

MARCH 2024



Dare To Be a Daniel, Not Dan

BY DR. JENNIFER WILLIAMSON

The patriarch Jacob had a life that was short and full of trouble. In fact he lived only 147 years which was short by the standard of those days. Yet, like many of us, he wrestled with God and received victory over the flesh, a name change, and a new direction.

In Genesis 49, we read the account of his last days. As he laid on his bed awaiting the approach of death, he gathered his sons together for his final prophetic words unto them. From the eldest to the

youngest, he prophesied over their lives. In Genesis 49:16 we read the prophetic words to Dan. "Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel." Commenting on this Stephen N. Haskell wrote in his book *The Cross and the Shadow*, "God had purposed that Dan should judge Israel righteously. Naturally he endowed him with quick, keen discernment and keen observation that makes a good judge." Instead of using these gifts for God's glory, verse 17 tells us what the tribe of Dan did. "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider shall fall backward."

Haskell in further commentary on this stated, "But he did not exercise the gift as God designed, he used it in detecting the evil in others instead of the good.

**Rapid City Seventh-day
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Saturday Morning Services
Sabbath School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am

MARCH SPEAKERS

March 2 - Women's Ministry Sabbath
March 9 - Pathfinder Sabbath
March 16 - Pastor Brian
March 23 - Kids Church
March 30 - Communion Sabbath

In other words, He became a backbiter, a cruel critic, one who detects the evil of others and speaks of it first. The gift intended for a blessing, when perverted, became an injury, causing others to fall." Many within the body of Christ can listen to a sermon and think "I'm not guilty of murder or stealing or some other sin." How many of us can truly say that we have not been guilty of backbiting? Is it really a "small sin?" What's the big deal?

The Psalmist David has this to say in Psalm 15: 1-3, "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor."

This is serious and can keep us out of heaven. God is calling on His children to turn aside from this practice, for we are all His. I thought it was a small thing to listen to the bad about others as long as I did not repeat it. I thought it of no consequence to share gossip with my close circle. The Holy Spirit said not so! In Psalm 101:5 we read "Whosoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him will I destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure."

God is very serious about this. Why is He so serious? Because it was slander that ruined the peace of heaven. In Revelation 12:9-10, John described the devil as the accuser of the brethren. There can be no justification for backbiting or gossiping about another. We might be tempted to think that's its ok to gossip about someone who has behaved unseemly but it's not. In the book Conflict and Courage we read "the disciples knew nothing of the purpose of Judas. Jesus alone could read his

secret. Yet He did not expose him. Jesus hungered for his soul. His heart was crying 'how can I give thee up?'"

In Testimonies for the Church, volume 2, the servant of the Lord admonishes us: "Speak evil of no man. Hear evil of no man. If there be no hearers, there will be no speakers of evil. If anyone speaks evil in your presence, check him. Refuse to hear him though his manner be ever so soft and his accent mild." Matthew 18: 15-17 provides the only template for how we should deal with a brother who has grieved us. This template came from the lips of Christ Himself. In Revelation 7:5-8, John lists the tribes of Israel that were sealed. Whether the number is symbolic or not, one thing is certain, the tribe of Dan was not listed. Dan and Ephraim are missing! Ephraim was an idolatrous tribe. Dan was a backbiting tribe. No Danite will be saved. We all have have a piece of Dan in us but there is victory in Jesus.

Like Daniel, let us seek the Lord in prayer. Let us pray fervently not just for ourselves but for the body of Christ. Observe Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9 on behalf of his people. He did not say, "Oh Lord, you know I did not bow down to the King's image or eat the unclean foods from his table. It was those other Jews who did that." Instead, he identified himself with his people and offered prayer and supplication for all. May we each be found praying for the body of Christ, for healing of its various parts. May the Holy Spirit then use this body as an army (Daniel's Band) to rescue those taken captives by the enemy.

Dare to be a Daniel
Dare to stand alone
Dare to have a purpose firm
Dare to make it known.

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

March Birthdays

4 - Mraz, Paul
14 - Ikechukwu, Onyekachi
16 - Clark, Paul
24 - Winter, Barb
26 - Rittberger, Gillian
27 - Rittberger, Kallen
31 - Schmid, Bonny

The Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR BRIAN MUNGANDI



Dear church member,

Last month I did a two-sermon series on church giving in preparation for our budgeting season. I have learnt over the years that a budget, defines what a church is doing, it's the map directing the mission of the church, pointing where the church is headed, and how the mission and vision of the church will actually play out.

The church is a nonprofit organization funded and run by volunteers who want to participate in the cause of Jesus Christ. We as a church operate in an economic financial world thus the need for money. We just voted a proposed budget with three goals for 2024 in the Church business meeting.

Our Goals for 2024:

- 1) Bring in ten new souls by baptism or profession of faith.
- 2) Increase our attendance to an average of 130 people by year end.
- 3) A tithe contribution of \$300,000, to the higher organization and \$132,000 local church budget. This local budget will include \$3,100 as monthly subsidy to our school, which adds up to \$37,200 per year.

