



Razor's Edge

by Pastor Jeff Kinne



Jolie, my six-year-old granddaughter, asks it incessantly. I've used it untold times myself—in all sorts of settings. “Why” probes issues of cause and consequence, reason and purpose.

I did a search of the word “why” in scripture. Four hundred one times the why question inquires. The psalmist asked: “Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1). If I've asked it once, I've asked it a hundred times: God, why? Why did you allow that cancer to metastasize, that dam to collapse, that man to shoot?

If you asked me why I believe in God, I could, in just a few moments, give you a number of reasons. One of them would surely be the story of a baby.

This wasn't the beginning of my faith in God, but it was a new chapter in it. For baby one, Wafia and I went through a Lamaze class together. I don't ever recall the instructor using the word “pain.” She spoke of discomfort, as in “When baby is born, you may experience some discomfort.”

When Evan arrived, this one who had only given his mother 17 hours of hard labor “discomfort,” Wafia was transformed. She would die for him. For me, it was absolute wonder. I found myself completely incapable of believing Evan was an accident, that the universe was a random chaotic machine that didn't care whether I loved him or hated him. I could not hold him without saying thank you to God.



On the other hand, if you were to ask me why I doubt, I would tell you about another baby. This one, Eric, was born to my younger sister, Beth. He's a



twin. His sister, Nicole, is a nurse practitioner, married, and is raising . . . dogs. In contrast, Eric lives with mom and dad. He depends on them for everything . . . everything. Eric has cerebral palsy. He forever needs the tender, loving care of others.

Birth declares God is and loves. But when the newborn suffers from cerebral palsy, it creates nagging doubts.

Doubt is not so much a dividing line that separates people into different camps as it is a razor's edge that runs through every human being. Everybody, those who believe and those who don't, have some contradictory information to work through. Doubters know the discomfort of being uncertain. Believers know the confusion of a world that has gone awry.

I believe . . . and I doubt. The razor's edge runs through me . . . and you.

This season brought Beth and Eric to mind. Her birthday is October 1. I'll connect by phone, wish her happy thoughts, and ask about Eric. That word, "why" inevitably surfaces . . . again.

When it comes to God, everybody has a "why" because everybody has to choose. We will never have conclusive evidence to know for sure. Faith requires doubt. Doubt means space for freedom. And freedom is the currency of heaven.

It has been said that there is enough light for those who want to see and enough darkness for those who don't. The apostle Paul appeals: "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

On earth, I only know in part, as in a mirror dimly—with some confusion and questions. Here, there will always be doubt. Someday however, doubt too will pass away.

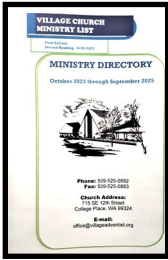
There is much about "why" that I don't understand. But there is one thing I have learned during my bouts with it. I never have to walk this path alone. Jesus said, "God so loved the world." This world and the people in it cannot always be trusted. But there's no one worth trusting more than Jesus. God is always a "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Jeff Kinne



Thank you, Nominating Committee!

by Karen Ekkens



Now it all fits into a tidy booklet titled Ministry Directory, but this booklet represents untold hours of work by a team of dedicated people known as the Nominating Committee. With twelve members and three alternates, this team is small in number, yet vital to the organized function of many aspects of Village Church.

The committee, formed in April, met 18 times, with meetings lasting 1 to 2.5 hours each, and these meeting hours represented just a small portion of the time invested. During the week, committee members conversed by phone with various church members, discussing the roles and responsibilities each was willing to take on. Some of these were for new positions, like those working with Verified Volunteers. Others, such as Sabbath School leaders, have filled their roles for many years, providing continuity and mentoring in these vital ministries. Overall, the committee facilitated the filling of nearly 500 positions, with a few left to fill.

