Dear Lexie,

I'm sure by now you know that I am a huge fan of the game of tennis. Well, maybe the word "fan" is putting it mildly. Can I say that I love the game of tennis? I love to play it, watch it and I've even served as a tennis instructor for a few years. So you can imagine how disappointed I've been since the U. S. Open, the biggest event in tennis, has seen very little action due to the amount of rain that we have received. Despite all the money that has been spent by the many "fans" of the game to see their favorite players in action, the weather has brought all of their plans to a screeching halt!

...(read more below)

Rain Delays...

Sports have always served as a great metaphor for life and in this case it's no different. Regardless of how much time and effort have gone into putting a major sporting event like the U. S. Open together, there is no guarantee that things will work out as planned. It reminds me of a famous line from the poem "To A Mouse" by Robert Burns that says, "The best laid plans of mice and men always go awry." In other words, regardless of how carefully something is planned, there is still the potential that something will happen to disrupt those
plans; even with an event as large as the U. S. Open.

But due to the uncertainty of life, which by the way includes "our" plans, God's word counsels us to place a disclaimer on our planning. In James 4:13-16 it says: *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.*

It's amazing that when constructing our plans for the future we place more confidence in what the Weather Channel has to say than we do in the role that God should play. We can't even do a good job at predicting the weather, never mind trying to control it. With that being said, shouldn't we adopt James' posture when it comes to putting our plans on the table? Even if they involve something as simple as saying what our plans will be for the week or even for a single day.

I would love to be able to watch some tennis at the U. S. Open, or even play some for that matter. But that, like many things in life, is completely out of my hands. But what is in my hands is my decision to place all of my plans, like my sins, at the feet of Jesus.

Pastor Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor
Sligo/WAU Unity Day

On Saturday, September 17, 2011, during the 11:15 a.m. worship service, our guest speaker will be Barry C. Black, the 62nd Chaplain of the United States Senate. He was elected to this position on June 27, 2003, becoming the first African-American, the first Seventh-day Adventist, and the first military chaplain to hold the office of chaplain to the United States Senate. He previously served for over 27 years as a chaplain in the United States Navy, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral (UH) and ending his career as the Chief of Navy Chaplains, commanding the United States Navy Chaplain Corps. He officially retired from the Navy on August 15, 2003. In addition to opening the Senate each day in prayer, Chaplain Black provides counseling and spiritual care for Senators, their families, and staff - a combined constituency of over seven thousand people. We hope you can join us!

Chaplain Black is the best-selling author of his autobiography entitled *From the Hood to the Hill*, as well as *The Blessing of Adversity*. Both of these books are available at Potomac Adventist Book & Health Food Store.

Project Top Grade

At the Church Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, Sligo Church voted for Sligo Adventist School (SAS) and Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church to partner with the Commonweal Foundation and the Potomac Conference in donating funds to update Sligo School's physical facilities and improve the overall educational experience. As a result of the generous gifts of over a million dollars from Commonweal Foundation and the Potomac Conference, funds will be made available for a new HVAC, fire alarm system, fire doors, new windows and other needed repairs, plus provide professional development for teachers and special tutoring for students. Our part is to provide scholarships for needy students. SAS and Sligo Church will be expected to raise $350,000 to be placed in a special scholarship fund for students who otherwise would not be able to afford a Christian education.

We invite you to be a part of this investment in our children by placing your funds in the Giving Envelope, and marking it Project "TOP GRADE," which stands for Project Takoma Park: Guaranteeing Revitalized
Adventist Education. For more information about this project, please call Principal Larry Rich at (240) 464-7054. Or give online here.

We hope you found this week's e-weekend newsletter helpful. If there is anything else you would like to see included, we appreciate your feedback. Just email us to sligo@sligochurch.org. We will continue to send this out on a weekly basis. Remember, you may choose to unsubscribe for any reason at any time, though, we hope you won't!

May God continue to richly bless you!