Dear Lexie,

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

Music has to be one of Christmas' most important and enjoyable traditions. Songs that we cherish and wait for many months to hear and sing. By the time Thanksgiving dinner is over most radio stations start playing a selected repertoir of songs that will linger on til December fades away. Yes, most of us love Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed Christmas music.

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G.O.D. - Guaranteed Overnight Delivery

Mission Story by Jamie Jean

William Cowper, the 18th Century English poet and hymnodist once penned: "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform..." How often we focus our minds on one thing—a specific task, trying to find a solution to that one problem—a way to help, and God presents us with a completely different opportunity to be used in ways we would never have imagined.

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What I owe You

Giving Story

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/...xiw2j0LP4joa1Xr6aPhMaYeMe-4FPGrUGsR4vE0cGSViJaqRIFBIdApaxfn4hmTuRtx2F_B[12/27/2012 12:11:38 PM]
Before I joined the staff of the Adventist Review, I was a parish pastor in northern Nevada. I always had my "radar" up for former Adventists, and one day I heard that a couple of former Adventists were living a few miles out of town. I tracked them down and started visiting them occasionally.

Peace on Earth
Advent Month

JOIN SLIGO CHURCH FAMILY This Holiday Season. Peace on Earth is the theme for this year's advent month, we pray that you may join as we celebrate the reason for the season together.

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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

By pesposito On December 20, 2012 • Add Comment • In eWeekend

Music has to be one of Christmas’ most important and enjoyable traditions. Songs that we cherish and wait for many months to hear and sing. By the time Thanksgiving dinner is over most radio stations start playing a selected repertoire of songs that will linger on till December fades away. Yes, most of us love Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed Christmas music.

In 2005, I heard a Christmas song like few others. It made me reflect upon Christmas and to some extent gave this holiday an even deeper meaning. It starts describing a peaceful and silent night, just like any other, in the little town of Bethlehem.

Yet above her deep and dreamless sleep a giant star lights up the sky. And while she is lying in the dark, there shines an everlasting light. For the King has left His throne and is sleeping in a manger tonight. It goes on to say, Oh Bethlehem, what you have missed while you were sleeping, For God became a man and stepped into your world today.

For centuries the prophets had announced the coming of a Messiah, over forty prophecies foretold his coming, the place where he would be born, the manner in which he would be conceived and many other details. Yet the sad truth is that “He came to his own, but his Own did not receive Him” (John 1:11)

But it is the conclusion of the song that sent chills down my spine:

United States of America, Looks like another silent night. As we’re sung to sleep by philosophies that save the trees and kill the children. And while we’re lying in the dark, there’s a shout heard ‘cross the eastern sky. For the Bridegroom has returned, and has carried His bride away in the night. America, what will we miss while we are sleeping. Will Jesus come again, and leave us slumbering where we lay.

Just as it was In His first advent, we are foretold of a Second Coming. Jesus himself told the disciples of the many signs of his return yet he compared the world at the time of His second coming as ten virgins, of which five fell asleep in the wait.

Everything point to the soon return of our Savior. Prophecies of the last days are fast fulfilling, we see the sings all around us. We know that heaven awaits for that last order, and then Jesus will return. Not as babe in a manger but as the King of Kings and ruler of the universe. Yet the question stands, will we be sleeping?

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Tagged with: Advent - adventist - await - Bethlehem - christmas - church - expectation - God - jesus - music - Night - Peace - peaceful -

WORSHIP TIMES

EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturdays 8:45 am
SABBATH SCHOOL
Saturdays 10:00 am
WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturdays 11:15 am

RECENT SERMONS

What Peace!!
Donald McFarlane, Saturday, December 8, 2012
By Jessica On December 18, 2012 • 5 Comments • In Story

William Cowper, the 18th Century English poet and hymnodist once penned:

“God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform…”

How often do we focus our minds on one thing—a specific task, trying to find a solution to that one problem—a way to help, and God presents us with a completely different opportunity to be used in ways we would never have imagined.

Since joining the Adventist church, it has been a desire of mine to participate in a mission trip and to serve others in a very hands-on way. Being a professional musician comes with benefits, in that I am often called to minister through music, and while being the first to argue for the immense value of the arts, I sometimes find myself questioning the impact of my contribution in the context of God’s call to witness and help the least fortunate. Is music my ONLY calling, or is there also something more tangible that I can do?