Thomas Knoll, committee chair, said, "The Nominating Committee would like to recognize each volunteer who agreed to fill the ministry positions of the Village Church. Thank you for your service. Village Church is blessed to have much talent, so many spiritually-inclined, willing people." He told of an unexpected benefit and great blessing for the committee—the members became like a family, getting to know one another at a deeper level. This came about largely through the spiritual connection of starting each meeting with a devotional thought and spending much time together in prayer. The committee saw it as their calling to find just the right person for each position through the Lord's leading.

Village Church thanks you, Nominating Committee, we appreciate your patient kindness, perseverance, time, and prayerful efforts.

LEST WE FORGET



Ellen White



Joseph Bates



James White

by Marcel Grondahl and Juanita Neal-Teranski

October 22, 1844 is called the Great Disappointment by Adventists who were certain the Lord would return that day. Now, 179 years later, we at the College Place Village Church will spend a weekend reviewing those events—why? To answer this question, we begin with a well-known quotation from Ellen G. White: “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history” (Life Sketches p. 196). Early in the year, Jeff Kinne, Juanita Neal, Ricky Kearns, Terry Koch, and Marcel Grondahl, chairperson, began planning this event, LEST WE FORGET, for three main reasons:

- 1) We believe God guided the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the past and continues to do so in the present.
- 2) We believe Adventism is a movement of prophecy rather than merely another denomination.
- 3) We believe a great danger we face in the twenty-first century is that we will forget the church’s identity and thus lose sight of its purpose. To counter this, the committee invites you to participate in Lest We Forget, a weekend in which these historic events will be reviewed in an interesting, informative, and faith-building manner.

Friday, October 21, 7 p.m. vespers will be held in the Village Church sanctuary. Dr. Paul Dybdahl, Professor of Mission and New Testament at Walla Walla University, will highlight the life and work of William Miller. Those who come early enough (supply is limited)

will be privileged to sing from *Christ in Song* hymnals. Further, those who come in period dress will be offered a heritage album from Marcel's exceptional collection.

Sabbath services will convene in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. for Sabbath School and 11 a.m. for divine worship. Another of our honored guests will be Dr. Gerhard Damsteegt, retired professor from the Church History department of the SDA Theological Seminary of Andrews University. He has been invited to teach Pastor Dan Solis' Sabbath School class, preach the sermon, and make a historical presentation in the afternoon. Village Church youth will figure prominently in the weekend services, caring for many integral service details and participating in impersonations, a skit during the church service, and musical features.

Interesting events will continue as follows:

SABBATH

2 p.m. "Sing Me to Heaven" a musical program organized by Dr. Terry Koch (see article following)

3 p.m. Historical Presentation by Dr. Gerhard Damsteegt in the sanctuary

5 p.m. Walk through Mt. Hope Cemetery with Pastor Kinne, story teller, and Ricky Kearns, guitarist, for a memorable service of remembering and rededication

SUNDAY

8-9 a.m. Worship and prayer with Pastor John and Ruby Stafford

9-10 a.m. Continental breakfast; freebees and book sale—Spirit of Prophecy and Adventist Heritage books

10-11 a.m. Lecture on A. T. Jones presented by Ron Duffield

We encourage each one to participate in every aspect of this experience—wear period attire, sing out of *Christ in Song* hymnals, walk in Mt. Hope Cemetery, participate in the prayer breakfast. All are welcome to enjoy this event with guests and Adventists from around the valley. Spread the word!

Come! Praise God! Celebrate!
We're bound for the Kingdom!



by Terry Koch

This coming October 22 notes the 179th anniversary of a non-event in the experience of certain Christian believers, the day predicted by preacher William Miller when Jesus did not appear.

Oh, yes, He was expected. And His followers prepared for His arrival. They made sure their sins were forgiven. They left gardens unharvested. They gave away possessions. They made things right between them and others. They lived in the anticipation of their exit from the earth, impatient to become citizens of heaven and eternity.

