

MOVING SPIRIT

September, 1999

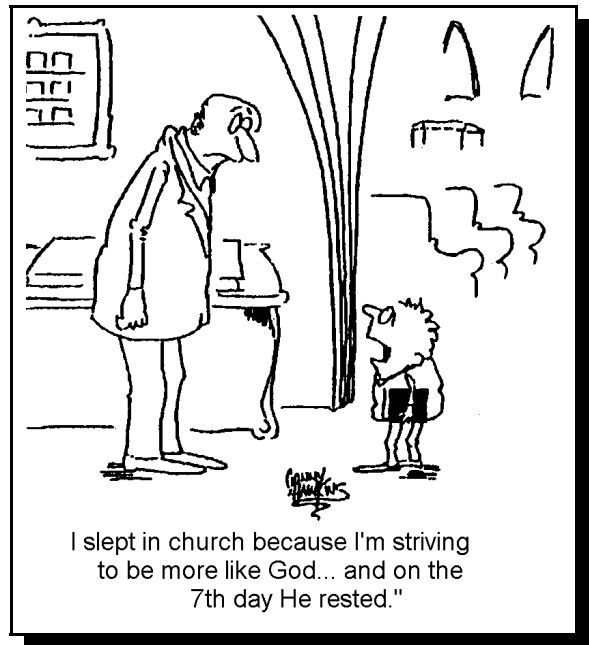
Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

Recently Rosemary and I attended a Seventh-Day Adventist church at Weimar Institute where we were celebrating our 28th wedding anniversary. Adventists correctly observe Saturday as the seventh day, the day God rested from the work of creation. Why then do most churches celebrate Sunday?

Well, I don't think the little boy in the cartoon is correct in assuming Sunday is a day intended for rest. Pastors sure don't get much rest on Sundays. It really *isn't* the seventh but the *first* day of the week, the day our crucified Lord was raised from the grave. The early church began meeting on Sunday instead of Saturday to celebrate Christ's resurrection. A new age had begun. Sunday symbolizes the first day of a new creative work of God. It's a day to awaken to service in the Kingdom of God.

But Sunday, a day reminding us of new life in Christ, can also be understood as a *Sabbath*, "a day to rest from our own labors" and enjoy the fact that our salvation is God's work. We had nothing to do with paying the penalty of sin. That was Christ's work. We had no power to raise Jesus from death. That was the Father's work. We had no ability to



apply the work of the Cross to our own souls. That is the Holy Spirit's work in new birth. When we rest in God's work by faith, Sunday becomes a day to remember our own resurrection from death to life in Christ. We keep it "holy," in obedience to the Fourth Commandment, by meeting together as the Body of Christ, the Church, to foreshadow the final Sabbath rest in Heaven, which the Lord's death and resurrection has provided.

So, rest on Sunday. Make it a Sabbath! But remember, as the first day of the week, it symbolizes the awakening call of God to service in His Kingdom.

-- Pastor David

Parish Proclamations

Gulshan Esther to Speak at EVCC

At Eskation Village Community Church's 10:30 am Sunday service on Sunday, October 3rd, come hear Gulshan Esther's amazing story. The following is from her biography:

"....Suddenly a voice said, 'Get up. This is the path you have been seeking. I am Jesus Son of Mary, to whom you have been praying, and now I am standing in front of you. You get up and come to me.'

I started to weep. 'Oh Jesus, I'm crippled. I can't get up.'

He said, 'Stand up and come to me. I am Jesus.'

When I hesitated he said it a second time. Then as I still doubted he said for the third time, 'Stand up.'

And I, Gulshan Fatima, who had been crippled on my bed for nineteen years, felt new strength flowing into my wasted limbs. I put my foot on the ground and stood up..." (from *The Torn Veil, The Story of Sister Gulshan Esther*, p.61)

Converted from Islam after her miraculous healing by the visionary Christ, Gulshan was commissioned by Him to share her testimony with His people and to pray for others... We are excited about having her here to speak.

