

the

JULY/AUGUST 2010 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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

✧ It's Really All About God ✧

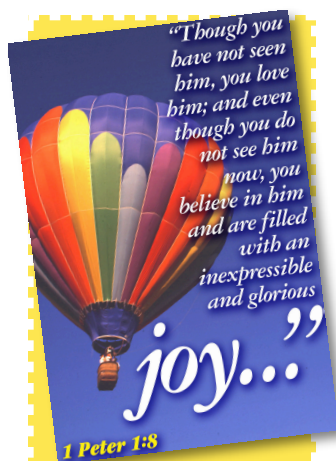
Samir Selmanovic, Adventist pastor and author of "It's Really All About God," grew up in a culturally Muslim family in Croatia. He converted to Christianity as a soldier in the then Yugoslavian army, and went on to become an Adventist pastor at a growing young congregation called Cross Walk in southern California. But a few years ago, he left that congregation (but not Adventist Christianity) to start a "community of communities" in New York City called Faith House, to show the world that all religions, though vastly different, are primarily about God not us. And if that's true, then we can live together on this fragile earth as authentic believers in our own unique and diverse religions without becoming isolated, incoherent, or hostile toward others who do not believe the same way. We can learn to love well (like crazy)!

Samir will be coming to Toledo August 27-28 and making presentations in the Toledo First Church Friday evening and at 11 AM and 5 PM on Saturday. You will not want to miss this! Come hear his thrilling and redeeming story and be encouraged to treasure God in your own tribe while learning how to discover the goodness and grace of God in others created in the image of God [cf. Genesis 1:27] as well. With a panel of guests from other religions dialoguing with Samir on Friday evening, this promises to be a thought provoking and compassionate conversation! —Pastor Mike ##

IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT



Reflections of a
MUSLIM ATHEIST
JEWISH CHRISTIAN



*Joy is the flag
that is flown
in the heart
when the Master
is in residence.*



A Christian is a keyhole through which other folks see God. — Robert E. Gibson

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“We were uncomfortable for a week - they are uncomfortable every day. Life for us here will quickly return to normal, and our week in Haiti will soon be a distant memory that we will re-live through pictures and videos...” — Caryn Wooster, S.o.S Member



desperate need of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

All because representatives from S.o.S.—a Missions Ministry of the New Hope Adventist Church will be with us to share with us what they recently experienced in their most recent return to Haiti. ***So bring a friend and please bring an offering for Haiti.***

You have to see it with your own eyes to believe it. You have to hear it, feel it and smell it to really understand Haiti. On July 10 in the Toledo First Adventist Church, we will better understand the still

100% of monies collected after both presentations will go to S.o.S. and their continuing relief efforts in Haiti. ##

Been wanting a new directory? Me too!

Do you realize how much our church family has changed just since 2007? We have a lot of new people and do you know who they all are? Bet you don't! That's why we decided that a new pictorial directory—the kind that costs us nothing, but is beautifully done in full color with photos of everyone who signs up—would be just the ticket!

Sign up for Photo Directory



Photos will be taken at church on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 23, 24 & 25, 2010, from 2:30 - 9:00 PM each day. You can choose your time to be photographed at church starting July 17. You may also sign up online Monday through Friday only. More about that in the bulletin on July 10.

Please plan to get your photo taken. The more photos that are taken, the more activity pages and other perks we can earn to make your directory even better. What's more, we will be able to update and add pages later.

—DeLaura Caulder ##

We've signed up with a different company this year - Universal Church Directories. You will receive a free 8x10 color photo plus your own full color church directory just for being photographed.

It started with 2, and then there were 5!

“Webkinz Tina” was baptized while Pastor Rachel baptized her son Eric



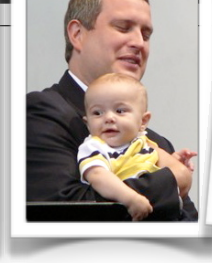
(we met both a couple years ago giving away stuffed animals to sick kids in the hospital and they have been coming to church ever since). But

the coolest part of Tina's baptism was Tina's other kids, Crystal and Derrick and Derrick's friend Jamie who also decided to be “buried and resurrected with Jesus” through the waters of baptism [cf. Romans 6:3-4]. The seven of us barely fit in the church baptistry tank, but praise the Lord we did! —Pastor Mike ## (Photo is courtesy of Jeff Batchelder)

Got Art?

