



BEACON

SUMMER ISSUE 2020



Highlights:

- *Members' Profile*
- *Recipes*
- *Acknowledgements*
- *Children's Corner*



Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"

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One of the highlights of the quarter was Education Day. It was celebrated on Sabbath May 30, 2020, under the leadership of Sis Hyacinth Ricketts. Ten graduates from kindergarten to university were honoured for their progressive accomplishments in education. Special thanks to the teachers and parents for their dedication to ensure the success of the students. We hope that they will continue to strive for excellence and do the work the Lord has commissioned them to do. The sermon entitled: “Touched by An Angel” was delivered by Pastor Sherry Augustus.

Another highlight was the celebration of Children’s Church on Sabbath, June 27, 2020. We were entertained by the children as they carried out their respective tasks. Their performances included prayer, welcome, scripture readings, songs, poems and many more presentations which were spectacular. We were truly blessed. We pray that the children will grow spiritually and continue to work for the Lord.

Message from the Editor



God has brought us safely through another quarter and we are thankful for His tender mercies and His grace towards us. Although we could not worship in the

sanctuary, our online programs and services allow us to lift up His name with thanksgiving and praise. It is therefore, with great pleasure that we present the Summer issue of the Beacon. The articles are designed to highlight some of the events that occurred within the second quarter of the year 2020.

One of our goals is to continue to have a newsletter that represents the vast diversity of our congregation. Along with our Children Corner, we now have a Youth and a Seniors Corners. The Communications Department is requesting all departmental leaders to assign someone from their department to write an article for the Beacon on the days that their programs are presented.

The online services and programs provide inspiration and encouragement to our church family and friends. People from all over the world participate in our Wednesday night prayer meetings, Friday morning prayer sessions and our Sabbath services and programs. Everyone is encouraged and reminded that God is still on His throne.

The Mount Olive church would like to express their sincere gratitude to Pastor Charles and Sister Mahadeosingh and their children Kariann, Gabriel and Abigail. We were truly blessed by their ministry as they shared in our church services for the last two years. Their active participation in our worship services and outreach programs were greatly appreciated. They will be deeply missed by everyone. We wish them all the success in their future endeavors and God’s richest blessings as they continue in His service, preparing souls for the kingdom.

To showcase the various talents in our congregation, we continue to look forward to your support in form of poetry, articles, recipes and any other contributions for the Beacon. With God’s leading and your support, we can soar to higher heights.

The Communications Department wishes to thank everyone for their commendations, suggestions, and constructive feedbacks. They are immensely appreciated, and we hope that we will continue to work together to the honour and glory of God.

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V. Lyttle

Message from Pastor Lazarus

Refocus on Mission



Covid-19 has been the great disrupter! Everything came to a standstill, as humanity faced the onslaught of this invisible enemy. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been tragically lost, millions more have contracted the virus and

suffered the devastating effects of this contagion. Economies have been turned upside down and will take years, if not decades, to recover fully from the shutdown brought on by the advance of the virus. Life will never be the same again – including our church life! There will be a new normal when it comes to church life. We have become used to just going downstairs in “regular clothing” to attend the services on Zoom. For some church has become an opportunity to lay in bed and just listen to the services as they dose in and out of slumber. For others it is an opportunity to multi-task as they prepare a meal or wash some dishes as the service is going on – they are muted and the camera is turned off so no one will see what they are up too. There are many who have discovered a smorgasbord of church services that they can attend right after checking in with the “home” church to see what they are up too. Yes, life will never be the same! But the mission stays the same. I would like you to turn in your Bibles to Philippians 1:27-30 and read it several times just so you can ingest the flavor of what the Apostle Paul is trying to communicate in these verses. Simply, we have a mission given to us by our Commander-in-Chief, to take the message of His salvation and Lordship into enemy territory, to win captives from the forces of darkness. And even during this pandemic we cannot forget or give up on the mission. As in every war, our mission requires combat and struggle. If we forget our mission and get caught up with our own comfort, we will be quick to desert the cause when the enemy attacks. We must both focus on and fulfill the Christian mission even in these most difficult of times.

In this text Paul wants us to focus on two things:

1. Keep our focus on the proclamation of the faith of the gospel. We cannot deviate from that even when we are under enemy fire.
2. We will fulfill the mission by being consistent with the message of the mission, working

cooperatively together and having confidence that the victory is ours to claim.

When we gave our hearts to Jesus Christ, we did not join a country club and now that Covid-19 has changed this world forever, we still have a mission to accomplish. Intense circumstances call for an intense faith, and if we stay focused on the mission, work hand in hand with each other, and lean upon the Almighty arms of our Commander-in-chief, Jesus Christ, we shall be victorious. Remember, it is for the sake of Christ, who someday soon will burst forth in the clouds of glory and will triumph over all His enemies and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And if we all endure to the end; we will also reign with Him. **STAY FOCUSED ON THE MISSION.**

Member Profile: Sharon Lazarus

Tell me about yourself?



I am the fourth of six children. I was born in St. Mary, Jamaica. Unfortunately, in 1970 our father tragically died in a car accident. My mother accepted the challenge as a single parent in an exemplary way.

Upon our arrival in Canada, my siblings and I attended Oakwood Collegiate Institute. I went to both Oakwood University and the University of Toronto. I transferred to U of T as a result of an accident I was involved in on a return trip to school.

On a snowy, ice-covered highway in Ohio, the van we were travelling in overturned. By the grace of God, the lives of all of us in the van were spared. As a result of this accident, my mother met a parent of one of the students who was in the accident. The faith of this parent inspired my mother to want to know Christ for herself. She eventually accepted the Lord as her personal Saviour.

In 1982, I married Frankie Lazarus whom I met at the Toronto East Seventh-day Adventists Church. We have two adult children, Lamarr and Lachelle.

My service here at Mt. Olive has been delightful and I look forward to the worship and fellowship each week.

How did you become a Seventh-day Adventist?

At the tender age of 5, a neighbour asked our parents for permission to take my siblings and I to church on Saturdays. I enjoyed going each week. Looking back, I think I enjoyed the lunch they provided each Sabbath more than anything else...fried dumplings, callaloo with salt fish and red Kool-Aid drink.

