Dear Lexie,

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BALL!

There is a well-known saying in sports that all athletes hear from their coaches. It does not matter what sport you're playing as long as receiving a ball is involved. A coach will always tell his players "keep your eye on the ball!" He wants them to be focused on what is important and he knows that once you take your eye off the ball you risk the possibility of not making the catch or getting the...

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The Adventists 2
October 5 at 7:00 PM. FREE Admission!
This Sabbath:
October 5, 2013
Speaker:
8:45 am & 11:15 am
Gaspar Colon
"Reflections on the New Life"
Special Musical Guests:
Victor Phillips Jr., organist
Kay Rosburg, chorister
Sherri Jackson, soprano

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The ADVENTISTS 2 is a new documentary film that tells the dramatic story of Seventh-day Adventists and their commitment to medical mission work. It is the sequel to the highly successful film - The ADVENTISTS - currently airing on Public Television stations.

155K views later, we NEED your help!

This week our website has reached the milestone of 155,000 page views since our relaunch. However, we still have many areas that need some work.

Learn more about what you can do>>

Dawn's Testimony
Christian Life
In January 2008 I had my second miscarriage at five months. My husband and I were devastated but couldn't imagine what was to come next. I was already having major intense pain in my right shoulder, neck, and was unable to raise my right hand. I went to see a chiropractor but my symptoms just worsened.

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Missed Last Week's Sermon?
There is a well-known saying in sports that all athletes hear from their coaches. It does not matter what sport you’re playing as long as receiving a ball is involved. A coach will always tell his players “keep your eye on the ball!” He wants them to be focused on what is important and he knows that once you take your eye off the ball you risk the possibility of not making the catch or getting the pass. When a quarterback throws the ball to a receiver he does it with a purpose, which is that the team can advance in yardage for a first down or a touchdown. In basketball a player passes the ball to his teammate so that he can pass it to the open team player or make the shot himself. In both instances keeping one’s eye on the ball may help the team win the game or put them in great position to do so.

When a player gets too anxious, feels intimidated or scared of what might happen or could happen, he usually misses the throw or the pass. It is likely to go right through his hands and may result in the loss of a down or an open shot. But if the player catches it, then it could lead to a touchdown or a first down that will help the team get closer to the goal line, or take the last shot to win the game with three seconds left on the clock. Of course, that is dramatic but is also a very good possibility.

So, the coach instructs the player to “keep your eye on the ball!” and make the play. In our spiritual life we also have to keep our eyes focused on the Creator of all things. We have to keep our eye on the ball. In other words, we have to keep our heart fixed on God at all times. How many times do we miss the throw from God because we are anxious about what is coming next or intimidated by the size or our problems! Hebrews 12:2 says “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how Jesus did it. He never lost sight of where he was headed – that exhilarating finish in and with God. He was able to put up with anything along the way – cross, shame, whatever. And now He’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.”(Message Bible). I love the way this version puts this verse. “Keep your eyes on Jesus…”

Some time ago my best friend took me bungee jumping as a birthday treat. He did not tell me where we were going until we got there. I remember getting all harnessed up and going up a long flight of stairs – going up, and up and up and up until I got to the top, which was very high. I remember being a bit hesitant about jumping. The assistant who accompanied me up told me to make sure I kept my eyes on him, so that I would jump and not back out. As he did the count-down for me to jump I had to stop him a couple of times. You see, I took my eyes off him and looked down and as a result felt anxious about what might happen and about getting hurt. After a few tries he gave me an ultimatum: “You either jump this time or we go back down.” I decided that I would not take my eyes off of him and just jump. So he began the count-down again. Three, Two, One, Zero! I remember just jumping off the platform. As I fell I began to yell my lungs out but could not hear a thing. As I reached the end of the bungee rope I was pulled right back up and soon realized my scream was right behind me, because I met it on my way up. This happened about three more times until I was done bouncing up and down.

I would not have jumped it if I had not fixed my eyes on my assistant. It is the same with our spiritual life. We are bombarded by so many problems, so many issues, and so many things that make life difficult and often we take our eyes off the ball. If we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, that is, if we have faith in God and trust Jesus, then we know that no matter what we go through He is always there for us. We must study how He, Jesus, did it. He did it with constant prayer and lots of faith in His Father. He never lost sight of His focus and where He was headed. In the same way we need to know that we are headed towards eternity and that we are not alone in this journey. We have the Creator in our corner. Keep your eye on the ball! Keep your eye on Jesus!
The Adventists 2

pesposito

October 5 at 7:00 PM. Free admission!

The ADVENTISTS 2 is a new documentary film that tells the dramatic story of Seventh-day Adventists and their commitment to medical mission work. It is the sequel to the highly successful film – The ADVENTISTS – currently airing on Public Television stations. The ADVENTISTS focused on the background of Seventh-day Adventists and how their understanding of the body as the “Temple of God” has made them some of the healthiest people on the planet. Now The ADVENTISTS 2 goes beyond our borders to profile organizations and individuals whose faith commitment has propelled them into some of the world’s most challenging health issues.

The ADVENTISTS 2 was filmed in Haiti, the Amazon/Brazil, Malawi, Africa, China, Peru and the Dominican Republic. It explores how Seventh-day Adventists are addressing important health issues around the world and doing it out of a century-old tradition of medical missions.

In Brazil – Brad and Lina Mills deliver medical support by boat to those living on the banks of the Amazon River. In Malawi – Dr. Christy Shank is saving the lives of the next generation of children born to HIV-positive mothers. In Haiti – Dr. Scott Nelson volunteers his time as an orthopedic surgeon to help crippled children walk.

Millions of people know the names of Albert Schweitzer and Tom Dooley – famed medical missionaries of the 20th century who left their comfortable surroundings for Africa and Asia to bring healing to those in need. Now The ADVENTISTS 2 – the sequel to the highly successful documentary The ADVENTISTS, travels to six countries to tell the stories of today’s unsung medical missionaries and how they are reshaping health care out of a personal faith commitment.

The first film – now airing on PBS stations – showed Seventh-day Adventists as some of the healthiest people on the planet today. The ADVENTISTS 2 explores the Adventist century-old commitment to sharing their health message around the world by building hospitals and supporting the work of medical missionaries.

Courtesy of Journey Films

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This week our website has reached the milestone of 155,000 page views since our relaunch. However, we still have many areas that need some work. Some of those areas are:

- Sermon Archives
- About us, history page
- Home page
- Ministry pages
- And more

We also need help with our outreach website [www.findhoptoday.com](http://www.findhoptoday.com), our upcoming [www.simpletruthsfolife.com](http://www.simpletruthsfolife.com) website, our eWeekend newsletter and social media pages and profiles.

If you would like to be part of the web team, please fill out the form below. Everyone is welcome and we are particularly looking for:

- Graphic designers
- Writers
- Social Media users
- Webmasters
- And anyone who wants to help.

Training and orientation will be provided for those who want to join the team and need help getting up to speed.
In January 2008 I had my second miscarriage at five months. My husband and I were devastated but couldn’t imagine what was to come next. I was already having major intense pain on my right shoulder, neck and unable to raise my right hand. I went to see a chiropractor but my symptoms just worsened. I told my doctor about it and asked for a referral to a physical therapist. After several months of therapy, without any success, my therapist decided to write a detailed letter to my doctor urging him to order a MRI of my brain because the level of weakness on my right side was inconsistent with my age.

I had also started to feel deathly ill several times each day, but couldn’t pinpoint why. In August 2008 I was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation which in turn caused Syringomyelia and Hydrocephalus.

Most people go through their entire lives without major symptoms…but I wasn’t one of those people. It is hard to diagnose because symptoms mimic regular day to day illnesses such as headache, migraine, allergies.

Learn more about Chiari Malformations: http://www.asap.org/; http://www.hydroassoc.org/

I was referred to a neurosurgeon in NYC where I lived at the time, but decided on the doctors at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. I sent Hopkins the report from my MRI on a Thursday and spoke with a lovely lady who told me not to expect a reply for several weeks. However, by the following Monday I got a call back that I should come in ASAP! I thought for sure that I was on the verge of death!

When I got to Hopkins the doctors couldn’t believe I was still standing and not using a cane or a walker! I found out that I had lost 80% of the nerve function in my right arm and 50% in the left. One doctor proclaimed me to a ‘very strong woman’…they suggested that I had compensated so much over the years that I didn’t even notice until it became unbearable. So, today I claim that blessing; back then I didn’t see it that way.

I was scheduled for brain surgery with Dr. Huang on September 25, 2008, which lasted 7 – 8 hours. I was so scared going in but Pastor Mark Sigue had come to my admitting room along with my husband and family and he prayed for me and for my family. Lots of other people were praying for me as well. We actually had a bit of a revival meeting in the hospital room, singing and praying. As I was wheeled into the operating room, I had such ‘peace,’ which I never knew existed. I had let go of EVERYTHING and prayed “Thy will be done!” I was awoken during the surgery to make sure it was going well, but thankfully I don’t remember it.

It was a slow recovery, requiring me to stay in the Maryland area for several months after. Thankfully I had lots of family living in Maryland.

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In less than a year, (August 6, 2009) I had a second brain surgery for the Hydrocephalus at Hopkins with Dr. Rigamonti. This was about 3 hours of surgery. I was still weakened from the first surgery but I somehow survived the second as well.

In July 2010 I lost my job in NYC. I had worked for over 20 years at a not-for-profit, growing it from an annual budget of less than $500,000 to over $20,000,000.

So it’s been a trying several years, to say the least, but I am claiming my blessings every chance I get. I know and understand how precious life is and that we do ourselves an injustice to squander it and not be thankful for EVERY blessing!
Today, I am under 50 years old, I couldn’t work even if I wanted to, I still have pain 24×7; I can’t cook because I burn my hands and don’t know it, due to loss of sensitivity to hot and cold. Every day is a new struggle but I learn to cope and keep going. I am claiming my blessings daily!

A few weeks ago my husband and I went to the cemetery with flowers for the first time and we were able to talk about how old the girls would be and what they would be like. I am able to now talk about them without getting too emotional.

“Sometimes blessings don’t taste good but it is good for you. That is why we do not recognize our blessings immediately and claim them.” (from Pastor Tapp’s sermon on “Claiming your Blessings”).

The Journey continues….I started a blog to chronicle my thoughts and feelings as I navigate this illness and subsequent disability. I don’t look sick but boy am I! People from as far away as Serbia, Russia and Germany are viewing my page, which inspires me to continue the daily struggles.

Let us continue to pray for each other…

By Dawn Brule

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