The Lord Jesus is coming soon. Let’s join together for 40 Days of Prayer beginning January 1. Some are facing health challenges. Others are experiencing prolonged unemployment. Many are having financial and interpersonal troubles.

In addition, our country is entering the third year of the deepest and most widespread recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Unemployment in California is more than 12%. North Korea is threatening war with its southern neighbors. Iran is working to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Natural disasters are happening worldwide, such as the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti in January, 2010. This was the worst earthquake in 200 years. All these things remind us that the Second Coming of our Lord is near.

The 40 Days of Prayer begins on January 1, at the Day of Prayer service. We’ve purchased devotion-al books to help everyone in the whole family participate in the 40 Days of Prayer. For our youngsters we have coloring books that will encourage their prayers. For pre-teens we have a book called Bible Promises for Kids which is a collection of Bible promises they’ll connect with immediately. Everyone else will receive the book called 40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming by a Seventh-day Adventist pas- continued on page 2

New Habits in the New Year

The new year is an opportunity for everyone to start with a clean slate. To begin again. We often try to make a new year’s resolution and then become depressed when we can’t keep them. Wouldn’t you like this year to be different?

Experts tell us if we can repeat something at least 11 times, we are well on the way to making that a habit. The 40 Days of Prayer will help you repeat your activity 40 times, not just 11. Almost all of us would agree that spending more time in prayer would be a good thing.

Join us on January 1st as we kick off our 40 Days of Prayer. Everyone will get a book to help guide them through the 40 Days of Prayer. If you connect with a Prayer Partner during the 40 days, your experience will be taken to a deeper level.

Please make time for more, and more meaningful, prayer this year. ✝

Missing pronouns
You cannot pray the Lord’s Prayer and even once say I. You cannot pray the Lord’s Prayer and even once say My.

Nor can you pray the Lord’s Prayer and not pray for one another. To ask God for “our” daily bread, you must include your brother.

For others are included ... in each and every plea, From the beginning to the end of it, it does not once say Me.
tor, Dennis Smith.

During the 40 Days of Prayer everyone will grow in their prayer lives. They’ll enter into an amazing and blessed adventure with the Lord. “You will experience a deeper relationship with Christ, and you will see the Lord use you to draw others closer to Him in preparation for His soon return.” As you fellowship with your prayer partner your love and unity for Christ grows.

On January 8, the 40 Days of Prayer message is called The Power of Praying Together. Jesus said, “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven” (Matt 18:19-20).

Working together is how most things get done. The components of any automobile must work together for it to perform. If the ignition refused to send a signal to the starter the engine wouldn’t turnover. If the battery decided not to send energy to the starter the car wouldn’t start. In these last days of earth’s history, it’s time to come together in unity and pray for the power of the Holy Spirit as we look forward to Christ’s return.

The message of January 15 is You can Count on God. During a time of famine and want, the message of God went out: “Listen! God’s word! The famine’s over. This time tomorrow food will be plentiful — a handful of meal for a shekel; two handfuls of grain for a shekel. The market at the city gate will be buzzing” (2 Kings 7:1, The Message Bible). Not all believed the word of God but those who did rejoiced when the very next day they were feasting with their families in peace. The man in charge of the food bank in Worthington, Ohio believes You can Count on God. When the food bank shelves begin to empty, he simply places his hands on the shelves and prays to the God you can count on and the food comes in. Do you believe God might answer your prayers?

As the 40 Days of Prayer progresses, on January 22, the message is A New Orientation to Life. Just like those who enter into marriage a new orientation to life is required. The two people are no longer single, thinking only of themselves. Now he/she has a spouse to consider and that requires new behaviors and a new attitude. Jesus told a story of 4 people who were given the opportunity to enter into a new orientation to life. The outcome of the story helps us grasp what is required of us to enter in the A New Orientation to Life.

On January 29, the title of the message is Life Is Better Together. The Bible says, “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man responsible for this proof reading
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distributed monthly
issue date: Jan. 2011
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Webster says “refuge” means “shelter or protection from danger or distress . . . a place that promotes shelter or protection . . . something to which one has recourse in difficulty (Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary).

God’s word says “But let all who take refuge in [God] be glad; let them sing for joy” (Psalm 5:11).

As you read this article, we are likely well into the month of January and, perhaps, over the shock of seeing yet another year pass so quickly. We’ve all watched the news and television shows that have a “year in review” theme. We’ve been reminded of the past year, so we’ve seen the good, the bad and the downright ugly. We might even be left with the feeling that, from an earthly point of view, the latter two may seem to far outweigh the first. It’s no surprise that evil is alive and well in our world today.

