

Minnetonka SDA Church
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Ken Dedeker—kdedeker@comcast.net
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Our church website—www.knowgodmore.com
Our school website—www.mca-sda.com

It's amazing the change one sermon can make! Last year Pastor Elvera preached one Sabbath. I don't remember the topic for the day, but she said something that changed my life and I have passed it on to my students. Elvera's comment was that we need to spend more time reading the Bible than reading devotional books. For years I've been reading a devotional book every morning, but after thinking about what she said, I set my book aside and got out my Bible. I started in the book of John and when I finished with it, went backwards to Luke, Mark, and Matthew. I love starting my day in God's word!

This year as I was planning morning worship for my students, I decided to have them read the book of John. So in September, we got out our Bible and started going slowly through John, verse by verse. We finished this week! What a blessing this has been for me and my students. Here are some things they say about what they've learned:

When asked what one thing really stood out for them, Cherish Jones said, "I learned that you can't underestimate God, and I learned a lot about what Jesus was really saying." Christa Tulics stated, "I learned that God loves us no matter what, He will never give up on us." Many students commented that John really proved that Jesus was the Messiah. There is no doubt in their minds.

I asked them what surprised them most about the book of John. Joe Nelson said, "That so many prophecies came true." Natalie Crosby wrote, "It surprised me for how much the disciples did something stupid, Jesus forgave them and still loved them just the same." Brad Williams summed it up with, "The ways he (John) glorifies Jesus in saying that if everything was written about God, that it would cover the entire world!"

My final question to my students was, "What one thing inspired you the most from reading the book of John?" Connor Dedeker wrote, "To never give up on God. He is always there to help you when you need him most. The whole book was to tell us Jesus was the Messiah and it was stated very well." Samuel Bustamante said, "Like John, who had a great relationship with Jesus, I can have that relationship with Him too." Michael Rodriguez summed it up with, "John changed significantly in his years with Christ. It inspired me to become more like Him."

We are now reading the book of Revelation. We know we won't finish it this school year, but my hope is that my students will finish it on their own.

A simple sermon, a few words. Let's become people of the word. That's what's happening in the 7th and 8th grade classroom at MCA.

By: Dawn Campanello, 7th and 8th Grade Teacher

SHERMAN McCORMICK
INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

BENJI FERGUSON
PASTOR FOR YOUTH & WORSHIP

KEN DEDEKER
PASTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION

KEN RANNOW
PRINCIPAL OF MCA

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church is to passionately KNOW God as our personal friend and intentionally SHARE God as caring disciples.

VISION STATEMENT

Our response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ compels us to become a growing Adventist congregation.

We will impact our community through God-directed worship, selfless service, and a culture of active participation by every member.

Minnetonka SDA Governing Board

- Heidi Abramovich
- Dave Briscoe—Chair
- Rachele Ellis
- Patty Gadberry—Sec.
- Jared London
- John Nicholson
- Dale Williams
- Ed Wines—V-Chair

Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church Minnetonka Christian Academy

Good News!



Volume 65

February 2010

Firsthand Report from Haiti

By Pastor Sherman McCormick

On January 25th I received the following firsthand account of what's happening in Haiti from John Thomas, the former Principal of Wisconsin Academy. He filed this report.

"I have spent a week in Haiti with four of our upper level EMT students. One cannot adequately describe the condition of things there. About 1/3 of the buildings (most are several stories high) are pancaked or mostly fallen down. The number of injured is staggering.

We went with a group called ACTS and were housed in the Adventist Hospital. All rescue workers were bedding down on the floor of the hospital as all the patients were outside under sheets hung from the branches of the trees. The grounds had about 2,000 patients and family. The US and French Dr's and medical staff set up surgeries in four places. Minor surgeries and amputations were done outside under silver/blue tarps. The compound fractures and other complicated surgeries were done in the two OR rooms. Burns were treated outside. Post Op and care was all outside with the IV's hanging from anything that could be used.

When we arrived there was no water and no electricity. Once fuel was found the generator could provide some water and power for the OR. All sterilization was by hand washing and dipping in a solution (can't remember the name). It was very hard to keep up with the four OR's. While there, a sterilizer/autoclave arrived in a crate, which I was able to install and get going after much creative engineering, as maintenance supplies are nonexistent. Three of our students then learned how to run it so spent two days on that.

Most of the work at the hospital is taking care of amputations and crush wounds, which are split flesh and compound fractures. These patients come in having had no treatment for two weeks so you can imagine their flesh condition. Many are

multiple amputees with half being children. The long term for them is beyond immediate solution!

The Dr's are very busy on the OR's so the growing problem is doing rounds post op. Someone has to keep the IV's going and change all the dressings which are almost impossible to do. I am returning with eight EMT's of ours to help with all that. Union College is probably going to take a volunteer group of anyone who wishes to go over our spring break to help. By then it will be wound maintenance, pastoral/counseling and infrastructure/maintenance work and food.

Keep us and the Haitians in your prayers. The solution is unknown. At night they close most of the city streets so the people can sleep there as the houses and apartments are not usable. These concrete buildings were built with very sub-standard materials by hoisting one five gal. bucket at a time. How do you now get them down!

I have not given you the gory details. There are still many dead in the streets after three weeks. You can see some of it on the news.

Approx 1/3 of Haitians are Adventist. Every morning and evening you can hear them sitting in groups outside singing. All are very positive and even in their reduced condition you can see an amputee helping a more seriously wounded person.

Blessings and let us be thankful for the rich blessings we have."

☺ ☺ ☺

I am reminded of the final sentences on page 417 of *Christ's Object Lessons*:

Thus in the night of spiritual darkness God's glory is to shine forth through His church in lifting up the bowed down and comforting those that mourn.

Visit Our Website

www.knowgodmore.com

- ◆ Online giving of Tithes and Offerings
- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ Weekly Sermons to download and share

UPCOMING PREACHING SCHEDULE February

- 06—Pastor Sherman McCormick
- 13—Pastor Sherman McCormick
- 20—Pastor Sherman McCormick
- 27—Pastor Sherman McCormick

All around us are heard the wails of a world's sorrow. On every hand are the needy and distressed. It is ours to aid in relieving and softening life's hardships and misery.

Practical work will have far more effect than mere sermonizing. We are to give food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the homeless. And we are called to do more than this. The wants of the soul, only the love of Christ can satisfy. If Christ is abiding in us, our hearts will be full of divine sympathy. The sealed fountains of earnest, Christ-like love will be unsealed.



MINNETONKA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Principal Ken Rannow

DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Sherman McCormick

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ The more you praise and
 ★ celebrate your life,
 ★ the more there is
 ★ in your life to
 ★ celebrate.
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



Happy Birthday to You!

If we have missed your birthday,
 please contact the church office so we can update your information.

February

- 01—Drew Johnson
- 02—Lindani Nkomazana, Isaiah Nyamburi, Karen Peterson
- 03—Stephanie Ferguson
- 05—Steve Sutherland
- 07—Jeremiah Kubiak, Silas Njagi
- 09—Bertrund Guter, Rachael Onserio, Eric Ruchko

- 11—Kirsten Burns
- 12—Alvin Batiller, Cecily Parry
- 13—Arnie Weinkauff
- 14—Myra Crane
- 15—Joseph Njagi, Ruby Williams
- 18—Shane Pick
- 19—Madison Hodgkin, Malachi Mart, Amaya Nelson
- 20—John Baxter
- 21—Kyle Blood, Dan Carlson, Mike Mikhalash, Jane Rannow
- 22—Charlene Paulson
- 23—Stephon Barcenas, Tami Bieber,

- Nathaniel Perry
- 24—Dave Briscoe, Nancy Learned, Hugo Orieny
- 25—Kylie Dedeker, Anatoliy Filonenko, Ackim Haamankuli, Benjamin Haugen
- 26—Holly Ferguson, Vern Mathis, Izaak Peterson, Joshua Wittig
- 27—Don Bell, Todd DesJardin
- 28—Tim Hagele, Munyimba Munyimba, Sandee Shirokova

