

APRIL 2024



Willing Misfits

BY MARLA HAWRONSKY

Several years ago I became acquainted with an interesting side of produce sales in grocery stores. It would seem that for most of the existence of the supermarket, it was assumed that no one would like to purchase imperfect fruits and vegetables. These dimpled, bruised or oddly shaped foods were often thrown away, or in some cases, never picked and just plowed back into the soil. I, being a championer of all underdogs, was appalled by this knowledge; to think something was being wasted just because it had a little imperfection!

I wasn't the only one shocked by this. Since it has come to light, companies have popped up specifically to sell these oddball fruits and veggies. Using descriptions like 'ugly', 'misfits', and my personal favorite 'produce with personality' these companies have found success in selling aesthetically unappealing produce at a small discount making it a win for the consumer and also the farmer.

This reminds me of Matthew 22 where Jesus tells a parable about a king. I imagine the parable goes something like this: A proud father (who is also a king) wants to recognize the marriage he has arranged for his son. He starts out by first inviting all the aesthetically pleasing Christians to his banquet. Perhaps these Christians were offended by this

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Saturday Morning Services
Sabbath School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am

APRIL SPEAKERS

April 6 - Sabbath School Emphasis
April 13 - Pastor Brian
April 20 - Pastor Brian
April 27 - Pastor Brian

invitation because it was going to be on the Sabbath, or that the messenger was not wearing proper christian attire. Perhaps it was because the king was from a different political party than them, or that the banquet was not something they were familiar with and made them uncomfortable. Whatever the reason, they refused to accept the invitation. Naturally, this angered the king. Especially after some even assaulted and killed his messengers. After destroying all those who refused, he then sends out his servants to invite anyone and everyone. The good, the bad, and the misfits were all invited and the banquet hall was filled (vs 10). The

party was brimming with all who were willing.

This is an interestingly simple example of what we humans think God wants. We have this deep desire to appear to be perfect and pleasing to those around us when all He wants is our willing heart. Our imperfections don't define whether we have a spot at His table. While our good works and 'sinless' cover may look good to those around us, it really doesn't matter in the end because it isn't those things that are going to earn us a place in the line-up. The world knows we belong to Him by our love, not by our Christian name or appearance.

School News

Accreditation

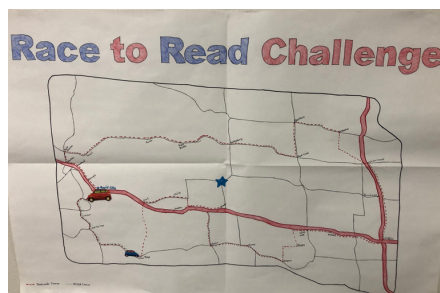
Thank-You!

The teachers and school board would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with the accreditation process this year. Even if all you were able to do was pray and encourage, every little bit helped. Our school received the top term of 6 years (with a mid-cycle visit) thanks to all of the hard work that was put into the process.

Reading Challenge

During the last quarter the lower grade classroom participated in a reading challenge that was put on by Black Hills Reads, which is run by United Way of the Black Hills. It was open to the whole state of South Dakota. The challenge was to see how many "miles" we could read to "travel" around the state. We earned 1 mile for every 25 books or 300 pages read. The map shows both our

miles driven (blue car) and the total miles driven by all participants in the challenge (red car). There were also ways to earn bonus books by participating in mini challenges each week on social media. Some of these included introducing ourselves using our favorite books, finding unusual places to read, and using a creative way to announce our total miles and books read. In the two months that we participated we read 1,657 actual books and earned 1,335 bonus books! That's a total of 2,992 books or approximately 120 miles! In our category we won both the most actual books read and the most bonus books earned! Our prize was a total of \$300 to spend on new books for our school library! Our reading map is posted outside of the lower grade classroom along with our certificate if you would like to see what we accomplished!



“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”

ROMANS 5:8

April Birthdays

- 3 - Bissenden, Frank
- 7 - Coggins, Earl
- 8 - Glover, Jane
- 9 - Mraz, Aaron
- 10 - Larson, Dustin
- 11 - Mateo, Ron
- 15 - May, Pam
- 29 - Mount, Linda



The Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR BRIAN MUNGANDI



Dear church member,

Have you wondered; how can God hear all the prayers from all the people throughout the world who offer prayers to him? I have been thinking about that lately. To think that God does hear the prayers from everyone in the world including members of this church is mind boggling!

This month I have been sharing thoughts on prayer, from my own spiritual journey, with the Wednesday prayer meeting group. When you pray, you must believe God exists, that means you must have faith in Him, know that he is a God of mercy and compassion, and that he is a God who does what he says he will do.

I have now reached a conclusion in my own experience that the truth is, God always answers prayers. I believe it is that simple, it is not complicated or difficult to find the answers to an amazing prayer life. I have been suggesting to the Wednesday prayer group that the secret is plain in the word of God. Dr Glenn Coon suggested the secret to a vibrant, alive, and fulfilling prayer life is asking, believing, and claiming the promises of God, in his 1972 book "The ABC of Bible Prayer."

God hears and even answers prayers, we shouldn't complicate it, God's answer is sometimes "no," sometimes it's "wait," and sometimes it's "yes," and sometimes God answer is "yes and here is more!" I am saying whatever the case God's answer is always the right answer for us, even when we sometimes do not think so!

