Dear Lexie,

"The Hour Has Come"

This week on the campus of Washington Adventist University, the school is conducting its annual Week in Spiritual Emphasis. Held in the sanctuary of Sligo Church, WISE, as it is commonly called, is an extremely important activity because it calls the entire campus together for a week of spiritual revival and rejuvenation. Out of all the events sponsored by WAU, by far, WISE is one of those that consistently brings life and hope to this campus.

Read more>>

Women's Ministries News

Women's Ministry Update

On Sabbath, February 16, the Women's Ministry Team will celebrate along with all of our church family at the ordination of Sligo's first woman pastor, Josephine Benton.

Learn more>>

The Work of Grace

God's Grace

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**Learn more>>**

**Mountain Trails**  
**Committee Goals**

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"THE HOUR HAS COME"

By pesposto On February 7, 2013 • Add Comment • In eWeekend

This week on the campus of Washington Adventist University, the school is conducting its annual Week In Spiritual Emphasis. Held in the sanctuary of Sligo Church, WISE, as it is commonly called, is an extremely important activity because it calls the entire campus together for a week of spiritual revival and rejuvenation. Out of all the events sponsored by WAU, by far, WISE is one of those that consistently brings life and hope to this campus.

One reason why WISE is so special is that in the second semester of each school year, the speakers for the week come entirely from the student body. Standing behind the pulpit each day, these students are proclaiming the word of God with power and clarity, not only impacting their fellow classmates but also members of the faculty and administration.

This year’s theme for WAU's WISE is simply, “The Hour Has Come.” As the theme suggests, the focus is on the second coming of Jesus Christ. But as I heard from the speaker on Wednesday, the focus is not merely on the event itself, or when it will occur, but rather on what we must do to be prepared to meet Christ when he returns. This prompts me to ask this very important question, “when was the last time you thought about how you would fare at Christ’s return?” I’m sure that this isn’t something that most of us think about very often, or is it? Better yet, isn’t this a theme that should weigh heavily on our minds.

The fact remains that when Jesus does return, whenever that will be, there will be those of us who are ready to meet him and those of us who will not be ready. So whether you and I are ready or not, The Hour Has Come, not for the return of Jesus per se, but for his people to get ready for his return. And, in my opinion, one of the best ways for us to get ready for Jesus’ return is to live our lives as though he already has.
WOMEN’S MINISTRIES NEWS

By Krosburg On February 7, 2013 · 2 Comments · In Ministry Spotlight, Women’s Ministries

On Sabbath, February 16, the Women’s Ministry Team will celebrate along with all of our church family at the ordination of Sligo’s first woman pastor, Josephine Benton. As a result of the Columbia Union’s vote last year to ordain all those ministers within our region who are called to ministry, regardless of gender, this will be a high day to celebrate Pastor Benton’s call, which she fulfilled so many years ago. She served as our congregation’s first female pastor from 1973 – 1979, then as the senior pastor of the Rockville, MD SDA church until 1982. Her ordination will take place during second service on the 16th and we hope you will plan to join us.

For the full article please visit the Columbia Union website.

Please continue to pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit as the General Conference committee tasked with studying the theology of ordination in our denomination meets over the next months and years.

Different events/meetings of our WM team continue every month and we are always looking for more women to join us:

- Book Club - Feb. 13, Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Disciple Room. This month’s book is “When I Was a Child I Read Books” by Marilynne Robinson. Find out more at http://us.macmillan.com/author/marilynnrobinson http://us.macmillan.com/wheniwasachildireadbooks/MarilynnRobinson

- Knit Night - every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Prayer Room

- First Monday - March 4 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship A

- Women in the Word Sabbath School Class - every Sabbath in the sanctuary, located just in front of the Parents’ Room
2 RESPONSES TO WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

Karen Burke Bright says:
February 14, 2013 at 10:53 am

Praise God for blessing us with His chosen servant, Josephine Benton.

Pastor Benton, your ordination on February 16, 2013, will represent official church recognition of your pastoral calling. The calling you received from God long before the 1970s.

You are an inspiring for us all.

Karen Burke Bright says:
February 14, 2013 at 10:54 am

“inspiration” not inspiring.

Leave a Reply
THE WORK OF GRACE

By rable On January 28, 2013 · 1 Comment · In eWeekend, Story

“IT IS NOT complicated to lead the spiritual life. But it is difficult.” — Thomas Merton, Seeds.

The odd thing about God’s grace is that those in the most pain, whom we might think would want it the most, resist it fiercely, while those who reflect it to others seem to think they don’t deserve it. One of the best examples of this in current popular culture is Les Miserables, the movie adaptation of the much-loved Broadway musical.

Jean Valjean, an ex-convict and a forgiven man, has vowed to live a better life and to care for Cosette, the illegitimate daughter of Fantine, a woman who has been fired from his factory, has turned to prostitution to support her daughter, and is dying.

Javert, the prison guard who tracks Valjean relentlessly for breaking parole, is a man bound by duty, sworn to uphold the law no matter the circumstances. His dedication to the pursuit and his loyalty to the law become a personal crusade to see Valjean hung. He will not turn aside, he will not grant mercy, he will not give up the chase, despite the fact that Valjean, who at one point holds him captive, refuses to kill him. In the end, Javert commits suicide, in part because he could not distinguish between his civic duty and his personal morality. The grace and forgiveness offered him by Valjean he rejects with vehemence because he will not deviate from the law even for mercy’s sake.

Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk quoted above, assures us that in trying to live a spiritual life we must expect to make a thousand mistakes. “It is when we are angry at our own mistakes that we tend most of all to deny ourselves for love of ourselves . . . We become incapable of existing except as a ‘no,’ which we fling in the face of everything,” Javert, like many of us, could not reconcile himself to the grace given nor could he not do his duty, since that is all that gave him purpose.

“The things we really need come to us only as gifts,” says Merton, “and in order to receive them as gifts we have to be open.” Merton suggests that it is our fixation on our own autonomy and “self-willed identity” that closes us off from God’s grace.

What are we fighting for, I wonder? The times when I have felt most free and yet most ‘myself’ have been those moments when I opened myself to God’s grace and revealed in the lifting of the darkness within me.

Perhaps that is the work of grace we can do, moment by moment, into the day.

Barry L. Casey, a long-time Sligo member and a co-leader of the Believers and Doubters Sabbath School class, teaches philosophy and communications at Stevenson University, Trinity University DC, and Washington Adventist University.
ONE RESPONSE TO THE WORK OF GRACE

Chris Daley says:
February 1, 2013 at 4:56 am

Barry,
Thanks for sharing about one of our most precious assets in the community of faith. It is the currency of heaven that communicates our priceless value. When we practice it's precepts we message to each other our practice of seeing the image of God in each other.

Leave a Reply
I love mountain biking. Not a flat trail by the C&O canal, but a single-track leading up a mountain. When I was in graduate school in Loma Linda CA, a friend and I would go mountain biking 4 days a week. There’s something about the discipline of the climb and the exhilarating view from the top made this a perfect way to start the day. At the top one could see a dozen different trails, and each one required a different skill set to get down. Part of the fun was picking which trail we were going to go down, would it be Jedi trail that you could fly down at 30 miles an hour going around tight blind corners with high banked turns? Would it be down knife edge trail with a section of trail connecting two ridges that was no wider than a bike tire? Would it be down dead man’s hill trail with a long downhill so steep you would have to put the bike seat all the way down just so you wouldn’t flip over your handlebars? And then the exhilaration of the ride began as we made the final leg of the journey home.

To me, as Stewardship chair, I don’t think of the goal of our committee as merely to raise money. It is much harder and broader than that. It is also to get people so involved in our ministries with their time and talent that they have a strong sense of ownership. After all, who takes stewardship more seriously, an owner or a renter?

Today we have reached the summit. With God’s help we have had the disciplined climb out of debt. While there will be other financial challenges ahead, they all lead to one or more rewarding trails of ministry. Which exhilarating path will you invest your time in and make your own? Where can you exercise a budding talent or further sharpen an existing skill set? Perhaps, like me, you love children. I have taught in the kindergarten Sabbath school since 2004, but each of the 4 other teachers and the piano player have been there much longer. One leader, Dana West, has been helping out in this Sabbath School since she was 14. Yes, that is dedication and that is service—but what an amazingly fun walk with God! Perhaps it is working with the media team in their outreach over the internet, on in the hospitality team. Whatever ministry ignites your passion or your sense of adventure, I urge you to pick one or more of these paths this year—paths that you can throw yourself into with God and other members who share your interests. Because we are nearing home, and this final leg of the journey is going to be fantastic.