Dear Dorothy,

eNews February 2013

Welcome: We appreciate your dedication in reading our monthly Pastoral eNEWS and enjoy searching out the thoughts and words that the Holy Spirit puts on our heart to share. Remember that you are precious to us and we pray for all that call upon His name. I ask kindly that you remember 3ABN in your daily prayers also. God bless.

Verse of the Day: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will be loyal to the one, and despise the other...." Matthew 6:24. You cannot be a halfhearted believer in God, there would be too much confusion and God is not the author of such, 1 Corinthians 14:33. "The more you study the character of Christ, the more attractive will He appear to you. He will become as one near you, in close companionship with you; your affections will go out after Him. If the mind is molded by the objects with which it has most to do, then to think of Jesus, to talk of Him, will enable you to become like Him in spirit and character" (Reflecting Christ pg. 65)

Good News: God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes, and grieve His Spirit; but when we repent, and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn
Answers to Difficult Questions: John 2: 3-6 "And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.' Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.'"

ANSWER: Although the fermented and unfermented wines are translated from the same original word, the Biblical context establishes that no alcoholic drink is approved in God's Word. Jesus certainly would not go contrary to the Old Testament Scriptures which specifically forbade fermented wine. Proverbs 20:1 and Proverbs 23:29-32 indisputably condemn the use of alcoholic beverage. Would Christ disobey the Scriptures? It is unconceivable. It is true that wine is often approved for use in the Bible, but this is the pure juice of the grape without fermentation. Here is evidence that this kind of wine is a blessing: "Thus says the Lord: 'As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, 'Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it,' so will I do for My servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all'"

Isaiah 65:8. This wine is "in the cluster," or fresh from the grape. It is a blessing, but not the "strong wine," "mixed wine," or alcoholic beverage. (Answers to Difficult Bible Texts by Pastor Joe Crews)

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 of the teaching of the Scripture. Today's belief number eleven: Growing in Christ: By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, mediating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience.(Psalm 1:1,2; 23:4; 77:11,12; Colossians 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14,15; Luke 10:17-20; Ephesians 5:19,20; 6:12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; Philippians 3: 7-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Matthew 20: 25-28; John 20:21; Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Hebrews 10:25.)

Thought for the Day: Our heavenly Father measures and weighs every trial before He permits it to come upon the believer. He considers the circumstances and the strength of the one who is to stand under the proving and test of God, and he never permits the temptations to be greater than the capacity of resistance. If the soul is overborne, the person overpowered, this can never be charged to God, as failing to give strength in grace, but the one tempted was not vigilant and prayerful and did not appropriate by faith the provisions God had abundantly in store for him. Christ never failed a believer in his hour of combat. The believer must claim the promise and meet the foe in the name of the Lord, and he will not
know anything like failure. (Ellen G. White manuscript 6, 1889)

**Affirmation:** By God's grace, I am a good finisher and not just good at beginning things. I consider the cost before I commit to do something. I do not despise the day of small beginnings. Whatever I find to do, I do it with all my heart. I finish what I have committed to do, according to my ability and means. I have put my hand to the plow, and I will not look back. God has cupped His hand over mine. By His grace, I will finish the race of faith with joy. I strip off every unnecessary weight and lay aside the sin that so easily entangles me-and, keeping my eyes fixed on Jesus-I run with endurance. Forgetting what is in the past, I press forward toward the heavenly prize. The Lord will perfect His work in me; I lack no spiritual gift. He will keep me strong to the end, so that I will be blameless on the day of my Lord Jesus Christ. I will keep the faith and finish the race-by His grace. (Luke 14:28-30; Zechariah 4:10; Ecclesiastes 9:10; 2 Corinthians 8:11, 12; Luke 9:62; Acts 20:24; Hebrews 12:1,2; Philippians 3: 12-14; Psalm 138:8; 1 Corinthians 1:7, 8; 2 Timothy 4:7). (Life Affirmations from Scripture pg. 69 written by Shelley Quinn)

**Become a 3ABN Prayer Warrior:** [http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer-warriors/](http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer-warriors/)

If the Holy Spirit convicts you that intercessory prayer be your calling, please visit our website and follow directions, submitting the necessary information. Being a Prayer Warrior is one of the most rewarding ministries there is. When we walk the streets of gold, only then will we know the extent of our cooperative efforts with the Lord. We continually receive input from our Prayer Warriors stating how satisfying it is to work in the Lord's vineyard. What we intend to be a blessing for others is a greater blessing for us. God gets all the glory.

**Bible Topic Scriptures:** Sickness-"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds' says the Lord..."Jeremiah 30:17. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all our diseases..." Psalm 103:2, 3. "And He said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will" Mark 14:36. "....for He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" Hebrews 13:5.

**Need Special prayer?** [http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer-request/](http://3abn.org/pastoral/prayer-request/)

Your 3ABN Pastoral staff is here to assist you. Every member of our team is sensitive to those in pain. I believe, over the years, we have encountered callers in just about every topic or situation one could imagine. It is only by the aid and power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to successfully do that which He has called us to do. We are eager to share words of hope and encouragement. To God be the glory!

**Our sincere prayer** is that God will richly bless you in all areas of your life. You are precious to us and we love you as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Remember that God's love for you is even greater. God bless.

Your loving Pastoral Staff: Grace Yost, Iris Giguere, Karen Owen, Jim Cunnington, Devey Rodriguez, Joe O'Brien, Kevin Hart, Hal Steenson and JD Quinn.