Each month we show art at church. If you have photography, paintings, drawings, knitting, poetry, etc.—anything called art—let us know so we can schedule your show. Art can be mounted on the

walls or placed on a table. It can be out for just Sabbath or for a month. Contact Nicole Warner for details: 740-507-0431 or igotjoy777@gmail.com. (Next available date is August 21.) ##



May & June were busy

The teapots were lined up and ready for the many women who enjoyed Mother's Day Tea on May 8. Teresa Mokora (photo #2) was baptized and her daughter, Skylynn (photo #3) was dedicated by Pastor Rachel on June 5. Teresa's

husband, Jacob's transfer is on its way. In photo #4 Pastor Mike holds Marshall David Makley, son of Thomas & Meghan (West) Makley who is grinning during his dedication to the Lord. We were happy to welcome Sharita Nkrumah

who joined by profession of faith (photo #5) on June 26. And finally, we recognized Cathy Rumsey and Carol Cole for their music ministry at Toledo First on the last Sabbath they played together for us (until next time!!!). They are moving

to South Carolina in July. (Their "official" farewell is July 10 at potluck to which everyone is invited.) As always we thank Jeff Batchelder for his pictures. ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 10
Haiti Relief/
Farewell @
Potluck

JULY 17 & AUG 14
Picnics w/Purpose
@ Wildwood
Metropark

JULY 26
Church
Business
Meeting

AUGUST 28
It's Really All About
God w/Samir
Selmanovic

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

Don't miss Picnics w/Purpose

On July 17 and August 14 we'll be at Wildwood Metropark dining on wonderful salads and entrees



(and maybe hotdogs!) and serving up lemonade to the walkers and joggers along our path. Plan ahead to come to the picnic that day by throwing some casual clothes into your car be-

fore you come to church. That way we'll all be ready for the park and we won't scare off those lemonade sippers by looking like the "church lady" (or church guy)! Plan to stay around for Connections at the park at 5 PM. ##

Something for ages 3 - 14

Adventure on Forgotten Island will feature activities and games for ages 3 - 14, and will be fun for the whole family! It happens Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27 & 28th, from 4 - 8 PM at WPOS FM Christian Center, 7112 Angola

Road, Holland, Ohio. Pre-register by calling 419.870.4007 or go to www.literallifeministries.org. ##

We're on TAM's church tour!

Toledo Area Ministries organizes church tours each summer—eight weeks, eight different churches. Recently they asked to visit our church and we said "YES!" All tours are on Tuesdays at 11 AM and ours is July 13. Tours are free and open to the public. They usually have 100 - 200 people at-

tending. Pastor Mike will tell the group about our church, answer questions, then they'll tour our building and end with refreshments. What a perfectly wonderful opportunity to demonstrate that God loves them like crazy! ##



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

Help build families and provide hope. . .

Greetings Toledo First Members!

Haven of Hope has a couple of projects going in which we will need help. We don't have a scheduled work date thus far but instead are looking for volunteers for when the need arises. We need help with minor repairs such as hanging blinds/curtains, painting, etc. We also need those who are skilled at electrical repairs, light fixtures, wood siding, tub and sink repairs. We anticipate needing volunteers and professional services soon.



We also need a few home items. If you have any NEW and/or NICE items you don't need anymore such as a chair, dish set, silverware, shower curtains, sheet set, towels, small refrigerator, etc., please let us know. We would be glad to receive your donations! Contact Nicole Warner at 740-507-0431 or igotjoy777@gmail.com. You may also con-

tact Pastors Mike or Rachel for more information. — Nicole Warner ##

Join the discussion: “How to Die Right” at Salad for You

Galatians 2:20 and Luke 9:23 says we can die right. Daily. We're talking about how that works *every Wednesday night @ 6:30 PM* so come on out for Salad for You. And while we're learning how to surrender to God since we already are children of God, we understand that God is not done with us yet! What we will be has not yet been made known. It's like that orange construction sign you see west bound Sylvania “Men at work.” Well, God is at work in all of us. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says by beholding Jesus, we will be changed. Philippians 1:6 promises that He will finish what He started. And Hebrews 10:14 says, “He made perfect forever those being made holy.”

