FOR GOD SO LOVED
by Mary King

Participating in SonRise always blesses me in some way. Sometimes the blessing is simply in the camaraderie enjoyed among the fellow “shopkeepers” as we get into character and banter back and forth, calling out “Shalom!” and “The Lord be praised!” along the marketplace. Or the blessing comes in seeing the reactions of the crowd as they are watching one of the scenes. Whatever the specific sight, sound, or moment, SonRise never fails to lift me up spiritually. This year was no exception.

I had slipped away from my booth, hoping to catch the Gethsemane scene, when along the way I spotted a family who looked to be in some kind of distress. They were huddled together at the wall right above the grassy area where the Gethsemane scene was underway.

A small boy about nine years old was softly crying, while a man, whom I assumed was his father, appeared to be examining him. Two little girls hovered close by. I made my way over to them and asked if they needed help. The father quickly shared with me that he was a physician and was pretty sure his son had just broken his arm! In the boy’s eagerness to get to the next scene, he had fallen and seriously injured his arm, possibly breaking it. Their car was some distance away. Thankfully, I spotted a SonRise staff member, who radioed Campus Safety to dispatch the medical golf-cart to us ASAP. In the meantime, we attempted to stabilize the boy’s arm, using my large red scarf as a makeshift sling.

Tenderly, the father held his son, lightly kissing the top of his head and reassuring him, “Andrew, it’s okay, son, I know it hurts. Help is on its way—Daddy is here.” Andrew bravely tried to stifle his sobs and weakly whimpered, “I’m so sorry, Daddy. I’m sorry we won’t be able to see the whole thing!” His father gently soothed him with, “It’s okay, son.”

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EVEREST VBS – CONQUERING CHALLENGES WITH GOD’S MIGHTY POWER

Mark the dates of June 22-26 for our Everest VBS program. Children ages 4 through 10 will participate in surprising adventures as they explore all about God’s mighty power. We will meet from 9-12 each morning. The children will meet new friends, praise the Lord through song in our Summit Celebration, explore God’s word in our Bible Expedition, participate in exciting Glacier Games, create arts and craft masterpieces, and visit with our puppet friends in the Mountain Top Treat Station.

Our greatest needs are for volunteers to serve as Expedition Group leaders to guide children from one activity to the next. If you are available to join us in this incredible ministry for all or part of this week, contact Pastor Carole at (423) 994-2396 or cverrill@southern.edu. ☝️
SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE
by Pastor Dave Smith

The worship service schedule for the Collegedale Church will change this June and July. The Church Board recently voted to approve a recommendation from the pastor-team to hold two instead of three worship services beginning June 6 and ending July 25. The first service will meet during the traditional Adoration 2 time (10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.) and the second service will meet during the traditional Renewal time (11:35 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.). Having this schedule should allow all Sabbath School class attendees to attend their regular classes at their regularly scheduled time and yet still be able to attend a worship service. As far as possible, the plan is for both of these services to be the same program, like a simplified Adoration blended service.

This change is only for June and July. Before June 6 and After July 25 there will be three worship services at their normal times. Anyone with questions should contact the church office.

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Just below us a crowd had gathered to witness the Gethsemane scene, where another drama not too different from ours was taking place. Between Andrew’s sobs, I could hear the corresponding cries of another SON coming from the garden below—Jesus, the SON of God. It began to dawn on me that I was witnessing the suffering of two sons. In my mind I began to compare the two: Little Andrew, the son of a physician, suffering from the intense pain of a broken arm, and Jesus, the SON of God, suffering from the intense pain of a broken heart! One son is comforted by the presence of his sisters and the undivided attention of his physician father, while the SON of God is feeling very much alone. Earlier, Jesus had asked His disciples to watch and pray with Him. But three times He found them sleeping. The Desire of Ages (pages 687 and 693) says, “The sins of men weighed heavily upon Christ, and the sense of God’s wrath against sin was crushing out His life.” “The Saviour trod the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with Him.”

I couldn’t help but think of Isaiah 53, which describes in detail His suffering: “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.” My silent musings were interrupted by Jesus, who cried out, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42 NASB).

My attention was brought back again to the little family in front of me. Andrew’s face was tearstained and puffy as he tried to stifle his cries. My eyes moved to the face of his father, where I saw the deepest degree of pain. The emotional pain of seeing his little boy broken and being powerless to fix it was the worst suffering of all. And yet he stood riveted to Andrew’s side, with arms embracing him and words to comfort him.

Could this be similar to what our heavenly Father felt when He witnessed the travail of His only begotten Son?

My heart was strangely moved by what I was witnessing around me, and I felt impressed to pray out loud for this little family: “Dear Lord, as we wait for help to arrive, we want to thank You for sending us the best help of all, Your precious Son, Jesus. Jesus knows all about Andrew and how badly he is hurt. Please be with him now. Be with his daddy as he takes him to the hospital. Bring healing to his broken arm, and let him know that he is not alone. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

As we opened our eyes, we were relieved to see that help had just arrived! Andrew was helped into the front of the golf-cart, while his father climbed in behind him. I watched them leave with the escort of Campus Safety. I turned just in time to see the other SON accompanied by Roman soldiers begin his trek toward Calvary: “... and with His stripes we are healed.”

With a heart full of gratitude, I rejoiced at how our heavenly Father “so loved the world.”

P.S. Campus Safety later informed me that en route to the hospital, Andrew’s arm had bled through my red scarf. He had sustained a compound fracture, requiring surgery that very night.
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Collegedale Adventist Middle School

Eighth grade graduation will be held Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Collegedale Church members names are italicized.

