Dear Lexie,

A Little Heaven on Earth

One of my special blessings at Sligo is that I get to share the love and grace of God with children. I derive unlimited joy from seeing their eyes open wide as they realize all that Jesus has done for each one of them because of His love. Taking care of our children and showing them God's love and compassion is a special duty of the church but also a privilege.

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This Sabbath:
May 4, 2013

Speaker:

Pr. Paolo Esposito,
"Living By Faith"

Pres. Dan Jackson,
"Just Do It"

Special Musical Guest:

Denise Barkley
Soloist

Christopher Price,
Piano

Carrol Hammond
Journey of Blessings

Malachi 3:10 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such...

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Transforming Takoma Park

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One of my special blessings at Sligo is that I get to share the love and grace of God with children. I derive unlimited joy from seeing their eyes open wide as they realize all that Jesus has done for each one of them because of His love. Taking care of our children and showing them God’s love and compassion is a special duty of the church but also a privilege. Children need to feel that they are part of the church and that the church family has a strong desire for them to be saved. This should not only be said but also demonstrated in the practical and positive influence that the church family has on its children.

In addition to the role that the church plays in the life of its children, a healthy family life is also necessary. Studies have shown that when a child is in a strong, Christ-centered, nurturing, and involved family, that child is more likely to grow up to be a strong, Christ-centered, nurturing person.

Many of the questions that kids ask in my Bible study classes at Sligo School are about heaven and what we will be able to do there: “Will you have to be baptized to go to heaven? How will we know when Jesus comes? “Will we be able to play basketball there? Will we be able to play video games there?” They want to know that they will not be bored in heaven and that they will get there. It’s so interesting, the things that children want to know! But, then again, they can only know what they have been taught. As important as the church is in the life of a child, I cannot rely solely on Sabbath School teachers, pastors, or the church family to teach my children all that they need to know about God. As a Christian parent, that is my primary responsibility, no matter how much time and effort it takes.

The home needs to be a special place, where children are taught the truth about God and His grace, and where a child can develop into a mature Christian. I love the quote from Sister Ellen White in Adventist Home, page 152, where she says, “Home should be made all that the word implies. It should be a little heaven upon earth, a place where the affections are cultivated instead of being studiously repressed. Our happiness depends upon this cultivation of love, sympathy, and true courtesy to one another.” This is powerful! It reminds me of the importance of a safe place for children. Outside the home children have
to battle with a number of external forces, such as peer pressure, which are pushing them
to participate in the things of this world. They need a place that is safe, uplifting, and
positive. That place should be the home.

Our children learn from the example we set them. What they see in us is what they are
likely to become. That is why the home has to be the primary place for our children to
develop strong and Christ-like characters. “Angels delight in a home where God reigns
supreme and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such
family can claim the promise, ‘them that honor Me, I will honor.’”(Ellen White, Adventist
Home, 27). The family that takes time to have daily family worship is one that is forging a
lasting habit in its children. Family worship time is priceless in teaching our children the
importance of having Jesus in their lives every day.

I encourage every family to ensure that there is family worship time in their home and see
for themselves the fruits that will be produced later in in the lives of their children. As the
Bible says in Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and
admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Remember to make it relevant, interesting, and
real for your kids.

Gerry Lopez
Carol Hammond: Journey of Blessings

http://sligochurch.org/carol-hammond-journey-of-blessings

pesposito

Malachi 3:10 “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

James and I were married December 20, 1959, at age 29 and 24 – fairly young by today’s standards. Two years later (1961) when I was five months pregnant with our first child, we were called to go as missionaries to teach at the Bekwai secondary school in Ghana. James taught science and I taught English and literature. I continued to teach after our daughter Endea was born. Although with deep sadness we buried our second child in Africa, God blessed us with three more children. We were now a family of six.

Following our term at Bekwai, James served as president of two missions – Sierra Leone Mission from 1969–1971, and the North Ghana Mission in Tamale from 1972–1974. We were in Ghana during the time when President Nkrumah was ousted! The soldiers toppled the statue of this Socialist dictator. Student groups that he formed wore Nazis-like uniforms and sang “I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me!” Spies sent to our churches and other organizations made it difficult to determine who was who in large crowds of people.