Here are three reasons why our church needs your participation in the church budget.

A. The church budget is how our vision will get accomplished. Our church budget is a direct reflection of our strategy for mission. It is the way we fund our church's goals. It is our conscious, intentional effort to point our church and align our resources toward the things we consider most

important. I believe that it's only the things that we can fund that will move. Our budget will play a vital role in maintaining that accountability.

B. The church budget is a call for member involvement. I acknowledge that it is not easy to talk about tithes and offerings, but my hope is to make us all aware of the tangible things our church can actually do if all church members participated in giving. A church budget for a growing church like ours is an opportunity for all members to participate, it's a way to translate in figures where every dollar goes, what each ministry or function of our church can do. The two-sermon series was a reminder of the power and importance of our generosity. Thank you for your generosity as church members, and I believe we can do more for the Lord. As your pastor I therefore, continue to appeal for your budget support and for you to personally affirm our mission and your commitment to the mission of Christ.

C. The church budget is a call to fund the mission. If our church is to accomplish our mission in 2024, a budget calls each member to think about their part in the mission, every step of the way—we need to ask, what are our specific objectives, and how do we get there? How do we fund our objectives? How much do we spend? Who is responsible for the funding?

We in Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist church plan to have ministries that touch people's lives and have a direct impact on our community but let me say we do not have unlimited resources to throw into

every ministry, team, or project to advance our goals, we are limited by what the members give. I appeal to you as a Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist church member to stand up and be counted as a supporter of our global and local mission.

“The world does not understand theology or dogma, but it understands love and sympathy.”

-Dwight L Moody

School Treasurer Needed

We are sad to report that Gabriel Alvarez and his family have relocated out of state to the sunny lands of Florida. As many of you know, Gabriel served in the school treasurer position at Rapid City SDA Elementary School. So we are looking for a new school treasurer to serve in our rapidly-growing church school! If you have interest in serving our young people in this capacity, or you know of someone who would be able to fill this role, please reach out to our schoolboard chairman, Richard Chancellor (rchancellor@aol.com) or school principal Ms. Jamie Howell (msjamiehowell@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you!!

Photos from Church life...



Health Nugget

BY DR. STEPHEN WASEMILLER

Did you know that one of the most significant health risks of the 21st century is social isolation and loneliness? Research has shown that loneliness can have detrimental effects on both mental and physical health, with some studies suggesting that it can be equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day in terms of its impact on mortality.

Being part of a supportive community provides numerous benefits for overall well-being. It can offer emotional support, reduce stress, provide opportunities for social interaction, and foster a sense of belonging and purpose. Having strong social connections has been linked to better mental health, improved immune function, and even increased longevity.

The Bible also emphasizes the importance of community and fellowship among believers. One relevant verse is Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV), which says: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

This verse underscores the idea that Christians should come together regularly to support and encourage one another, reinforcing the notion that community is essential for spiritual and emotional well-being. By prioritizing connection and fellowship, individuals can experience the health benefits that come from being part of a supportive community.

Women's Ministries and Dorcas

ORIGINAL ARTICLE FROM:
WOMEN.ADVENTIST.ORG
(GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS)

In many parts of the world, especially in areas where Dorcas has been active, there is sometimes misunderstanding and questions about Women's Ministries.

- How did Dorcas and Women's Ministries get started?
- What is the difference between Women's Ministries and Dorcas?
- If a church has Women's Ministries, can it still have a Dorcas Society?
- Did another religious group really persuade the Adventist Church to change Dorcas to Women's Ministries?
- Can a person be involved in both Dorcas and in Women's Ministries?

A BRIEF HISTORY:

DORCAS:

Dorcas was started by a group of women in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA, in 1874 in the home of Mrs. Henry Gardner. It was first called Dorcas and Benevolent Association; eight women were charter members and Martha Byington Amadon, daughter of the first General Conference president, John Byington, was the first president. Activities included making garments and supplying food for needy families, caring for the fatherless and widows, and ministering to the sick. When the Home Missionary Department (now Sabbath School and Personal Ministries) was organized in 1913, the Dorcas Society work came under that department's leadership. The "objective

of the Dorcas Society is to help people physically and spiritually, in the name and spirit of Jesus. Its concern is for every case of need, irrespective of creed, class, nationality, or ethnic origin. The society attempts to meet emergency needs not provided by other agencies. The repair and distribution of good clothing is a specialty; surplus supplies are shipped abroad through ADRA." (Information from the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, Second revised edition, A-L, 1996, pages 473, 474. In many places, and at various times, Dorcas has become known now as Adventist Community Services and men as well as women have become involved.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:

