

# Here's What's Happening...

*at the Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church*

October 2008

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## PROPHECY SEMINARS CONTINUE

Take a look around our Church at 9:00, 11:15, or 5:30 and you're sure to see some new faces—people who are attending one (or more) of our services because they came to Keys to Prophecy.

Our fifth and final 2008 series begins Saturday night, Nov. 1, in the Sanctuary. This time around, the series' three double sessions will take place Nov. 8, 9, and 16. Those evenings the meetings begin at 5:30 p.m., with a delicious meal between sessions; all other sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Gary's nightly messages will once again focus on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation—what they meant then, what they mean today, and what they tell us about God's love for humanity.

Teams will distribute brochures to homes in the neighborhood around the church on Oct. 18 and 25, as well as Nov. 1. If you'd like to be part of that rewarding process, come for a pot luck lunch immediately following the 11:15 service, get your instructions and stacks of brochures, and head out. At each series there are attendees who say they've come specifically because of a brochure delivered to their home. Your efforts really do make a difference!

The series runs 12 nights over 2 weeks and 3 weekends. While the turnout of volunteers has been awesome, there are always areas where we could use more help—especially with the children's programs. If you can help for a night, a week, or the entire series, please contact Myles Reiner at 623-582-0700.

### Join the Prayer Chain

Please join us in continuous prayer Oct. 25–Nov. 1 for our Keys to Prophecy series and for all those homes that will receive brochures and/or personal invitations. Sign-up sheets are on the Lobby bulletin board (or contact Estrella Gonzalez at 623-939-9724). Select a time when you can commit a few minutes daily to pray for the seminars, for the door-to-door outreach, for the people whom God wants to come, for the volunteer staff, and for Pastor Gary. Have you signed up? Do it now. Experience the amazing power of prayer!

### Instead of Trick or Treating...

Our Youth Ministry offers you and your family an alternative to costumes, candy, and the negative messages of "Halloween." On Friday, Oct. 31, families are invited to participate in an Agape Feast and Communion Service here at the Church. Watch the bulletin for details, or contact Wendy Plummer at 623-707-9014.

### Do You Need Prayer?

Send prayer requests to Nancy Tucker at [ntucker@glendaleazsda.org](mailto:ntucker@glendaleazsda.org) for circulation to our E-mail Prayer Chain. To be added to (or deleted from) the list of recipients, e-mail Nancy. To be added to the prayer list in the weekly bulletin, contact Susan Robbins at 623-934-3295 or [srobbins@glendaleazsda.org](mailto:srobbins@glendaleazsda.org).

### NEXT ISSUE:

November calendar items, articles, and information are due by **Monday, Oct. 27**. E-mail it, fax it, or bring it to the Church office. This newsletter is distributed at Church monthly and posted on the Church Web site.

## We Celebrate Our Members With October Birthdays!

- 1 Janet Flemmer
- 2 Abdisa Adema
- 3 Angela Escobar
- 4 Katie (Wood) Garnick
- 5 Diane Brooks
- 6 Mike Wood
- 6 David Nsengiyuvna
- 7 Diego Donoso Jr.
- 7 Linda Montgomery
- 8 Sara Connor
- 10 Jacqueline Kanund
- 11 Michael Surovec
- 14 Elouise O'Neil
- 14 Lyla Pommerenke
- 15 Jim Duncan
- 15 Mishelle Henderson
- 15 Moises Salcedo
- 16 King Moore
- 16 Elsa Peverini
- 16 Denebe Obsa
- 18 Alex Fruland
- 18 Ed Hergett
- 18 Mario Gutierrez
- 21 Sherri Mead
- 21 Fernando Moulinet
- 22 Joshua Lowe
- 22 Anne Welsh
- 23 Norma Cox
- 25 Jeremy Egwu
- 28 Raul Gutierrez
- 30 Beatriz Gomez

*If you have an October birthday and your name isn't on the above list, it's because we didn't know! Please call or e-mail (623-934-3295 / [srobbins@glendaleazsda.org](mailto:srobbins@glendaleazsda.org)) and give us your name, phone number (in case there's a question), and birthdate.*

# FOCUS ON: Stewardship

Article written by Ed Reid, NAD Stewardship Director  
Submitted by Glendale Stewardship Committee Chair Anibal Pittau

