Dear Dorothy,

Pastoral eNEWS- February 2011

Thank you Jesus! We are back in the saddle again, that meaning that you will be receiving our Pastoral eNEWS again monthly. We had to take time off because of some internal computer changes, which are behind us now. I want to welcome you again and hope that you enjoy. If you have friends and neighbors that would like to hear from us please send them to our web sight and have them register. We appreciate each of you and want you to know that you are in our prayers.

God's Daily Blessing: "I love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psalm 18:1-2) "As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him." (Psalm 18:30) "....His truth shall be your shield and buckler." (Psalm 91:4) "The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped..." (Psalm 28:7)
Word Core: **Shield** The Hebrew noun for shield is derived from the verb *ganan*, which means "to defend" and signifies the protective guardianship of God. The shield is a common biblical symbol for protection. Kings and rulers are described as "shields" protecting their people, and the Bible frequently depicts God as a shield protecting those who trust in Him. This imagery also appears in the Abrahamic covenant, where God describes Himself as Abraham's shield (*Genesis 15:1*). David praises the Lord for being his "shield," "stronghold," and "refuge" (*2 Samuel 22:3*).

**AMEN!** We are not to let the future, with its hard problems, its unsatisfying prospects, make our hearts faint, our knees tremble or our hands hang down. "...let him take hold of My strength," says the Mighty One, *that* he may make peace with Me; *and* he shall make peace with Me" (*Isaiah 27:5*). Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will never be placed in a position for which He has not made provision. Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His word, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. (*The Ministry of Healing* pg 249)

**Answers to Difficult Bible Texts: Titus 1:15 (Amplified)** "To the pure [in heart and conscience] all things are pure, but to the defiled and corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are defiled and polluted." Paul is making a generalization about the saints and sinners. The pure-minded Christian looks for and finds the good in everyone. This obviously does not mean that God's people will label adultery, sinful conduct, or impurity by the term "pure." On the contrary, the Word of God pronounces a curse on those who equivocate and vacillate on matters of right and wrong. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..." (*Isaiah 5:20*). Paul portrays the defiled sinner as one with a darkened mind and conscience who makes something evil out of the pure and good. Such men lived in the days of Noah and of Paul, and they still are found in the earth. Says the Bible, "...every intent (imagination) of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (*Genesis 6:5*). Questions answered by Joe Crews.

**Seventh-day Adventist 28 Fundamental Beliefs** Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These 28 fundamental beliefs constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of the scripture. Today's belief number twenty one is **Stewardship**: We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow men, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness. (*Gen.*
Affirmation: Heavenly Father, I am seeking You with all of my heart. Teach me how to draw nearer to You. Teach me how to "press in" to Your presence. You have loved me with an everlasting love. Help me to accept Your love. You have a plan for my life, and it's better than the one I'm living. I have only this lifetime to prepare for eternity. I realize my choices can have eternal consequences. Please cause me to make the right choices. Teach me Your will. Reveal to me the path I should walk to find joy in Your presence. Cause me to seek You earnestly. Cause me to trust in Your Word.

(Ps. 63:1-4 NIV; Jer. 31:3 NKJ; Jer. 29:11-14 NIV; Deut. 30:19,20 NKJ; Ps.16:11; Is. 48:17 NIV; Pro. 3:5,6 NKJ) Exalting His Word, pg 129, Shelley Quinn

We invite you: If you are having difficulties of any kind, whether it is spiritual, financial, emotional or physical please go to: http://www.3abn.org/prayer_request.cfm?CFID=603305&CFTOKEN=21425982

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Scripture: "May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord grant all your requests" Psalm 20:4,5.

AMEN.

Hope: "Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You" Psalm 39:7. God determines our future because He is the source of hope. Can we trust Him? Hebrews 6:18 tell us "God has given us both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie." We are also told in Hebrew 10:23 that "God can be trusted to keep His promise, and 1Peter 1:21 we are told "because God raised Christ from the dead and gave Him great glory, your faith and hope can be placed confidently in God." So we can thank Jesus that because of His Word and His power, He will keep His promise.

Second Floor: We are excited to have Pastor Richard Lawson join our Pastoral team. Pastor Richard grew up in California, graduated from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska and retired from Pastoring in New York. Pastor has a love for the Lord and a passion for helping others. He loves evangelism and is constantly looking to give his next Bible Study. Welcome Pastor!
I want to give an Honorable Mention to Grace Yost and the work she does for us in Pastoral. She handles most of our written communication. She started corresponding with men and women who are incarcerated for different reasons a couple of years ago. This ministry has grown tremendously to the point she receives 25+ letters per week from persons that want to know more about Jesus. She answers their questions and upon requests sends them literature that pertains to their inquiry. Grace graciously gives the glory to God.

Colleen Hauser volunteers part time in our Pastoral Department, where she assists Grace Yost. Colleen's husband John who also works here at 3ABN is healing wonderfully from heart valve replacement and bypass surgery. Both Colleen and John are a real blessing to our ministry here. We love both of them. Carolina Bonilla is a real blessing for us in Pastoral also. She works full time for Latino, but is always available to help us anytime we need help in translating Spanish. Thank you, thank you.

Your 3ABN Pastoral staff is here to be of assistance to you-it is our mission to help those who need a word of encouragement. You are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray daily for the Lord to fill our hearts with love and joy so we can be a blessing to you as well as our own loved ones. You can go to http://www.3abn.org/pastoral_team.cfm and there you can read a brief bio on each member who prays daily for all of you. God bless.


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