

JUNE 2024



Father

BY BECKY STAFFORD

My earthly father is one of my favorite people. And, since I am writing this, I can say he's probably the best dad anyone can have!! (It's my time to talk, so I get to tell you my opinion...) My dad, Roy Stafford, has been one of my best friends for many years. He always is ready for a house project whether it's mowing the lawn, home remodeling, deck destruction and then construction on his house or mine. Always willing to learn and teach what he knows. He is a wealth of information and I can only hope to learn as much as I am able. (I will admit I don't always pay close enough attention

to be a really good student. So, he patiently repeats what I have inadequately learned).

While he is a wonderful father, he is, after all, still human. One rainy mid-winter evening when I called he didn't answer. I had just taken my fateful slip down my rainy steps and landed in a painful mess at the bottom of my stairs. I knew instantly that I was not able to navigate the steps into the house. And I definitely was not going to be able to take the kitchen scraps from potluck to the chickens as I had been headed out of the house to do.

His main form of communication (cell phone) had been silenced out of respect for Sabbath School and church earlier in the day and not returned to the audible

Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Saturday Morning Services
Sabbath School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am

JUNE SPEAKERS

June 1 - Campmeeting Sabbath
June 8 - Camp Sabbath
June 15 - Pastor Brian
June 22 - Pastor Brian
June 29 - Pastor Brian

ringer. So, I called on the house phone, predominantly reserved for use after lost or silenced cell phone contact had failed. This phone dates back to the early 2000's when cell phones were almost the size of backpacks and home phones were still the main avenue of phone communication. On this phone I was able to reach him.

The answer from my father to my first request was that he wasn't sure if I knew who I had called. I proceeded to explain in my pain and adrenaline saturated voice that I believed that I had broken my ankle again and needed help. Again, he didn't recognize that it was his child calling him for help. I then re-introduced myself in a very deliberate manner, "THIS IS BECKY!!"

Almost immediately I was able to see him heading up the driveway from his house to mine. He was covering the distance quickly and with definitive purpose. I had fallen and needed help. He was there almost immediately. I called and he answered. He was there to get me picked up and taken to a place of safety and warmth. He took over the chores I was in process of completing and anything I needed he was overseeing.

This brings to mind several parallels as well as differences between my earthly father and my Heavenly Father. The first is their desire for the best for me as their child. Their willingness to help with difficulties that may be faced in life with as simple request. My earthly father was physically present and assisting with the immediate needs to help get me in the house, out of the rain, splinted and transport to medical treatment. My Heavenly Father is always present and willing to help with my needs.

My earthly father was not able to

understand or comprehend the desperation with which I called him. My Heavenly Father is just waiting for me to call so He can come to my aid. Isaiah 65:24 "Before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear."

I will admit that I am a stubborn, do it myself type of person and must be reminded that I still need to ask for help. I am not sure if this was a lesson that I was sorely lacking the ability to ask for His help. Maybe I needed to slow down and take some time to recognize that I can't do this alone and need to let Him help me. Psalms 55:22 "Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."

Ultimately both of my fathers have only my best interests at heart. And Jesus remarks in Matthew 7:11 that "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" A simple ask, but so hard for this human to do sometimes...

One of my favorite passages from childhood to now: Matthew 6:25-34.

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God

"And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

2 CORINTHIANS 6:18

June Birthdays

1 - Red Bear, Bernadine
5 - Lopez, Mia
6 - Few, Josh
10 - Hines, Charles
11 - Bender, Caden
15 - Ikechukwu, Godswill
21 - Mraz, Kataleya
22 - Krebs, Shirley
22 - Ikechukwu, Candace
22 - Perrigo, Alvin
25 - Larson, Parker
30 - Kuhn, Bob

"One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as "those evil people" or "those poor people who need our help." Nor must we search for signs of "loveworthiness." Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are."

-Phillips Brooks

so clothes the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things

will be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

So many things my heavenly Father covered with that passage of scripture... Anxiety, daily needs, worry, looking to Him first. He will take care of everything. I just need to ask.

The Pastor's Corner

BY PASTOR BRIAN MUNGANDI

Dear church member,

Have you wondered what the mission of the church is?

I thought this was a simple question. My understanding is that the resurrected Jesus gave his disciples, the church, a job to do—a mission. But then I began to realize that there is no consensus on how best we can do our mission, given the different geopolitical and the global economic environment.

The Adventist church worldwide uses the Matthew 28:19-20 as the simplest form of the Great Commission, but what does that mean for Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist church?

Last month we formed a committee to try a craft out our mission, vision and value statements which would be our guiding principles for work here in Rapid. Now, if we are to go by Matthew 28, then it would be important for us to understand that the word "mission" comes from the Latin verb *missio*, which means "to send." I think that

what is implied in the word "Go" in verse 19 in the great commission. Literally I think it means the church – church members are commissioned to make disciples.

Jesus says disciples are made by: "baptizing" and "teaching." Last month on the Sabbath of May 25, one lady came to me after the preaching service and asked for baptism. By submitting to baptism, a person publicly declares that he/she is a follower of Jesus Christ, declaring their faith in Jesus and thus, their intention to follow him as Lord. Baptism is a public announcement of one's faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That means we as a church, and as His disciples, we are to bear God's name and represent him.

I also think that becoming a disciple/a baptized member of the church involves embracing a new way of life, following all the commandments of God, living under his cosmic authority, demonstrating the goodness of God in our lives. So how do YOU, as a member in Rapid City Seventh-



Day Adventist Church respond as a disciple?

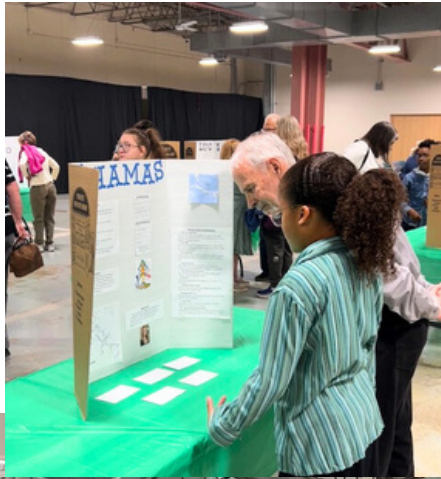
I believe as members, our task is to bear witness to Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation in the community we are in. That doesn't necessarily mean giving Bible studies. I think more importantly it means our lives should be a tangible demonstration of the good news of salvation so that relatives, neighbors, friends, and coworkers would also desire to turn to Jesus. When this happens in Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist church, then God's glory is displayed in this city. That is what I think is our mission as the church. I ask you to be part in fulfilling our mission.

Faithfully,

Pastor Brian Mungandi.

Church Life

Here are some photos from church life this past month. We were busy with kindergarten graduation, the school social studies fair, hikes, and vespers services. We have been blessed by seeing how God has been working through our church in May.



This past month on May 25th, our Pathfinders had an investiture service where our children receive recognition and patches/honors for all the class work they have been working on throughout the year. Strong work, guys! We are proud of you.



Our New Teacher

We are so thrilled to announce that RCSDA member, Jenny Pulis, has graciously accepted the teaching position at Rapid City SDA Elementary School. Most recently she was the 1st grade teacher at Valley View Elementary School. We praise God as Jenny joins Ms. Jamie Howell and Ms. Hailey Corrigan for the 2024-2025 school year.



ACS Report

EXCERPT FROM *KEYS TO ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES* PG 13-14

Values and Guiding Principles of ACS

The values which have shaped ACS are traditional Christian values: the potential of each individual to reflect the image of God; the dignity which is inherent in every person; and the importance of quality in human life. ACS approaches the person as an integrated entity comprised of physical, mental, social, and spiritual facets. ACS works on behalf of people of all social economic levels. It regards the poor with respect, as partners with whom it works in a learning and sharing relationship. People of higher classes also have needs which ACS should address.

Community development is viewed as an integrated process which addresses the basic sources of poverty and social disintegration, seeking to build self-reliance in the individual and equitable social relationships. Strengthening the family is a fundamental focus of community development.

ACS strives for excellence in all that it

undertakes. It accepts accountability for the use of its resources, and the implications of its actions. It respects the legal standards that apply in the countries and communities in which it functions and upholds standards of integrity in its activities. ACS recognizes its responsibility to its constituency. It upholds the values of a modest lifestyle among its employees and volunteers. ACS fosters dynamic relationships with church and community leadership.

As a needs-oriented organization, ACS concentrates its efforts in a variety of areas that include community-based social services such as food pantries, soup kitchens, clothing distribution, thrift stores, drug and alcohol abuse and prevention assistance, disaster response, crisis counseling, tutoring and mentoring, career training, job placement, refugee resettlement, immigration assistance, health screening and education, family life and health education, elder care, primary health care for the medically indigent, and ministry to the homeless, the disabled, and people with AIDS. It is also interested in social problems such as addictions, unemployment, and literacy. Community-based program development includes a wide range of activities leading to improved health, economic and social well-being, and

increased self-reliance. Through formal and non-formal education and training, ACS focuses on developing competence and skills in areas appropriate to community needs.

Community needs can also be met by the creation of small-scale institutions which deliver essential services in areas where they are inadequate or nonexistent. 14 Churches with a strong disaster response capability and a track record of effective response can often develop community services centers or other permanent programs in the aftermath of major disasters including fires, floods, hurricanes, or tornados, as well as the results of a major civil disorder, epidemic, or environmental pollution. Small, medium, or large churches might partner with other churches or with existing organizations in a community to help meet expressed needs more effectively.

The bottom-line principle that guides ACS is that its mission parallels the ministry of Jesus, who came for the very purpose of undoing the devil's work (see 1 John 3:18).



For more church info, recorded services, or to access prior newsletters and bulletins, visit www.rapidcitysd.adventistchurch.org

Got something newsworthy? Send an email to:
Stephen Wasemiller
rapidsdacommunications@gmail.com

June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Bernadine Red Bear Speaker – Dakota Campmeeting Elder – Eduardo Lopez (Offering: Camp Development) 8:29 pm Sunset
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Mia Lopez 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting	Josh Few	Church Campout 8:33 pm Sunset	Church Campout Elder – Richard Chancellor (Offering: NAD Women's Ministries) 8:34 pm Sunset
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Church Campout	Charles Hines	Caden Bender 6:00 pm School Board	7:00 pm Prayer Meeting		8:37 pm Sunset	Godswill Ikechukwu Speaker – Pastor Brian Elder – Kinton Rittberger (Offering: Church Budget) 8:37 pm Sunset
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Women's Ministries – Baby Shower – 8am-10am Men's Ministries Pancake Breakfast – 9am FATHER'S DAY		6:30 pm Church Board	7:00 pm Prayer Meeting		Kataleya Miraz Friday Night Vespers – Mary Hall Park, 7:00 pm 8:39 pm Sunset	Alvin Perrigo Candace Ikechukwu Shirley Krebs Church Hike Roughlock Falls Speaker – Pastor Brian Elder – Marla Hawronsky (Offering: Dakota Challenge) 8:39 pm Sunset
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30			7:00 pm Prayer Meeting		8:39 pm Sunset	Speaker – Pastor Brian Elder – Stephen Wasemiller (Offering: Worthy Student) 8:39 pm Sunset

Church Map

Our church building can be a bit confusing to navigate! You may find this guide useful to find Sabbath School classes, bathrooms, building entrances, or offices. If you have any questions, please ask!



Adult Sabbath School Classrooms

- 1 Main Adult Sabbath School**
 - Studying from the SDA Sabbath School Quarterly
- 2 Young Adult Sabbath School**
 - For college-age individuals (16 and older)
- 3 The Library Sabbath School**
 - Discussion-based class for all ages
- 4 The Music Room Sabbath School**
 - Adult Sabbath School lesson study

Children's Sabbath School Classrooms

- 5 Cradleroll Class - Ages 0 - 3**
- 6 Kindergarten Class - Ages 4 - 6**
- 7 Primary Class - Ages 7 - 9**
- 8 Junior Class - Ages 10 - 12**
- 9 Teen Class - Ages 13 - 15**