

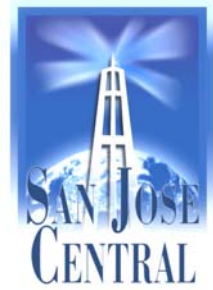
# The Central Messenger



SAN JOSE CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

Volume 400, Issue 2

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## The Pastor's Corner by Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.

One of the things that I love about the Bible is that it's words are true. Not only are the words that it contains true but also it's predictions are also true. In fact, the Bible reveals to us the character of God through Jesus Christ. It's this Jesus that is the focal point of the Bible and the words found in the last chapter are words that we need to spend some more time wrestling with "Behold, I am coming soon! . . . ." Rev. 22:12. Jesus tells us that He's coming soon and what does that have to do with us?

For starters, He'd like to take us home when He does come back. Since Jesus is coming soon, are we ready for His return? Are you ready for His return? We can't afford not to be ready. It would be one thing to not know the truth, but we have the truth.

We as Seventh-day Adventist Christians have a message that no one else is preaching and either we preach it or we and them (non-Christians) will die.

Next, are we doing everything possible for others to be ready? Daniel was in Babylon and people were going to die unless the King was provided with what was going to happen in the future. Essentially everyone would die unless they knew who it was who raised kings and kingdoms (Daniel 2) Jesus Christ Himself, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The knowledge that you have of Jesus and of prophecy is the information that if we ourselves do not give it then we have not only failed our friends & family, but we also have failed ourselves and may lose our salvation over it. There is no way that we can expect to

ready for Jesus second coming unless we are actively telling others about Him.

How does Jesus soon return affect your daily routine? How does it affect when you go to sleep? How does it affect when you wake up? How does it affect your Sabbath observance as it relates to your occupation and what you do when you are at church? Could you see us in heaven and getting to the heavenly sanctuary late? Could you see us being in heaven and tell Jesus that the job of serving Him is somebody else's job? Could you see us being in heaven and waiting for Jesus to tell you to come to church? How does Jesus second coming affect our daily routine?

Just in case we forgot, Jesus is coming quickly!!!!

## The Happiest People on Earth and all because of God's matchless love

People are converted, and they become exhilarated. Their lives expand with a new and lasting joy. Like the returning prodigal, they begin to be merry. Campbell Morgan brought smiles to faces by rendering the classic phrase of Habakkuk 3:18 this way: "I will jump for joy in the Lord; I will spin round with delight in the God of my salvation."

Conversion is, indeed, an invigorating and exhilarating experience. A poet expressed it like this:

*"Heaven above is a softer blue,  
Earth around is a sweeter green,  
Something lives in every hue  
Christless eyes have never seen.  
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,  
Flowers with richer beauties shine,  
While I know, as now I know,  
I am His, and He is mine."*

The only way to fill life to

the brim is to fill it with Him.

But sometimes the sparkle seems to evaporate out of our Christian experience. At times we seem to forget the words of joy found in Psalm 16:11: "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." A gloomy countenance is a contradiction of our Christian experience.

If we let Him do what He wants, He'll fill our cups so full that they'll run over and be a blessing to those about us.

Ellen G. White wrote: "In Christ is the tenderness of the shepherd, the affection of the parent, and the matchless grace of the compassionate Saviour. His blessings He presents in the most alluring terms. He is not content merely to announce these blessings; He presents them in the most attractive way, to

excite a desire to possess them. So His servants are to present the riches of the glory of the unspeakable Gift. The wonderful love of Christ will melt and subdue hearts, when the mere reiteration of doctrines would accomplish nothing" (The Desire of Ages, p. 826).

### Two Illustrations

One illustration comes from the Old Testament, the other from the New.

#### *1. From the Old Testament*

We all know who wrote the Twenty-third Psalm. It was David. It would be hard to find anyone who had more trouble and sorrow than he. And even though



## Power to Witness by E.J. Waggoner

Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be My witnesses...unto the uttermost part of the earth," said Christ. Acts 1:8

In the same connection He also said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore." Matthew 28:18

Take these texts in connection with Romans 1:20, which tells us that this power is seen in everything that has been made — in the blade of grass, and in the hosts of the heavens — and see what encouragement it is for all men.

We learn the power by which God works to save us from sin. Every soul who is longing for deliverance may know that "the power that worketh in us" to save, whenever we really desire salvation, is the power that supports and holds together the universe. Then let no one say or think that God cannot save a sinner such

as he is. Nothing is too hard for the Lord.

There is encouragement also to witness to the power of this salvation; for the power that saves is the power by which witnesses are sent forth. Nothing less than all power in heaven and in earth can save a man from sin; so that whoever is saved has all that power with which to proclaim the Word of truth, the Gospel of our salvation.

Notice that what is needed, and all that is promised, for the proclamation of the Gospel, is power. The Lord does not promise eloquence nor learning, but power. Paul was not destitute of that which in the world passes for wisdom, yet he says, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:4,5.

It is power that tells. Not human power, but Divine power. There is no power but of God," so that all attempts to make an impression are vain. "He whom God hath sent, speaketh the words of God" (John 3:34), and "the Word of God is quick, and powerful."

All therefore that is needed for the Gospel to go with power is to have a company of people fully yielded to God's power — that is, to His will— and saved by it. There need not necessarily be many. Twelve such men effected a mighty change in the world a few hundred years ago.

All are not apostles; all are not evangelists; all are not called to go as missionaries to other lands, or even to other neighborhoods, than their own; but each one who is saved can witness to the power of Christ to save, with all the power by which he has been saved.

- The Present Truth, July 7, 1898

## February Birthday Celebrants

- 5 Sayuri Ruiz
- 6 Serena Barraza
- 9 Rebecca Greene
- 11 William Celaya.
- 12 Haydee Enoveso



- 16 Ricky Millena
  - 19 Lorenzo Gervacio
  - 21 Sarah Portales
  - 25 Thea Mora
  - 25 Tito Linhsamout
- "Everyone is the age of their heart."  
-Guatemalan proverb*

San Jose Central SDA Church

### PASS THROUGH THE

*1<sup>st</sup> Annual Valentine's Banquet*

Spend an evening filled with great people, great food & wonderful entertainment. All of this is being provided for only \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP by February 6 by calling Sayuri Ruiz @ (408) 772-8380. Spots are filling fast, so call as operator's are standing by.

**FEBRUARY 14 @ 7:30 PM**

## Health Nugget



A second meal should never be eaten until the stomach has had time to rest from the labor of digesting the preceding meal. If a third meal be eaten at all, it should be light, and several hours before going to bed. The stomach, when we lie down to rest, should have its work all done, that it may enjoy rest, as well as other portions of the body. The work of digestion should not be carried on through any period of the sleeping hours.

Those who are changing from three meals a day, to two, will at first be troubled more or less with faintness, especially about the time they have been in the habit of eating their third meal. But if they persevere for a short time, this faintness will disappear.

- Selected Messages, Vol. II p. 415

## New Adventist TV Show addresses Church and Social Issues

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is launching a new television show this month, featuring panelists tackling subjects such as the role of women in the church, the influence of media on Christianity, and the relevance of marriage in today's society.

The series, titled "Intersection: Your Faith, Your World," will begin airing February 6 on the church's international satellite network, Hope TV. The programs will be available for download at [intersection.adventist.org](http://intersection.adventist.org). The show is a series of about 100 episodes which will run Friday nights for two years, with re-runs available at other times of the week.

"The programs aim to explore issues which we all face in society, and as Adventist Christians in our faith community," said Rajmund Dabrowski, executive producer and communication director for the Adventist world church.

The roundtable program, initiated by world church President Jan Paulsen, will cover a range of topics including "Christians in a Culture of Indifference," "Becoming What We Watch," "Does Marriage Still Matter?" "Why Study the Bible?" and "The Art of Forgiveness" and "Christians and Politics."

The program is meant to serve as a starting point for discussions in small groups, Bible studies and Saturday morning classes, said Williams Costa Jr., the church's associate director

*The new panel discussion show launches this month and is produced by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.*



for media production.

Dabrowski said the programs will also serve the purpose of introducing viewers unfamiliar with Adventism to the church's perspectives on issues.

"An exchange of views by experts will provide an open look, we hope, into what we think and how we approach our world as Adventists," he said.

Bettina Krause, senior producer for Intersection, will host the shows. The panels will consist of Adventist commentators, academics and professionals.

The airing dates for the programs are (all times are U.S. Eastern):

Friday, February 6 - 6 p.m.

Saturday, February 7 - 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 8 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11 - 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 13 - 6 p.m.

Sabbath, February 14 - 1:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

## The Happiest People on Earth (continued)

many of his problems were self-inflicted, that only made them even harder to bear.

But everything we see in the Twenty-third Psalm indicates that David, notwithstanding all his troubles, found life filled to the brim with God, the Good Shepherd.

The last part of the fifth verse says: "My cup runs over." David's blessings and happiness in the Lord didn't stop at the brim. His cup was so filled that it ran over!

When you're drinking something you enjoy and pass your cup back to ask your host to refill it, do they usually fill it to the brim? Probably not. And why not? Because people filling cups stop a little below the brim, for fear the contents will spill over. But God doesn't care at all if the blessings and happiness He gives us spill over. In fact, He wants them to!

It is one thing to generously and carefully fill our cups of life to the brim. But God has much more in mind for us, so He doesn't stop at the brim. If we let Him do what He wants, He'll fill our cups

so full that they'll run over and be a blessing to those about us. Those about us will receive the overflow.

### 2. From the New Testament

The New Testament tells what it meant for Jesus to die on the cross for us. Commenting on what we find there, Ellen White wrote: "The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise. He who stilled the angry waves and walked the foam-capped billows, who made devils tremble and disease flee, who opened blind eyes and called forth

the dead to life—offers Himself upon the cross as a sacrifice, and this from love to thee" (The Desire of Ages, p. 755).

What wonderful love Jesus has for us! He gave His all that we might have the fullness of joy in Him! He gave all and then was resurrected. The disciples' joy when they saw Jesus again is beyond our comprehension. They could happily report as John did: "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11, 12).

John suffered much for Christ, but none of that mattered. He had eternal life! What tremendous joy and happiness he received through it all! To have eternal life through Jesus' love and care!

We have that eternal life now in Him. Let's not forget it as we sometimes seem to. It's our privilege to be the happiest people on earth. We need to demonstrate that joy and happiness to all about us. Then we will testify to all that we will "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Ps. 23:6).

*By Leo Van Dolson*

# February 2009

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7pm—Board Meeting	<b>10</b> 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	<b>11</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>12</b> 7pm—Financial Peace University	<b>13</b> Sunset: 5:44pm	<b>14</b> Sunset: 5:45pm  9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 7:30—Tunnel of Love
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>President’s Day</b> 	<b>17</b> 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	<b>18</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>19</b> 7pm—Financial Peace University	<b>20</b> Sunset: 5:51pm	<b>21</b> Sunset: 5:52pm  9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. <b>Potluck Sabbath</b> 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30pm—Vespers
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	<b>25</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>26</b> 7pm—Financial Peace University	<b>27</b> Sunset: 5:58pm	<b>28</b> Sunset: 5:59pm  9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: David Miguel 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers
<b>March 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	<b>4</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>5</b> 7pm—Financial Peace University	<b>6</b> Sunset: 6:05pm	<b>7</b> Sunset: 6:06pm  9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. <b>Potluck Sabbath</b> 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30pm—Vespers

Sunset times taken from <http://www.sunrisesunset.com> for location: San Jose, CA



*San Jose Central*  
Seventh-day Adventist Church



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Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 10am—3pm  
Wednesday 5pm—9pm  
Sabbath Services: Sabbath School: 9:20 am  
Divine Worship: 10:50am

**Mission:** Our mission is to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ to our community through the power of the Holy Spirit and to provide an affectionate and welcoming place of worship in the unified and spiritual body of Christ through prayerful Bible study and involvement in soul winning and hospitable activities with the goal of preparing ourselves and the city of San Jose for the second advent of Jesus Christ.

**Vision:** We, the San Jose Central Church through the power of the Holy Spirit, strive for an environment filled with unified disciples who work diligently for the cause of advancing the Kingdom of God.