After we moved away from the neighbourhood, I pleaded with my parents to find someone else who would take me to the same church which they did. After observing my interest in attending church, my parents were inspired to make the sacrifice and enrolled me in an Adventist school. At the age of 12, I was baptized at the Washington Gardens Seventh-day Adventist church.

I thank the Lord for His working in my life for inspiring my parents to be a part of fulfilling His plan for my life. I pray that I will always look for any opportunity to help someone experience the joy of knowing my Lord and Saviour.

How has Christianity Influenced your Life?

I know the joy and peace that I experience even during the difficult times in my life are attributed only to being a follower of Christ. The many promises found in the Bible make it possible to get through those difficult times. For example, Mark 10:27 states "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible."

My Christianity influences my life because I do not feel the need to get enjoyment or pleasure by seeking after worldly things. I am contented and grateful for what the Lord has provided and is providing for me.

I am very happy in the Lord, living a life of caring for all aspects of my life-mental, spiritual, physical and social.

Tell me a time when you experience God's miraculous power?

Throughout my life, I have felt God's miraculous power. I have been an undeserving recipient of God's grace and mercy more times than I can count. I have been spared from near collisions on the roadways. He has provided help numerous times and at just the right time – His time. He has also shown grace and mercy every day for the things I take for granted like waking me up every morning, providing me with food, shelter, a loving family, and the list could go on and on.

God's miracle working power was evident in sparing the life of my nephew after he experienced a horrific accident. This has made a lasting impact on my family and friends. After performing what was considered a lifesaving surgery, the surgeon met with the family and stated that she had done the best she could but not sure it that was enough to keep him alive. Another doctor indicated that if he should survive, he would be in a "vegetative state"- unable to communicate, see, eat on his own and would be unaware of anything or anyone. We even had a meeting with the social worker who suggested donating his organs.

Throughout all these dire predictions, we felt the presence of God. So, every night for 3 months, we gathered at the hospital with family, friends and even strangers visiting their loved-ones to pray. One evening, while visiting alone by his bedside, I prayed that the Lord would perform a miracle that day as it was his mother's birthday. The Lord answered my prayer that instance. My nephew, for the first time in weeks, mumbled words to me. I was more convinced that the Lord was hearing our prayers and we just had to keep trusting.

He continued to progress. Everyone was amazed at his phenomenal progress, even to this day. He has full cognitive abilities, long and short-term memory intact, walking one and a half hours, six days per week, with good vision and a great sense of humour. God be praised!

This miracle has convinced many of the power of prayer and God's love. My prayer is that those who experienced this miracle will make a full commitment to develop a relationship with God.

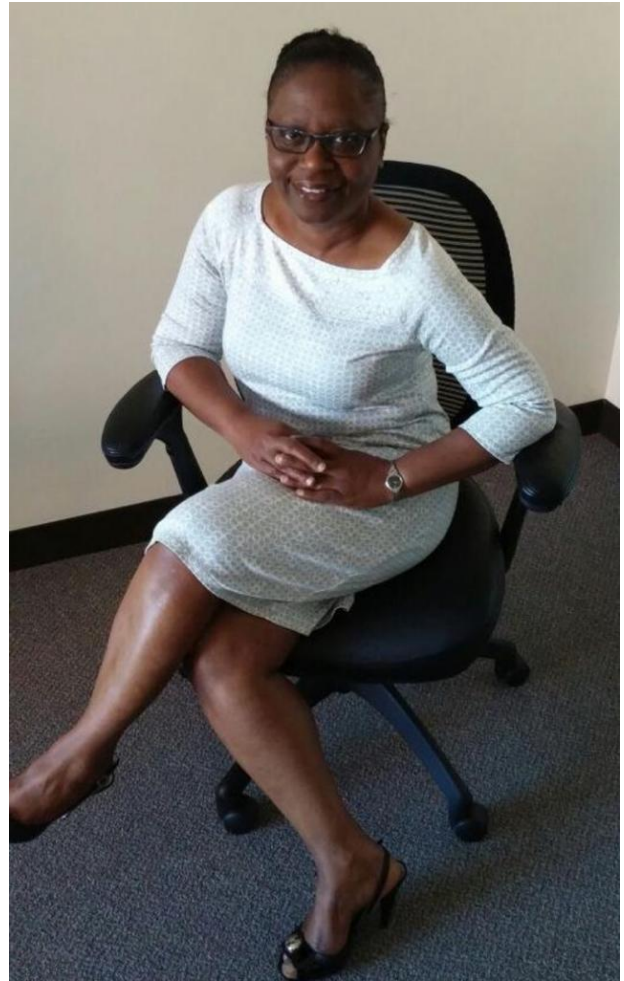
How would you describe your Experience in our Church?

Previous to being assigned to Mt. Olive, I was at a church where I have friends and felt loved by the members. It was difficult leaving that environment, not knowing what to expect. However, from the very moment, I entered the doors at Mt. Olive; I felt the genuine warmth and love from all who greeted me. I felt at home and I look forward to every worship service and social event.

I pray that I have reciprocated that love and warmth to everyone I have made contact with here. I look forward to the time when we can meet again at church and more importantly for spending eternity together with our Lord and Saviour.

What are some of the programs you would like to see implemented in our church for newly baptized members?

- Continued Bible Studies
- Set up a buddy system with members in the same age range and gender
- Support for difficulties experiencing in the home and place of employment
- Ideas on starting family worship in their home or invitation to a member's home for family worship.
- Participation in programs of the church in order to feel comfortable and a part of the family



What advice would you give to the young people in our church?

- Nurture your relationship with Jesus through Bible study and memorizing Scriptures
- Be a witness for Jesus
- Make friends with those who are uplifting in your spiritual growth and educational aspirations
- Develop your own prayer voice. Avoid trying to imitate the prayers of others
- Avoid people, places and things that are not of God
- Don't take chances with things you know are wrong and harmful
- Have a personal goal in life and seek ways to achieve that goal

Interviewed by: V. Lyttle

Health Ministry

What is mental health?



Mental health is the state of your psychological and emotional well-being. It is a necessary resource for living a healthy life and a main factor in overall health. It does not mean the same thing as [mental illness](#). However, poor mental health can lead to mental and physical illness. Good mental health allows you to feel, think and act in ways that help you enjoy life and cope with its challenges.