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Personal Pulpit

On the subway one morning, groggy-eyed and running late as usual, I took out a worn green pocket edition of the New Testament and Psalms. Feeling rather alone, I turned to my book and

read through three psalms. Just as I was preparing to close my eyes, the woman sitting next to me asked, "May I borrow that? I left mine at home?" "Of course," I said.

When I closed my eyes I could hear her turn the soft pages, and the noise blended in with the train rolling over the tracks sounding as holy as a hymn sung in a country church. Even here, where I had somehow forgotten there were other travelers looking for the Lord.

Help me remember, Lord, I am always part of a church without walls.

--Rick Hamlin

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Pithy Pieces

From time immemorial men have quenched their thirst with water without knowing anything about its chemical constituents. In like manner we do not need to be instructed in all the mysteries of doctrine, but we do need to receive the Living Water which Jesus Christ will give us and which alone can satisfy our souls.

--*Sadhu Sundar Singh (1889-1929)*

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Your Cross

The everlasting God has in His wisdom foreseen from eternity the cross that He now presents to you as a gift from His inmost Heart. This cross He now sends you He has reviewed with His all-knowing eyes, understood with His Divine mind, tested with His wise justice, warmed with His loving arms and weighed with His own hands to see that

it be not one inch too large and not one ounce too heavy for you. He has blessed it with His holy Name, anointed it with His grace, perfumed it with His consolation, taken one last glance at you and your courage, and then sent it to you from heaven, a special greeting from God to you, and alms of the all-merciful love of God. -- *author unknown*

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Praise's Portion

Alexander Whyte, the Scottish preacher, always began his prayers with an expression of gratitude. One cold, miserable day his people wondered what he would say. He prayed, "We thank Thee, O Lord, that it is not always like this."

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Prayer's Priority

This is Your day, Lord. I want to be at Your disposal. I have no idea what these next 24 hours will contain. But before I begin, before I sip my first cup of coffee, and even before I get dressed, I want You to know that from this moment on throughout this day, I'm Yours, Lord. Help me to be a branch that abides in the vine, to lean on You, to draw strength from You, and to have You fill my mind and my thoughts. Take control of my senses so that I am literally filled with Your presence and power and dynamic. I want to be Your tool, Your vessel today. I can't make it happen. Without You I can accomplish nothing. And so I'm saying, Lord, fill me with Your Spirit

today. --*author unknown*

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A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

(from Boy's Town Nebraska)

Lord, we humbly ask thy blessing
on the turkey and the dressing,
on the yams and cranberry jelly,
and the pickles from the deli.
Bless the apple pie and tea,
bless each and every calorie.
Let us enjoy Thanksgiving dinner.
Tomorrow we can all get thinner.

For all Thy help along the way
we're thankful this Thanksgiving Day.
We're thankful, too, for all our dear ones,
for all the far away and near ones.

Although we may be far apart,
we're together in my heart.
Keep us in Thy loving care,
this is my Thanksgiving prayer.

P.S. Anyone who wishes
may help with the dishes.

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Poetry's Place

I'M FREE

Don 't grieve for me, for now I 'm free.
I 'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took his hand when I heard him call.
I turned back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that peace at the close of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joys.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.
Oh, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times,
A loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee.
God wanted me now,
He set me free!

--author unknown

Pearls of Prudence

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

--John Wesley

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The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.
The fruit of peace is praise.

--Anonymous

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"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts..." -- Colossians 3:15a

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Pleasurable Pastime

Child's Prayer

Tiffany, age four played, "And forgive us

our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

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A Whistle From the Lord

During the minister's prayer there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. After church she asked her son, "Whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle --- and it came when I was in church!"

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What If God Had Voice Mail?

We have all learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of modern life. But have you ever wondered, "What if God decided to install voice mail?"

