Dear Lexie,

"Liberty or Death"

I left two thirds of my books in the United Kingdom when I moved to the USA to take up my present job at Sligo, but one of the books I decided to bring with me was a volume of 308 pages entitled, Great American Speeches, edited by Gregory R Suriano. From time to time I take this book out and just read a few chapters for inspiration and to remind myself of how grand the English language can be.

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Hope Amidst Chaos

Youth Evangelistic Campaign

There is a Controversy raging around us. We hear of it week after week. We wonder: Why do these things
This Sabbath:
July 7, 2013

Speaker:
Pr. Charles A. Tapp, "Even Now!"

Special Musical Guest:
Lanika Whyte, Soloist

Proof of the Supernatural, I think
A though from Jamie Jean Schneider

Something truly amazing has occurred to me: I think. Have you ever considered the implications of what it means to be conscious of self?...

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I left two thirds of my books in the United Kingdom when I moved to the USA to take up my present job at Sligo, but one of the books I decided to bring with me was a volume of 308 pages entitled, Great American Speeches, edited by Gregory R Suriano. From time to time I take this book out and just read a few chapters for inspiration and to remind myself of how grand the English language can be.

One of my favorite speeches in the book is Patrick Henry’s ‘Liberty or Death speech’ which was delivered at the Virginia Convention in Richmond on March 23, 1775. It is the speech of not just a wise man but also a brave man. The British at the time seemed to be endeavoring to establish cordial relations with the Americans but insidiously were preparing for war by strengthening their navy and army in and around the ‘United Colonies.’ Henry warned fellow leaders not to be deceived by the ‘enemy’s kiss.’ His speech, punctuated with powerful sound-bites, is redolent of Old Testament leaders such as Moses and Joshua. Here are a few sentences from one paragraph:

“Three millions of people armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations and who will raise friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone, but to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election .... There is no retreat but in submission and slavery. Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston. The war is inevitable – and let it come! I repeat, sir, let it come.”

Patrick Henry ended this speech with what has become one of the most famous sentences in the English language – “ I know not what course others may take , but as for me: Give me liberty or give me death.”

Today, July 4, throughout the length and breadth of this country, independence from Britain is being celebrated. This is one of those times when all Americans seem to breathe collectively and remember what a great country this is. We are celebrating with parades, parties, barbecues and fireworks. It’s a happy time for all Americans, but what we are really celebrating is the result of the courageous actions of men such as Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jnr. We owe our freedom to such men who were willing to lay down their lives, and many of them did, for their country and their fellow Americans.

Nearly two hundred and forty years after the Declaration of Independence America still needs citizens who are prepared to stand for their convictions, citizens who will face challenges and setbacks with self-determination and the confidence, as Patrick Henry did, that comes from knowing God. This is essentially a call to Christians to be Christians and not be carried along by the tide of popular opinion. Henry’s rallying speech was made in the face of great opposition. His opponents urged caution and patience “until the British government replied to Congress’ latest petition for reconciliation,” but he refused to support that way of thinking.

America’s biggest enemy today is not Britain. It is not even terrorism or terrorist countries. The biggest enemy is within. It is certain ideas and attitudes, which, if allowed to flourish, could rob this great country of its spiritual moorings and biblically-based confidence that fueled the actions of the founding fathers and subsequent great leaders. It is time for all good men and women to stand up for their convictions.

Happy Independence Day!

Don W McFarlane
It’s undeniable.

There is a Controversy raging around us. We hear of it week after week. We wonder: Why do these things happen?

Is God silent? Is there a plan? Is there hope?

You’re invited to “FROM THE GROUND UP: Hope Amidst Chaos,” a series especially created for youth + young adults who live with these questions and uncertainties.

Join us every Friday at 7:30pm and Saturday at 11:15am for music, food, new friends, and answers to life’s most difficult questions.

LINEUP:

Fri. 5th: Wartime Spoils Sat. 6th: A Wartime Hero Fri. 12th: Heaven on Earth Sat. 13th: The End of War Fri. 19th: The Code Sat. 20th: Ever After Fri. 26th: Living the Life Sat. 27th: The King Returns

Main Speaker: Pastor Pranitha Fielder

All are welcome. Come as you are, from ANY background. Come to the series and bring friends to win a free gift!

——— Brought to you by Sligo Underground, the youth ministry of Sligo SDA Church.
Proof of the Supernatural, I Think…

Jamie Jean

“For as bats’ eyes are to daylight so is our intellectual eye to those truths which are, in their own nature, the most obvious of all.” (Aristotle, Metaphysics, I (Brevior) I)

Something truly amazing has occurred to me: I think. Have you ever considered the implications of what it means to be conscious of self? Not only are we aware, but we realize that we are aware and can ponder the meaning of consciousness.