This can be positively or negatively influenced by:

- Life experiences, such as:
 - family situation
 - the death of a loved one
 - financial and employment status
- Relationships with others, such as your:
 - friends
 - family members
 - co-workers
 - schoolmates
- Work or school environment
- Physical health, such as problems caused by:
 - long-term illness
 - problematic substance use
- The type of community you live in
 - is it a supportive and trusting community or one where everyone keeps to themselves?



How can you take care of your mental health?

Take care of your mental health in the same way you would take care of your physical health. It takes practice, patience and support.



You can maintain or improve your mental health by following the advice below.

- Know and accept that life can be challenging.
- Know and accept your strengths and weaknesses.
- Set realistic goals for yourself.
- Accept yourself and others. This is the basis of self-esteem.
- Learn to recognize and understand that you and others have both positive and negative feelings.

- Create a sense of meaning in your life by learning and trying new activities, like starting a hobby.
- Create healthy, trusting relationships with people who accept and support you.

Building a supportive community is an important way to improve mental health. Making meaningful connections with your family, friends, peers, colleagues and other members of your community can help you feel:

- Like you belong
- Safe and secure
- Free to express your thoughts and feelings on issues that are important to you

You can help create a healthy and safe environment where you live, learn, work and play by:

- Knowing and accepting that everyone has difficulties in their lives
- Taking part in local events and getting to know your neighbours
- Finding ways to get involved and giving back to your community
- Supporting and including people of different ages and backgrounds in your community

How does being mentally healthy benefit you?

Being mentally healthy can:

- Increase coping skills
 - how we handle difficult experiences and stresses
- Improve self-esteem
 - feeling confident in your worth and abilities
- Improve resiliency
 - your ability to successfully move on after a negative event and regain control of your life

Increasing coping skills, self-esteem and resiliency encourages people to:

- Create healthy relationships
- Positively interact with their community
- Talk openly about their mental health, including their needs and wants

Feeling confident and competent in these areas can improve emotional strength. In turn, this can help improve and maintain your level of mental health.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/about-mental-health.html>

Paula Hamilton-Williams

POETRY

CoronaV 2020

CoronaV have crossed many seas, travelling like the speed of sound inhabiting anyone it sees around when it goes from town to town.

It doesn't matter if you are a baby, senior or a child, this thing is just attacking, roaming, and running wild.

Originated in the East, this thing is attacking people like a beast
But calling upon Jesus's name, this virus will be contained

This world will never be the same, we have our leaders pointing the finger looking for someone to blame

At the end of the day, we all know things will remain the same, bottom line we know that they are only looking for power and fame, while the world just sits there on pause, these leaders are out there writing new laws.

But, to everything there is a season, just read your bible and you will know the reason
You know the end is very near, when you can't even go outside for some fresh air and they bid you to wear your PPE gear

Lord, please have mercy upon us, this world is in chaos and total disgust.

Juliette Vigod

Sunshine in the Storm

1. When dark clouds over-shadowed the sky and it seems as though the sun will never shine; the storms are raging, engulfing our hearts with fear
Just you remember that Jesus is always near controlling every detail in the atmosphere.
2. Life at times will show its ugly face, as a believer we adhere to God's saving grace, the one who walks on water and turn water into wine, assures us that the sun will always shine.
3. So, when you thought that you were alone, facing the storms of life all on your own
You had to just look up and you would have seen the light, that had been guiding you all through the night.
4. Through many a storm, Jesus has remained calm, He is our sunshine and our strength, keeping our fears at arm's length
He was there before we were born and will always be there through life's greatest storms.

Juliette Vigod

Member Profile (Cont'd) Elder Desmond Gill

How has Christianity influenced your life?

Christianity has to do with practicing on a daily basis the way of life taught by Jesus Christ. Doing this gives me some focus in life. It also helps to give my life some meaning and perspective. Following Jesus has made me become aware that there is more to living than this life.



Nevertheless, I am quite aware that we are all in a spiritual warfare. Our common foe is vicious, and he aims to destroy. Therefore, when I find myself drifting away from the way of truth, I can call on the grace of Christ to rescue and strengthen me. It is still my experience that real living for time and beyond lies in what decision one makes regarding the Lord Jesus Christ.

You are one of the founding members of Mt. Olive church. What motivated the group to start a new church?

Praise God for the willingness, determination and commitment of the brethren who share the same vision for fulfilling the mission of Christ. As a result, we came together to establish what is now the Mt Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. As I can recall, the conversation was often about having a “centre”, a lighthouse in the Rexdale area, to bring the good news of the gospel of Christ to those live in that region.

Prior to 1990, there was no Church presence northwest of the city of Toronto. From the Perth Ave Church (now Toronto Perth) and Harvie Ave church (now Toronto West/T-West) westward, the fields were white and ready for the harvest. Church members engaged into small group meetings, Bible study groups and even in prophecy seminars. The desire was to invite people to develop a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The congregation we have today dates back to those humble beginnings.

How did you become a Seventh-day Adventist?

I do not really know how I became a Seventh day Adventist. I (am) was not aware that there is a set criteria or standard that one has to achieve to be qualified as a Seventh day Adventist. However, over a period of time I have grown to accept the biblical teachings as true. This includes the teaching that gives the only hope to humanity; the second coming of Jesus Christ. This I believe strongly. The other biblical truth is the Seventh day Sabbath. And I am not referring to the nominal assembly of the brethren on Saturdays; though that is good, it provides only the beginning steps to a fuller understanding of the Sabbath of the Lord. When these fundamental teaching was settled in my mind, I guess it was then indeed, I was a Seventh day Adventist.

What is your most rewarding experience?

If the question is meant to ask of my most rewarding Christian experience, then by far, the one that stands out is to see individuals get excited as the word of God comes alive to them. It is as though a new pair of glasses has just been fitted; everything looks different. That is what happens when spiritual enlightenment comes to the heart. When one shares the good news of Jesus and sees another embrace it joyfully then the joy of the Lord is evidenced in the confidence and boldness that such a one experiences. Nothing is more fulfilling or satisfying!

It is also rewarding when God calls us to come and reason with Him or when He shows mercy to the undeserving. It gives me great joy to know that God has a ‘word’ for our every need.

What are some of the programs you would like to see implemented in our church for the newly baptized members?

Becoming a member of our church should be about associating with other like-minded persons in learning more about God and how to know him personally. The church environment should be perfumed with this thought! Whether you are a new member or an older one we should be motivated by the thought of growing in the grace of Christ.

I believe that every congregation should provide an environment to help the new believers and others grow. For example, have presentations on “how to study the scriptures”. We can only become mature believers and assist others to also become mature believers when we correctly divide the word of truth. In addition to a format for learning, our preaching must be simple enough to make the word of God come

alive to the hearers. The new believer must always be exposed to the experience of sharing the gospel with others. There is no better way to enjoy or experience the joy of salvation.

How would you explain the second coming of Jesus Christ to a non-believer?

Things of great value are best kept very close to their owners. There they are protected and cared for constantly. They often bring joy and pleasure to their owners who have a strong bond with their possessions. That is why Jesus Christ will come back to this earth again! He has to claim His precious possession, the church.

The second coming of Jesus will fulfil the hope that we have been living with for so long. Though this was a gift to humanity, only those who accept it will have it fully realized. Not even death can prevent this joyful reunion!

Those who ignore or may stubbornly refuse to submit to the obligations of the truth, are not unaware of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. However, in everything that we do there must be a balancing of the equation. What comes after the equal (=) sign is as important as what is before. The coming of Jesus will “balance” the equation.

What advice would you give to the young people in our church?

At a time when there is so much information, one can still be so confused and even lost. For the young people of the church, please take this advice coming from an older fellow brother - just four points:

1. Make God (spiritual things) first
2. Keep your bearings by reading and referring to the book of Proverbs regularly
3. Remember Ecclesiastes chapter 13.
4. Seek council from your godly leaders

Interviewed by: V. Lyttle

Remembering One of Our Founding Members

Elder Doris Chin

October 30, 1930 – April 13, 2020

In 1990, Sister Doris Chin, a former member of the Kingsview Village Seventh-day Adventist Church along with other vibrant members of both Kingsview



Village and Perth Avenue (now Toronto Perth) Seventh-day Adventist Churches started the Branch Sabbath School at the North Albion Collegiate Institute (NACI). The name later changed to the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church and relocated to its current location.

Sis Chin served in the Sabbath School Department for several years. Her impeccable service was admired by teachers, superintendents and secretaries. She meticulously conducted Sabbath School on a whole. Many times, she led out in Bible classes. We were often left in awe after listening to her captivating and inspiring sermons. In 2004, she was ordained as an elder. She demonstrated good leadership skills, and exemplified the characteristics of a good Christian, and teacher.

As a well-known entrepreneur, her generosity had no limits. On Sabbaths after Divine Service, Sister Chin had boxes of bread and other delicacies from her bakery to share with members and visitors. She gladly donated her baked products to various functions and programs in our church.

Her kindness extended beyond Mt. Olive church. Upon hearing of the passing of Sister Chin, 'Marlon' said, "Mrs. Chin was very kind. When I was attending York Memorial Institute, she had a restaurant across from the school and all the students could get something to eat there. It doesn't matter how much money they had."

Another past student in remembering Sister Chin said, "I remember one day I did not have enough money to pay for the student special, and she gave me lunch"

She faced many challenges in her life. With her profound faith in God and the support of her family

she was able to overcome these challenges. After she had gone through a traumatic experience, she openly testified to the Mt. Olive congregation about the power of prayer and God's protection. She mentioned that throughout her ordeal she did not feel any pain and she knew that God was always with her, because He had kept her.

In an interview with the Communications Department she stated that, having gone through two major trials in two consecutive years including the death of her husband she could describe herself as modern-day Job. When she was asked what advice would she give to the church members, especially the young people, her reply to them was not to compromise when they are going through trials and temptations but take their problem to God in prayer. She further stated, "There is no problem that God cannot solve."

Elder Chin passed away peacefully in her sleep at Sunnybrook Hospital three days after the sudden passing of her beloved daughter Dianne. She is predeceased by her husband Harald, son Errol, and daughter Dianne. She is survived by her children, Keith, Randolph, Franklin, Hope, Valda, Brent, Floyd and Carol, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchild.

Life on earth is not the end. John 14:1-4 states, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." We are also assured by John the Revelator, of that blessed home after death in Revelation 21: 4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Elder Chin had indeed fought a good fight and will be sadly missed by all. May her soul rest in peace.



V. Lyttle

Church Events



Mother's Day Tribute

It was a beautiful Sabbath morning, and even though we were robbed of the joy of physically being in each other's company, as we are used to; the Mount Olive Seventh Day Adventist Church made every effort to bring normalcy and joy to our Sabbath service, via zoom.

On Sabbath, May 9, 2020, there was the usual yearly emphasis on Mothers and the Sabbath School Department ensured that all mothers felt the love and appreciation that we have for them.



They dedicated a meaningful segment which gave special attention to, literally, all the Mount Olive mothers and the visitors we had amongst us that Sabbath.

All aspects of the morning worship service showed us how important a role that God has placed on mothers. Even in His word, which He exalts above His name (Psalm 132:8), He took time out to show us the love He has for them. Proverbs 31: 10-31, which was read by Sister Dadrian Johnson, touched our hearts and rejuvenated the tenderness that we so often forget to show to our mothers, when we were reminded of the sacrifices and the hard work that she pours into her family and home.

The scripture reading was appropriately followed by the opening song 'Faith of our Mothers', a warmly tweaked version of 'Faith of our Father's'. Sabbath School Superintendent, Sister Gill, then gave our mothers an encouraging word of poetry and reminded us all that we should love and respect all mothers. Many times, we do not understand the weight of the sacrifices that they make for their families. This was driven home with the well-known story of the mother who gave up her eye and even the love of her son for his happiness and well-being.

She also reminded them that the strength that God has given mothers is unmatched by anything else in this world. This strength was especially given to them by God because of the great responsibility that they carry; and He works closely with them and cares for them. Jesus himself had an earthly mother; she was chosen to care for and train the Savior of the world to be ready for His task. The Lord was there by her side to ensure that all was done well.

Just as closely as the Lord worked with Mary, He works with all mothers - once they open up their hearts to Him. He helps all mothers to train their children to be ready for the kingdom of heaven. The Mount Olive mothers felt their worth in the Lord as they got a deeper understanding of how important they are to the Creator.

The segment ended perfectly with a lovely slide show created by Sister Krystal Brown. It showed most, if not all, of the mothers of Mount Olive Church. All hearts were warmed by the service and all hearts felt a great sense of gratitude to mothers. God was glorified, as all mothers felt blessed and grateful to be mothers.

Precilla Hayles

Father's Day Tribute

There is an old adage that says, "give them their roses while they're still here". This simply means, honor the ones that you love and appreciate while they are still alive.



On Saturday, June 20, 2020, those who were present on Zoom, along with the Sabbath School team, did just that as they honored their Fathers. The theme of the morning was "Dad, I love you". This theme was brought to life in several different ways. Pictures of fathers with or without their children were shown in a beautiful presentation, put together by Brother Shayne Anderson.

Brother Anderson also compiled countless video messages of children saying what they love about

their father and all the ways he has supported them. Along with these tributes of thanksgiving, we were blessed with three songs. Naima and Yasmin Johnson sang "You gave", Sister Sandria Ricketts sang "The Blessing", and Sisters Kylie Bennett and Aijah McFarlane sang "How Deep the Father's Love for Us". These songs spoke about the love that our heavenly Father gives to us.

This is symbolic as the messages can be attributed to the love that our earthly fathers give to their children as well. Christopher Gill and Joshua Simms did the opening and closing prayers. Alyann McCalla read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. The opening and closing remarks, given by Sister Claire Gill, Sabbath School Superintendent, tied the program together. She spoke about the strength that fathers exude and the important part that they have in the development of the family.

She pointed out that often times the sacrifices that fathers make, can go unnoticed, but nevertheless fathers endure. This program highlighted the role of the fathers and it invited the viewers to continuously love, forgive and pray for fathers.

Let us keep the aforementioned adage in mind, so that we recognize each other's good works more than once a year. Remember to show each other love and appreciation.

Happy Father's Day!

Amara Gill

Mount Olive Church Community Services During Covid-19

The COVID 19, a global pandemic has not only sent the world



in a state of virtual lockdown but tremendous fear and disbelief. This pandemic severely impacted all aspects of life globally, shutting down services essential to living routinely. Even the church food bank was closed for two weeks in compliance with government stipulation. Nevertheless, amidst the drastic changes, severe psychological disturbances, suffering and unprecedented fear, the committed and dedicated members of the Mount Olive Community Services Department never wavered on their commitment.

With the aid of ADRA, Daily Bread, Second Harvest and Maple Leaf Sport Entertainment (MLSE) the Community Services Department continues to fulfil its mandate of delivering food, clothing, services and other basic commodities that the department has received for the participants within the community and its environs during the pandemic. Youth Without Shelter, one of the retirement homes in Brampton and the Mount Olive Community Hub are recipients of MLSE donation of a variety of cooked meal which were delivered by Second Harvest.

To ensure the safety of everyone, good hygiene practices and preventative precautions are implemented which are of paramount



importance to the group. Masks, gloves and bottles of soap are placed at strategic locations at all times so that they could be accessible to everyone. Social distancing is also implemented and practiced. The department also ensures that the location for the food storage is properly sanitized.

On Wednesday mornings the team unloads the trucks containing a variety food supplies including meat, fresh fruits and vegetables from Second Harvest and Daily Bread food banks. The food is sorted and packed to make it more accessible to the participants. Sometimes they received vouchers to purchase milk and eggs. The participants have expressed their sincere gratitude for the food and services that they received. Prior to the operation of the food bank, the group paused for a moment of spiritual reflection. Prayer is offered either by a volunteer or a participant and they encouraged one another to hold fast until Jesus comes.

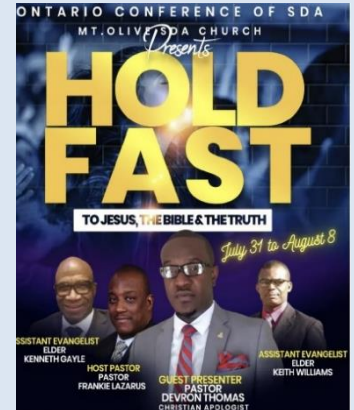
Pastor Frankie Lazarus, and the Community Services leader, Sister Cossetta Evans, along with other members respond in a commendable way to their commitment; delivering food boxes weekly to participants who are unable to visit the food bank. They also deliver food to people in Brampton, Maple and any location that calls with requests for food to be dropped off. May God continue to bless and strengthen the members and volunteers as they continue to bring hope to His people.

V. Lyttle

Mount Olive Evangelist Series

Seventh-day Adventists Christians around the world widely embrace out-reach evangelism. Churches always look forward to the opportunity to spread the gospel of salvation through Christ either from the church pulpit or under a tent. However, the global pandemic has thrust the world in a virtual lockdown resulting in stringent measures that restrict, in general, mass gatherings.

Despite the lockdown Mount Olive Church was undaunted. The evangelistic team had its nascent into the virtual world to proclaim God's Word and bring hope and comfort to His people through Facebook, Zoom, and YouTube.



The Church cohosted a one-week evangelistic series in collaboration with the Cocoa Seventh-day Adventist Church, St. Lucia, from July 31 to August 8, 2020.

The caption, "Hold Fast to Jesus, The Bible and The Truth," came to life each night with powerful presentations by our guest presenter, Pastor Devron Thomas (Cocoa SDA, St. Lucia). Topics included: The Gospel- Is It Facts or Folklaw? Reason to Believe the Miracle of Creation, and A Breach Between the Two Worlds. The chat rooms across the platforms were alive as the global audience expressed words of encouragement and praises about the series.

Though short, the Evangelistic Series was a resounding success. Some listeners even expressed the desire for an extension beyond the one week allotted. We praise God for the commitments made, friendships formed, and inspiration to keep pressing forward despite challenges.

Isaiah 40: 31 states "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint".

May God continue to bless those who wait upon Him.

V. Lyttle

Children's Corner

Naima's Story

I am 8 years old and I have been coming to the Mount Olive church since I was born. I love going to church because I love to worship the Lord with family and friends. I love singing, I love learning in my Sabbath School class and in the Adventurer class too! I really love seeing my friends after a busy week. Being a Christian is so great because each day as I worship, Jesus reminds me that I am blessed. No matter if I am sad or happy, I know that Jesus loves me.



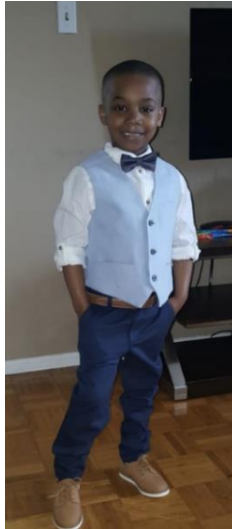
Naima Johnson

Acknowledgements

Our Children

Noah Reid

Noah Reid was born on June 6, 2013, on a nice summer night. He came barreling into this world with a short cry but a calm demeanor. Today, Noah is 7 and still almost the same. He is very caring and sensitive. He loves music and dance. If you ask Noah what he wants to be when he grows up, he would say, he wants to be a basketball player, however, that will change once he realizes mom and dad are not basketball player height. He is no stranger to the adventurer life, he started when he was 5 and has always loved every bit of it.

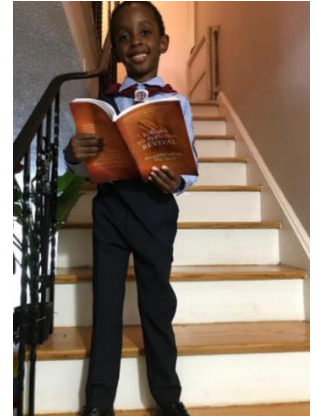


He's also not afraid to show how much he enjoys it by participating, volunteering to answer questions and helping others. It's even more exciting now that he gets to share the experience with his cousins. You know cousins are your first childhood best friends, so what better way to get together and doing something you all enjoy and love. Noah is looking forward to completing the Busy Bee class and moving on to

becoming a Sunbeam but for now, he's making the most of the moment.

Joshua Simms

The year of 2020 was like a roller-coaster ride. It was a year filled with unexpected reality, ups and downs, adventures and enjoyment. Recently, 5-year-old Joshua Simms graduated from Ecole Melody Village Junior School, from Senior Kindergarten. He will move to Grade 1 in September at the same school. Joshua is a devoted member of the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church and a member of the Mount Olive Dove Adventurer Club. Currently, he is a part of the Eager Beaver Class. Anyone being around this young boy would be attracted to how energetic, vibrant and how smart he is. It's almost as if his energy is contagious. His parents, Taneisha and Leroy Simms are proud to have such a son devoted to medicine. Cardiology is the field that this young learner is aspired to be in when he is older. Words alone can't express how inspired and determined he is. How can such a young learner already know so much? Jesus said, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for such is the Kingdom of Heaven," Matthew 19:14.



Tiana Williams

Tiana Williams is 8 years old. She was born on the beautiful island of Jamaica. She attends Robert J Lee public school and is in grade 2. Tiana is funny. She loves to draw, and she definitely loves her family. Tiana seems shy and she loves to play. She also enjoys being a part of the Adventurers club.



Our Youth

Kylie Bennett

Kylie Bennett a teenager that grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was christened at Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church and has been involved ever since. She has been involved in both Adventurers and Pathfinders clubs. She achieved many honours such as, the most consistent and motivated pathfinder. In Adventurers she was able to achieve the best conduct award. These awards are a reflection of her character and how hard she works to achieve her goals. She never hesitates to take on tasks such as preaching the word of God or singing. She is known to be very well-spoken and has a way of grabbing the attention of an audience. Kylie loves to help others, and, in some cases, she puts others before herself. Her favourite activities are reading, exercising, and spending time with her family and friends. She will be entering the eighth grade in September and is excited to begin her new chapter. When she is older, she plans on serving others in her community and spreading the love of Christ.



Seniors Corner

Prayer is Powerful

Have you ever prayed for God to intervene in an unknown person's situation only to discover that the prayer you prayed was for your own family? While driving home from work one afternoon, I was listening to the news. The newscaster read that a six-year-old boy was knocked down and ran over by a car that was driven by a woman. The child had been taken to the Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) by an ambulance and his condition was unknown.



I felt a sudden urge to pray and I immediately pulled over to a safe place to do so. I prayed for the little boy, his mother, father and family. I had a grandson who was six years old too. I remember asking God to give the family strength to cope with the situation and a speedy recovery for the little boy.

When I arrived home, there was a message on my answering machine. I tried unsuccessfully to listen to the message. However, it was not clear, so I deleted it.

At approximately 12:00 am, I received a call from my son-in-law. I asked why he was calling so late. He asked if I did not listen to my messages. I replied that the message was impossible to understand so I erased it. He then informed me that they were at Sick Kids because his son, my grandson, was in the hospital. He was the child involved in the hit and run.

This was a twist of fate. The family I prayed for was actually mine. Prayer is powerful!

Daphney Lyttle-Dixon

Kids Bible Wordsearch

People in the
book of Acts
Puzzle #4

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward,
backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Acts Chapter 1:1-12

ABRAHAM
ALEXANDER
ANANIAS
ANDREW
ANNAS
BARSABAS
CAIAPHAS
DAVID
ISAAC
JACOB
JAMES
JESUS

W	I	B	Y	P	H	I	L	I	P	S	M	B
E	T	A	L	I	P	Q	D	R	J	A	A	Y
M	A	T	T	H	E	W	E	R	D	N	A	I
O	S	D	A	V	I	D	D	N	L	N	S	O
L	W	J	Q	S	N	L	E	U	M	A	S	B
O	C	O	S	A	I	H	T	T	A	M	A	S
H	U	S	X	H	R	A	U	C	A	R	I	E
T	H	E	O	P	H	I	L	U	S	X	N	S
R	L	P	Z	A	M	A	H	A	R	B	A	O
A	H	H	Y	I	Q	A	B	P	F	O	N	J
B	A	R	N	A	B	A	S	K	P	C	A	O
L	A	M	J	C	S	T	H	O	M	A	S	H
M	M	J	E	S	U	S	E	M	A	J	S	N



JOHN
JOSEPH
JOSES
MARY
MATTHEW
MATTHIAS
PHILIP
PILATE
SAMUEL
SAPPHIRA
THEOPHILUS
THOMAS


BARTHOLOMEW
BARNABAS

<http://biblewordgames.com>


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FIRE ESCAPE

Help Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego find their way to safety.
Daniel 3:12-30



Start here



Finish



Plantain Bread



Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 very ripe plantain
- 3 tsp egg replacer powder + ½ cup water
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup almond milk
- ¼ cup coconut oil melted
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt

Instructions:

- Preheat your oven to 350°F
- Grease and flour a 9×5 loaf pan and set it aside
- In a bowl, combine the all-purpose flour, wheat flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
- In a separate bowl, smash the ripe plantain until it is pretty smooth, then add in the egg replacer and water mixture, sugar, almond milk, coconut oil, apple cider vinegar, and vanilla. Whisk until the wet mixture is combined.
- Create a well in the bowl with the flour mixture and pour in the liquid mixture and mix until it is just combined. Do not over mix!
- Pour the plantain bread/cake batter into the prepped loaf pan and bake in the preheated oven for 50- 55 minutes.
- Allow the plantain bread/cake to cool in the pan for 5 minutes, remove from the pan and cool for another 15 minutes, then serve.

<https://www.yummymedley.com/delicious-vegan-plantain-bread/>

Precilla Hayles

Juicing for Life Recipes

Potassium Broth

- A handful of parsley
- A handful of spinach
- 4-5 carrots, greens removed
- 2 stalks of celery



Bunch up the parsley and the spinach leaves and push through your juicer with the carrots and the celery and you're done!

This recipe is packed with nutrients, such as: Vitamin C, Vitamin K, Vitamin A, Folic Acid, Iron, Calcium, Magnesium, Vitamin E, Vitamins B6 and B9, Biotin and Vitamin K1.

Very Veggie Cocktail

- Handful of wheat grass
- ½ handful of parsley
- Handful of watercress
- 4 carrots, greens removed
- 3 stalks of celery
- ½ cup of chopped fennel
- ½ apple, seeded



Bunch up wheatgrass, parsley, and watercress and push through juicer with carrots, celery, fennel and apple. Bon Appetit!

This very veggie cocktail has great nutrients, starting with: Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Iron, Magnesium, Calcium, Amino Acids, Chlorophyll, Glutathione, Vitamin K, Manganese, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Pantothenic Acid, Phosphorous, Sodium, Copper, Biotin, Vitamin K1, Beta Carotene, Quercetin, Catechin and Chlorogenic Acid.

Juicing for Life by Cherie Calbom and Maureen Keane
Healthline.com

https://cdn2.stylecraze.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/1383_5-Best-Benefits-Of-Wheatgrass-Juice-For-Skin-Hair-And-Health_156539927.jpg_1.jpg

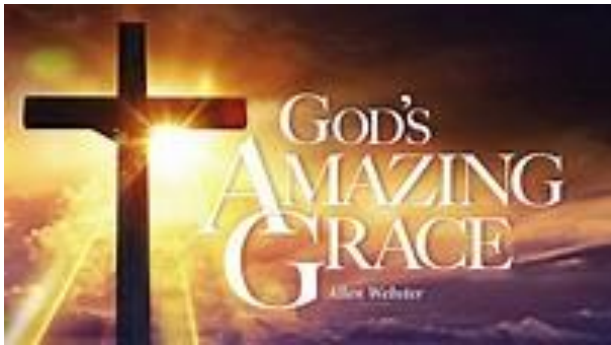
<https://thehealthyfamilyandhome.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/carrot-apple-and-celery-juice-800wm-1-CP.jpg>

Precilla Hayles

General Articles

Grace

The name Grace was given to me by my godmother. Growing up I was always told that I was given a very special name, so I always love my name. To me Grace means charm and elegance but what does Grace mean in the Bible? Grace is the undeserved favor of God toward man. The Bible's first reference of grace in the Old Testament is in Genesis 6:8 – "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."



This is the story of God being so displeased with all the wickedness in the world and had pronounced judgement to destroy the world with a flood. Imagine the pain and the hurt God felt in His heart seeing how all that he had created was being used in ways he did not feel pleased about. God announced that He will destroy the animals except for two of each species of animal and only 8 people. Of all the people in the world at that time God chose Noah to be the only righteous person to carry out His plans. Noah seeing that God choosing him over all the people in the world at that time felt honored and he found grace in the eyes of the lord. This is a great honor and Noah did not feel superior with this honorable gesture but he would preach to the people telling them of God's plan to destroy the world and beg of them to change from their wicked ways for them to be saved and to join them in the ark God had instructed him to build. In God's eyes Noah was a special man and God granting Noah grace is the difference between death and life for the future of mankind with the other seven people and animals saved.

The most ultimate example of God's grace is in John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." To save the sinful world, God sacrificed his one and only son so as to pay for all of our sins and all we have to do is to believe in Him

and love him in exchange for us to have everlasting life. In spite of our wicked and sinful ways, God continuously pour out his love and favour upon sinners like us who do not deserve His love or his grace. We sin against God over and over again, breaking his commandments yet He finds it in his heart to forgive us over and over again.

God ask so little of us yet offers so much in return. We are precious in His sight and his immeasurable love for us is so indescribable. His grace is sufficient and should be for you and me.

Grace Carless-Anderson

Living Through Covid-19

Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."



Twenty twenty is the dawn of a new decade. Knowledge continues to increase to faith-testing extent. So far, the year can be described as actively volcanic. The tsunami like invasion of Covid 19 which continues to flow across the world like hot larva. I am already thinking, when the ashes settle, what will arise from it? One thing is for sure - life is dynamic!

Life as we knew it, is just that - as we knew it. Even if you have been deeply submerged in a mine shaft with no surface communication for the past three months, once you emerge, you would quickly learn that the way forward is the new normal. From work to school to church, from the playground to the sports arena, from the palace to the prison, and from the zoo to the abattoir, all things animate and inanimate, all creatures great and small are under a blanket of change.

Adaptation to life's unimaginable twists and turns requires being firmly oriented and equally empowered to choose to go with the flow or to maintain the status quo. In the case of walled-in congregational worship, those twists and turns have caused many to re-examine the meaning of church. In light of Covid 19, moving forward, how a congregation assembles will be significantly impacted. An informal assessment indicates a three-way split among those wishing to continue the virtual worship, those who want to return to 'church,' and those who want a blend of the

two. I have been tasked to put my personal temperature check on this new normal in worship except that it is really not entirely so new to me.

My thought process has had to change gears, shifting down from launching out to the Office for work to actually working from home. Hence, in terms of outward apparel, I have gone from business casual to house lounge wear. The weekly Sabbath dress up routine has sadly become passé. It seems as if someone is playing a cruel juggling act with the days necessitating a conscientious effort to distinguish them. Regarding my orientation, thank God, I am still standing.

It is Sabbath morning and I am supposed to be in church - that is the building. On Wednesday evenings I am also supposed to do the same. My mind, however, has taken the circuitous route back home. Why? Oh, I am supposed to be Zooming or calling in to join the brethren in worship. The assembled have been pixelated. The atmosphere necessitates a reminder of the reason for the assembly as well as a call for reverence. The camera never lies so it indiscreetly captures and transmits images that are so near yet so far. The preferred alternative of dialing in is a well utilized blessing even though the challenge of working the mute/unmute button is often frustrating.



In terms of meeting format not much has changed but delivery creativity continues to be increasingly impressive. The services last a little

less than the in-person meetings and are designed to be fully inclusive and interactive. In response to the invitation, many visitors are tuning in and enjoying the worship experience. This is evidenced by repeat visits and positive feedback from friends and family who under normal circumstances would not have attended the physical building for worship. I praise God for this.

I praise Him for the blessing from the increase in knowledge that leads to these technological wall breakthroughs. I praise God for adaptability. I praise God who enables me to maintain my orientation in Him regardless of my circumstances. My priorities have changed for the better. My relationship with Him is stronger as my life is more centered around prayer, Bible and biblical studies, and personal outreach. His grace has not changed and so despite life's unimaginable twists and turns, I am still

standing on the strong everlasting foundation. I praise God for being my constant Hope - pre Covid, during Covid, and post Covid. In trials I am learning to trust Him who sees twenty twenty into the future and is my present help.

So, I look back with clear twenty-twenty vision at the five- year period between 2008 and 2013 and realize that I am reliving the aforementioned testimony/praise report. There was no Covid, but I was 'sequestered' at home while caring for my ailing mother. In terms of worshipping, my experience now is somewhat analogous; and with each passing day, I consider the status quo survivable as I had experienced it for a much longer period and came out well. Praise God! When this outcome is mixed in with convenience, informal structure, and variety of quality online worship options, the inclination to drift away from the in-building traditional assembly is extremely strong.



There is an equally strong inclination to take out of context Hebrew 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching," and to tweak it to fit into the 'modern new normal view of church.' By way of technology we are still assembling but when it is again possible to be in a common location, I am tempted to think that the costs outweigh the benefits. I must not beat around the bush. I am getting so used to dial-up worship that I could justify foregoing the common location assembly and hope and wait for the sin and Covid-free reality of Heaven to resume such. Maybe it could work except that I must do as the Word enlightens and empowers me to do - 'not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.' Besides we are social creatures who thrive best in an atmosphere with physical interaction so it would only be a matter of time before there is a breach in the dam of mandated universal isolation. So, what will it be for you? The choices are: to continue the virtual worship, to return to 'church,' or a blend of the two? I am already thinking, when the ashes settle, what will arise from it? One thing is for sure - life is dynamic!

Sandra Williams

Words for Thoughts

Time is like a river. We cannot touch the same water twice. Because the flow that passed will never pass again.

Enjoy every moment of your life.

If you speak when you are angry

You will make one of the best speeches that you will regret. Sometimes good things have to fall out of place so better things can fall in place.



A tongue has no bones but strong enough to break a heart.

Be careful of your words.

It is never wise to let the misconduct of others interfere with our worship to God. Were we to do so we would miss out on the very blessings that strengthen us.

Source: Unknown
Winnifred Witter

Interesting Facts

Do You Know How the Apostles Died?

1. Matthew. Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.
2. Mark. Died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by Horses through the streets until he was dead.
3. Luke. Was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous Preaching to the lost.
4. John. Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge Basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution In Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death.

John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later

freed and returned to serve As Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully

5. Peter. He was crucified upside down on an x shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

6. James. The leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.

This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.

7. James the Son of Zebedee was a fisherman by trade when Jesus Called him to a lifetime of ministry.

As a strong leader of the church, James was beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial.

Later, the officer Walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and Knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

8. Bartholomew. Also known as Nathaniel. He Was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

9. Andrew. He Was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony.



His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words, "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it". He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

10. Thomas. He Was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the Subcontinent.

11. Jude. He Was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

12. Matthias. The apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot. He was stoned and then beheaded.

13. Paul. He Was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational Doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

<https://overviewbible.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/12-apostles-guide.pdf>
<https://thirdhour.org/blog/faith/scripture/new-testament/original-apostles-deaths/>

Grace Carless-Anderson

Biblical Humour

Two donkeys walking in Jerusalem one said to the other.

Just yesterday I was carrying Jesus and the people were singing and shouting and throwing their clothes down for me to walk on.

And today they don't even recognize me.

The other donkey replied that's how it is my friend, without Jesus you're nothing.



Source Unknown
Winnifred Witter

Minister Billy Graham

The Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the post office."

A Very Faithful Woman

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. She would stand on her front porch and shout "PRAISE THE LORD!"



shutterstock.com • 352621658

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for GOD to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted "PRAISE THE LORD. GOD, I NEED FOOD!! I AM HAVING A HARD TIME. PLEASE LORD, SEND ME SOME GROCERIES!!"

The next morning the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD."

The neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."

The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "PRAISE THE LORD. He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them. Praise the Lord!!"

Ahajokes.com
V. Lyttle