October 22, 1844 passed without incident, resulting in feelings of disappointment among many Millerites. Henry Emmons, a Millerite, later wrote,

I waited all Tuesday [October 22] and dear Jesus did not come;—I waited all the forenoon of Wednesday, and was well in body as I ever was, but after 12 o'clock I began to feel faint, and before dark I needed someone to help me up to my chamber, as my natural strength was leaving me very fast, and I lay prostrate for 2 days without any pain—sick with disappointment.¹

Had not the Bible predicted the cleansing of the sanctuary after 2300 days which were completed in that year of 1844? Was not the earth the sanctuary that would be cleansed ending sin and sinners and taking God's faithful to heaven and eternity? Can you imagine how it was to live through the October 22 disappointment, especially in the days and weeks that followed? Those who did not renounce their faith or go back to their old churches were mocked and derided.

And how did they cope with that disappointment?

They sang. And sang. Fervent, hope-filled songs of anticipation, music of praise; prayerful tunes.



Sabbath, October 21, 2-3 p.m., at Village Church, a special service of music will be presented, titled “Sing Me to Heaven.” Directed by Terry Koch, friends from Village Church, and members of the choir of Pioneer United Methodist Church in Walla Walla will help us become acquainted with the songs of hope, anticipation, and worship, beloved early Advent-era hymns sung with great enthusiasm in prayer meetings and at camp meetings, as well as those songs of Zion which are still sung.

We also await that wonderful coming of Christ pictured in the stunning colored glass window in the front of our church sanctuary. In this spirit, then, let these songs of anticipation and hope flow from our hearts.

“There must be a living connection with God in prayer, a living connection with God in songs of praise and thanksgiving.

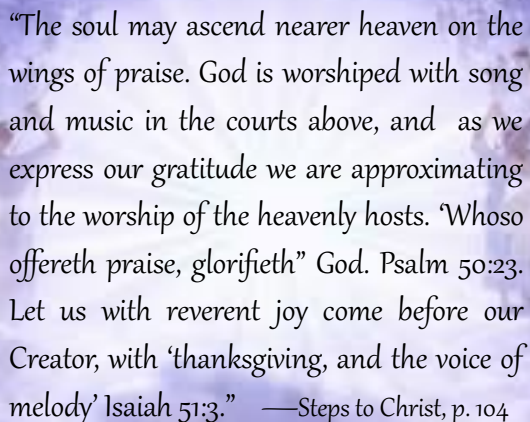
Children, we must learn to sing the songs of Zion here if we would join the angel choir yonder.”

Terry Koch

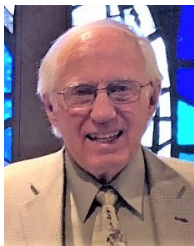


1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Disappointment

2 Ellen White; *Beloved Hymns of Ellen White*.
Ella Robinson. Chapel Records, Mountain View,
CA. LP 5 - 100



“The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise. God is worshiped with song and music in the courts above, and as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts. ‘Whoso offereth praise, glorifieth’ God. Psalm 50:23. Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator, with ‘thanksgiving, and the voice of melody’ Isaiah 51:3.” —Steps to Christ, p. 104

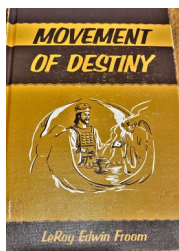


From the Library

by Marcel Grondahl

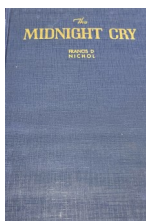
In keeping with the “LEST WE FORGET” theme, I have picked out four books detailing the events before and after that time period. Our library is fortunate to have many books on this subject and I would urge you to check them out.

For the first book I chose George Knight’s book “Early Adventist Educators” because I was a teacher for 44 years and that subject is near and dear to my heart. Knight describes the early efforts of Goodloe Harper Bell who worked to establish our first school at Battle Creek. He was an excellent scholar and wrote the first denominational textbooks...he was multi-talented and also authored books to be used by the young people in Sabbath School. Included in this book are the stories of such people as E A Sutherland, a reformer who worked tirelessly to implement the educational philosophy of Ellen White...he was president of Walla Walla College for a time. There are many more in this book deserving of your time and attention.



