

# Parkwood Echoes

**“For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light.”  
(Ephesians 5:8, NRSV)**



**by Pastor Miranda**

It was only three days, but I imagine that it felt like the longest three days of his life. Paul, called Saul at the time, was literally full of “darkness” having been blinded by the glory of the resurrected Christ.

After three desperate days of groping, seeking, fasting and praying, the Lord led Ananias to Saul’s side to pray that his night would turn to day. And Saul/Paul never looked back. I wonder if Paul had Ananias in mind when he penned those words to the Ephesian believers: “Now you in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light!” In the context of the epistle,

Paul is urging Christ-followers to live an uncompromising life of moral integrity, of moral illumination unmixed with the “works of darkness” (Rom. 13:12).

But beyond the demonstration of ethical uprightness, God’s children of light are His agents who not only live in the light but also **lead others to the light**.

Ananias could have comfortably kept to himself that day, but as a child of light he was the instrument through which Paul’s dark soul could discover light as well.

At the end of time, this one-on-one experience will be repeated on an exponential scale to light up the world with God’s glory. Note the gripping vision penned more than a century ago:

As light from heaven shone upon anyone, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were to be kindled in many places, and from

these lights still other lights were to be kindled...

**I saw jets of light** shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth....

His truth was proclaimed throughout the world (Testimonies, vol. 9, 28, emphasis mine).

Friends, you and I can be part of this movement of light! If your darkness has been turned to light by the grace of Jesus, then by all means let your light so shine (Mt. 5:16)! Who will you bring to the Creation Seminar Feb. 10-13? Is there a friend, relative, co-worker, classmate that is groping and seeking for light that you can take by the hand to Discover Bible Prophecy Feb. 19-Mar. 5?

I can’t wait to meet up with Ananias on the other side of heaven. I want to see the look on his face when he will be shown how many other souls full of darkness were turned to children of light because of his availability to be used by God in Paul’s life. Who knows, maybe others are waiting to see **our** reaction when we’re shown the ripple effect of our lights kindling others around us. Whether we cross oceans to fulfill this commission or simply walk across the street, the office, the living room...let’s live out our identity: Live as children of light.

# 10 DAYS OF PRAYER

**by Ron & Jean Hill**

The "10 Days of Prayer" was truly inspirational. It drew us closer to together in prayer and in spirit.

There was a togetherness feeling, a unity, a oneness. It gave us a more importance of prayer. Praying helps us abide more in Jesus Christ and He in us.

**by Lorna Petterson**

The speaker (Dr. Ed) told of an experience in which a colleague, knowing that he (Dr. Ed) was a Christian and into Bible study had a question about understanding the Esau and Jacob's story in the OT (Bible).

What was the meaning of that story? The answer came from God as Dr. Ed didn't really know how to answer that question but said: "It is about God working to save the brothers" Wow! that is exactly what the Bible stories are about! How God meets people where they are and loves all the individuals but so few respond to His loving care! So well answered!



# VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

**by Peggy Herman**

If your looking for a nice place to take your Valentine out for a delicious dinner or if you don't have a Valentine but would enjoy dinner together with your church family, why not come for a fancy dinner put on by our Parkwood Pacers Pathfinders Club?

We're holding our Annual Valentine's Dinner at Bellaman Hall on February 14th. We'd be honored to serve you a home-made dinner, made by the Pathfinder's themselves who will also serve you during your meal.

We'll be serving a 3-course dinner starting with a freshly made salad.

Followed by our home-made gluten steaks, mashed potatoes, both covered in gravy if you like, and green bean casserole. Last but not least, will be a white cake covered in a berry sauce and topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Please come and support your Pathfinder's club while enjoying a lovely meal with your special Valentine, as well as your church family.

Parkwood Church, Bellaman Hall  
Dinner starts at 5p

Adults: \$8 ea  
Children 4-11: \$5 ea  
Children 3 and under Free



# Community Service

by Shellie Vasquez



Dorcas has been busy giving out food and working on quilting projects. Pathfinders are scheduled to take Lap robes to nursing homes that members have crocheted. If you have free time join us on Wednesdays from 9-12p

# LIBRARY

by Gwen Barnett

Our Library is full of interesting books that you and your family would enjoy. Stop by and visit our friendly Librarian's Gwen Barnett and Richard Dalton. Library hours are between Sabbath School and 15-20 minutes after Church Service is dismissed.

