



FEBRUARY 2018

The Love of a True Friend

BY VANUSA SOBRINHO

Edna Buchanan once said that “friends are the family we choose for ourselves”. I believe that to be true, although sometimes a friendship develops so naturally that we cannot really say we chose to start a friendship relationship with someone.

I still remember the Sabbath I met my dearest friend Merline. I remember seeing her on the back pew during church service and I stopped to talk to her at the end. She told me she was visiting from another church. She came to visit again and soon we were talking like old acquaintances.

She probably has a more detailed version of how our friendship started, but we both agree our friendship has enriched our lives. She is one of those self-giving, gentle, thoughtful and caring people who really make a difference in everybody's lives around them. Over the

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Managing Editors
Eddie Somers
Paula Vogler
Copyeditor
Paula Vogler

Design/Layout
Eddie Somers
Photography
Kerri Vogler



FOCUS ON LOVE

The Word

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

John 13:34

Inspiration

Love is not simply an impulse, a transitory emotion, dependent upon circumstances; it is a living principle, a permanent power. The soul is fed by the streams of pure love that flow from the heart of Christ, as a well-spring that never fails. O, how is the heart quickened, how are its motives ennobled, its affections deepened, by this communion! Under the education and discipline of the Holy Spirit, the children of God love one another, truly, sincerely, unaffectedly,—"without partiality, and without hypocrisy." And this because the heart is in love with Jesus. Our affection for one another springs from our common relation to God. We are one family, we love one another as He loved us. When compared with this true, sanctified, disciplined affection, the shallow courtesy of the world, the meaningless expression of effusive friendship, are as chaff to the wheat.

To love as Christ loved means to manifest unselfishness at all times and in all places, by kind words and pleasant looks... Genuine love is a precious attribute of heavenly origin, which increases its fragrance in proportion as it is dispensed to others.

EGW, *Our Father Cares*, p. 22, 23

DEAR READER

Some may say it's a bit cliché to use *love* as the theme for our February edition of the Newsletter, but what can I say—we're hopeless romantics. Correction: hopeFUL romantics.

It would be easy to be hopeless given the seeming lack of love all around us—hateful acts, hateful words, and hidden or suppressed hateful thoughts. But we know that God is love, and because God is love, He desperately wants us to experience and share that love He has for us.

Maybe you don't have hateful attitudes on social issues, and you've never and would never commit an act of hate, but what about your feelings toward your brother, sister, or neighbor, toward the one who has done you wrong?

When you are filled with Christ's love, there is no room for hate; there is only room for love.

So it is without apology that we bring you this love-themed edition of the Newsletter. It is our hope that it stirs up in you an overwhelming need to love as Christ loved you.

-Newsletter Staff



God's Love: through

When Cindy Devine asked her Youth class to show how they see God's love, this is what they came up with.

His love shines through us

Yvenarly writes:

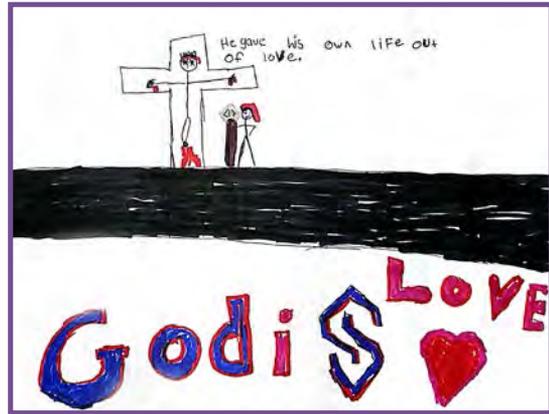
When I see that Jesus' love is near me, it's something I easily recognize. When I pray for anything specific, I realize how God is still able to listen even though I'm not always trying my best when it comes to serving God, or choosing a more Godly choice. I also feel God's love when I share it with others. People make a big difference when it comes to how we share and interpret God. Because of how we help others and how we show God through us, we realize that God is with us and that He loves us, and cherishes us, we feel safe. Thus, we recognize that God's love has been shining through us all along.



He gave everything out of love

Luke writes:

I see Jesus' love as never ending because he loves you even when you sin... God doesn't stop forgiving and always helps you in troublesome times even though it doesn't seem like it. God loves us so much that He gave his Son's life to save us from the penalty of sin. God has the whole world in His hand. He gave His own life out of love.