“...There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it…”

(1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

There is however a difference between understanding this passage, and feeling significant or purposeful in your role. God in his infinite wisdom saw that I had a lesson to learn: that I have God-given talents that can be used in very meaningful ways.

Recently an oboist friend of mine retired at the youthful age of 83 to move to Italy and enjoy fine opera and food. Right before she left, I came home to find two massive bags of music and method books as well as several pounds of reed cane waiting at my door. This was an extremely valuable gift, and a completely unexpected act of generosity. Many of the books I had been hoping to obtain some day, and the cane would keep me supplied for many years to come. I removed the duplicate books with the intention of someday finding worthy students who could benefit from them. I thanked my friend profusely, and promised to pay it forward, somehow.

My search for suitable mission work was interrupted by a call from a close friend. She had spent the summer in Panama working with the students at the Instituto Nacional de Musica near where I would soon be vacationing. Her call became a request to deliver much needed supplies to the students there. Despite Panama’s vast shipping industry, access to specialized materials is extremely limited. The oboe studio at Instituto Nacional de Musica shares one Barrett Oboe Method book from 1974—older than me and in much worse condition. Many of the pages had dry-rotted and were crumbling away from the duct-taped binding. In contrast I owned my first Barrett book (a basic foundational study necessary for all oboists to master) at
age 13, my second, revised version, at 18, and currently possess 5 total Barrett books for use in my private studio. Other music the students have to find online and download. Since not all music is available in this format, this limits their education.

Coincidence? I think not!!!

After initial nerves over language barriers, and fear of intentions getting lost in translation, I made contact with the oboe professor and some of his students. They were incredibly excited about the prospect of receiving supplies. Soon, my suitcase was packed full of cane and music, some donated by other area oboists. Then off to Panama I went.

A simple act of being able to give away a gift that was given to me, turned into a blessing. I sat with the students for a couple of hours just listening to their stories and watching them flip through the books of music with joy, including two new Barrett books. They were full of hope and eager to get to work, and I know that one day they too will pay it forward.

Many times I feel that the Lord sends me messages that I need to hear through other people. While discussing the challenges of the artistic life, one student very wisely said to me: “Only some people are born for the big things, but we are all born for something. Whatever we do in life, we should strive to be meaningful not what we perceive to be great or famous.”

So there it is Lord, I hear you. Whatever you would have me do with my hands, I shall rejoice in You and not ask for those things that I perceive to be better. Instead, I shall do what you place before me and be content with what I am given—and do it to the best of my abilities. As Ecclesiastes 9:10 says: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might…”

One day I hope to hear my Master say: “Well done, good and faithful servant…” (Matthew 25:21)
David M@Obie (@d@v@do8) says:
December 19, 2012 at 3:26 pm
Beautiful!

Reply

Jamie Jean says:
December 19, 2012 at 3:40 pm
Thank you David! It was so wonderful meeting you guys!

Reply

Elizabeth says:
December 20, 2012 at 11:29 pm
What a blessing to have the gift of music!

Reply

Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...
WHAT I OWE YOU

By pesposito On December 20, 2012 • Add Comment • In Story

Before I joined the staff of the Adventist Review, I was a parish pastor in northern Nevada. I always had my “radar” up for former Adventists, and one day I heard that a couple of former Adventists were living a few miles out of town. I tracked them down and started visiting them occasionally.

After several months I stopped by to call on them. As I was leaving the house after our visit, the man said, “It’s been a long time since I’ve given anything to the church. But I want to get right with the Lord.” Then he handed me a piece of paper, folded in two, which I stuck into my shirt pocket. I had enough cash not to gawk at something like that in his presence, so I drove down the road a little bit. When I stopped and pulled that piece of paper out of my pocket, I saw that it was a check—for $28,000. I’ve been handed lots of checks in my lifetime, but never one for that much. That’s why it sticks in my mind.

From that day on that man and his wife became active members of the Seventh-day Adventist church in that community. I left for another assignment not long after that, but that couple continued to be active; in fact, they were the nucleus that kept that church together.

We invest in God’s kingdom when we support His church with our tithe, our offerings, and our influence. The more we invest, and the greater our level of involvement, the greater is our reward as we work with others to build up God’s kingdom.

This happened more than 20 years ago, and I haven’t been back to that church in years. In fact, I’m not sure that couple is still alive. But I know that their investment in the Lord’s work brought them joy and satisfaction and benefited the church more than they could have imagined.

Edited by: Elizabeth Wear

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If you would also like to share your testimony please contact us to receive guidelines and assistance to share your story. (edit)

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