## Getting With the Program

It seems organized people get the most accomplished. Well-managed businesses and homes seem to prosper. Somehow it just makes sense that we should conduct our spiritual business, too, in a systematic and business-like manner. In fact, we're told, "If systematic benevolence was universally adopted, according to God's plan, and the tithing system carried out as faithfully by the wealthy as it is by the poorer classes, there would be no need of repeated and urgent calls for [money] at our large religious gatherings. There has been a neglect, in several churches, of keeping up the plan of systematic benevolence, and the result has been an impoverished treasury and backslidden church." (Review and Herald, Jan. 1, 1875)

The Scriptures abound with counsel on having a definite plan regarding our response to God's goodness and our efforts to carry out the Great Commission. Solomon states, "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase; so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." (Prov. 3:9, 10)

Being systematic in putting God first gives Him the opportunity to bless the balance over which we have discretion. As part of the specific instructions to the disciples, Jesus commanded, "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The support of our offerings, accordingly, should include our local church, our community, our conference, and the worldwide programs of the church.

Again, He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23) If something is done daily, it becomes a habit—a part of our lifestyle. In an article on "Christian Benevolence" in the *Review and Herald*, Jan. 11, 1898, Ellen White states, "It is not emotional spasms of piety that make us children of God. He calls upon us to work for principles that are true, firm, and abiding."

After all, God's blessings come on a regular and systematic basis. "God's children should be educated to see that He has claims upon them. As regularly as the seasons come 'round, He give us the harvest of the earth. His liberality is constant and

systematic; and our returns to Him are to be made in accordance with the gifts which day by day He bestows to us. The steady, unfailing flow of Jehovah's goodness testifies of His love and benevolence. Then shall we not, with hearts filled with gratitude for all His blessings, respond by dispensing His gifts as faithful stewards?" (Review and Herald, Dec. 14, 1897)

The idea of bringing offerings to God is found throughout the Bible. In most cases offerings were brought in response to the blessings of God, not in order to secure favor or for a special purpose. For example, when the wise men from the east came to see Jesus at His birth, their stated purpose was "to worship Him." (Matt. 2:2) And when they found Him, they did worship Him, and as part of that worship they gave Him gifts. (Matt. 2:11)

As Christians, we give to our God because He is God. He is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. When we accept the Lordship of Christ, we acknowledge that He is the One who daily provides for us. When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, He reminded them it is the Lord that provides "our daily bread."

Though we are to be concerned about meeting the various needs of God's church, the primary motives for giving are not based on the present needs of His church. From a Biblical perspective, acceptable offerings are motivated by our desire to offer ourselves to God. We recognize God as Lord of our lives. Therefore, our offerings become an act of homage and submission to the One who redeemed us and is now our Lord.

Offerings also demonstrate that we have faith in God's providential care. Our offerings say our relationship with our God is more important than "things," and we trust Him to provide for our needs. An acceptable offering is an embodiment of the worshiper's gratitude, thanksgiving, joy, and love.

We all know God doesn't need the money. "Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other." (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 18)

Finally, an acceptable offering, although spontaneous, is at the same time systematic. God blesses us on a regular and continuing basis, and we respond in a regular and systematic way.

## School Corner

■ GAA is raising funds for new playground equipment. We're collecting box tops—and accepting cash donations! Thanks for your support.

■ Remember: Your participation in the Arizona State Tax Scholarship Fund helps pay tuition for students who otherwise couldn't afford a Christian education. For information on how to take advantage of this great program, see one of the Pastors, Glenview Elementary Principal Gus Martin, or Treasurer Mike Wood.

■ GAA Annual Rummage Sale is *postponed* until Sun., Nov. 9. This is a major fund-raiser for the school, and we would love to include your gently-used-but-no-longer-needed treasures. New storage space is now available, so bring it on! Contact the School Office (623-931-1846) if you need help moving large and/or heavy items. Participate; don't procrastinate!

Do you have a new home address? phone number? e-mail address? Fill out & turn in a ConneXions card, or e-mail your old & new info to [ntucker@glendaleazsda.org](mailto:ntucker@glendaleazsda.org).

## Ladies Only

■ "Ladies Do Lunch" at noon on Tues., Oct. 21, at Sweet Tomatoes, 10046 N. 26th Dr. (east side of I-17, between Peoria & Dunlap). There's a sign-up sheet on the Lobby counter. For more information, contact Connie Schmidt, 623-434-4251.

## Is It Time for a Decision?

Several baptisms are planned for the 11:15 service on Oct. 25. If you would like to be baptized at that time—or wish to join our Church family by profession of faith (if you've previously been baptized by immersion)—contact one of the Pastors no later than Weds., Oct. 22.