If you’re looking for something to help you deal with that, turn to God’s word. Consider, for the moment, the words of Jeremiah, the “weeping” prophet, as he writes in Chapter 3 of Lamentations. “My splendor is gone and all that I hoped from the Lord . . . and my soul is downcast within me.” Kind of dreary, isn’t it? In fact, if a prophet can feel that way, where does that leave us? Thankfully, he doesn’t stop there. In his next written breath, he says, “Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Praise God! Whatever the upcoming year holds, we have the promise of God’s faithfulness. For each of the 365 mornings in the year 2011, we have the promise of receiving new mercies from God. And, as Jeremiah adds, “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him.”

So, whether we see the good or the not-so-good in our world today, may it cause us to seek God more deliberately and to pray more fervently. May it help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, for the One whose birth we celebrated last month is alive and well also. And the Bible reminds us that He is greater than the evil in the world.

Worship Schedule

January 1
Mitch Williams
Day of Prayer

January 8
Mitch Williams
The Power of Praying Together

January 15
Mitch Williams
You can Count on God

January 22
Mitch Williams
A New Orientation to Life

January 29
Mitch Williams
Life is Better Together
Give Me the Bible

She is no longer able to read the words, but it’s alright because they are already cemented in her heart and mind.

When my children were young, I used to drive them crazy when every time they would mention a certain object, I would say, “There’s a song about that.” If they wanted lemonade, I would start singing the chorus of “Lemon Tree” by Trini Lopez. Now, I am more likely to say, “There’s a country song about that.”

I enjoy country music, I was raised on it; it soothes me when I am sad and lifts me higher when I am happy. I had a pastor once tell me I shouldn’t listen to that kind of music because of the drinkin’ and other wayward topics many songs are about. But I challenge anyone to find another genre other than Christian music that is so openly committed to God, country and family.

Every year, I try to read the Bible in a different version. As I was preparing to teach a Sabbath School class recently, I ran across a Life Application Bible that belonged to my mother-in-law. She is no longer able to read the words, but it’s alright because they are already cemented in her heart and mind. As I fingered the pages, I thought about my own mother’s Bible, so well marked and worn.

Then I remembered an old country song titled, “Mama’s Bible.” There are a couple of them I would like to share with you.

George Jones tells about Mama’s estate having to be settled. The other children take the jewelry and the good china and the silverware, but they leave her Bible behind. The singer tells of the tarnished jewelry, broken dishes and silverware sitting in a junk store, but he has the most valuable of all of Mama’s belongings…..her Bible. The peace and hope it provides overshadows whatever value the other things seemed to offer.

Mel McDaniel sings about trusting in Jesus and being forgiven. He is no longer afraid of dying because Jesus is his Shepherd. When all he cared for was gone, he reached for Mama’s Bible for strength to carry on. He believes Jesus love him because Mama’s Bible tells him so and he will trust in Mama’s Bible till it’s time for him to go.

I would like to introduce you to some country music. As we begin this New Year, I thought perhaps the Bible was a good place to start as we think about the changes and new directions we want to take in our walk with the Lord. It is where we find Truth and where the answers to all our questions are found. It is where most of us began our search for our Lord and where we find the end of our story as well. Let’s pray….

Father, Thank you for music that so easily paves the way back to your Word, where we will find once more all that we need comes from your hand.
From Ginny’s Kitchen

Ginny’s Microwave Brown Bag Popcorn

¾ cup plain popcorn kernels
1 teaspoon coconut oil
1 brown, paper lunch-bag 10oz
Optional:
½ cup melted butter
½ cup Brewer’s Yeast flakes (found in a health food store/or Loma Linda Market)
½ cup mixed nuts

1. Measure ¾ cups popcorn into a cup.
2. Stir 1 teaspoon coconut oil into dry popcorn kernels (it won’t dissolve, but just mix around)
3. Pour popcorn & oil into brown, lunch-bag and fold over top of bag two-times.
4. Place sack into microwave and set timer for (approximately) 5 minutes on high.

Listen carefully, when you hear that the popcorn has stopped popping, remove bag from microwave. (Every microwave is different, so the time may vary. Be careful not to burn the popcorn).

Try these optional toppings:
Add ½ c. melted butter and ½ cup of Brewer’s Yeast over the top of popcorn and mix.
Or, mix ½ cup of mixed nuts.

Note from Ginny:
Brewer’s Yeast has a delicious nutty taste and is very high in B vitamin, as well as other vitamins. It also tastes great on toast in the morning.

Our First Loyalty

The beginning of a new year is a good time to consider our compelling — and sometimes competing — loyalties. Our first loyalty must always be to our loving Creator. “You shall have no other gods before me,” says the first commandment (Exodus 20:3, NRSV). Although other loyalties are important (family, country, work), God is the top priority.

