Dear Lexie,

"Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man"

South Africa happens to be one of my favorite countries. This was not always the case but when I went there for the first time in 2006 I was instantly impressed with the energy and optimism of its people and their sense of pride in a country liberated from the evil and dehumanizing clutches of Apartheid. Seeing people of all colors and backgrounds eating together, playing together and just hanging out together brought a lump to my throat and strengthened my faith in the fact that there remained some goodness in the heart of man despite his sinful nature and capacity for committing acts of unspeakable evil.

Read more>>
**This Sabbath:**

**December 14, 2013**

**Speaker:**

Charles Tapp,
"The Birth of Hope"

**Special Musical Guests:**

Carole Dorlipo
*Soloist*

Jessica Jamieson,
*Accompanist*

**View bulletin>>**

**View quarterly>>**

---

**The Wonder of Worship**

**The Sounds of Music**

If like me you are a fan of musical films, then this past Thursday was a special treat. Millions of Americans rounded up their families and watched the NBC live performance...  

[Read more>>]

---

**We have this Hope**

**Advent Season 2014**

From November 30 to December 28 Sligo church will be celebrating the reason for the season. This year's theme is We have this Hope! Join us and bring a friend!

[More Info>>]

---

**Missed Last Week's Sermon?**

[Watch Live or OnDemand: Sligo WebTV>>]

[Audio Archive>>]

---

**Connect with Us:**

Join mailing list>>

---

Forward this email
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE MAN!

pesposito

South Africa happens to be one of my favorite countries. This was not always the case but when I went there for the first time in 2006 I was instantly impressed with the energy and optimism of its people and their sense of pride in a country liberated from the evil and dehumanizing clutches of Apartheid. Seeing people of all colors and backgrounds eating together, playing together and just hanging out together brought a lump to my throat and strengthened my faith in the fact that there remained some goodness in the heart of man despite his sinful nature and capacity for committing acts of unspeakable evil.

Nelson Mandela has been accorded a status by most South Africans akin to that of a Messiah. His massive statue in Mandela Square (formerly Sandton Square) helps the visitor to the country understand the enormous admiration that his people have for him for having removed from them the stain of forced racial separation and the curse of extremely limited prospects for Blacks. South Africans spoke, and still speak, of Nelson Mandela as one would speak of a beloved grandfather or a favorite uncle.

I had heard about Mandela from childhood but did not at that time understand the struggle in which he was involved. Age brought greater understanding of that struggle. However, it was not until I read his autobiography, The Long Walk to Freedom, which was given to me as a Christmas present in 1995, that I was able to fully appreciate the nobility of his character and the magnitude of what he had done for his country. I devoured the over 1000 pages of this tome in less than a week, missing some of my meals and certain family activities in the process. I just could not put the book down as I buried myself deeper and deeper into the world of this great modern hero. It seems that God prepared him for the great work that he was to accomplish. Of him it could be truly said, “Cometh the hour, cometh the man!”

It is clear to me that Mandela did not set out to be great. He merely stood up for what he believed to be right, not just for himself, but also for his fellow country men and women. What many labeled terrorism on his part was only an attempt to ensure that all South Africans, not just those who were white, were given equal access to the resources, privileges and protection of their country. This quote of his from his Rivonia trial in 1964 and repeated in 1990 when he was freed from prison sums up the ideals by which he was driven: “I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons will live together in harmony with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for, and to see realised. But my Lord, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

Perhaps the single factor on the part of Nelson Mandela that became the pivot on which the country turned from being the pariah of the world to being what is now a highly respected nation was his decision to forgive those who incarcerated him and not hold in judgment his former oppressors for the rest of his life. That resolute position of his which was articulated in speeches but, more importantly, demonstrated by his actions, essentially gave birth to a new nation and hope to the downtrodden and the forgotten. In many ways Nelson Mandela set us all an example of how Christians ought to live in a hostile world. He showed us how to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. (Matt. 5:44).

Twice I was privileged to visit the little house behind the Orlando North Seventh-day Adventist Church in Soweto from which Mandela was taken to his twenty-seven year’s incarceration. Its tiny rooms, modest furniture and absence of internal sanitary facilities stood in sharp contrast to the enormity of his accomplishments. Ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things. It is my hope that all of us who loved and respected Nelson Mandela will allow the values that he espoused to be values by which we also live, that wherever we are we will stand against injustice, defend the weak and defenseless and protect the vulnerable. After all, the only life worth living is one devoted to the service of others.

Tagged with → • • • • •
If like me you are a fan of musical films, then this past Thursday was a special treat. Millions of Americans rounded up their families and watched the NBC live performance of the 1960 classic, The Sound of Music, starring Grammy award-winning country music star, Carrie Underwood. This three-hour musical performance set in the Austrian Alps told the story of a family trying to escape German occupation. At the end of the show, whether viewers loved the NBC live performance or instead longed for the classic Julie Andrews movie, we can all admit that the sound of music has an enduring effect on our lives.

You see, we respond automatically to the sound of music because God created us that way. God loves music. He created it for His praise. Music takes place perpetually at God’s throne (Rev. 5: 8-10). Music heralded Christ’s birth (Lk. 2:13-14) and will announce His Second coming (1 Thes. 4:16). God ordained a priesthood of Levites as musicians to offer praise in His temple (1 Chron. 9:33). God uses music to rejoice over the redeemed (Zeph. 3:17).

We are created as musical creatures. Our bodies produce and respond to a series of sounds. Our hearts beat in rhythm, our stride has a tempo, our pulse throbs in pace, even our breath sounds maintain a soothing meter. Music is essential to life. Music holds such an esteemed place in ancient history that it was cited as a contributor to shaping industry and culture (Gen. 4:19-22). In Psalms 89:15 King David says, “Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!” As Christians, we need to know the sound that brings God joy and offers Him genuine praise.

This was not the case for the Israelite congregation camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. After their escape from Egyptian occupation they should have been singing joyful songs of praise. Instead the sound of music that rose from the camp to the mountain’s peak was chaotic (Ex. 32:17-18). Joshua thought it signaled war. However Moses knew it was neither a sign of victory nor defeat, but praise music. The Israelites were in the valley singing praise to an idol. While God was on the mountain, the Israelites were in the valley playing praise (Ex. 32:6).

The songs we sing signify the God we worship. The songs we sing can affect culture and shape our lives. Music is a form of praise. God uses the sound of music as a means to draw us closer to Him. What kind of songs do you think give God praise? Let me know your thoughts and then let’s see what the Bible says in next week’s eNewsletter.
DUE TO THE INCLEMENT WEATHER THIS WEEK THE DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH CONCERTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED. WE WILL UPDATE THE NEW DATES SHORTLY.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td><strong>The Church at Worship, 8:45 &amp; 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary</strong>&lt;br&gt;Living With Hope, Charles A. Tapp, Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td><strong>WAU Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary</strong>&lt;br&gt;WAU Department of Music featuring the Columbia Collegiate Chorale of Washington Adventist University and the New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td><strong>SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Church at Worship, 8:45 &amp; 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;Symbols of Hope, Charles A. Tapp, Senior Pastor&lt;br&gt;Music by: The Washington Concert Winds of Washington Adventist University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td><strong>Sligo Adventist School Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary</strong>&lt;br&gt;O Little Christmas Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Takoma Academy Fine Arts Present “Great Joy”&lt;br&gt;7:00 p.m., Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;A Musical and Dramatic Celebration of the Birth of Christ.&lt;br&gt;By Drama Troupe, Band, String Ensemble, Chorale and Camerata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td><strong>THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Church at Worship, 8:45 &amp; 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;The Birth Of Hope, Charles A. Tapp, Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td><strong>FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sligo Christmas Program, 8:45 &amp; 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;The Hope of His Coming — Dramatic Worship Service&lt;br&gt;Featuring: persona poetry, seasonal hymns, and musical selection from Sligo Combined Choirs, Sligo Sanctuary Choir, Sligo Youth Choir, and Sligo Children's choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Church at Worship, 8:45 &amp; 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;We Have This Hope, Charles A. Tapp, Senior Pastor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tagged with → • • •

Share →

Tweet

Leave a Reply Cancel reply
Service Times

First Service: 8:45 AM
Sabbath School: 10:00 AM
Second Service 11:15 AM