“Movement of Destiny” by L E Froom was written while he was a professor of Historical Theology at Andrews University. A scholarly presentation on the development of SDA theology from the pioneers down to the controversial Questions on Doctrine of 1957. Froom was outspoken and sometimes almost blunt in his coverage of the theological discussions in the Adventist Church. Give yourself plenty of time to digest this definitive work...you will be enlightened!

Francis Nichol was the primary author of the SDA Bible Commentaries as well as chief editor of the Review for many years. He was highly organized and found time to author books in addition to his regular duties. His book,



“The Midnight Cry” was published 100 years after the Great Disappointment of 1844. The purpose of this book is twofold: To present the story of the life of William Miller and his role in the Midnight Cry, and to examine a series of charges against the Millerites. This is fascinating reading, well written and definitive.

Young people need to know the story of the origin of our church as well, so I have selected a book by Betty Stirling to highlight that narrative. “This Is How It Happened” has many captivating illustrations and gives the details of our church’s founding in an interesting and informative way that will hold the attention of young people. The chapters include the story of how we got the name Seventh-day Adventists, the missionary ship Pitcairn, Our Church on the Radio, Loma Linda and other stories that highlight our Adventist Heritage.



A LAMP UNTO MY FEET: WHY WE NEED THE BIBLE IN DARK AND DIFFICULT TIMES

FORGED IN FIRE, BURNING STILL

Friday, November 3, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary

BREATHED BY GOD, LIVING STILL

Sabbath, November 4, 11 a.m. in the sanctuary

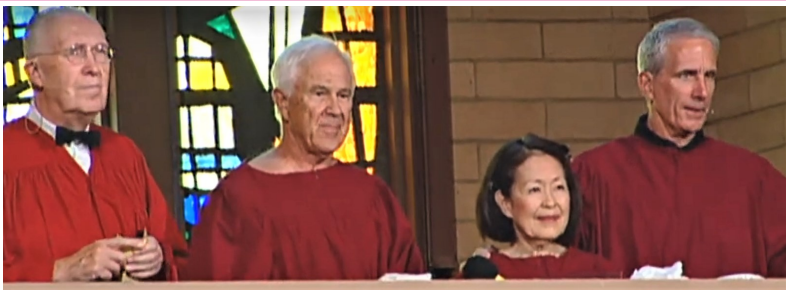
ALL SCRIPTURE, IN CONTEXT

Sabbath, November 4, 3 p.m. in the sanctuary

Presented by Dr. Stephen Reasor, who holds a PhD in Biblical Studies, this three-part series will explore the history of the writing of the Bible and how the historical contexts in which it was written can help us understand its value today as the living Word of God.



Welcome, New Members!



Jim and Jenny Pensiero
baptized August 19, 2023



Anna Hinojosa

baptized

September 2,
2023



Anna
with her family



Poem written by Jenny Pensiero and read by Jenny just before she and Jim were baptized

What Baptism Means to Me

Dear Heavenly Father, you hear my prayers,
My Security, My Safe Haven, for many years,
Once I was lost in darkness of utter disgrace.
Saved in 2007, by your unfailing grace.

Today is a gift, this second chance to atone.
A promise for eternal life, never to be alone.
My love for you, Jesus, my testimonial decree.
Your sacrifice is priceless, for sinners like me.

You have held my hand through thick and thin,
The Bible has taught me to resist all sin.
Throughout my day, I spend hours in prayer,
Even when fussing with which scarf to wear!

When adversity strikes to trip me off balance,
I turn to you, Jesus, for protection and guidance.
Though flawed where I stand, you comfort my heart,
Forgiving my shortcomings with a daily, fresh start.

It is an honor and a blessing to be here today,
Beside my Sweet Jimbo, to surrender and obey.
Thank you, Dear Family and Friends for being our witness,
Pastor Jeff, Thomas Knoll, Village Church and Lord Jesus.

~ Amen

Family Matters

A feature especially for parents of young children

by Bev Donahey

Parenting takes COORDINATION

Have you ever run in a 3-legged race? It includes a fall or two, and a hurried getting up and putting both legs back into the sack. People used to use big gunny sacks that potatoes were sold in. For those who haven't had this experience, I'll explain. The group of people divides into groups of two. Each 2 people are given 1 sack. Each person puts 1 leg into the sack, then when the signal to start is given, they run to the finish line, racing the other couples. It's awkward, and they have to figure out a system to make it work. It's fun!

Parenting is like a 3-legged race: fun, a fall or two, and efforts to get coordinated and develop workable methods. Parents, and single parents with childcare providers who are relatives or hired babysitters, need to discuss plans, expectations, methods of teaching and supervising the children. Parents need to work together, listening to each other, learning new information, respecting each other's opinions, and encouraging each other. When parents and caregivers are coordinated, using the same plan, life is easier for all involved. And of course, for families, the consequences are much greater than in a summer game.



Bev Donahey believes that one of the best things on earth is a happy family. She has a college degree in psychology and a master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science. Her work experience includes providing services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, therapy with children and teenagers who have behavior problems and mental illness, and adults with addictions. She shares tips that she picks up from her experiences, friends, and research.



With Love; Gen Z, Part 2

Hi, it's me again, Gen Z. How are you doing? I've been thinking about all the things I wanted to say about my perspective and experience, but then I thought we should just chat first. I already love and respect you, but I think we need to build trust between us.

This is a new world, the transition from childhood and adolescence to adulthood isn't something I've ever done before. Trust is built from conversation and confidentiality. And conversations are a two-way street. I hope we can learn together what that looks like as I learn what it's like to adult.

I was listening to a song recently and there was a line that really stood out to me. It said, "everybody fears the one thing they can't cure." There's a lot of fear in our world, church, and relationships these days, and if I were to hazard a guess, I would think it is because we are afraid we can't fix the issues there, or we're afraid of losing what we barely have if we make a wrong move.

I'm scared too, I'm scared of losing the things I love. It's hard to give life 100% when it feels like it will turn out wrong anyway. As Christians I know it's easier to just look at the long-term outcome and avoid watching the short-term fall apart. But if I need someone there right now to hold my hand, to watch the sunset with me, to be proud of me for healing, would you like to be there?

In my experience, church has been focused on learning the creed of religion, how to perfect faith to get us to heaven, and the works that will bring the world to Christ. But I've felt a little overlooked in the pursuit of that mission, because maybe instead of talking about helping others overseas, I hoped you'd notice I needed help. It seemed like I wasn't "heathen" enough to be worth your attention and care. Because I just needed to be told that my pain is valid, that I'll laugh again the way I used to, and that it will all be okay. Isn't that as worthy as building a church or school overseas?



I'm not trying to say that church should no longer focus on faith and developing a godly life. But could we just make it a safe place where hurting hearts like mine can find connection and community? I don't want to explain in detail right away how I think that should happen, because it is still too easy to shut down bridges of communication between us that way. But could we start focusing on the new commandment of loving each other as God has loved us, together? I think we'd find that it makes a world of difference. I love you, and I hope you are doing okay. I'm here, and we'll be okay.

With love, Gen Z



Children's Church Returns!



We are excited to announce the return of the Village Church Children's Church program in 2023-24. This year, our programs will explore how kids and adults can live like Jesus in a world full of stress, anxiety, and division. Through songs, engaging Bible lessons, and fun activities, we hope to lead children to the scriptural values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control found in Galatians 5:22-23. Programs will take place in the fellowship hall after the children's offering is collected on the following dates.



November 18, 2023

January 10, 2024

March 23, 2024

May 18, 2024



Children ages 0 through 125 are welcome. Please mark these dates in your calendar and invite your friends!



Health and Wellness Sabbath

by Pastor Jeff Kinne

Mark your calendar! Invite a neighbor! Come,
and be blessed!