But when Jesus returns, we shall be like Him because God is making us like Him. He is moving in our hearts and lives and changing us to become more like Him. Notice: This is God's job, not yours. He's the one bragging about finishing what He started. Our job is not to change our spouse. Or save our father. Our job is to show love and respect. Even if we don't always agree with what our spouse or earthly fathers do or say. That's what honoring your father means by the way. It doesn't mean obeying everything he says. Ephesians 6:1 says, “Children, obey your parents in

the Lord, for this is right.” If what anyone asks of you contradicts Scripture and is not “in the Lord”, if anyone asks you to do something illegal, immoral, or unChristlike, then respectfully you must disobey! Because our job is to serve God not man. Does that make sense?

Hurt People Hurt People is next book

Because we're people, we are all hurting (and often hurting others) in either small or great ways. That's the premise of Sandra D. Wilson's book *Hurt People Hurt People*. Wilson's theory is based on the idea that change and healing are a lifelong process. There are no quick fixes. It is in the process of recognition of hurts and a continually growing dependence on God that we find healing.

Of all of the books that I have read on this or similar subject, this is by far the most Biblically clear and useful. Wherever you are in life's journey (there are chapters on help for hurting children, spouses, leaders, followers, worshipers, forgivers, and parents) you will benefit from reading this thought provoking little book that's easy to read but hard to digest. It's permanently messed me up in a good way! —Pastor Mike ##

Hello! Goodbye.

At worship June 5 Pastor Rachel Davies announced that she will be leaving in September for studies in London. Anna Romuald, a theology student at Union College who is taking a break before her senior year, will be our new youth pastor. While we are sad to see Pastor Rachel go, we look forward to Anna's arrival in mid-August. Rachel and Anna will have a whole month together affording a seamless transition. Currently Anna is in Athens, Greece, taking a class in Hebrew having just recently visited Hong Kong and Malaysia. ##

Congratulations, Graduates!

As our custom is, at the potluck on June 19, 2010, we honored those who have graduated since last June. *Congratulations, Graduates! We're proud of you!*

Kindergarten

David Ashley (Toledo Jr. Academy*) - son of Bill & Janell Ashley; grandson of Ray & Judy Riley and Carroll & Dorothy Ashley. David will attend 1st grade at TJA.

8th Grade

Danielle Frey – (Jefferson Junior High - Toledo) - dtr. of Dan & Pam Frey; Daisy Ritchie; granddtr. of Laura Frey. Danielle will attend Whitmer High School

Chad Rieger – (Mt. Vernon Elementary School) - son of Craig & Nicole Rieger; grandson of Mary Ruth Knicely. Chad will attend Mt. Vernon Academy



Shaelyn Good – (Napoleon Middle School) - dtr. of Glen Good. Shaelyn will attend Napoleon High School

High School

Molly Caulder – (Cascade High School, Salem, OR) - dtr. of Matt & Amy Caulder; granddtr. of Ed & DeLaura Caulder

Garritt Conkle – (Liberty Benton High School, Findlay, OH) - son of Rob & Karen Conkle; grandson of Don & Marilyn Marsh. Garritt, who graduated with honors, will attend Ohio State as a pre-Med student.

Kyle Jakubowski - (Sylvania Northview) - son of Jim & Tracy Jakubowski; grandson of Shirley Smith. Kyle earned the Rocket Scholar Award which will cover most of his tuition at University of Toledo. His major will be in the medical field.



Elisabeth Kathryn LaCourt – (Thunderbird Adventist Academy, Phoenix, AZ); dtr. of Mitch & Kathi LaCourt; granddtr. of Dr. Gerald & Marcene Marsa; great granddtr. of Eleanor Meade. Katie graduated with honors; will attend Union College in Lincoln, NE majoring in elementary education

Alma Sterrman - (Clyde High School) - Alma was an exchange student living the past year with the Leibengood family. She has returned to her native Germany.

College

Alyce Caulder – (Associates Degree, Defiance College) - dtr. of Ed & DeLaura Caulder. Alice is continuing her studies at Defiance

Graduate School

Matt Caulder – (MBA, Willamette University, Salem, OR) - son of Ed & DeLaura Caulder

Kristopher Gray – (Law Degree, Univ. of Toledo) - son of Kevin & Karen Gray; grandson of Bill & Lorraine Poulin. Kristopher is studying for the Bar Exam

Matthew Lucio – (MDiv, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI) - son of Jesse & Anne Lucio ##

*Toledo Junior Academy had 5 Kindergarten graduates and 2 Eighth grade graduates from the community.

24 are signed up!

Lifeline Screening saves lives. And 24 friends from the community will step through our doors on July 20 to be screened for peripheral arterial disease (PAD), a condition in which the arteries that carry blood to the arms or legs become narrowed or clogged by plaque, slowing or stopping the flow of blood. Lifeline Screening will bring this preventive health event that can assess one's risk of PAD through an ankle brachial index (ABI). PAD is closely linked to coronary artery disease, and identifying PAD can also help prevent heart attack and stroke. You can be tested, too. Just call 1-888-653-7441 for more information. ##

Calendar Events - July & August 2010

July

Birthdays

July 3 Matt Crosby
July 5 Craige Rieger
July 7 Earl Mitchell
July 10 Brian Jessop
July 11 Leisha Barbee
July 16 Nicole Warner
July 17 Lorraine Poulin
July 21 Heather Smith-LaPoint
July 22 Elaine Mitchell
July 26 Veela Burke
July 29 Dianna Hassen
July 30 Amber Hass
July 31 Robert Reams
Sarah Castro

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week

July 3 Allan Wolfson speaks @ morning worship / No Dinner
July 10 Eyewitness Report: Haiti / Fellowship Potluck / Farewell to Carol Cole, Dianna Hassen, and Hal & Cathy Rumsey
July 17 Pastor Mike speaks, "Wonder Women: Sarah"; Picnics w/Purpose (Evangelistic potluck @ Wildwood) Connections @ Wildwood at 5 PM
July 24 Pastor Mike speaks, "Wonder Women: Rahab"; Communion @ 11 AM Worship / Eat n Greet 'n Art
July 31 Pastor Mike speaks, "Wonder Women: Ruth"; No Dinner

Sundays

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

Mondays

July 26 Church Business Meeting

Tuesdays

July 13 Toledo Area Ministries Church Tour - our facility, 11 AM
July 20 Lifeline Screening, 9 AM

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM
July 16 Campanas Cristalis Summer Practice
July 23 Campanas Cristalis Summer Practice

August

Birthdays

August 2 Marcene Marsa
August 6 Joshua Fortune
August 7 Alex Jessop
Laura Frey
August 8 David Kawakami
August 11 Kay Kermode
August 14 Glendon Cross
LaVern Fredericks
Kim Stanley
August 15 Gail Flack
August 19 Chad Rieger
August 21 Ron Szczechowski
August 24 Mary Snowberger

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week

August 7 Dave Case speaks @ morning worship; No Dinner
August 14 MVA Principal Stevenson speaks; Picnics w/Purpose (Evangelistic potluck @ Wildwood); Connections @ Wildwood at 5 PM (Mary Darling wedding @ church)
August 21 Pastor Mike speaks; Eat 'n Greet 'n Art
August 28 *It's Really All About God* w/Samir Selmanovic / Fellowship Potluck

Sundays

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

Monday

August 9 Bell Camp Week

Tuesday

Wednesdays

Salad for You @ 6 PM each week
Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week
Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week
August 11 Bell Camp Week
August 18 First day of school - Toledo Jr. Academy

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM
August 13 Bell Camp Week
August 27 *It's Really All About God* w/Samir Selmanovic