The brilliant Christian statesman Thomas More tried to serve King Henry VIII well. But when the tyrant king made unethical demands on More that conflicted with God’s standards, More refused to obey.

The terrible consequence was More’s beheading. In 1535, just before the sharp blade fell on his neck, More proclaimed, “The king’s good servant, but God’s first.”

40 Days (from page 2)
who falls and has no one to help him up: (Eccl 4:9-10)! Like the early settlers who came west by wagon train they shared not only their provisions but themselves and their talents. Black smiths, carpenters and hunters lessened the hardship of the journey by combining their talents and sharing with others. The Bible gives us definite guidelines for us to follow and make life better together.

See you when the church gathers.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>4:53 pm sunset</td>
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<td>10:50 AM Worship Mitch Williams Day of Prayer</td>
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<td>10 AM C.S.</td>
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<td>5:18 pm sunset</td>
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<td>10:50 AM Worship Mitch Williams</td>
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Visit [www.downeychurch.org](http://www.downeychurch.org)

C.S. - Community Service
S.S. - Sabbath School

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance

7 pm Church Board
7 pm Women’s Prayer Group

7 pm Women’s Prayer Group

7 pm Women’s Prayer Group

7 pm Women’s Prayer Group

3:00 Pathfinders
Governor Meriwether Lewis was the visionary of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition. For years he dreamed of finding the fabled “Northwest Passage;” a route across North America that would open up the entire nation like Columbus’s voyage did for Europe and the New World. For some time he lobbied his boss, President Thomas Jefferson, for the opportunity to make this historic expedition. When he finally received permission, he made plans, purchased supplies, got special training and even invented new devices for the long trip. He convinced his friend, William Clark, to join him as co-captain. On May 14, 1804, at 4 P.M. the journey began as the “Corp of Discovery” left Camp Dubois near St. Louis and began traveling up the Missouri River.

On August 12, 1805, Governor Lewis climbed to the top of Lemhi Pass in the Beaverhead Mountains and for the first time looked over the continental divide to see what was on the other side. This was the culmination of a great vision for Lewis and so I am sure he had in mind exactly what he expected to see. He had imagined this moment for many months, if not years, and what he expected to see were mountains tapering off into the Pacific Ocean. Instead what he saw was nothing but more and more mountains reaching as far as the eye could see. He was so depressed that he stopped journaling for many days. His vision slipped into disappointment.

Scripture reasons, “Where there is no vision, the people perish . . . ,” Proverbs 29:18, KJV. That is very strong language. People actually dying because of a lack of vision! Can that be true?

The word used in Proverbs meaning vision, “is to contemplate with pleasure.” I know a lot of people who buy lottery tickets and then contemplate with great pleasure how they will spend their money. Of course, they will be generous with the church and family members, but what they really relish is the new house, fancy car, exotic vacations, etc. Then the inevitable happens, they don’t win. A slight depression sets in until they buy the next lottery ticket and the cycle repeats. That is why gambling is so addictive. It’s not winning that grabs you; it’s the idea of winning that captures your attention and holds you hostage.

So what is the answer? The only contemplation with pleasure that brings life instead of death is contemplating on the promises of God. Only the promises of God do not disappoint. Since God is God, nothing He says or even thinks ever fails. In the beginning He simply spoke and everything came into existence. By definition, whatever God says is reality.

A wise man looks for guidelines regarding the promises of God.

1. Make sure you know what God has really promised. So many times I have seen very wonderful Christian people become disappointed because they misunderstand what God actually said. For instance, the Bible says, “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of.

continued on page 8
the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” Matthew 9:35, KJV. Some people have interpreted this to mean that God will in fact heal any disease at any time. May I remind you that in John 5 Jesus enters a place with hundreds, if not thousands, of sick people, heals one man and then walks away leaving everyone else still sick. If you believe God has promised His healing each time you ask Him for healing, not being healed could leave you devastated. Having a false understanding of God’s promises can be more disappointing than not believing at all.

2. Make sure you understand the conditions of God’s promises. “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14, NKJV. This is only one of many conditional promises of God. We have a role to play in order to receive the forgiveness and healing promised in this verse. It is not that God cannot act, but that He is too loving to act when it is not in our best interest. That is why he banned humans from the Garden of Eden after sin. If after sin we had access to the Tree of Life, what a miserable universe we would have. When we fail to do our part, God cannot do His.

3. Don’t try to manipulate God. In Mark 2 some people brought a paralytic to Jesus for healing. Jesus tells the man that his sins are forgiven. This is not what the friends or this man were really expecting but it brought a huge controversy among the religious leaders that were present. Then Jesus said, “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ ” Mark 2:10, 11, NKJV. Sometimes people will look at a story like this one and try to manipulate God into healing them of a physical disease by confessing their sin. Jesus did not always heal people and God will not always heal us today. We live in a war zone called earth where bad things happen. We have to trust God even when we don’t get what we want.