March

- 01—Oriana Snyder
- 03—Sherri Chaffee, Linda Hayne
- 04—Bryana Odenthal, Helen Pak
- 06—Kseniya Filonenko, Gretchen Wendland
- 08—Shirley Anderson, Justin Lyons
- 09—Julie Gilkeson
- 10—Kia Britain
- 11—Marilyn Carlson, Don Learned, Rebecca Mathis, Kendra Pettis
- 13—Jared Kenya, Jayden Sands
- 14—Marie Carlson, Sheri Cox, Michael Oien
- 16—Sergei Filonenko
- 17—Bonnie Johnson

(Continued in next newsletter)

Governing Board Report—January 2010

Housekeeping and Announcements Jared opened the meeting with devotion and prayer. After review, a motion was made and passed to accept the November minutes. Dave Briscoe is on leave from the governing board chair position until May. Ed Wines will be the governing board chair pro tem. Justin Lyons will be interviewed for the open governing board position created by Paul Shirokov's resignation.

Pastoral Positions Pastoral interviews will be scheduled as viable candidates are confirmed. Continued prayer is solicited for the search and interview process.

School Sign Update Dale Williams reported that the sign is installed and adjustments will be made to receive optimum display function. Training for church staff will be coordinated to accommodate display needs. Invoices have been faxed to the City of Minnetonka and John Nicholson will follow through on the promised reimbursement of ~\$19,000 over the next month. The governing board expressed its appreciation to Dale Williams and John Nicholson for the diligent work and success with the sign installation. Gratitude was also expressed for Mike Carlson for his generous involvement.

MCA Update A committee consisting of Ken Rannow, Rosemaris Campos, Marie Carlson, Rachelle Ellis, Matt Jakobsons, Dale Williams, Kathy Williams and Ed Wines met to create a draft of MCA's mission and vision statements along with strategic initiative recommendations. (see handout) The governing board made change recommendations to the committee and passed the motion to approve the documents, contingent upon the school operating committee's review and approval. After the SOC has approved the documents they will be presented at the school constituency meeting. Ken Rannow reported that the second semester is expected to have 3 new students for the high school. Upcoming events: **January 30**, Winter Fest; **March 28**, International Dinner, celebrating up to 20 cultures.

Pastor's Report The governing board welcomed Pastor Sherman McCormick as interim pastor. Pastor Sherman expressed his interest in being available for youth, and working with the lay pastors to meet congregational needs. John Nicholson offered a prayer of welcome, thanksgiving and dedication for Pastor Sherman.

Finance Committee Report A motion was made and passed to approve moving any surplus for the sign purchase to the church maintenance reserve fund (#900). The finance committee

recommended that a monthly goal for the building fund be set for \$3,000/month. The committee also recommended that the position for a part time children's pastor be on hold for six months. Though the income statement indicates a strong cash position, the church budget is behind schedule. The finance committee recommended a monthly church rental reduction for Living In His Presence congregation of \$100 per month. A motion was made and passed to accept the finance committee report and recommendation.

Church Mission/Vision & Goals

John Nicolson reported on the Community ministry. The Financial Peace University classes were well represented and an alumni dinner is being planned. While future CHIP sessions are currently on hold, Gail Chavez continues to hold monthly Alumni meetings. Ken Dedeker indicated that the Alpha program will be scheduled again in the fall of 2010 with possible continuation of the program on a yearly basis. ICA has volunteer availability Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. and special events. Les Morris will work on communication and follow through. The prison ministry is lead by Carol Crosby and Bonnie Johnson. Volunteers must attend and orientation and be certified to enter facilities; this includes a background check

Patty Gadberry Met with Pastor Elvera Blake to discuss the staffing needs of the children and youth ministries. Patty will contact Dawn Campanello to discuss the current volunteer base. Pastor Benji Ferguson introduced an opportunity for youth through 35 years to attend a conference in Columbus, OH in April. The collegiate adults are receiving care packages three times per year; the new church directory will be included with the February mailing.

Membership Notices **Baptisms:** Terrence DuJour, December 26, 2009. **Transfers In:** Wycliff Boto and Shanita John. **Transfers Out:** Valentina Kravchenko to Anoka SDA Church – Anoka, MN. A motion was made and passed to accept the membership notices.