JESUS LOVES



the eyes of a child



God takes care of me

Al writes:

I see Jesus' love for me every day by the blessings He gives me, and day by day He takes care of me. The faith I have with God inspires me.



It's unconditional

Nora-Eva writes:

I think of God's love as unconditional. I like the fact that His love lasts forever. I feel as if His love is long-lasting, it's easier to love others and Jesus because you know that Jesus is watching you being kind and thoughtful. I think it's an act of thankfulness for God's love. I also thank Him (Jesus) for His love because it gives me courage to never give up because God is with you, and since He loves me, I want to get better for God. That is what I think of God's love, unconditional love. So I thank God. I want to share God's love forever and ever. God's love is located everywhere! God's watching over the world. Thank you, God!





HEALTH beat

Heart Smarts

BY DONNA STRETTER, MSN, CNE, RN

Despite all the advances in knowledge related to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, it remains the leading cause of U.S. deaths. While it was once believed that coronary artery disease was not reversible, the good news is that research has shown that a healthy lifestyle can potentially reverse damage that has been done and that it is never too late to make those lifestyle changes.

The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends that we eat smart and add color to our meals. Eating smart involves making healthy food choices regardless of when or where we eat. In order to be successful doing this, we must plan ahead. It means shopping for healthy food and having it readily available to either prepare or grab-and-go. So, are there “diet plans” that can help us eat smart? Yes, the DASH diet “is a plant-focused diet, rich in fruits and vegetables, nuts, with low-fat and non-fat

dairy, lean meats, fish, and poultry, mostly whole grains, and heart healthy fats” (dashdiet.org). There is also a Vegetarian DASH Diet. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institute of Health (NIH) promotes the DASH diet.

We also need to move more. Both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and AHA recommend that we engage in moderate-intensity exercise such as brisk walking or bicycling for 30 minutes, 5 days/week. If we have sedentary jobs, even taking a 5-minute “movement break” every hour of sitting will improve our heart health. A January 2018 study looking at reversing the cardiac effects of sedentary aging in middle age found that 2 years of exercise training improved maximal oxygen uptake and decreased cardiac stiffness, both indicators of heart health.

So be heart smart. Eat colorfully and get moving. It’s never too late.

Corn Soufflé

THE DISH ON POTLUCK

Ingredients:

- 10 cans whole kernel corn
- 1 can carnation milk
- 1 cup mayonnaise (or vegan sub)
- 1/2 large onion
- 2 Tbsp white flour
- 1/2 cup Parmesean cheese
- 2 Tbsp butter (or substitute)

Directions:

Drain corn and put aside in large bowl. Dice onion and sauté in butter. Add onion, mayo, milk, cheese, and flour to corn and mix. Put corn mix into pan, cover with foil, and bake for 120 minutes. Take foil off for the last 30 minutes to add color.

This Potluck favorite was shared by Merline Agenor.



When It's Not Easy to Love

We've all been there—trying to love that one person (or two or three or four) who just doesn't make it easy. Been there, done that, made an excuse: "I've tried," "he has to say I'm sorry first.," "it's her turn."

*Jesus had to love a difficult person too. In their book *Facing Family Crises*, Karen and Ron Flowers write about agape love and some ways Jesus showed this kind of love to a difficult disciple, John the Son of Thunder. Perhaps you will find the following excerpts useful in your interactions with those you find it difficult to love.*

John possessed a spirit of criticism. He was racially and religiously prejudiced, and jealous for his own group. He wanted nobody else stepping on what he considered the private turf of Jesus and the disciples (Luke 9:49). It was John who was angry, indignant and ready to fight when the Samaritans were inhospitable to the Master. In revenge, he wanted to destroy them by fire (Luke 9:54, 55). E. G. White in *The Desire of Ages*, p. 295, characterized him as evil-tempered, critical, proud, violent of spirit, combative, and indignant.¹

The Lord set about to provide John with that for which his heart craved—redemptive love. It is a love that has compassion for the brokenness that people feel inside, a love that accepts, a love offered as a gift.¹

The New Testament uses the Greek word agape to describe God's love. God's agape love differs from human love in at least three ways:

1. Human love is conditional; God's love is unconditional. It flows from Him independently of our goodness or self-worth (see Acts 15:11; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8, 9; Titus 1:14).

2. Human love is changeable; God's love is unchangeable. His love never fails (see Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:35-39; 1

Agape Love

"Agape love is plugged into an eternal power source and it can go on operating when every other kind of love fails. . . . It loves, no matter what. No matter how unlovable the other person is, agape can keep on flowing. Agape is as unconditional as God's love for us. It is a mental attitude based on a deliberate choice of the will."²

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out" (Matt. 12:20).

Corinthians 13:8).

3. Human love is self-seeking; God's love is self-sacrificing (see Philippians 2:6-8).¹

The supreme manifestation of God's unconditional, unchanging, self-sacrificing love was demonstrated when Jesus died the second death on the cross for all humanity (see Romans 5:8; Hebrews 2:9) (Sequeira, 1993, p. 27).¹

May the love of Jesus transform us, soften us, make us more kind and caring. Let its power renew our home and family relationships... that it might be true of us as He said, "All . . . will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).¹

1. Reprinted from Karen & Ron Flowers, *Facing Family Crises*. Silver Spring, MD: Department of Family Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1999. <http://family.adventist.org/resources-for-family-ministries---sermon-collections---parenting-sermon-resources---how-to-love-a-so.html>

2. Ed Wheat, *Love Life for Every Married Couple* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980), p. 62





THE LOVE OF A TRUE FRIEND

Continued from cover.

years, our friendship has matured and blossomed, and I believe I got the better deal out of it.

The Bible is full of inspiring friendship relationships, such as the one between David and Jonathan, Ruth and Naomi, Jesus and John. They all have peculiar traits that show true love between friends.

Philip and Nathanael's friendship is also a remarkable one (John 1:43-51). I still remember a sermon I interpreted during my college internship in which Pastor Lyle talked about these two striking men and the friendship they shared. As I interpreted the words of Pastor Lyle into Portuguese, I felt myself drawn to the story in a way I had never before. The Bible does not talk too much about them, but the little that is said is enough to inspire us.

First, Philip and Nathanael were close friends who often prayed

together under the hidden fig tree; they were thirsty for truth and were searching for the Messiah.

Second, Nathanael had already had his chance (at) finding the Messiah. When John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus was the Lamb of God, Nathanael had been among the throng, but prejudice and doubt had gotten the best of him and he had been somewhat disappointed in the possibility of a Messiah "who bore the marks of toil and poverty" (Desire of Ages, p. 139). Besides, Jesus was from Nazareth, a not very reputable town. All that worked against Nathanael accepting Jesus that day, but he was a sincere soul and, troubled, he had withdrawn to a quiet grove to reflect and pray about the Baptist's revealing words.

It was only when his close friend came running to their secluded spot, ecstatic to share the news that he had



found the Messiah, that Nathanael allowed the truth to seep in. Philip noticed his uncertainty and said, “come and see” (John 1:46).

Like a ray of sunshine, the Light shone on Nathanael, and he allowed his dear friend to guide him to Jesus. As he neared the Master, He was ready to touch deep into (Nathanael’s) heart and soul, saying, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (verse 47).

Profoundly touched with Jesus’ words, Nathanael renders one of the most truthful statements about Jesus

in all of the Bible: “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel” (verse 49) and the rest is history. Both friends became disciples of Jesus and their lives were changed forever.

My friend Merline has inspired me with her faith, fidelity and perseverance in God’s promises. Like Philip did so long ago, in her own way, she has also led me closer to Jesus. As we celebrate friendship this month, may we keep in mind the humongous task we have to guide all our friends to the feet of Jesus.

What God Says About Love

Love is selfless

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”
John 15:13

Love is merciful

“But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.” Psalm 86:15

Love shows God to others

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”
John 13:34-35

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

Love drives away hate

“Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses.” Proverbs 10:12

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:9-10

Love shows true friendship

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”
Proverbs 17:17

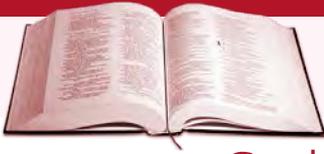
“Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.” 1 John 2:9-10

Love... because Christ loved you

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”
1 Peter 4:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:8





Foundations of Faith

We believe in... God Is Love

As seen in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.

God sent Jesus, His Son, to live the perfect life we could not and die the death our sins deserve. When we accept Jesus' sacrifice, we claim eternal life.

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The bodily resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow.

Study: Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 2:15; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

Taken from the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Your Questions Answered...

Q: If God is love, why is there so much evil, pain, and suffering in the world?

A: The Bible tells us that pain and suffering exist because of choices made by free moral agents, both angelic and human. Revelation tells us all this began as a war in heaven (Revelation 12:7). Before that, there had been no pain and no suffering, but once begun, the problem became how to deal with it.

