

HEPLER HERALD

To foster the spirit of Jesus in our community January/February 2024

Volume 16, Issue #1



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

A Year that Whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."

What We As Seventh-day Adventists Believe:

The Trinity—There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. Most of all, He is always with us and He is the personification of love. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.)

1st Tuesday

Welcome to "First Tuesday" 2024! This year's Bible Study topic is based on Shannon Bream's book *The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today*.

In the introduction, Bream explains that "throughout the Bible, women are at the center of some of the most critical events. . . . Individually, their accounts are powerful. Yet, here, we will consider the women in pairs, finding the commonalities in their callings and challenges. Some of the women knew one another. Others were connected simply by a thread of common purpose, one that becomes more illuminated as we study the women side by side."

On February 6, we'll discuss "Sarah and Hagar: Women of the Covenants." (Also see Genesis 11-23). Shannon points out that Sarah was "voiceless" until Chapter 16, when she shared her plan for providing the son that God had promised to her husband Abraham. Sarah said, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my handmaiden [Hagar]; perhaps I can build a family through her" (16:1-2). He agreed, and the rest is history.



The Bible Study begins at 11:00 a.m. in the SDA Fellowship Room.

- Love, Judi Pearson

INSIDE

The Bible Speaks
Kids Page
Calendars
Recipe
Online Book



HEPLER HERALD

The Bible Speaks



I suppose one of the greatest things about a new year, is that, though many in our society say they don't believe in God, they participate in one giant celebration of Grace. A colossal "do-over" as it were. The world, at this one time of year, gets a glimpse of grace. It's as if they have read and understand God's words in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah. 43:18 and 19 advises us to "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

Every one is ready to forget the past (especially this past year) and start fresh. Everyone desires a clean slate.

It is right, at this time of year, for us to pause to reflect over the past year. It is good to see how the Lord has blessed and how His leading has brought us through both tragedy and triumph.

But have you taken time to reflect on whether your life has made a difference in the past year...especially for the cause of God? Have you considered how your life will make a difference this next year?

The pen is in your hand, my friend. You've got a clean slate. How will you write the next chapters of your life?

Write a breath-taking story about the grace of God in your life.

Happy New Year to each of you!!

Don Keefe, guest columnist



Predictions for the New Year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead:

Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance. In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.

Many times I will fail.

I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for His sure presence during the joys and challenges the New Year brings!

Happy New Year

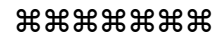


Mindy's Musings

My son has figured out that if he needs to poop, he can tell us and then sit on the toilet. Strangely, he only tells me and then I tell Ben, who takes him. I guess I am an intercessor for my son.

In the Bible, Jesus' first public miracle was because his mom was an intercessor. He probably wouldn't have turned water to wine if she hadn't asked him to help.

Intercession is an important responsibility. Being there for others and trusting in someone to assist you is both a privilege and an honor. Remember this as you pray for others.











Most New Year's resolutions are so major they are easily broken. That's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword.

Setting smaller realistic goals ensures more follow through. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit or veggies.


Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. Try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!


Puzzle!


Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.


	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					


P

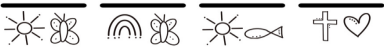







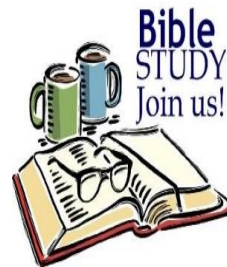
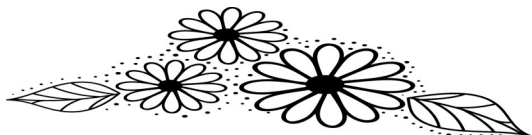








Answers: Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.



You are invited to Bible Study Saturdays at 10 a.m.

First Quarter 2024

Topic: Psalms

The Song Book of Old

Jan. 6—How to read the Psalms- Luke 24:44, 45

Jan. 13--Teach Us to Pray- Luke 11:1

Jan. 20—The Lord Reigns- Ps. 93:1

Jan. 27—The Lord Hears and Delivers- Ps. 34:17

Feb. 3—Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land- Ps. 137:4

Feb. 10—I Will Arise- Ps. 12:5

Feb. 17—Your Mercy Reaches Unto the Heavens-Ps. 57:9, 10

Feb. 24—Wisdom for Righteous Living- Ps. 90:12

Mar. 2—Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord-Ps. 118:22, 23

Mar. 9—Lessons of the Past-Ps. 78:3, 4

Mar. 16—Longing for God in Zion-Ps. 84:2

Mar. 23—Worship that Never Ends-Ps. 104:33

Mar. 30—Wait on the Lord-Ps. 27:14



January

Jan. 2—Women’s Ministry Bible Study—Postponed due to illness.
 Jan. 6-Epiphany
 Jan. 7 Orthodox Christmas
 Jan. 11-Cigarettes Harmful to Health Day
 Jan. 13-Pastor Wayne will be in Hepler
 Jan. 13-A Baby Dedication at 11:00
 Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Day
 Jan. 19-Pooh (Winnie The) Day
 Jan. 19-Popcorn Day
 Jan. 24-National Peanut Butter Day

February

Feb. 1-Change your password Day
 Feb. 2-Ground Hog Day
 Feb. 6-Women’s Ministry—Church Fellowship Room
 Feb. 9-National Pizza Day
 Feb. 10-Pastor Wayne will be in Hepler
 Feb. 10-Chinese New Year
 Feb. 12-Lincon’s Birthday
 Feb. 14-Valentine’s Day
 Feb. 19-Iwo Jima Day
 Feb. 19-Presidents’ Day
 Feb. 22-George Washington’s Birthday
 Feb. 22-National Set An Example Day

CALENDAR

Recipe

Did you get good luck black-eyed peas for New Years?

Black-Eyed Peas

1 lb. dry black-eyed peas
 1/2 onion diced (about a cup)
 1/2 tsp. Black pepper (optional)
 1 tsp. garlic powder
 1/2 to 1 tsp. liquid smoke
 6 cups vegetable stock
 3 bay leaves
 Salt, to taste

Sort and rinse beans. Soak in large container overnight covered by 2 inches water .

Meanwhile saute onion with seasonings until translucent. Add soaked beans, vegetable stock, and bay leaves. Bring to boil, reduce to simmer.

Simmer until beans are tender, about 1 hour. Discard bay leaves and season with salt. Serve with cornbread.

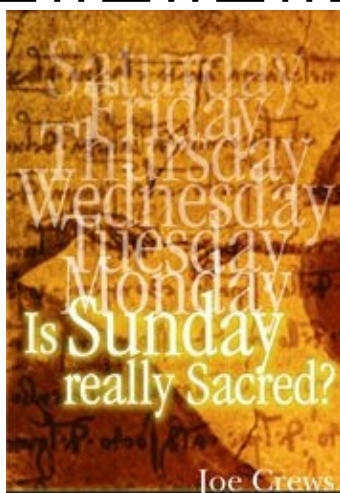


Is Sunday Really Sacred?

One of David’s most beautiful prayers is recorded in Psalm 43:3. “O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles.”

This same earnest petition to understand God’s Word should be in the heart of every sincere seeker for truth. A willingness to learn and to obey must characterize all of those who expect to be enlightened by the ...

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/book/e/37/t/is-sunday-really-sacred->



Hepler Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Newsletter

Editorial Staff

Wayne Gayton
 Mindy Goble
 Judi Pearson
 Carol Pearson

Contacts:
 Address: 109 N Prairie Avenue
 PO Box 144
 Hepler, KS 66746
 Phone: 620-368-4100
 Email: heplersda@yahoo.com
 Website:

hepler22.adventistchurchconnect.org
 And like us on Facebook