James built four churches in Ghana with money from donors in the United States. Sometimes he would spend our food money to help the churches, but God always came through in providing for our needs. We were never hungry or in need of anything.

In addition to teaching and caring for the children, I regularly entertained visitors from the States. We were advised not to use our American-purchased foods, but to serve visitors the local food. Local dishes included groundnut soup and cassava.

In 1974 we returned to the States. James taught at (then) Columbia Union College and I
taught at Sligo Adventist Elementary. Keeping four children in church school stretched our budget to the limit. It was time to start claiming the promises of the Bible.

Our biggest test of faith involved the calculation of my retirement. On returning from the mission field I was informed that after serving 13 years, only James had accrued retirement credit. After stretching their generosity to the max the General Conference allotted me three years toward retirement out of my 13 years teaching in Africa. Policies hopefully have changed.

When faced with disappointment, attitude is everything. I could have been angry about losing ten years towards my retirement, but I chose to rest in the Bible promises. God helped me complete my Ph.D at Howard University (2000) in Educational Psychology. He provided me with adjunct teaching jobs at Washington Adventist University and at Radians School of nursing, and part-time work at the State Department. I made more money at those jobs than the lump sum I had been denied at retirement. I’d say that was a blessing.

Our children are our greatest blessing. Endea Thibodeaux, our first-born, is an entrepreneur and the mother of three – Darius, Aliyah, and Aron. Renata Craig, a lawyer, is the mother of two — Julian and Hayley. Rona Smith, a guidance counselor, is the mother of two — Miata and Sierra. James Hammond, Jr., a nurse anesthetist, is the father of two – Jada and Sydnie.

James, a church worker for over 40 years, has now retired. I worked 39 years for the denomination and am still working. Yes, God has blessed us abundantly, and I am confident He will continue to “open the windows of heaven.”

Carol Hammond, a member of Sligo for 38 years, taught at Sligo Elementary School for 22 years. Presently, she is an adjunct faculty member at Washington Adventist University. She is a graduate of Oakwood University (BS), University of Maryland (MA), and Howard University, (PhD in Educational Psychology). She is author of the book, “Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color.”

Editor: Elizabeth Wear

Photograph courtesy of Michael McKennis from eyesoulphotographyllc.com/
One of the deep, rich teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church is its insight on the cosmic conflict. Ever heard the term Great Controversy?

So paradise was lost through the entry of sin. However, paradise will be regained and our ticket has been bought by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and our acceptance of His precious gift.

On a daily basis we are still faced with the pain and tragedies of life that attempt to alienate us from our loving God. This is when our insight into the cosmic conflict can provide needed comfort for the hurting, and bring hope to those in despair.

The string of school shootings has spawned many grief-ridden communities, and our church neighborhood is not immune. However, we also have powerful resource in our faith kit that when used, delivers transformational possibilities.

It is prayer!

Paul Cede stated it well.

Satan laughs at our toiling and mocks our trying, but he shakes when he sees the weakest saint of God on his knees!

Just imagine the nightmare he will experience when bands of Sligo prayer guardians partner with heaven for the safety of this, our Takoma Park community?

Yes, we have the promise of Psalm 91:11 to claim!

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

In just ten (10) minutes a day, you can help marshal the forces of heaven against evil and support an anxious-free learning environment for the students. The great thing about prayer is that it can be done from anywhere, and with the prepared prayer kit, you will have daily encouragement and focus for the cause.
Now, how do you sign up? You have several means:

- See any member of the **make a difference team** and they will gladly take your information.
- Fill out the bulletin insert and return it in the offering place.
- Send an email to sligoprays@gmail.com with subject: Count me in Praying to Takoma Park Schools.

Come prepared for a special consecration moment on Sabbath April 20 to formalize this ministry.

As you contemplate the possibility, remember this Bible story told in 2 Kings 6.

Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!”

The LORD opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

May this experience be yours!
Vacation Bible School 2013

By Darius Thibodeaux On April 12, 2013 · Add Comment · In ,

Sligo Adventist Church

Vacation Bible School

July 14 – 19, 2013

6:00 – 8:45 p.m.

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Kingdom Rock is great fun for your children, ages 1 – 12; your teenageers
can serve as volunteers who help the younger children.

Click Here To Register Your Children

Click Here To Register As A Volunteer

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