God recognized that simply destroying Satan and the rebellious angels could only result in a form of tyranny. Every thinking being would have obeyed Him out of fear. Like the fear-induced applause for Joseph Stalin, the residents of heaven would have praised God openly, but inside they would still have felt doubt and anxiety, both very painful emotions.

Instead of eliminating the rebellion and the pain it brought, destroying the rebels would eventually have spread the pain

to every creature on earth and made it permanent...

Stalin's Communism and other man-made attempts to become God and eliminate the possibility of suffering have shown us repeatedly that all attempts to prevent suffering only result in tyranny and more suffering. A truly good God, then, had to allow freedom. When His creatures misused that freedom, and thus caused suffering and death, that supremely good God took that suffering and death upon Himself, and in doing so, He provided a way for every human being to escape pain, suffering, and death.

But He won't force us to accept His way out. The beauty of God's solution to the problem of suffering is that we are free to accept or reject it. The choice is ours.

Ed Dickerson, *Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering*. Signs of the Times. February 2010.

Got a Bible Question?

Send it to foxboroSDAchurch@gmail.com



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

BY PASTOR ROBERT ZEGARRA



Love... or Desire?

The month of February is known for Valentine's Day, a cultural celebration of love. I wonder how much of love passes as desire.

Maybe my father trained me wrong, but growing up we were taught not to love things. My father said, "You love people and you like things." Often a person says they love, but there might be confusion as to their chief desire being placed on a person or something else.

In the book of James 1:14 we find what happens when desire becomes the center of a person's life, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." In this text, desire is simply that which a person bends towards. Therefore, the object of desire must be scrutinized to determine virtue and then one can assess whether the bending towards that desire is balanced.

In Psalms 37:4 David gives us a scripture to test our desires with, "Delight yourself also in the LORD,

And He shall give you the desires of your heart." If we place God first, then our hearts' desires will be satisfied. This scripture points the believer and the whole world to God, rather than our own desires.

The test for the believer becomes, what is more important—our desire for God or our own desires. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." While this can describe a person's effort to achieve a goal, the context could include desires that bend our lives to completion. The Christian walk could in any situation be filled with contentment because God supplies all our needs (Phil 4.19). God calls us to trust Him with all our desires.



Get To Know Rogerio and Melissa



BY PAULA VOGLER

Rogerio Soares and Melissa Persechini-Soares met while working at Dunkin Donuts just two weeks after Rogerio had arrived in Massachusetts from Brazil and where Melissa was working to earn some money before going to graduate school.

Rogerio now works as a Medical Interpreter at Early Intervention and Melissa as an Assistant Project Manager at a MEP/FP Engineering firm.

Rogerio was baptized at the age of 8 in Brazil. Melissa was raised in a strict Irish/Italian Catholic family.

"For my family church was something we attended for weddings, funerals, and anniversary masses," Melissa said. "It was not until I was married that I started learning about Protestantism."

After the pair had been married for three years they faced an immigration crisis that sent Rogerio back to Brazil for four years while he waited to be approved for his Green Card.

"During these four years my husband's congregation in Brazil (was) praying for me," Melissa said. "My husband was mailing me copies of Bible Studies and Ellen G White books in Portuguese to read. I paid them no attention and let them collect dust on my bookshelf."

While they were the hardest years of her life, Melissa said she did not know God was working behind the scenes with Rogerio and many others praying for her in Brazil.

After those four years of separation Rogerio returned and they moved north of Boston when Melissa was transferred for work. Rogerio looked for an English speaking Seventh-day Adventist church so Melissa could visit with him.

His search landed them at the Merrimack Valley church in Dracut where Melissa said her journey began.

"Rogerio and I started a Bible study series written by Mark Finley," said Melissa. "I was

hooked on the lessons. Some days, upon completion of our lesson for the day, I would ask if we could keep going and study the next lessons. It truly was an eye opening experience. This was my first time ever reading the Holy Bible."

After 18 months of studying and learning more and more Bible truths, Melissa said she knew the next step was to get baptized.

"I remember one Sabbath two Pathfinders were getting baptized and my heart was ready to leap out of my chest," she said. "I knew then I was ready and the Holy Spirit was working in me. I was baptized on November 5, 2011. I remember this day so fondly. The month of November is very special to me as I celebrate my spiritual re-birth and my birthday during that month."