We welcome Dr. Timothy Riesenberger and Ashley Sneddon to the Village pulpit November 17 and 18. Dr. Riesenberger is an emergency medicine physician. He received his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and has spoken at AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) conferences across the US. Ashley Sneddon, Dr. Tim's fiancée, recently completed an internship in dietetics. She is also a professional vocalist and



will inspire us with music and offer a nutrition nugget at each session. Here's a brief overview of the weekend:

***"Dr. Riesenberger's lectures at the recent Spokane AMEN gathering were some of the best I have ever heard." —Cindy Williams,
UCC Health Ministries Director***



A New Heart

Friday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.

Truth that Transforms the World

Sabbath, Nov. 18, 10:50 a.m.



The Secret of Happiness

Sabbath, Nov. 18, 3 p.m.

The Gift of a Second Harvest



by Elizabeth Travis

Food has always been a memorable part of any household. Families gather 'round the table together, sit down to share a meal, remember favorite recipes for years to come.

Sad to say, good, healthy food and groceries are not always a guarantee, not for some families. There are people and communities, even in our own area, who face hunger and cannot always provide their families with everything they need. The organization 2nd Harvest has chosen to reach out to these communities, providing them with much-needed food and groceries at no cost. But it took a crew of



willing hands to turn that goal into a reality.

Early in the morning on August 22, about two dozen volunteers from Village Church arrived, ready to team up with 2nd Harvest to provide food and groceries to those who came. With the kind, efficient organization of the members of 2nd Harvest and the willing help



of the Village Church volunteers, the trucks of produce were quickly unloaded and prepared for when the clients arrived.

The next three hours were spent helping out the clients and anyone who came to pick up food and groceries.

The Village Church volunteers lent a hand by serving the customers and carrying groceries out to their cars. But there was more to it than simply carting food and preparing the produce. Through their actions and their aid, their friendly faces and generous attitudes, the volunteers were able to show these customers some much-needed love and kindness.



By the end of the day, over 6,000 meals had been provided, serving 290 families in the College Place area. However, the impact made that day could not be measured in graphs and statistics, but rather in acts of kindness and generous hearts.

The 2nd Harvest will be returning this December, ready and willing to partner up with the volunteers of Village Church. This mobile market of food and produce will be held from 9-12 on December 20, mere days before Christmas.

If you would like to lend a hand at the 2nd Harvest mobile market this Christmas season, go to 2-harvest.org. Details will also be available at the Village Church front desk as the event date approaches. We look forward to seeing you there.

Beth Travis



The Village Pantry

by Cindy Solis

This recipe makes a delicious, one-dish meal, especially enjoyed by cilantro lovers!



Garden Veggie Linguine with Cilantro Pesto

Ingredients:

8 oz. linguine or fettucine noodles

2 small zucchini, sliced

8 oz. pkg. fresh baby carrots

2 seedless oranges

½ C. Olive oil

1 C. fresh cilantro leaves

1 tsp. dry mustard

1 tsp. garlic

½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes



Directions:

1. Cook pasta, adding zucchini and carrots the last five minutes. Drain and reserve ¼ cup pasta water. Return pasta to pan.

2. For pesto, peel and quarter one orange. In food processor combine orange, olive oil, cilantro, pasta water, 1 tsp. salt, mustard, garlic, and red pepper. Peel and chop remaining orange. Toss all together; top with cilantro and orange peel (zest). Make right before you are ready to eat. Makes 4-5 servings.



Dear Village Voice readers,

Have you ever felt insignificant? Like no one cares, or you don't really matter, or your choices affect only yourself?

Chase those lies away with this amazing truth: "The cross of Calvary challenges, and will finally vanquish, every earthly and hellish power. In the cross all influence centers, and from it all influence goes forth. It is the great center of attraction, for on it Christ gave up His life for the human race. This sacrifice was offered for the purpose of restoring man to his original perfection; yea, more. It was offered to give him an entire transformation of character, making him more than a conqueror. Those who in the strength of Christ overcome the great enemy of God and man, will occupy a position in the heavenly courts above angels who have never fallen" Sons and Daughters of God, p. 242.

Does God value you? Look at the cross, and see how much!

Karen Ekkens



"You are bought with a price" I Cor. 6:20, the "precious blood of Christ" I Peter 1:18.

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor



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