Noah Allen  
Nathan Allyn  
Kayden Ammerall  
Zachary Attie  
David Austin  
Bryce Babbitt  
Jeremy Baksh-Griffin  
Isabel Barnes  
Jocelyn Beason  
Julianna Beason  
Adele Beaucicot  
Kristen Boyd  
Finnian Boyson  
Meredith Brackbill  
Dawson Buttram  
Eunice Cha  
Joshua Clinton  
Alex Cotta  
Jake D’Avanzo  
Caide Davidson  
Ashley Dempsey  
Jack Farrow  
Sarah Fisher  
Cora Fleming  
Trish Ford  
Natalia Fuentes  
Emily Gensolin  
Jake Greenleaf  
Camden Griggs  
Jeremy Gustman  
Kaitlyn Hallock  
Sarah Hasel  
Cesiah Hernandez  
Mason Hobbs  
Alonzo Horton  
Mandy Houghton  
Hope Hunnicutt  
Kaveri Jimenez  
Ashley Johnson  
Celidih Johnson  
Ahyana Jones  
Ryan Jones  
Sarah Joseph  
Shea Kaminski  
Sarah Liriano  
Lauren Luedike  
Jeremiah Madrigal  
Delaney Malin  
Melanie Marino  
Megan Marquez  
Emily Martinez  
Malone McElroy  
Meredith McKenzie  
Cheyenne Miller  
Daniel Mohr  
Hannah Moody  
Justin Moore  
Marisa Negron  
Michelle Norton  
Victor O’Dala  
Olivia Perry  
Andres Ramirez  
Madison Reinschmidt

Blake Rhodes  
Lizbeth Rojas  
Micaela Row  
Nicholas Saarinen  
Fynlee Schober  
Katie Scott  
Bradley Shipley  
Josh Sinclair  
Andrew Smith  
Jaklon Smith  
Tre Smith  
Wyatt Tracy  
Ashley Turner  
Shadai Lewis-Valentine  
Ryan van Zyl  
Eli Wash  
Paul Wear  
Dillon Wolf  
Yuxin Liu

Collegedale Academy

Academy graduation weekend is May 22-24. Consecration is 8:00 p.m. on Friday. Baccalaureate is at the 11:35 a.m. Renewal Service on Sabbath, and Commencement is Sunday at 10:00 a.m. All programs will be held in the Sanctuary. Collegedale Church members names are italicized

Michaela Anderson  
Adam Angel  
Brandon Azor  
David Barrios  
Skyelor Black  
Amber Brailsford  
Tyler Brant  
Judy Byeon  
Ryan Byford  
Matthew Calderon  
Ivett Cervantes  
Adlene Chang  
Tyler Cordwell  
Brandan Coulter  
Meredith Cress  
Jesse Darwin  
Zachary Davis  
Natasha Dolinskiy  
Seth Edens  
Alec Ennis  
Amanda Escandon  
Gabby Fowler  
Mathew Gist  
Nicholas Goss  
Thomas Greer  
Grayson Hallock  
Thomas Hayes, Jr  
Veronica Hayes  
Jill Helton  
Gabrielle Hernandez  
CJ Hill  
Thomas Holder  
Mary Jennings  
Jessica Johnson  
Rebekah Kuhlman  
Alexis LaVertue  
Geoffrey Lopes  
Bethany Luedike  
Garrett McCoy  
Kevin McElroy  
Maxwell McKenzie  
Monica McKenzie  
Mara Messinger  
Taylor Mikel  
Derek Milholm  
Ben Mixon  
Noel Mocnik  
Megan Morrison  
Zachary Nall  
Kevin Rios  
Brady Ricks  
Alexandra Rima  
Dionavin Sanders  
Taylor Scheper  
Brandon Sciulli  
Catherin Silva  
Eva Slavik  
Jasmine Smith  
Ivan Snyder  
Joshua Stricker  
Megan Thompson  
Brady Tull  
Nolan Vail  
Chase Walker  
Alexa Willam  
Emily Wilt  
Courtney Woods  
Brian Wright
COOL SUMMER DAY CAMP will be held eight weeks, June 1 through July 24, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for ages 6 to 14 at the Collegedale Church. Campers will experience sports activities, Pathfinder honors, swimming, and adventure skills, and excursions to Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Register now! Applications are available at the Church, A.W. Spalding, and Collegedale Adventist Middle School, or download it at www.coolcamp.org. Return completed applications to the Church Office, or attend registration May 13 and 14 at Collegedale Adventist Middle School from 2:45-4:00 p.m. or at the Church (CAYA Youth Room) from 4:15-6:00 p.m.

RISE! SHINE! JESUS IS COMING! Is the theme for this years Camp Meeting. Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, MI, is the featured speaker. Numerous seminars will be conducted relating to health, finances, Bible study, and parenting. Go to www.gccsda.com/resources/1366 for more information. Or for general information contact the Conference office at 800-567-1844.

CHILDCARE PROVIDERS NEEDED: Earn a little extra income on Sunday evenings while helping to provide childcare for our church's Great Dates marriage ministry. Contact Connie at (865) 387-2123.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES are available in the Church Office during business hours for those who had their photo taken.

FEMALE SOUTHERN NURSING Student looking for short-term room and board in exchange for care-taking. Hard working and responsible, has on transportation, and has good house-keeping skills. Call Alyna at (517) 897-5602.

RITA VITAL would like whoever left the music CDs on her doorstep at the end of April to call her at (423) 505-6605.

IN MEMORY

Paul Arner, grandfather of Michael and Justin Arner, passed away April 28. Services were held May 3.

What is the expected time frame for completing this campaign?

We hope to complete this project within two years, finishing it by the spring of 2017. Of course, with generous support we could complete the work much sooner.