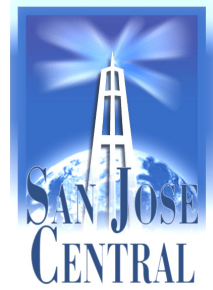


The Central Messenger



SAN JOSE CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

Volume 400, Issue 3

March, 2009

The Pastor's Corner by Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.

I couldn't sleep last night. It wasn't that I had too much for supper, it was due to the noise I was hearing. I tried to ignore it by using my pillow and bed covers to block the sound, but yet it continued. What was the noise? It was the fire detector battery that had gone bad which needed replacing. As I finally dragged myself out of bed to grab a chair to kill the detector (remove the battery) at 4 a.m. I started to have very evil thoughts about the fire detector. And then it dawned on me that I actually need the fire detector if some day a fire started it would be able to be taken care of quickly and minimize it's damage. In the morning the battery was replaced and any threats of a fire are now overseen by a fully functional fire detector.

Fire detectors and their batteries, exciting stuff, huh? Well, we see this kind of stuff in the church as well. At times there is noise in the church that we try to sleep through. Noise about an individual. It could be noise that we are causing about an individual. To avoid the noise about them, we'll try to avoid them, draw conclusions from assumptions, and may even share it with others and add to the noise until the noise becomes a choir having different singers and parts. What is this noise? When we make perceptions reality. What we see isn't always what it seems.

But if we go to the fire detector, then all we have to do is open it and see that it simply needs is a new battery. We could have started cursing the poor fire detector in our prayers,

shared our thoughts about it with other members, etc. All the while we fail to realize that the fire detector has a job to do and that's to keep those that are in the house safe. Sometimes the perception is that the fire detector is really bad because it's not allowing me to sleep, or it's really bothering me as we hear the noise. But when there is noise, all we have to do is get up, go up to fire detector, actually see what the problem really is, make a simple change (such as a battery), and then we can all sleep through the night.

Wouldn't it be nice if when we had problems in the church it were as easy as changing a battery rather than talking about people and drawing conclusions about them that are not true? Just a thought.

Overcoming Addictive Habits by Mark Finley

Have you ever struggled with a habit that felt impossible to overcome? Is there some persistent sin you commit again and again? Have you wished that you could be free from the bondage that at times enslaves you? There is hope. In today's lesson we will discover biblical principles that will enable you to experience the joy and victory that come in Jesus.

1. What does the Bible indicate regarding every temptation we face? Read the text below and write your answer in your own words.

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Every temptation we face, others have faced. God promises that every temptation from the evil one comes with a way of escape for those who draw strength from their faith in Christ.

2. How did Isaiah describe the work of the Messiah in setting us free and delivering us from bondage? Read the text below and put your answers in the blanks below.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound"(Isa. 61:1).

Jesus came to proclaim _____ to the _____

and the opening of the _____ to those who are _____

3. How do we cooperate with Christ in the process of overcoming? Read the text below and circle the two words that show us how to cooperate with God.

Overcoming Addictive Habits (continued)

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

We cannot overcome without God. But God will not overcome sin in our lives without our cooperation. As we submit to His will and open our hearts to receive His power, the Holy Spirit takes control of our lives. This does not mean we will never be tempted; it simply means that we are now able to resist through the power of the living God.

4. Why does it seem that we fail repeatedly and commit the same sin again and again? Read the text below and fill in the blanks.

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

- a. Jesus invites us to _____ in Him.
- b. As we abide in Christ, we will _____ much _____.
- c. For _____ we can do nothing.

One reason we fail again and again is because we attempt to live the Christian life in our strength, not His.

5. What assurance did the apostle Paul give regarding victory in the Christian life? Read the text below and write your thoughts. What does this Bible passage mean to you personally?

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13).

6. Is it possible to read the Bible and not receive the spiritual strength God intends? Find another missing link in overcoming sin in our lives. Read the text below and fill in the blank.

“For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it” (Heb. 4:2).

To benefit us, the Word of God must be mixed with _____

God has provided for us mighty spiritual aids in overcoming the bondage of sin. He has sent us His Holy Spirit. He has given us His Word to give us courage and hope, but unless we receive His promises by faith, they will not profit us.

7. When we accept God’s Word by faith, what promise does He give us? Read the texts below and write in your own words on the line what God promises you personally.

- a. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).
- b. “By which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).

Throughout the Bible, as men and women opened their hearts to receive God’s power, their lives were transformed. God’s grace is greater than sin. God’s power is mightier than the power of the evil one. The weakest child of God receiving His grace is stronger than all of the powers of hell. So today, open your heart to receive by faith everything God has for you, and your life will be one of victory, not frustrated defeat.

- Source: adventistworld.org

Health Nugget

It is the custom and order of society to take a slight breakfast. But this is not the best way to treat the stomach. At breakfast time the stomach is in a better condition to take care of more food than at the second or third meal of the day. The habit of eating a sparing breakfast and a large dinner is wrong. Make your breakfast correspond more nearly to the heartiest meal of the day. If a third meal be eaten at all, it should be light, and several hours before going to bed



- *Counsels on Diet and Foods*—p. 173,174

Bible Study

Read Hebrews 8:6-13.

If the “new” covenant (v.8) was established upon better promises than the “old” covenant (see v. 6), does that mean that God made promises which were faulty when He established the old covenant with Israel? Note that the word “covenant” in v.7 is in italics and hence not in the original Greek text. Therefore the word “first” in v.7 probably refers not only to “covenant” (from v.6), but also to “ministry” and “promises” (also from v.6).

When did God make the old covenant with Israel? (v.9) Therefore, upon what promise (or promises) was the old covenant established? Exodus 24:3,7,8.

For further study: Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 363-373.

- By Timber Zwonkin

March Birthday Celebrants

- 2 Sangiam Manivanh
- 5 Richard deVries
- 5 Delmar Miguel
- 6 Marcial Cardenas
- 29 Alex Lacayo
- 11 Danny Barraza



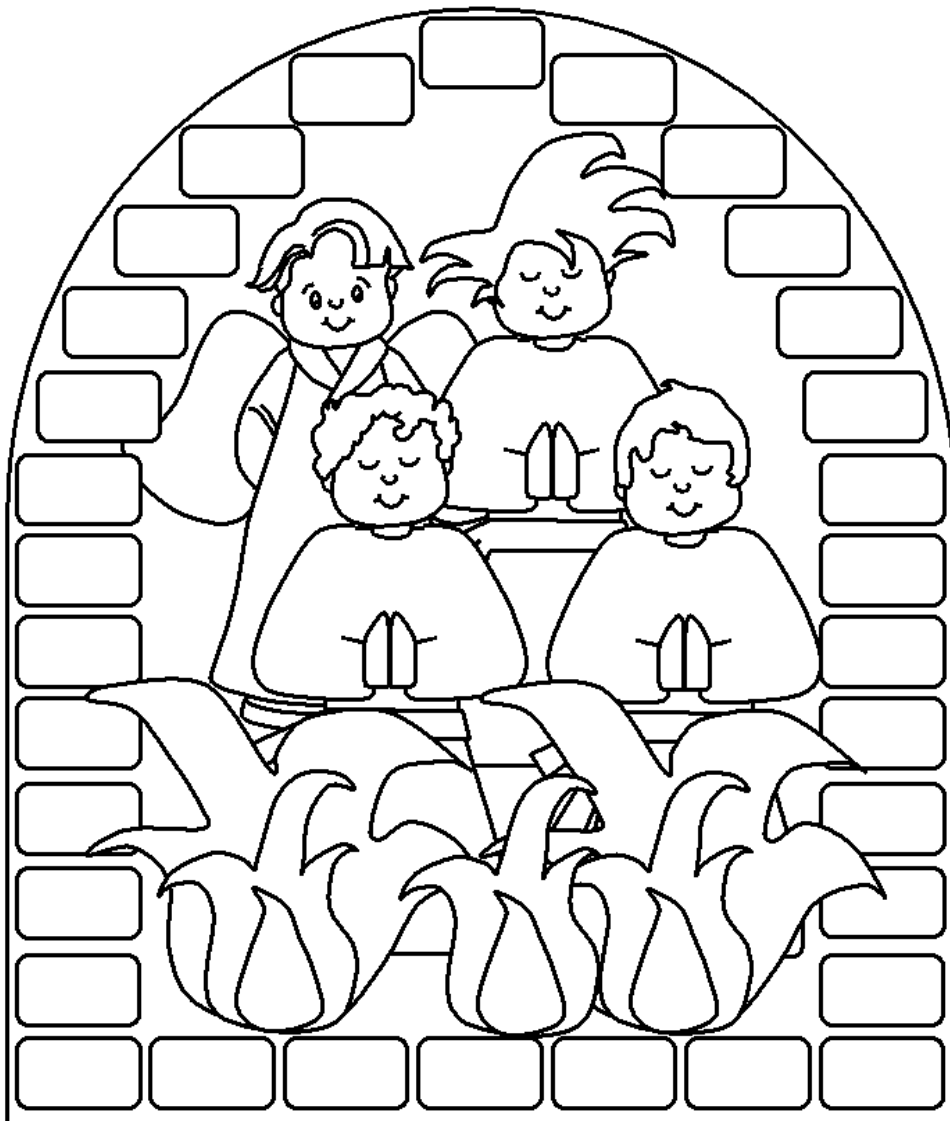
Movie Night at SJ Central

FIREPROOF touched the hearts and impacted the marriages of millions who have seen the movie. Churches across the country purchased entire show times to help strengthen marriages in their congregations and to reach out to their communities.

Join us for a movie night on March 21, 2009 (Saturday) from 5-8pm at the San Jose Central SDA Church. This is a Christian movie that you definitely do not want to miss!

FROM THE CREATORS OF **FACING THE GIANTS**

FIREPROOF



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8	9	10 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	11 7pm—Prayer Meeting	12 7pm—Financial Peace University	13 Sunset: 7:12pm	14 Sunset: 7:13pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
15	16	17 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	18 7pm—Prayer Meeting	19 7pm—Financial Peace University	20 Sunset: 7:18pm	21 Sunset: 7:19pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. Potluck Sabbath 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:00pm—Movie Night: Fireproof
22	23	24 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	25 7pm—Prayer Meeting	26 7pm—Financial Peace University	27 Sunset: 7:25pm	28 Sunset: 7:25pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
29	30	31 Cesar Chavez Day 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	April 1 7pm—Prayer Meeting	2 7pm—Financial Peace University	3 Sunset: 7:31pm	4 Sunset: 7:32pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. Potluck Sabbath 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
5	6	7 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	8 7pm—Prayer Meeting	9 7pm—Financial Peace University	10 Sunset: 7:37pm	11 Sunset: 7:38pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class

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



San Jose Central
Seventh-day Adventist Church



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E-mail: sanjosecentralsda@sbcglobal.net
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.