Science cannot explain this uniquely, human phenomena. Please allow me to quote people much wiser than myself to further explain what I mean.

“Men of the greatest intellect cannot understand the mysteries of Jehovah as revealed in nature. Divine inspiration asks many questions which the most profound scholar cannot answer. These questions were not asked that we might answer them, but to call our attention to the deep mysteries of God and to teach us that our wisdom is limited; that in the surroundings of our daily life there are many things beyond the comprehension of finite minds…” (Ellen G. White, “Laws of Nature,” pp. 259-261 in “Testimonies for the Church”, vol. 8)

“All this time that we spend pondering the existence of God and searching for proof of the supernatural, is actually proof in it of itself. The very fact that we can rationally think about, desire and search for something beyond our basic instincts is proof that there is something beyond ourselves and nature. If the laws of nature can only act on our natural selves, then what is outside the realm of nature (rational thought) must come from something supernatural.” (C.S. Lewis “Miracles”)

Nature, as science understands it, is governed by mechanical (non-rational) rules and actions. Naturalism is the belief that everything that exists is within the boundaries of nature. Rational thought, however, does not fit into the ‘laws of nature’ nor is it logical to conclude that a long series of non-rational, mechanical advances in a species would suddenly yield rational thought. Darwinian laws dictate that species advance towards attributes that are beneficial to the carnal necessities of survival. The beast in the field merely sleeps, eats, drinks, plays, struggles to survive and reproduce…nothing more, nothing less.

“Our ability to reason is a gift from God that reveals that we have been created in his image. An animal does not have the same knowledge of Good and Evil. The proof that we have been looking for is in our conscious search for God.” (C.S. Lewis “Miracles”)

When God presented all the animals to Adam to name (Gen. 2:20), Adam was unable to find a suitable partner among them and so God created Eve to be his helpmate. This showed that no animal was comparable to man, because only man was created in God’s image.

“Man was to bear God’s image, both in outward resemblance and in character. Christ alone is “the express image” (Hebrews 1:3) of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God and in perfect obedience to His will.” (Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 44-45)

As a collective species, we strive for more and move beyond the boundaries of our ‘natural’ purpose or role. No other creature does this. No other animal builds a legacy and progresses towards the next step. We have gone far beyond what we as carnal man require to survive. This is evident in every book written, symphony composed, and new invention. We are not designed to fly but yet venture into space. We are not aquatic and yet dive to the deepest, darkest caverns of the ocean in our search for greater understanding.

The realization that our existence and search for God is the very proof of something beyond ourselves is simple and beautiful in many ways. Faith is being certain of what we cannot see (Heb. 11:1). Human thought is ‘God-kindled’ and it’s a miracle we experience every day. But we have the freedom of choice of how we live our lives. As the great scientist Albert Einstein put it

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

Our search for the supernatural or divine is nothing new, because there’s nothing new under the sun (Eccles. 1:9). The realization of the answer is nothing new either. The Roman philosopher Cicero (106–43 B.C.) stated it with a simple question: “Why then is the universe not accounted animate and wise, when it brings forth from itself creatures which are animate and wise?”

As sin further corrupts this world, the Devil strategically cuts off each successive generation from the wisdom of past generations, leaving us scrabbling to answer questions already answered in a constant search for what is always right there.

Further Study:

“Yet men of science think that they can comprehend the wisdom of God, that which He has done or can do. The idea largely prevails that He is restricted by His own laws. Men either deny or ignore His existence, or think to explain everything, even the operation of His Spirit upon the human heart; and they no longer reverence His name or fear His power. They do not believe in the supernatural, not understanding God’s laws or His infinite power to work His will through them. As commonly used, the term ‘laws of nature’ comprises what men have been able to discover with regard to the laws that govern the physical world but how limited is their knowledge, and how vast the field in which the Creator can work in harmony with His own laws and yet wholly beyond the comprehension of finite beings!” (Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and...
Prophets, p. 114.)

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Hope for Today

Looking for an easy and practical way to share faith and hope in your community? Look no further!

Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church’s new Hope for Today outreach ministry revolves around the Homes of Hope Bible discussion groups.

The Homes of Hope initiative is a simple way of sharing the Gospel with friends and neighbors by leading a bible discussion group or offering our homes to host a Bible discussion group.

Groups meet weekly for fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and refreshments.

Will you be part of a Homes of Hope Team?

Training Info. Sign Up!
July 14 – 19, 2013

6:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Kingdom Rock is filled with incredible Bible-Learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste!

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

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