### INTERESTING BOOKS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

*Pattern for Progress* - the Role and function of Church Organization

*TONY, Our Journey Together* - The story of a child incarcerated at the age of 5 in a Mexican Prison on trumped up murder charges.

*Twelve Men Who Shook the World* -Story of the 12 apostles story of where they started out their ministry.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

by Jenny Beasley

Inviting those age 50+ to join our membership in attending an "Island Adventure" Everybody's Birthday Party, Sunday, Feb 21, at the Waterford Adventist Church, 13701 Yosemite Ave..

We will include a dinner "Hawaiian Haystacks," games, activities, entertainment and Birthday Cake! (\$10 for members \$12 for non-members).

Annual membership dues are \$10 per person.

For reservation, please call:

Jenny Beasley 838-6856 before Feb. 17.



# Youth Chapel Rental by Pastor Miranda

A few months ago, Pastor Brian Smith from the Church of God submitted a request to our church board to rent our youth chapel and Kindergarten classroom on Sunday mornings. After several weeks of prayer and discussion, our board has approved to make those rooms available as a gesture of kindness, reciprocating the many instances Adventist churches around the world are allowed to use facilities of other denominations.

Pastor Smith and the “I Believe Church” are a non-denominational, Bible-based body of believers. According to Pastor Smith, they are “a newly formed group with seasoned Christians looking to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.”

We can expect to see them here on Sundays, generally from 10am-12:30pm. Our board is grateful for the opportunity to bless and help accommodate this group's temporary facility needs.

## Mission Story

### Finding Peace, Part 1

Michael lived in a cave at his grandparents house. It wasn't really a cave, but his room felt like one with the lights always turned off and the curtains closed. Darkness penetrated everywhere, including Michael's mind. Suffering from deep depression, he rarely left his darkened room, except when he had to go to school.



Life had never been easy for Michael. Born to a 17-year-old mother, he was given to his grandparents for them to raise. His grandparents did the best that they could for Michael, and took him to their church each Sunday. But Michael was turned off by what he experienced at the church. “There was just too much noise,” he recalled. “All the time there was preaching, screaming, and asking for money.”

### Spiraling Down

By the time he was 11 years old, Michael decided that he wasn't going to go to church anymore.

“If there is a God, why is my family like this?” he asked himself. “Why do I have so many complicated situations? Why can't I just have a normal life?”

Unlike other boys his age, Michael had no friends and never went anywhere except to school. When he was about 12, Michael discovered the internet and became totally absorbed, creating a “perfect” virtual life for himself. Every possible moment was spent living in his virtual world.

### “Stop at This Channel!”

One day, however, things changed when a thunderstorm hit and knocked out the internet. After the storm had passed the internet connection was still down, but the electricity was working.

Michael turned on his television and started surfing the channels. Suddenly he heard a voice say, “Stop at this channel!” A group called The King's Heralds was singing: “Happiness was close, but I did not notice . . . God woke me up and showed me love . . . a gift from God . . .”

Listening intently, Michael thought I want this for my life. Following the music, a Bible study began. Michael switched off the TV.

I don't want to watch this! I don't want religion—I want peace! But that song,

“Gift From God” stayed in his mind.

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Although he didn't hear that particular song, Michael enjoyed listening to the other Christian music on the "Music Box" program. Tuning in each day, Michael discovered that he was watching Novo Tempo, the Seventh-day Adventist Hope TV channel in Brazil.

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### **Who Are These People?**

During a national holiday, Michael turned on his television and watched Novo Tempo continuously for 16 hours, hoping that he might again hear the "Gift From God" song. While he didn't get to hear his special song that day, Michael listened to many programs featuring Bible study, preaching, health, and music.

Hearing for the first time about the seventh-day Sabbath and about the heavenly sanctuary, he thought to himself, This can't be in the Bible. My pastor never preached about this.

And besides, when are they going to start asking for money. But they never did, and this caught Michael's attention. Who are these people? he wondered.

Now Michael had a new addiction—the Adventist Novo Tempo TV channel! Instead of spending all his time on the internet, he constantly watched Novo Tempo. Over the course of a year, Michael had seen all the programs of Novo Tempo and became a Seventh-day Adventist inside his room!

His grandparents worried about him, thinking that he was becoming even more depressed because he stopped eating pork. But they were in for bigger surprises. His grandparents worried about him, thinking that he was becoming even more depressed because he stopped eating pork. But they were in for bigger surprises.

