From Kitchen to Cupboards

Heavily laden tables filled the downstairs church kitchen. Bags of beans and bottles of shampoo, cans of corn, toothpaste tubes, and boxes of pasta congregated together, eagerly awaiting relocation to empty kitchen cupboards. All in all, 2186 items were donated for those in need.

Under the direction of club leader, John Rorabeck, Pathfinders filled boxes with the items, then distributed them into bags designated for specific needs. The larger the family receiving aid, the more items required. Twenty families were able to benefit from the Pathfinder's efforts, as well as Neighbor to Neighbor and a local cancer assistance group.

The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives. Isaiah 58:6,7 TEV
HEART TO HEART & THANKSGIVING

Heart to Heart

Irrelevant

As I finished my walk the other day, I was struck with the thought that inside my body there is constantly a battle going on between the diseases that would destroy me and my immune system. Since you’re reading this letter, you know who’s winning! But eventually my body will lose the fight. Thankfully, I am promised a new one. Everywhere we turn the great controversy is raging - even inside us. Yes, especially inside us.

If the battle is raging all around us, and in us, that means that prisoners are being taken by both sides. This is where the church comes in - you might say, to the rescue. Our job is to liberate the captives of Satan. But what would happen if the church itself were to fall into a state of disrepair? Wouldn't that mean the other side could sweep the field and capture people wholesale?

I was encouraged by our attendance at “The Angel & the Hour.” I am encouraged by our giving for the renovations for the older part of the church, but I am still hoping for the budget. Our success is really about people. Jesus can help us make a sustained comeback and take more prisoners of hope. I hope you'll join me in helping the church finish strong. In this life and death battle, the last thing I want to be known as by the devil and his legions, is, "Irrelevant."

Pastor Kelly

Behind the Pumpkin Pies

“As soon as we finish the 100th, I’ll get started on the Thanksgiving dinner,” strategized Merna Witzel. For the past several years the Village Church has offered a free Thanksgiving dinner to the community. Plans for the 100th filled available hours as Merna and Stacy Gusky coordinated volunteers, as well as the food needed to feed the crowd, who would more than fill the Family Center. This left little time to think about the upcoming traditional holiday meal.

As the date drew nearer, encouragement arrived from several different directions. Many students do not travel home for the holiday, and the Andrews University cafeteria was to be closed on Thanksgiving. The university food service contributed already peeled and cut sweet potatoes, salad fixings, vegan salad dressing, frozen corn, and ice cream. Apple Valley donated three vegetarian smoked turkey rolls and two vegetarian chicken rolls. Ten pies were given: eight pumpkin, one apple, and one sweet potato.

Mike and Shirley Gammon, along with their sons and families, assisted in the kitchen. A clean-up crew joined to package leftovers and wash dishes.

This year’s crowd of 150-170 hungry diners topped the count of all previous years. One of the university students related that she was not able to be with her family, and how she really enjoyed the food and fellowship with friends.

The money donated amply covered the expenses of the day.

Food for thought: It is now common knowledge that the average person gains seven pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day! Marilu Henner

Merna Witzel & Eileen Dry at the 100th celebration.

Mike & Shirley Gammon & family volunteered in the kitchen on Thanksgiving.

Behind the Pumpkin Pies

Food for thought: It is now common knowledge that the average person gains seven pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day! Marilu Henner
J.E.M.S. for Jesus

- The Jennifer Evangeline Memorial School (J.E.M.S.) in southern India is a self-supporting educational institution seeking to reach children for Jesus. It is located about 140 miles from Madurai, where the Village mission team visited last Christmas. The school was named in honor of a 14-year old daughter of a missionary family. Her mother was serving as a teacher and her father as a principal in India when Jennifer suddenly died. In memory of their daughter, the parents started J.E.M.S.

- In 2013 more than 300 students filled the ten classrooms. In a country where girls are given in marriage as 13- and 14-year olds, schooling takes on a significant focus, saving the girls from an early end to childhood. Boys in the area often become involved in piracy of DVD’s. Education provides a means of bettering the lives of the children and the hope of introducing them to Christ.

- Recently the landlord has taken back space used for the school. The blocked space has all the sanitation and water, making J.E.M.S. now able to facilitate only 40 students. The government says that the school must buy back the space or buy a larger place outside the city. In the past 12 years J.E.M.S. has never asked for outside support, but is currently existing on a day by day basis.

- In addition to the scholastic regime, both health and eye camps are offered to the public at least once a year. In one of the eye camps, 175 patients were screened, and 25 surgeries performed. A health and nature program for children has also been successfully conducted.

- RJ Rajan visited our church in September and explained the needs for J.E.M.S. $75,000 would enable the older children to be able to move to a new campus. If you would like to assist the missionary school in their endeavor, write J.E.M.S. on your tithe and offering envelope.

Dear Church Family,

After 40 years I’ll be finally visiting my home country, India, in December. While there, I’m hoping to start a mission that, by God’s grace, will continue until Jesus comes. The goal of INDIA4JESUS mission is two fold: First, to distribute “Steps to Christ” books to Christian churches, focusing on one church at a time. Second, to set up a trust fund/scholarship for the only SDA boarding high school in India.

My late father, Pr. C.I. George, pastored and taught at Kottarakara SDA High school, which boards kids from kindergarten to high school. Many of the students are sponsored due to the large gap between wages earned in a third world country and expenses required of a private Christian institution. The school is committed to providing an Adventist education, but needs financial assistance to carry on their mission.

If you have a burden to win souls for Christ, will you prayerfully consider donating to this cause? I believe any amount, big or small, will be multiplied and used for His purpose. Also, please remember this mission in your prayers. God can take a planted seed, make it grow, and produce much fruit. That is my desire. Please mark your tithe and offering envelope, INDIA4JESUS.

My sincerest thanks,
Shirley George Alonso

Goal: $2500:
$500 for Steps to Christ
$2000 for boarding school

E-mail : alonsos@andrews.edu Address: 5755 Birch Drive, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Encounter with the Living Word

Pastor Conrad Vine, president of Adventist Frontier Missions, will be speaking for the upcoming 10 seasons of prayer. His focus is to encounter the Living Word through the Bible. The series begins on Sabbath morning, December 27, and concludes on January 3, with communion. The nightly schedule starts with singing at 6:15, the presentation at 6:30, with the evening concluding at 7:30.

**Sabbath, December 27:** A Changed Life
**Sabbath evening:** Help! Which Bible Version Should I Use?
**Sunday evening:** Before We Even Open the Bible . . .
**Monday evening:** A Good Starting Point: Asking the Right Questions
**Tuesday evening:** Sitting Under the Word of God: a Reflective Reading
**Wednesday evening:** Roadmaps for Study: Planning for Personal Study
**Thursday evening:** Which Prophecies Apply Today?
**Friday evening:** Different Texts: Different Rules of Engagement

**Sabbath, January 3:** Ehud: the Man who Chewed the Cud

**Sabbath Evening:** Communion Service

In addition to the presentations, a portion of *God’s Outlaw, the Story of William Tyndale,* will be shown nightly.

Depression Recovery

The gray winter days can accentuate the let-down following the holidays. Depression Recovery starts January 15 at the church. This weekly class features a video presentation by Dr. Neil Nedley, with group discussion following. Call the church office for more information, or to register, at 471-7795.

You are cordially invited to the annual Christmas Brunch
Village Church Family Center
December 20, 2014
8:30 a.m.
Bring your favorite brunch foods to this holiday event.

Andrews Academy presents the 42nd Feast of Lights, Friday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.

Pioneer Memorial Church