Dear Lexie,

My Family, God's Family

Mary and I have moved from having just two people in our home one day to having eleven the following day. You can just imagine the difference this has made to the food bill and the anticipated water bill! Yet, we would have it no other way. My eighty-three year old dad, who hates traveling, came up from Jamaica. Our two daughters, their spouses and four grandchildren came across from the United Kingdom. This is the first time that my dad is seeing his great grandchildren and he is having a wonderful time with them. It's the first time that I am seeing my two grandchildren who were born earlier this year.

Read more>>

The Wonder of Worship
This Sabbath:
November 2, 2013

Speaker:
Charles A Tapp,
"The Handwriting on the Wall"

Special Musical Guests:
Sligo Children's Choir,
Charisse Sullivan, Director
Marilyn Dimas, Mezzo soprano

iWorship

In his bestselling book the Purpose Driven Life, Pastor Rick Warren makes a simple statement, "It's not about you." While these words resonate with us, based on our lifestyle, is this really true? Is it...

Read more>>

Adventist Heritage
A look at the birth of the Advent Movement

When we think of our church’s founders and pioneers we often think of old white-haired men. Yet the reality is much different then what we are lead to think...

Read more>>

Festival of Praise!
Bring Family and Friends

Few services at Sligo are as joyous as our annual Festival of Praise and this year we've stepped up a notch. We have a special programs all day long and we want you to invite your family and friends!

More Info. and Registration>>

Missed Last Week's Sermon?

Watch Live or OnDemand: Sligo WebTV>>

Sermon Audio Archive>>

Connect with Us:

Join mailing list>>
Dr. Donald McFarlane – Administrative Pastor

Mary and I have moved from having just two people in our home one day to having eleven the following day. You can just imagine the difference this has made to the food bill and the anticipated water bill! Yet, we would have it no other way. My eighty-three year old dad, who hates traveling, came up from Jamaica. Our two daughters, their spouses and four grandchildren came across from the United Kingdom. This is the first time that my dad is seeing his great grandchildren and he is having a wonderful time with them. It’s the first time that I am seeing my two grandchildren who were born earlier this year.

Our house is alive with various human sounds – the laughter of adults, crying babies, screaming children playing hide and seek or some other game. While their parents are telling the children to be quiet and to calm down, Mary and I are just happy to have our home filled with sounds other than our own. I often say to the parents, “Let the children make as much noise as they want to.” It’s their home and we love the sounds they make.

Mealtime is very special. Last Sabbath I turned down a couple lunch invitations just to be able to have lunch with my family and luxuriate in the joy of having four generations sitting at the dining table. Our son and his wife are absent, due to work commitment back in the UK, but they are represented by their lively eight year-old daughter, our eldest grandchild.

Our family being here reminds me of how important family is and how God has made us to find fulfillment in community and in interaction with others. It also helps me to appreciate God’s purpose in creating and redeeming us. It seems that just as Mary and I enjoy having our family with us and find immense fulfillment in the experience, God also delights in surrounding Himself with created beings and seeing them enjoy the many beautiful things that He has made. He loves to see His children wonder at the immensity and complexity of the universe, admire the delicacy and beauty of a rose, and stand in awe of the majesty of the mountains. Most of all, He loves to just spend time with us and just ‘hang out’ with His children.

God is a relational being. He finds pleasure in community – with the other members of the Trinity and also with created beings such as us. He made us in His image that He could love us and have a relationship with us. What greater motive could there be! Little wonder then that when our first parents messed things up, God did not abandon us but chose to do everything possible to ‘bring us back home,’ including giving up His son to bear our punishment. The love that we have for our families pale into insignificance compared to the love that God has for His family. “… God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). When we were hostile to Him and cared little about Him, God sent His Son to die for us because He considered us important. He loved us and wanted us back home.

It will be a time of glorious celebration for many when Christ returns, not just for those who are saved but for God Himself, who will look around at His children, from every generation since Adam, and beam with joy that His children are home with Him at last. Whatever you are going through, remember that your heavenly Father sees, knows and cares, that He loves you and is there for you, as you are there for those you love.

Tagged with → • • • • • •
The Wonder of Worship: iWorship

In his bestselling book the Purpose Driven Life, Pastor Rick Warren makes a simple statement, “It’s not about you.” While these words resonate with us, based on our lifestyle, is this really true? Is it not about me and you? Our largest technology provider, Apple Inc. designed its global brand on a contrary message. Biting the Apple strikes an ancient impulse that runs deep in our hearts and minds. It’s all about me, myself and I. We adore our devices – the iPad, iPhone and the iPod. We own, value, cherish, maybe even worship them. Whether Android or Apple, we use our devices to live the iLife.

The technology that improves our lives, points towards a deeper impulse that has plagued humanity for thousands of years. “iWorship-it’s all about me.” In iWorship we adore the devices – our traditions, cultures and religious rituals. We own, value, cherish, maybe even worship them. In iWorship we send a contrary message that we adore the objects of our worship instead of God, who should be worshiped.

A Biblical example of iWorship is found in the story of Cain and Abel (Gen. 4). We believe that Cain’s offering of fruit was unacceptable to God because it didn’t include an animal or blood sacrifice. However, the story reveals that God also made another distinction between Cain and Abel’s worship. Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain a tiller of the ground (Genesis 4:2). A keeper means, “A person charged with the responsibility for the preservation and conservation of something valuable.” Abel was a steward. Abel lived knowing everything he managed belonged to God.

Cain was a tiller. The word tiller in the Hebrew abad means, “To work, to serve, keep in bondage, worshiper.” Instead of being a steward like Abel, Cain worshiped his fruit. So while Abel was a steward of his sheep, Cain was a worshiper of his fruitful devices. This was iWorship. Cain’s offering was all about him! Cain’s ability to produce fruits clouded his judgment and desire to offer God pure praise. Are we a bit like Cain today? Do we produce cherished fruits in our worship that may cloud our judgment or desire to offer God praise? If so, what can we do to avoid a tendency towards iWorship-it’s all about me? See you again next week as we continue our journey to discover the Wonder of Worship!

When we think of our church’s founders and pioneers we often think of old white-haired men. Yet the reality is much different then what we are lead to think…

As a matter of fact, among those who gave birth to this movement, there was a great number of youth involved and much diversity too.

Here are just a few stories:

To read more interesting stories about our pioneers please visit: [http://150.adventist.org/](http://150.adventist.org/)
Festival of Praise 2013

On Saturday November 23, 2013, you are invited to our annual Festival of Praise!

REGISTER TODAY!

We have a great day planned out for you. Join us for a day of celebration, praise and fun!

All activities will be held at:

Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church
7700 Carroll Ave.
Takoma Park, MD, 20912

At 11:15 AM EST Join us for a special worship service.

- With Music from:
  - Sligo Sanctuary Choir
  - Sligo Children’s Choir
  - Youth Choir
  - As well as worship from WAU Worship Team

- A powerful message will be delivered by Pastor Charles Tapp

AT 12:30 AM EST Join us for our Food Drive.

We encourage you to bring non-perishables goods. These items will be distributed to over 1000 families in need in the Greater Washington Area by Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington.*

At 3:30 PM EST Join us for a family and parenting seminar.

The seminars will be presented by Pastor Gerry Lopez and Paolo Esposito. The seminar is free and all are welcome to join whether you are a parent or not.

At 7:00 PM EST we will close the day with a Barn Party!
Join us for fun, family friendly, social event sponsored by the Sligo Youth Department. We will have:

- Music
- Games
- Food
- Winter and Fall photo booth**

**Admission is Free and we encourage you to invite your family, friends and neighbors to tag along too!!!**

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY TO RECEIVE A FREE GIFT FROM US!

**Please bring any non-perishables with you on November 23. We will be sort, pack and prepare them for distribution on site.**

**A photographer will be available to take family and personal holiday portraits, you can get a head start on your holiday greeting cards!!!