### **Talking to the Television**

One day as Michael was watching Novo Tempo, the on-screen evangelist said, "I want to appeal to you—you who are an Adventist inside of your home. Your family knows that you are an Adventist because you used to live a bad life, but now you are living for God. . . . Why aren't you baptized? Why are you waiting? Why not get baptized now?"

Michael began talking back to the television, but then the evangelist said, "Stand up, and come close to the TV. Why aren't you baptized?"

"Because I don't want to be a member of a church," Michael responded.

But the evangelist continued, "You are a part of this church. You just need to confirm this by being baptized. Give your life to Jesus in baptism."

Michael's heart was touched. He was sure that the evangelist was speaking directly to him.

To be continued on our next March edition of Echoes.



# February 2016

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY                                    | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SABBATH  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   | 1<br>6p Quilting Class   | 2<br>6p Pathfinders                        | 3<br>9a –noon Community Service  | 4<br>7p Ladies Bible group<br>Gwen Barnett's home  | 5<br>SUNSET: 5:31  | 6<br>Speaker: Pastor Miranda SS. El Lavea<br>Offering-Church Budget<br>Fellowship Luncheon Grp#1<br>Watson & Verde<br>2:30p GLOW Outreach<br>SUNSET: 5:32  |
| 7<br>"Work Bee" at 8-10a<br>10a Evangelism Volunteer<br>Huddle meeting  | 8<br>6p Quilting Class<br>6p Preschool Board Meeting<br>7p Bible Study @ Barker's Home<br>7p Church Board Mtg. | 9<br>6p Pathfinders                        | 10<br>9a –noon Community Service<br>6:30p & 7:30p<br>Creation Seminar Begins | 11<br>6:30p & 7:30p<br>Creation Seminar            | 12<br>6:30p & 7:30p<br>Creation Seminar<br>SUNSET: 5:38          | 13<br>Speaker: Pastor Miranda SS. Nina Herman<br>Offering Advent TV Ministries<br>Fellowship Luncheon Grp#2<br>Lavea & Todd<br>6:30p & 7:30p<br>Creation Seminar Concludes<br>SUNSET: 5:39                     |
| 14<br>9a Ladies Walk & Pray<br>Valentine's Day – Dinner<br>Hosted by: Pathfinder's<br>5p (Bellaman Hall)                              | 15<br>6p Quilting Class<br>7p Bible Study @ Barker's Home  | 16<br>6p Pathfinders<br>6p Adventurer Club | 17<br>9a –noon Community Service<br>7p "House of Prayer"                     | 18<br>7p Ladies Bible group<br>Gwen Barnett's home | 19<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)<br>SUNSET: 5:46 | 20<br>Speaker: : Pastor Miranda SS. Elma (Toadie) Barker<br>Offering- Church Budget<br>Fellowship Luncheon Grp#3<br>(Birthday's & Anniversaries)<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)<br>SUNSET: 5:47 |
| 21<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)<br>11:30a Senior Fellowship<br>Activity "Island Adventure"<br>(Waterford SDA Church) | 22<br>6p Quilting Class<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)  | 23<br>6p Pathfinders                       | 24<br>9a –noon Community Service<br>7p "House of Prayer"                     | 25<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)   | 26<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)<br>SUNSET: 5:53 | 27<br>Speaker: : Pastor Miranda SS. Youth Ministry<br>Offering Conf. Faith Adv.<br>Fellowship Luncheon Grp#4<br>Reeve & Gomez<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)<br>SUNSET: 5:54                    |
| 28<br>9a Ladies Walk & Pray<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall)   | 29<br>6p Quilting Class<br>Discover Prophecy 6:30p<br>(Bellaman Hall) thru Mar-<br>5th                         |  | "  |  |  |  |

HEAD DEACON - CHUCK FLORES (FEB 6<sup>TH</sup> - FEB 20<sup>TH</sup>) MEYNARD, THEARTIS, ANDREW, KEN & JOSUE HEAD DEACON – DOUG TODD (FEB 13<sup>TH</sup> - FEB 27<sup>TH</sup>) RICHARD, FRANK, DON, SARGE & LARRY  
DEACONESSES-JANUARY – KAY TODD, BRETIA TRIOLO, CHIRRE CHEADLE