When asked what his favorite Bible verse was, Rogerio said it was John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

"I just find it amazing how powerful a word can be," Rogerio said.

Melissa counts Jeremiah 29:11 as her favorite, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"I find it so amazing that God is always with us and promises to care for us no matter what," she said. "That as weak humans we cannot always understand why our lives are going a certain way or things may be happening, but God does. All we have to do is believe and know that he is in control and submit our lives to him and he will take care of the rest."

Rogerio said in heaven he would like to ask those who already live there what their favorite things to do are.

"I also want to admire all the beauty of the heavens we missed all these years," he said. "Of course, these are things I want to do after I give Jesus a big hug because He promised He would be my redeemer."

Melissa is looking forward to seeing Jesus, too. "I want to thank him for all that he has done for me," she said. "I also cannot wait to be able to see and communicate with brothers and sisters from around the world and, I am hoping, sing in (a) gigantic chorus."

The happy couple will celebrate their 14th wedding anniversary in March and welcomed their first son, Matteo, in September.



inREVIEW with Eddie C.

Book in Review:

AFTER GOD'S HEART

BY ELIZABETH TALBOT

BY EDDIE CARRERAS

There are moments in our lives in which we feel broken. We wonder whether or not God is with us in those tough difficult painful moments.

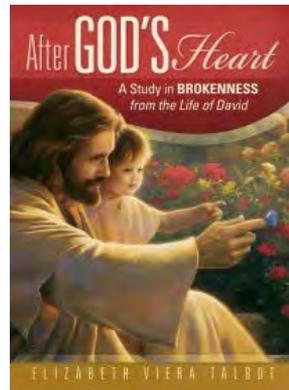
"After God's Heart" by Elizabeth Viera Talbot is a book that explores those themes of brokenness and pain and shows us the God who is with us during those times.

The book chronicles the life of David and we catch a glimpse of the kind of life that he lived. He had his moments of great glory for God and other times of depression, brokenness and sin. Each chapter is a different occasion of his life and the author does a great job linking David's life to us today.

David experienced things that we go through and we can learn from how he lived. Talbot also links David to the gospel in each chapter and how God can work through us in all our moments. I enjoyed reading about her own personal experiences as she ties the themes of each chapter to her own life, making it even more practical and personable.

It is fairly short and is this year's sharing book available from the Adventist Book Center in South Lancaster. It can be read easily on a Sabbath afternoon but can also be read as a part of your devotional or in a group.

Each chapter ends with a few questions making it perfect for self-reflection and discussion. I recommend this book to anyone looking to learn more about how God is with us. As David says "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want". Be reminded that he is still working on you and with you as he did and was with David.



**You can get this book at
the Adventist Book Center
or at their online store:**

<https://www.adventistbookcenter.com>



CHURCH NEWS

It takes a village to care for a church



Mike Vogler and team drained three feet of water that filled the space below the stage in the Sanctuary after pipes had frozen and burst.

BY PAULA VOGLER

Old man winter dealt a one-two punch to our little church as we said goodbye to 2017 and welcomed 2018.

First on Dec. 23 many members awoke to ice coated roads, trees, and cars so for the first time in many, many years the Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church was closed due to the weather.

Then bitterly cold air and temperatures swept through the area to start the New Year along with a Jan. 4 blizzard.

Mike Vogler went to the church as the first blizzard flakes began to fall to turn up the heat and to try to thaw some of the pipes he was told were frozen.

"I arrived at church and heard a rumbling sound coming from below the stage inside

the church," Vogler said.

After moving the pew on the platform and opening the access door below he was surprised to see the holding tank full of three feet of water that covered the water meter with more pouring in.

"I thought this could be close to starting to flood our sanctuary," Vogler said. "It was pretty close to that point."

After setting up a newly purchased sump and pumping enough water out to reach in to turn off the water, Vogler asked Pastor Zegarra to come check things, shut the pump off and close up the church as he headed home before road conditions deteriorated.

While the blizzard left a blanket of beautiful white snow, the church was closed again on Jan. 6, the first Sabbath of the New Year, because it was without water or bathroom access.

Sunday a crew of three, Larry Whipple, Mark Turner, and Eddie Carerras, arrived in the morning to make the repairs.

Whipple said there was a little bit of cutting pipes involved and a lot of soldering to try to make the fix.

"We cut the old pipe out from the water meter and ran new pipes to the wall behind the piano, then up into the ceiling and hooked it into the old pipe there," Whipple said.