I know waiting on God's answer to our prayers can be trying especially when we ask, and we do not receive. I am learning something, God doesn't stroke ego, there are a lot of factors in God's mind. James says we may be praying with wrong motives or with an unrighteous agenda, for our own pleasure. [James 4:3] I have struggled with this constant battle within me over things I want and things I desire as opposed to what God actually knows I need.

Let me confess, for a year now we have been trying to sale our house in Minnesota, we have been handling double mortgages, we have called on the Lord because the financial burden is just killing us. We have Asked, we have Believed, and we have Claimed God's promises, but his answer has been an amazing silence. Our house has been empty and has not sold for a year! Why? I am not sure, but there is a reason. In this process it would have been easy to say our financial burden is too much to tithe. As a family, we are choosing to still trust God, we know and we thank him, he "will open the windows of heaven and pour blessings until there is no more room to receive it." I will admit it's been tough, but we have also seen God's wisdom, he has been answering the periphery issues so that we can trust him, he is perfecting our selfish self-centered hearts. In the Lord's Prayer, [Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4] I am learning that I can expect he will give to us the basics of life, I am learning to forgive other people, just as God has forgiven me. I welcome God's greatness and his majesty; thus far, God has provided for our family needs.

Can I ask those of you willing, to join us in prayer this year? Pray for only a few minutes each day, pray for 10 new souls to be added to the church by baptism or profession of faith, pray to be faithful in your tithes and offerings, pray that God bring more people to worship him here every Saturday? You pick the time, it can be in your family worship, on your lunch break or on your exercise routine, just pick a time to pray. I challenge you; you will see your spiritual life transformed through the power of prayer. Set a reminder on your phone. Be intentional. Pray. The Lord will work in this church in ways that we couldn't have imagined.

Let's watch God work.

"God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself"

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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!



William – Kindergarten

Birthday: October 4
Favorite Activities: Airplane museum, Spending the day with my parents, playing at the park
Favorite Song: Good God Almighty
Favorite Snack: Biscuits
Favorite Book: Adventure Books
Favorite Subject: Science
Favorite Summer Memory: When I went swimming.



Tan – 2nd Grade

Birthday: December 7
Favorite Activities: Playing tag, Volleyball, Watching T.V.
Favorite Color: Red
Favorite Snack: Chips
Favorite Subject: Math
Favorite Summer Memory: Going to the park.

Church Life...



School Treasurer Needed

We are still looking for a new school treasurer to serve in our 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!!

Kindergarten Open for 2024-25

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.

Women's Ministries and Dorcas

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

Purpose and Objectives:

DORCAS:

Dorcas has been, and continues to be, an important part of the church program; however, it is not a department of the church. It is an outreach of the Sabbath School Personal Ministries Department for reaching out into the community, primarily in helping the poor and needy. Since it was first begun by a group of women it has become broader in its nature. This is because in many places the help of men is needed. However, in other areas such as Africa where women have not been as actively involved in many areas of church leadership, Dorcas has become extremely important. Women have taken care of the program and have made it not only an outreach for the church but an area where women can take leadership, women can have training, women can have retreats and many other activities.

According to page 94 of the 2000 Church Manual: Community Services/Dorcas Society—The Community Services/Dorcas Society is an important feature of the outreach (missionary) activities of the church. The leader of this society, the assistant leader (if needed), and the secretary-treasurer are elected at the regular church election. This society gathers and prepares clothing, food, and other supplies for the poor, needy, and unfortunate. This organization works in close cooperation

with the deacons and deaconesses of the church. Community Services/Dorcas ministry, however, includes more than giving material aid; it encompasses also adult education, visiting, homemaking, home nursing, counseling, and other services. The church Personal Ministries Department has primary responsibility for this work. However, the General Conference Personal Ministries Department web site does not mention Dorcas or Community Services (as of February 2004).

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:

Women's Ministries was started for a very different reason than Dorcas but one that complements the work of Dorcas. The purpose of Women's Ministries is to train and empower women to become involved in all areas of the church and to help women be able to not only know how to use their various God-given talents but to have opportunity to use them. Women's Ministries can help a Dorcas woman be a better Dorcas leader, and be a better Dorcas worker, but also develop other types of ministries. It may help in AIDS education, it may help her to be a better mother, it may help her learn how to become involved on church/conference/union or even division committees or take leadership in various other church departments. Women's Ministries helps produce spiritual growth materials as well as funding for scholarships for women. It organizes and sponsors literacy programs around the world. It becomes involved in public evangelism and evangelism to specific populations such as Muslim women. Women's Ministries has also become active in abuse prevention and healing, even sponsoring the action of the world church to have an Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day each August. You can see that Women's Ministries have a wide variety of activities.

SUMMARY:

You might say that the focus of Dorcas is more by the women of the church on people outside the church; and the focus of Women's Ministries is on the women in the church so that they can then minister to others in and out of the church.

One of the misconceptions regarding Dorcas and Women's Ministries is that women can only serve in one place in the church and so they either have to serve in Dorcas, or Dorcas has to be done away with and take on Women's Ministries. This is not true. Women can belong to both Dorcas and Women's Ministries and possibly be involved in Children's Ministries and Health Ministries and Family Ministries and many other things at the same time—whatever appeals to the individual woman and wherever the Lord leads that individual woman.

It is our hope that as a result of Women's Ministries, Dorcas will become even stronger and will find new and better ways of ministering and that women who may not be interested in Dorcas may find strength and empowerment to develop and become involved in other ministries that can help forward the mission of the Church.

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:
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rapidsdacommunications@gmail.com