In 1896, Sarepta Myrenda Irish Henry, who had been an evangelist for the Women's Christian Temperance Union, became a Seventh-day Adventist. In 1898 she conceived a plan for what she called "A Woman Ministry;" she resigned her position as national evangelist for the WCTU in order to devote herself to mobilizing the women of the Adventist Church to work for God. She felt that properly organized, trained, and directed, they could do a work equal, if not superior, to that of the WCTU. She began to devise a plan to engage the Adventist women in united service for God. At this time, she received a letter from Ellen G. White who was then in Australia that said in part:

"Sister Henry: I have thought, with your experience, under the supervision of God, you could exert your influence to set in operation lines of work where women could unite together to work for the Lord. There certainly should be a large number of women engaged in the work of ministering to suffering humanity, uplifting, educating them how to believe—simply believe—in Jesus Christ our Savior.... I am pained because our sisters in America are not more of them doing

the work, they might do for the Lord Jesus.... Many women love to talk. Why can't they talk the words of Christ to perishing souls? The more closely we are related to Christ, the more surely the heart will know the wretchedness of souls who do not know God...." (Signed) Mrs. E. G. White.

Now that her idea had become a specific assignment, and she felt she had the green light to go ahead, Mrs. Henry began enthusiastically to work out her dreams in a practical way. In her book *A Woman Ministry*, she stated her vision of the work women could do in their own homes and then she continued: "It must go from our women to all the homes the world over. And when each woman among our people shall come to appreciate her opportunity, and rejoice in it, realizing not the burdens she must bear, but the abundant strength that is given with which to carry them, seeing not the danger from the lions in the way, but how they quail and fawn before the courage of even a weak woman's mighty faith; then shall our ministry go abroad in their work, strong, refreshed, victorious."

Another letter from Ellen G. White stated: The work you are doing to help our sisters feel their individual accountability to God is a good and necessary work. Long has it been neglected; but when this work has been laid out in clear lines, simple and definite, we may expect that the essential duties of the home, instead of being neglected, will be done much more intelligently. The Lord would ever have us urge upon those who do not understand the worth of the human soul. If we can arrange, as you are now working, to have regularly organized companies intelligently instructed in regard to the part they

should act as servants of the Master, our churches will have life and vitality such as have been so long needed.... Our sisters have generally a very hard time, with their increasing families and their unappreciated trials. I have so longed for women who could be educators to help them to arise from their discouragement, and to feel that they could do a work for the Lord. And this effort is bringing rays of sunshine into their lives and is being reflected upon the hearts of others. God will bless you, and all who

shall unite with you, in this grand work. In 1899 Mrs. Henry published a weekly column in the Adventist Review headlined, "Woman's Gospel Work." The column was filled with Bible studies, poetry, letters, and practical advice. In 1900, while attending a General Conference committee meeting, Mrs. Henry became sick and died. Her associates carried on her work for a short time before becoming discouraged, and they too quit. Women's Ministries died too. When women, especially in North America began to again see the

need for and urge the development of Women's Ministries, no one even remembered about Sarepta Henry. As a result of several commissions and advisories, the North American Division appointed a Women's Ministries leader in 1989. Then in 1990, at the Annual Council, Rose Otis was appointed as director of the Office of Women's Ministries at the General Conference. In 1995, at the General Conference Session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, Women's Ministries became a full department.

Get To Know Your Students

We are proud of our students and teachers. Throughout the year, we would like to introduce you to our church school kids to learn a bit more about them and to learn what keeps our kids, and our school, ticking!



Ariel – 4th Grade

Birthday: November 18

Favorite Activities: Playing with my cats, Climbing, Gymnastics

Favorite Song: Among Us theme

Favorite Snack: Cheez-its

Favorite Book: Smile

Favorite Subject: Science

Favorite Summer Memory: Going to Jamaica.



Trevaughn – 4th Grade

Birthday: October 12

Favorite Activities: Soccer, Tennis, Basketball

Favorite Song: My Jesus

Favorite Snack: Donuts!

Favorite Book: Underpants Man

Favorite Subject: Math

Favorite Summer Memory: Going to the pool.



Lena – 4th Grade

Birthday: June 26

Favorite Activities: Being with my friends, family, & best friends

Favorite Song: All About the Base

Favorite Snack: Cheese

Favorite Book: Bible

Favorite Subject: Recess

Favorite Summer Memory: Going swimming.

Kindergarten Open for 2024-25

We are excited to announce that **Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School will be hiring a full-time kindergarten teacher starting next year!** As enrollment grows, it has been a true blessing to see as we expand the school to 3 full-time teachers in effort to minister to our young people. If you or someone you know has a child who will be starting kindergarten next year, we invite you to enroll them in a beautiful faith-based education here at Rapid City SDA Elementary!

For enrollment details, contact Ms. Jamie Howell at:
msjamiehowell@gmail.com.

For more church info, recorded services, or to access prior newsletters and bulletins, visit www.rapidcitysd.adventistchurch.org

Got something newsworthy? Send an email to:
Stephen Wasemiller
rapiddacommunications@gmail.com