He said the challenge was to get into the tight areas in the ceiling to put in fire resistant blankets and wet towels so torches could be used on the pipes without burning anything else in the area.

Three hours later after turning the water back on there were no leaks which meant no draining of the pipes or re-soldering to try again.

"We got it right the first time and that in and of itself was a milestone," Whipple said.

Thanks to everyone who helped avert a major problem especially our Leader and Caretaker who knows the end from the beginning and works all things for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

Church members attend conference Leadership Training Weekend



Julyann Giampa, Paula Vogler, Kerri Vogler, and Danie Breton attended a leadership training weekend in Windsor Locks, CT.

BY PAULA VOGLER

From Jan. 12-14 members of the Foxboro church joined others that worked with youth from around the conference for a weekend of information, new ideas, and training in how to be a more effective youth leader.

Held at the Sheraton Bradley Hotel in Windsor Locks, CT, the weekend combined spiritual programs with many seminars to choose from to educate attendees.

With speakers like Don Keele from the Georgia Cumberland Conference, Florida Conference and former SNEC Youth Director Pedro Perez, SNEC pathfinder/adventurer area coordinators and more, each seminar and worship service was packed with engaging speakers delivering useful information.

Foxboro's Pathfinder Club Director Julyann Giampa said she was able to meet other club directors and staff from around the conference to share experiences, stories, tips and concerns.

"This weekend was informative as well as fun," Giampa said. "I was able to learn more

details regarding club organization and ideas on programming, club and child safety, and camporee ideas. As a whole the weekend was packed with seminars to attend and there wasn't a time we had nothing to do or see. It was inspiring to attend the weekend and I'm glad I was able to go with two of my staff."

Attending the Out of the Box seminars Pathfinder Deputy Director Kerri Vogler said the seminars helped her to grow as a leader.

"There's more you have to do to grow yourself before you can efficiently and effectively be a leader," Vogler said.

She said one statement she will remember from the weekend was 'you've survived 100 percent of your bad days.'

"(It) helped me remember that even when I'm having a bad day, I've made it through all the worst days so far so there is nothing to worry about," said Vogler.

The Leadership Training Weekend is sponsored by the Southern New England Conference Youth Department and hosts seminars for leaders involved with pathfinders, adventurers, young adults, youth that want to preach and those looking for new and innovative programming to try at their church.

The Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church continually supports its youth and youth programming by sponsoring its leaders to go to events such as this.



FROM THE
PEN OF

Inspiration



The Depth of God's Love

BY ELLEN WHITE

True love is not merely a sentiment or an emotion. It is a living principle, a principle that is manifest in action. True love, wherever it exists, will control the life. Thus it is with the love of God. "God is love;" and in all His works, in all His dealings with mankind, His character is revealed...

Through tempting man to sin, Satan hoped to counteract the tide of divine love flowing to the human race; but, instead of this, his work resulted in calling forth new and deeper manifestations of God's mercy and His goodness.

In redemption God has revealed His love in sacrifice, a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. "God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

When Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery, God might have cut Himself loose from fallen beings. He might have treated them as sinners deserve to be treated. He might have commanded the angels of heaven to pour out upon our world the vials of His wrath. He might have removed this dark blot from His universe. But He did not do this. Instead of banishing them from His presence, He came still nearer to the fallen race. He gave His Son to become bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of

grace and truth." Christ by His human relationship to men drew them close to God. He clothed His divine nature with the garb of humanity, and demonstrated before the heavenly universe, before the unfallen worlds, how much God loves the children of men.

The gift of God to man is beyond computation. Nothing was withheld. God would not permit it to be said that He could have done more, or revealed to humanity a greater measure of love. In the gift of Christ He gave all heaven.

That this redemption might be ours, God withheld not even the sacrifice of Himself. He gave Himself in His Son. The Father suffered with Christ in all His humiliation and agony. He suffered as He saw the Son of His love despised and rejected by those whom He came to elevate, ennoble, and save. He saw Him hanging upon the cross, mocked and jeered by the passers-by, and He hid as it were His face from Him. He saw Christ bearing the sin of the world, and dying in the sinner's stead. The human heart knows the love of a parent for his child. We know what a mother's love will do and suffer for her beloved one. But never can the heart of man fathom the depths of God's self-sacrifice.

Excerpts taken from *The [Australasian] Union Conference Record*, June 1, 1900.

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