4. The Steward of our spiritual life demands we hold these promises as we begin 2011. These are two promises that I call the two great promises of the Bible. First, is the promise that someday God will fix everything. “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away . . . And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:1&4, NKJV. When the earth is made new, all injustices are made right, every disease is healed and all sins are forgiven.

The second promise is that God is with us in the meantime. Jesus said, “and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” Matthew 28:20, NKJV. And Paul reminds us, “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ ” Hebrews 13:5, NKJV. Someday God will fix everything but until then He is with us in all things.

Today there is still controversy over the circumstances of Meriwether Lewis’s death. Only a few years after completing his historic expedition, some scholars believe that in the predawn hours of October 11, 1809, he took his own life. He was deeply in debt, it was held he was an abuser of alcohol, and he was accused of misappropriating funds from the government. But most of all, in spite of all that he accomplished, he was unable to realize his true vision. He found no “Northwest Passage.” The expansion of the United States was eventually accomplished and our nation today spans the continent because of his expedition. He discovered animals and plants unknown until then. He met and established good relations with Native American tribes. Only one person died on the trip due to an unpreventable event. He accomplished so much, yet he did not accomplish his true vision, which left him depressed and despondent.

A wise steward looks to the future. So as we begin this New Year our vision, Jesus Christ our Savior, gives birth to life. “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” 1 John 5:12, NKJV. I challenge you to study God’s word. Look for His vision for you within those precious pages. Lay aside those things that do not give life but take it. As we are stewards of our Spiritual life, let us contemplate with pleasure the true promises of God.
January Birthdays
Janeth Cuyuch-Perez – 1
Virginia Hinojosa – 4
Irela Molina – 4
Sergio Garcia – 9
Isabel Molina – 13
Becky Duran – 18
Elissa Luna – 19
Alejandro Zamora – 22
Richard Orozco – 22
Yesenia Molina – 28
Lourdes Ortega – 30
Sara Rivas – 31

If your birthday is left out in the monthly newsletter, please contact the church office so we can put it in.

Upcoming Events
2nd & 4th Saturdays - 3:00 p.m. Pathfinders
1st Sunday - 10 a.m. Community Service
Thursdays - 7 p.m. Women’s Prayer Group
Fridays - 6:30 p.m. Band Practice

January 1 - Day of Prayer
January 16 - Pathfinders
January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 20 - Church board meeting

The Latest Word deadline is the 5th of the month.

Coming Soon
March - Small Group Series
March 14-25 - Spring Break (AUS and SGA)
April 24 - Easter
THE LATEST WORD

The Latest About

Our Church Family

We sorrowfully report the passing of Ella Spetnagel on November 22, 2010. She had been a member of the Downey Church for many years. We look forward to see her again some day.

Congratualtions to Mario Delgado. He was baptized on Celebration Sabbath on Nov. 20. Be sure to welcome him to the family.

If you have any Church Family news, please contact the church office so we can get it into the newsletter.†

Congrats to Ricardo and Kelly Gonzalez, Diana Arzola and Issac Diaz. They joined our church recently. Be sure to welcome them.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone who has been saving Campbell Soup Labels for education and Box Tops for Education. That is greatly appreciated.

On the Campbell Soup labels, all that is really needed is the UPC (the bar code). You don’t have to save the entire label, just the UPC bar code.

For the Box Tops for Education, please save the Box Tops coupon.

Please give your labels to Linda Aumack. Thank you for your support!†

Brand New

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn’t find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn’t dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, “See, I am making all things new” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).†

What’s Important

On February 4, 1968, exactly two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta’s Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn’t want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say King “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

In that sermon, King also said “everybody can serve,” regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”†

SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.

GALATIANS 5:13, NIV
**Light Switch Cover**

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

**What you need:**
- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife

**What you do:**
1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out “Live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they’ll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.

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**From darkness to light**

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Good</th>
<th>Righteousness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Death</td>
<td>Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Go</td>
<td>Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Evil</td>
<td>Come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Adults</td>
<td>Bad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

1. Good _____ Righteousness (1)

2. Death _____ Children (2)

3. Go _____ Life (3)

4. Evil _____ Come (4)

5. Adults _____ Bad

“When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness.” Luke 11:34, NIV

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____.” John 8:12, NIV

“I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46, NIV

“For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light.” Ephesians 5:8, NIV

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children
Ponder This...

† “Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength.”
—John Henry Jowett

† “The highest reward for a person’s toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.”
—John Ruskin

† “I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life. Faith is the oil.”
—E. Stanley Jones

Isaiah 65:17, NIV

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested