Dear Lexie,

Find Your Cheese

Many books that are written nowadays are "much of a muchness" as the Brits would say. They are alike in many respects and seldom have a new or creative idea. This goes for religious books as well. However, occasionally one comes across a book that causes one to sit up and eagerly leaf through its pages because it strikes a chord in one's life and experiences or provides a solution to a problem. That was my reaction to a little book given me as a Christmas present some years ago.

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Faith Rewarded-Anyway
Wendell T. Osbourne's Testimony

God works in mysterious ways-so mysterious, I haven't figured it out decades later. After immigrating to the United States, my family was not yet completely settled.

Learn more>>

Pathfinder Sabbath 2013
Pathfinders

The Sligo Challengers invite you to join us for our Pathfinder Sabbath January 19, 2013 at 8:45 AM and 11:15AM. This church program is coordinated by the Pathfinders in our
"B-Transformed 2-day"

Special Musical Guest:
Pathfinder Chorale
Aaron Wilson, director
Jessica Jamieson, pianist

Milestones
Sligo Church Growth
Each new year, before I think about formalizing resolutions designed to propel me to new and better things, I like to sit and remember the many things for which I have to be thankful.

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Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church | 7700 Carroll Avenue | Takoma park | MD | 20912
Many books that are written nowadays are “much of a muchness” as the Brits would say. They are alike in many respects and seldom have a new or creative idea. This goes for religious books as well. However, occasionally one comes across a book that causes one to sit up and eagerly leaf through its pages because it strikes a chord in one’s life and experiences or provides a solution to a problem. That was my reaction to a little book given me as a Christmas present some years ago. Many of you, I am sure, have come across it. It’s called, “Who Moved My Cheese.”

Written by Spencer Johnson, this little book is a story about change that takes place in a maze where four amusing characters look for “Cheese,” cheese being a metaphor for that which we are seeking in life. This could be just about anything – better health, more time with the family, a house, a job, financial freedom, finding a spouse, release from relational bondage, spiritual peace.

In the Forward of “Who Moved My Cheese,” Ken Blanchard tells the story of how Charlie Jones’ life was changed as a result of reading the book. Charlie Jones was a well-respected broadcaster for NBC – TV. He had done a great job of broadcasting Track and Field events at an Olympic Games but was surprised and when his boss told him he’d been removed from these showcase events for the next Olympics and assigned to Swimming and Diving. He didn’t know these sports well and was upset and angry and felt unappreciated. It was while in this state of mind that he read “Who Moved My Cheese” and realized that his boss had just “moved his cheese.” He stopped moaning, adopted a positive attitude, learned all he could about Swimming and Diving. His boss soon observed his new attitude and gave him better and more exciting assignments. He went on to enjoy greater success in broadcasting and was later inducted into the Pro Football’s Hall of Fame-Broadcasters’ Alley.

“Who Moved My Cheese” is about managing change to ensure fulfillment and reaching our goals. There comes a time when if the thing we have grown accustomed to doing brings us no satisfaction or little satisfaction, we need to change something and it is never too late to change. Change may not be easy, but if we set our mind to it and are willing to make the required sacrifice, change will come. This goes for just about anything in our lives, including our relationship with God. Instead of thinking each day that we need to spend more time with God, that we need to read the Bible every day, that we need to share our faith and testify about what Jesus has done for us, that we need to be faithful to God by returning to Him our tithe, why not stop thinking about these things and do something about them. We cannot do anything about the past than seek God’s forgiveness and the forgiveness of others, where necessary, for our mistakes but we can do something about the present and the future. Just begin to do what you have been thinking of doing and “Find Your Cheese.”

Don W. McFarlane
ONE RESPONSE TO FIND YOUR CHEESE

Jamie Jean says:
January 17, 2013 at 9:28 pm

Attitude is everything! Great thoughts.

Leave a Reply
God works in mysterious ways—so mysterious, I haven't figured it out decades later.

After immigrating to the United States, my family was not yet completely settled. We made our church home a congregation that was struggling to build a new church and a school. The cooperation of each member was needed.

Not short of fundraising ideas, the pastor arranged with a local bank to make personal loans to each member, then credit the combined amount to the church building program. Some members signed up for a good-sized note, trusting that the Lord would rain down a special blessing for their liberality. I listened to the pastor make the appeal. While I hoped for no special shower of blessings, I did feel moved by the Holy Spirit to do my part.

The commitments had to be made that Sabbath. So, having no time to consult my wife, I proceeded by faith alone and pledged a loan. I had no idea of the unexpected events that were to follow.

A few weeks earlier I had been involved in a very costly auto accident, which left my wife and me with no transportation to go to work or to shuttle our two children to school. We had remedied that problem with a new Ford Country Squire station wagon.

Then the unexpected descended with full force. First, just a few weeks after making our church loan commitment, we discovered, at the most inopportune moment for us, that my wife was pregnant. Then came a second shock—our new car was almost totally destroyed by a hit-and-run driver while it was legally parked.

In the end, we paid the loan in full with no undue hardship—a miracle I have yet to comprehend. Our transportation dilemma was miraculously solved, and the baby was born with no difficulties. The child who arrived at such an inopportune time is now the lovely, successful Monterey County Superior Court Judge, Marla Osborne Anderson, honored at La Sierra University and the recipient of numerous awards.

Even though we faced unexpected difficulties, God rewarded our faith anyway, and we can only say, "So, likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do'" [Luke 17:10].

Story by: Wendell T. Osborne

Edited by: Beth Wear
ONE RESPONSE TO FAITH REWARDED—ANYWAY

Carol Hammond says:
January 17, 2013 at 7:57 pm

A great story! When we allow Him to be in charge, everything works our to His glory!

Leave a Reply
PATHFINDER SABBATH 2013
By Victor K on January 17, 2013 · Add Comment · In Children's Ministry, Events

The Sligo Challengers invite you to join us for our Pathfinder Sabbath January 19, 2013 at 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM. This church program is coordinated by the Pathfinders in our Club and guest speaker will be Pastor Josant Barrientos.

After the church service, we would also like to invite Pathfinders and Staff to attend our 6th annual free leadership training at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist School.

Sligo Seventh-day Adventist School:
8300 Caroll Ave
Takoma Park MD 20912

The leadership courses are for Pathfinder Staff who are working on their Basic Staff Training or Master Guide. The courses will be offered are mentoring, club organization, communications skills and many more. Also, the Pathfinders who attend will be able to participate and earn honors.

There will be a pot luck lunch provided following the church service. If you would like to help us out by providing a dish for pot luck, please indicate the dish or item when you register, all donations are welcome and please make to indicate Sligo Pathfinders on your donation.

If you are planning to attend the leadership training or need more information, please RSVP to THSLDU@comcast.net or call Joel Hutchins at 301-802-4326.

We look forward to seeing you.

TAGGED WITH: Challengers · Children · Club · God · Leadership · ministry · Pathfinders · Sabbath · sda · Seventh-day Adventist · sligo · Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church · Staff · takoma park · Training · youth

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MILESTONES

By pesposto On January 10, 2013 • 1 Comment • In eSteward

Each year, before I think about formalizing resolutions designed to propel me to new and better things, I like to sit and remember the many things for which I have to be thankful. At an end of year function with a small group from Sligo, we were asked to share one thing from the year that left us the most thankful. When it came my turn I said, “I am so thankful that with God’s help we paid off the OSR this year.” I am sure this is something for which our entire church family can give a heartfelt thanks to God.

BACKGROUND

The current building in which the Sligo Church family gathers was completed in 1944. In 1985 we built an addition however by 2001, it was clear that there was need for significant renovation. Our congregation initiated a project labeled the Organ Sanctuary Renovation (OSR) project. The work included allowing more natural light at the front of the church (behind the pulpit), installing a new maple stage, a baptistery with Jerusalem marble, a Daffer organ and pipes and pews on the main floor. Acoustics were also improved. The original cost increased to $4.36 million when it became apparent that there was significant asbestos in the original construction that needed to be removed. Approximately half of the money for this restoration project was raised prior to initiation and the remaining $2.3 million was borrowed from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund. To put this project cost of in perspective, at last estimate, our church property was valued at about $18 million.
THE PLAN

In May 2005 we started making payments on this 20-year, 7.0% fixed interest loan, with a monthly payment of $16,500. By 2009, despite an economy that was in a tailspin, we began a concerted effort to pay off the loan early. The campaign highlighted the endless possibilities of what an extra $16,500 could do for our many ministries. Pastor Tapp wrote a piece for the eSteward entitled "What if..." accenting the potential of invigorated ministries. And we as a church eagerly got to work to retire our debt early, not only save many hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest, but to free up offerings that can be used to further the many vibrant ministries of our church.
MILESTONES

By June of 2009, our monthly interest payments fell below $10,000 for the first time. A bequest from an estate came in so that by the end of the year along with faithful giving by so many members, the loan amount had dropped from $1.9 million to $1.3 million, with about $10,000 a month going to pay off principal. By the end of 2010 our loan amount was below $1 million and by the end of 2011 it was below $800,000. And this was during a time when we, along with Sligo Adventist School, elected to raise $350,000 for our school as a condition for a generous donation from the Commonweal Foundation. During 2012 several donations from anonymous donors and 2 bequests came in that allowed us to pay off our remaining OSR debt by Thanksgiving. And what a joyous Thanksgiving we had! Praise be to God! And thanks to each one of you who faithfully continued to give to this project.

NEW BEGINNING

So now at this birth of a new year, we give thanks to be free from the burden of debt. This new found freedom should embolden us to know that nothing is too hard for God. Not finding a way out of Egypt for the children of Israel, not paying off a $2.3 million loan in the face of a shaky economy. And if He can do that, what else can He do for Sligo? Which Sligo ministry would you like to support with your time, talents and money? How does that giving engage with your new year’s resolution? And with that investment, what are the exhilarating life-changing things God can do? The possibilities are truly endless.

Luke 6:38 “If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—large or small—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.” (New Living
Milestones

By: Dr. James Gulley

TAGGED WITH: adventist, church, church renovations, debt, forward, giving, james gulley, jesus, milestones, ministry, progress, renovations, sligo, success, takoma park

ONE RESPONSE TO MILESTONES

Karl says:
January 11, 2013 at 5:29 pm

Thanks for your leadership of the Stewardship Committee during the "sprint to the finish line," James. An encouraging report; the pictures are great!

Leave a Reply