! — Pastor Mike ##

Ohio Camp Meeting convenes during Convention. . .

The Ohio Conference along with the Youth Ministries Dept. of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists has planned a huge 4-part convention (*Just Claim It*) to take place simultaneously at the Columbus, Ohio Convention Center. Directed at ages 14-35, 15,000 youth/young adults are expected from around the world during the 4-day event, mainly for the 2nd World Youth Prayer Congress. Also included, though, is a Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, Ignition and Children’s Worship Festival in which our own Toledo Junior Academy students will participate on Sabbath. Support our kids. Come to Columbus for the day for a camp meeting-type experience! Free lunch provided by Ohio Conference! (We’ll have an abbreviated service at Toledo First that day.)

Delegates attending the convention must register by March 25. There are various hotel/meal packages. No registration needed for general sessions which are free (7:30 - 9:00 PM Thursday and Friday; Sabbath morning and afternoon). You’ll find much more information (esp. for delegates who want to attend workshops, etc.) at www.JCI2.org. Bring the family for Sabbath, April 10, in Columbus. ##

Talent Show is set for March 13

We’ve invited local Adventist churches to join our own talented musicians, so it’s going to be a great night for all. Don’t miss it. Come for Connections at 5 PM and stay for the Talent Show at 7 PM. ##

Order fruit by April 2

The last fruit delivery of the season will be Sunday, April 18, so stock up. Call in your order by noon on Friday, April 2 (419.841.0082). ##

Daylight Savings time begins Mar 14

Winter’s over! It’s time for Spring. Somebody tell the weatherman! ##

Wintley Phipps coming to Detroit

Operation Reach Back, an Adventist organization which sponsors projects in Ghana, will host a concert by Wintley Phipps March 27, 8 PM @ Double Tree Hotel. He will speak at City Temple at 11 AM. Details: 313.897.0506. ##

Easter

As Jesus stepped into the garden,
you were in His prayers.
As Jesus looked into heaven,
you were in His vision....
His final prayer was about you.
His final pain was for you.
His final passion was you.
—Max Lucado



Where Our Heart Is

Canada's Joannie Rochette fought back tears for her entire heart-wrenching short program. When she finished, she couldn't hold back. Skating just two days after her mother's sudden death Rochette finished third in the short program at the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Afterward, she attributed her toughness and resolve to the love her mom was known for and had shared with her throughout her life. And this friends, is what I believe Jesus wants new normal Adventist churches like ours to be known for too—our love.

In order to do that, I suggest we filter our decision making through [at least] these three things: Building Families, Providing Hope, and Empowering Community [for more on each of these filters, please listen to, watch, or read my sermon "Where We're Going" from February 27, 2010 on our church website or pick up a copy of the Assimilation Manual at the church office or in the foyer]. The following is an example of how we're filtering.

Recently, a company approached us with an offer to purchase our cell tower for \$492k! That's a lot of money. But after numerous meetings, the church in business session followed the advice of the Finance Committee and declined the offer. They did so because we already receive over \$60k/year from cell phone companies renting bandwidth on our tower. The risk that we wouldn't continue to do so in the next ten years because of cell phone company mergers, or the likelihood of satellites taking over cell tower technology, wasn't deemed high enough. In the meantime, we love providing an excellent elementary school Christian education at a reasonable cost to the families in our church and community. And we will continue building families and providing hope through education since much of the money we receive from the cell tower goes to support our church school. Do you think we made the right choice?

—Pastor Mike ##

Order your quarterly. . . and other changes

In Pastor Mike's "Where Our Heart Is" article in the Jan/Feb 2010 Focal Point, he listed some of the cost saving measures the Finance Committee had discussed. In a followup January meeting, the Finance Committee looked at each item in the budget to see what could be cut back or eliminated.

Did you know we have been spending over \$1500 each quarter for Sabbath School printed materials? Beginning with the third quarter of 2010, those numbers will change. The church will no longer be purchasing adult quarterlies.

If your Sabbath School class uses a quarterly, here are three suggestions: **1. You can subscribe** and have your quarterly sent directly to your home for \$10 per year. To receive your quarterly for third quarter, you must order by May 17 by calling the ABC at 740.397.4675 or order online at adventistbookcenter.com. **2. You can download** your own quarterly or just read it online at <http://absq.adventist.org/Standard.htm>. **3. Sign up**

for a quarterly by contacting Dee at 419.882.6200 or email dee@toledofirstadventist.org. Cost is \$9 per year (4 issues). We must receive your order by March 23rd so we can add it to the church order. Please make payment by April 30. Mark your tithe envelope "SS Quarterly."

In addition to adult quarterlies, we have reduced the quantity of other periodicals as well, saving us \$600 per quarter.

To help with the cost of Sabbath School materials for our children and youth, your gifts in the Sabbath school class envelopes help. You may also give by using your tithe envelope and marking it "Sabbath School" under Local Church Offerings.

Thank you for your understanding as we endeavor to be the best stewards of what God has provided. —
Dee Caulder ##

Calendar Events - March & April 2010

March

Birthdays

Mar 1 Leonard Jessop
Mar 3 Craig Horvath
Mar 4 Lucille Seagert
Mar 11 Theresa Brown
Mar 12 Ideshia Fincher
Mar 13 Carolyn Cole
Cathy Rumsey
Larry Godie
Mar 15 Charlotte Herman
Marilynn Marsh
Mar 16 Allan Wolfson
Mar 17 Glen Good
Mar 20 Julie Jessop
Mar 21 Gloria Lee
Mar 23 Dr Ted Nonoy
Mar 25 Sam Lee
Mar 29 Sheila Case
Caleb Bench

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week (except ???)
Mar 6 Speaker, Alden Thompson, author of *Who's Afraid of the Old Testament God?*
Mar 6 Potluck
Mar 13 Talent Show @ 7 PM
Mar 20 Friendship Lunch ~ Ray & Judy Riley & team
Film Fest
Mar 27 Eat n Greet 'n Art

Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays
Mar 7 Fruit Pickup

Mondays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM each week
Mar 29 - April 2 School Spring Break

Wednesdays

Soup for You @ 6 PM each week
Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week
Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week

Thursdays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM
Mar 5 @ 7 PM ~ Who's Afraid of the Old Testament God?

April

Birthdays

Apr 2 Mary Ann Bagoisan
Apr 3 Tom Sandy
Apr 6 Carroll Ashley
Apr 8 Robert Ostrander
Apr 9 Kimiko Kawakami
Apr 22 Arden Brion
Apr 25 Loni Orlet
Apr 26 Ray Riley
Apr 28 Don Marsh

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Apr 10 Ohio Camp Meeting/JCI2 at Columbus Convention Center
Apr 3 Potluck
Apr 17 Friendship Dinner ~ Carla Szczechowski & team
Apr 24 Eat n Greet 'n Art

Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays; Morning only the other Sundays
Apr 18 Fruit Pickup

Mondays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM each week

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Soup for You @ 6 PM each week starting Jan. 13
Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week
Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week
Apr 7 Just Claim It2 begins at Columbus Convention Center

Thursdays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM
April 8 Just Claim It2 at Columbus Convention Center

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM
Apr 2 Fruit orders due
April 9 Just Claim It2 at Columbus Convention Center

The documentary film, *The Adventists*, should be shown on your local PBS station during the week of April 4 - 10.