Write In Items: Ed Wines reported on preliminary conversations regarding projected metro area demographics in relation to MCA's service to the needs of the metro area community. Dale Williams asked that a Storage Building Manager be named. This person will ensure appropriate access and use of the building. Ken Dedeker accepted the request.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2010. Start time will be 6:30 p.m.

Administration

Pastor Ken Dedeker

OUR FIVE STEPS FOR GROWING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

- S—Study God's Word Every Day. Get to know God personally.
- T—Talk to God Intimately Each Day in Prayer. Let God's perspective change yours.
- E—Experience the Joy of Worship. Gather on Sabbaths to focus on the holiness of God, humble yourself before Him, confess your sins, receive the assurance of being saved by God's grace through the cross of Jesus, return His tithe, bring Him an offering for the church budget, and praise Him for His wonderful works.
- P—Participate in Fellowship with Other Christians. Befriend someone new who comes to church. Start a small group. Be forgiving. Speak only positively about others.
- S—Share Jesus with Others. Support our church and school. Have a list of people for whom you pray and work so that they will become followers of Jesus.

February 2010 Church Calendar:

Weekly Reoccurring Activities:

- Wed. 10:00 a.m. J.U.L.I.E.T.S.

February Calendar:

- 02—7:00 p.m. FPU Alumni Meet
- 07—7:00 p.m. Chip Alumni Meet
- 09—7:00 p.m. Lay Pastor's Meeting
- 17—6:30 p.m. Governing Board
- 22-26—MCA Week of Prayer



*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
 and a light unto my path.
 Psalm 119:105 (King James Version)*

NOTICE

Adventist Book Center
 7384 Kirkwood Court
 Maple Grove, MN 55369
 Ph. 763-424-8531
 Hours: Mon-Thurs., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Sunday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 e-mail:
 maplegrove.abc@pacificpress.com

The Maple Grove location
 is now the only location for Minnesota.
 The store in Hutchinson has been
 closed.

To better serve you please update your information at the church office. You can do this by filling out a **Welcome Card** at church, calling the church secretary or email secretary@mtka-sda.org.

We need your email address so we can send you the newsletter and other announcements via email.

Also, please check our website <http://www.knowgodmore.com/> for latest updates.

Thank you

Summer Programs

It's hard to think about summer right now, as I write it's 9 degrees outside according to my computer. But I know many of you are making your summer plans as well, perhaps as an escape mechanism. I wanted to share with you some ways that the church ministers to it's students during the summer. I know that times are challenging as far as finances go, but please consider making these trips a part of your budget. We also offer discounts as well as scholarships for all of our activities. However I can't stress enough that the most important thing is that your student just attends! Also, it helps if people sign up early as well so please do so. You'll hear more about that in future newsletters. The following are the dates for our major summer programs.

June 11-19—Campmeeting (FREEish)

July 5-9—Vacation Bible School / DayCamp (VBS FREE) (DayCamp \$20.00/day)



July 18-23—Rock Climbing Trip (\$225)

August 1-6—Boundary Waters Canoe Trip (\$125)

Sabbath Schools

Its been in the bulletin for a few weeks now and we're still not getting the response we were hoping for. Our Children's and Youth Sabbath Schools really need your help. EVERY single one of the Sabbath Schools is in desperate need of volunteers. Volunteers can do many things from assisting the leader, helping the students with their crafts, leading songs, playing the piano, but perhaps our biggest need is individuals who are willing to take a leadership role in the Sabbath Schools, even it is just once a month.

Ideally what I'd love to see is each Sabbath School really form a leadership team of people who study and prepare together. I would love to see a team who takes Sabbath School beyond the hour on Sabbath morning and perhaps takes time to build community for our students? Many are saying this is too much to ask, that there isn't time, that we are all too busy or that people are too spread out. This is all true, but at what cost do we believe these excuses? Are we willing to sacrifice our students on the basis of our fears of getting up in front of people, or because we have to do some extra driving? I hope not. Please, if you are interested in helping in one of our Sabbath Schools, please just show up and talk to one of the leaders asking how you can get involved.

YOUTH

Pastor Benji Ferguson