Imagine praying and hearing this: "Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select from one of the following options: Press 1 for requests. Press 2 for thanksgivings. Press 3 for complaints. Press 4 for all other inquiries."

What if God used the familiar excuse... "All angels are helping others now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer? "If you would like to speak with Gabriel, press 1. For Michael, press 2. For a directory of all other angels. Press 3. If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are on hold, press 4. To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, enter his/her social security number, then press 5. For

reservations at My Father's House, press these letters and numbers: J-O-H-N-3-1-6. For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah's ark is parked, please wait until you arrive here." "Our computers show that you have already called here once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow. This office is closed for the Weekend. Please call again on Monday during office hours.

Thank God that you can't call Him too often! Here is His constant ready response: "Then you will call and the Lord will answer, you will cry for help, and He will say, 'Here I am.'" Isaiah 58:9

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Precious Principles

Someone has said, "Always picture success no matter how badly things seem at the moment. Believe it is possible to solve your problems. Tremendous things happen to the believer. Remind yourself that God is with you, and nothing can defeat you. Believe that you now receive power from Him." All of this is true for the person who believes in Christ and takes the Scriptural promise: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13 (NKJV).

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Do more than exist; live.
Do more than touch; feel.
Do more than look; observe.
Do more than read; absorb.
Do more than hear; listen.
Do more than listen; understand.
Do more than think; ponder.

Do more than talk; say something.

-- John H. Rhoades

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THE SECRET

I met God in the morning
When the day was at its best.
And His Presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.
All day long the Presence lingered
All day long He stayed with me.
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.
Other ships were blown and battered
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.
Then I thought of other mornings
With a keen remorse of mind.
When I, too, had loosed the moorings
With the Presence left behind.
So I think I know the secret
Learned from many a troubled I way:
You must seek Him in the morning ,
If you want Him through the day!

--R. S. Cushman

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To thee, O God, we turn for peace; but grant us, too, the blessed assurance that nothing shall deprive us of that peace, neither ourselves, nor our foolish, earthly desires, nor my wild longings, nor the anxious cravings of my heart.

-- Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)

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WHAT CAN I DO

What can I do for Christ today;
Each of us to ourselves should say,
Over and over, each day of the year,
Strive to be Christian, honest, sincere.

Start out each day to make someone
aware
Of the power of faith and purpose of prayer
But never lose sight of life's biggest
goal
God's richest blessing, is "winning a soul."
--Leonard Rawlinson
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Past Pathways

"Martyrs" Quiz

1. Considered the first martyr of the church, he was also one of its first deacons. His story appears in the Book of Acts.

a. Timothy b. Stephen c. Paul d. Absolom

2. Polycarp was:

(a) A Roman emperor who ordered persecution of Christians.

(b) A Christian bishop burned at the stake for his faith

(c) A region of North Africa known for its fierce persecution of Christians.

(d) Parrot food made from fish.

3 This Bohemian preacher was one of the first Protestant reformers, predating Martin Luther by more than a century. He was burned at the stake for his beliefs.

a. Savanarola b. Francis of Assisi c. John Hus d. John Calvin

4. This young missionary was killed in 1956, along with four others, in an effort to take the gospel to the Auca Indians of Ecuador. His widow went on to become a popular speaker and author.

a. Francis Schaeffer b. Frank ten Boom

c. Jim Elliot d. Peter Marshall
(Answers: 1. b 2. b 3. c 4. c)

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John Wesley's Conversion Experience

It happened on May 24, 1738. Its far-reaching effects dramatically changed the face of a spiritually decadent England.

"I think," he wrote, "it was about five this morning, that I opened my Testament on those words, 'There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.'

Wesley writes that just as he went out, he opened the New Testament again on those words, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God."

In the afternoon, he visited St. Paul's, and noted that the anthem was "Out of the deep have I called unto Thee O Lord."

Then, he describes the momentous visit to the Aldersgate meeting. "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death. I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitefully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart."