Have you noticed that we live in a world that is obsessed with keeping us from aging? The cosmetic industry in the United States alone is a $55 billion dollar business, and its main purpose is to hide the fact that we are getting older. Throughout the history of the world man has searched for the fountain of youth, but I have some bad news. Without the coming of Jesus, Father Time will eventually catch up to us.

Sometimes, I even look at my three children, and I say to myself that I wish they would never grow up. When children are young, they are so precious and I just want them to stay that way. However, they will someday leave home as adults and I am just going to have to embrace that. However, while we all are aging, some of us never seem to grow up. The Bible says, “Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature” (I Corinthians 14:20). Paul says to be infants in evil which means to basically be ignorant to the sins of this world. He also says to not be children in your thinking or to make sure that you keep growing in your understanding of God. For many, we might not have grown in Christ in the way we would have liked. We can often let life’s circumstances keep us from fulfilling the work that God has continued on page 2.
Growing Old (cont. from page 1)

in store for us.

In the book of Hebrews, it says, “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:13-14). Paul is basically saying that when we are just babes in Christ, we often allow the desires of the world to keep us from understanding Christ’s righteousness, and as we have a constant relationship with God and his Word, we will be trained to desire his ways. My prayer is to allow the Holy Spirit to do his work in us, and that there will be a change in us that shows that we are ultimately growing up in Christ.

“...while we all are aging, some of us never seem to grow up.”

October’s Sermon Calendar

October 4th - Growing in Christ - This Sabbath will be a kick-off for our “Book of James” small groups. As we introduce our small groups for this week, we should be challenged to grow in spiritual maturity. James helps us to recognize what that growth looks like, and the goal is to allow God to teach us and for us to be growing every day.

October 11th - Dealing with Trials (James 1:1-18) - Starting this Sabbath, my sermons will follow our small group topics, and this week, we will see how we can find blessings in the midst of our struggles. The challenges that we face every day are actually opportunities for growth. According to James 1:12, he writes, “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

October 18th - Doers of the Word (James 1:19 - 2:13) - It is one thing to say we believe, but it is another to live by those beliefs. In James 1:23-24, it writes, “anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” The challenge is for us to comprehend and to be convicted by what God is constantly saying to us.

October 25th - Faith and Works (James 2:14-25) - On our third topic of our small group, we will discuss the relationship between faith and works. While we believe that we are saved only by Jesus, James 2:24 writes, “You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.” Works is a direct result of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit which means that our walk with God should compel us to do his will.

See you when the church gathers.

“The Latest Word
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distributed monthly
issue date: Oct. 2014
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God’s word says, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth. . . If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:14-15.)

You know one might assume that when you are preparing to teach a Sabbath School lesson for children, the lesson would impact the students more than the teacher. But oftentimes I feel a lesson has as much or more impact on me than it does the children. I cannot begin to count the number of times when a lesson I’m preparing hits home with an issue in my life. As a matter of fact, that happened again just last week. We’ve been studying about the life of Joseph for a couple of weeks now. This past week we learned the story about Joseph and Potipher’s wife. The emphasis was on the fact that Joseph had determined to obey God, and he continuously listened to the Holy Spirit. One of the activities for the lesson was to have two adults (thanks Alex Aumack!) play “Simon Says” with the children and instruct them that they were to listen only to one voice.

The students did very well. They followed the instructions given by the voice they were told to obey and ignored the other one (me!). After the game and during the lesson, I asked why it was so easy for them. They replied, “Because you told us which voice to listen to.” That is simplicity at its best! As a class, we came to the conclusion that, even though we know we should listen to and obey God or our parents, sometimes we don’t. Even children understand that they are not always obedient, and they are quite honest about their lives. That is a very refreshing quality, if you ask me. Perhaps the honesty of a child is one of the reasons Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3.)

At any rate, that activity left me with two reminders. One, simplify your life. Make a determination to obey God and choose to listen to His voice instead of your own, and you may just find some things in life a little easier to handle. Secondly, never underestimate children or their ability to teach you a lesson. Be honest with God and yourself.

Worship Schedule

Oct. 4
Cary Fisher
Growing in Christ

Oct. 11
Cary Fisher
Dealing with Trials

Oct. 18
Cary Fisher
Doers of the Word

Oct. 25
Cary Fisher
Faith & Works
At the southwestern edge of New Zealand, a National Geographic writer traveled with a local guide along paths strewn with river pebbles. Suddenly the guide bent to pick up a finger-long sliver of “greenstone” — jade — shimmery and smoothed by the river. He handed it to the journalist, saying, “Our people have a tradition that you don’t keep the first piece you find. So I’m giving it to you.”

Throughout Scripture, “first fruits” signifies people giving their best back to God because he first gave the best of himself to humanity. Ultimately, Paul teaches, “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died” (1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV).

How often do we give to others first? We might be tempted to say ‘all the time’ or ‘frequently.’ But is that really true? If you are a parent, you probably do things for your children and family on daily basis. The fact that you get up and go to work each day, even if you don’t feel like it, can be viewed as putting others first as you know you need to provide for the family. That’s good. But that is not really what we are talking about.

So let’s think outside of our families, or even our close friends who we could just about consider family. What about those people? Do we put them first? If we are brutality honest, some of those people can be hard to love and put first. They don’t love us back. They use our generosity or take advantage of us. They can be mean. The list of reasons why we don’t want to put them first can be extensive.

But does that release us from what Jesus has asked before. I’m not saying anything you don’t know. Sometimes it is useful to take a moment to evaluate and make sure we are on the course we want to be on.

So how do we put others first? It doesn’t always have to be a big thing. In fact usually it is not a big thing, it’s the little things. We could give our ‘first fruits’ by spending our first few minutes of the day in worship and prayer. This will help set the tone for the rest of the day. We could make sure our first words to our family each day are sweet ones. We could take time to listen to our co-workers who are hurting - even if we are tired of their issues. We can share a smile or kind words with someone. There are lot of possibilities. The question is, are you giving your first fruits?

That’s worth pondering about...
Eggplant Parmesan Casserole

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

2. Cut 5 crosswise slices from center area of each eggplant, about 1/2-inch thick, to total 10 slices. Peel and dice remaining pieces of eggplant.

3. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until oil is very hot. Sprinkle eggplant slices lightly with a pinch of salt and cook in hot skillet in batches until slightly softened, about 3 minutes per side. Set eggplant slices aside on paper towels.

4. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in skillet and cook garlic for about 10 seconds; add diced eggplant and season with a pinch of salt and red pepper flakes. Saute until eggplant is softened, about 5 minutes. Pour in marinara sauce and water. Turn heat to medium-low and cook until eggplant is tender, about 15 minutes; stir occasionally. If sauce gets too thick, add a little more water.

5. Combine ricotta cheese, 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, pepperjack cheese, a pinch of salt, and a pinch black pepper in a bowl until thoroughly combined. Fold eggplant slices in half to enclose the cheese mixture.

6. Spread about half the sauce into an 8x8-inch baking dish. Lay folded eggplant slices in a single layer into the dish. Spread remaining sauce over eggplant slices.

7. Combine bread crumbs, 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, and 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl; mix thoroughly. Spread crumb mixture over eggplant casserole.

8. Bake in the preheated oven until casserole is bubbling and crumbs are browned, 35 to 40 minutes.

Enjoy!
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Visit [www.downeychurch.org](http://www.downeychurch.org)  
S.S. – Sabbath School
October Birthdays

Grace Ramirez – 1
Mario Rodriguez – 3
Pedro Ramirez – 5
Lee Ann Harry – 6
Denise Macias – 7
Evan Aumack – 10
Martha Guerrero Patino – 12
Virginia Duarte – 12
Natalie Michel – 12
Evelyn Garcia – 17
Chanal Red – 17
Annie Mendez – 23
Kahlil Meade – 24
Johana Fisher – 27
Victor Acuna – 31

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

Upcoming Events

Wednesday - 7 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship
Fridays - 7:00 p.m. Band Practice

Oct. 4 - Pathfinders @ 3pm
Oct. 5 - Pathfinders @ 9am
Oct. 11 - Small Groups Begin
Oct. 18 - Pathfinders @ 3pm
Nov. 1 - Fall Party @ 5:30pm

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

Coming Soon

Nov. 1 - Fall Party @ 5:30pm
Nov. 22 - Celebration Sabbath
Dec. 20 - Christmas Program
Jan. 2 - Agape Feast/Communion

Be sure to keep up with the latest news by signing up for the Wednesday email. You can sign up here www.downey-church.org/Signups.html or send us an email at DowneyChurch at gmail dot com and we’ll add you.
Congratulations to Tomas Aispuro, Victoria Zamora, Elora Aispuro, Sarah Guerrero, Ethan Morales and Kevin Torres. They were invested as Master Guides in Oshkosh. Well done!

School has begun again. If you know of a student who is on honor roll or is otherwise doing something noteworthy, please share with us so we can all celebrate their successes.

Thank you to everyone who has been saving Box Tops for Education. That is greatly appreciated.

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

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

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Every Oshkosh has been a special experience. It has also been emotional. Both trips mean a lot to me and will forever remain in my heart. Oshkosh is an experience I believe everyone should get to do one day. The relationships you build with others when you’re there are extraordinary. Oshkosh has also brought me closer to God. The messages that were shared each night had a huge impact in my personal relationship with the Lord. This camporee is special to me because I got inducted as a Master Guide. The last camporee I got baptized. Both of these camporees have impacted my life, one where I gave my life to Christ and the other where I became a leader for Christ doing my best to follow in his footsteps and to continue to guide others in the ways of the Lord. These are two commitments that I plan on keeping for the rest of my life, this is what being a Pathfinder has taught me and this is what Oshkosh is about.
Edible Cornucopias

If you’re planning a harvest party, set up a snack station so people can fill their own edible cornucopias.

What you need:
- Waffle cones
- Bowls
- Spoons
- Toppings (chocolate chips, nuts, pretzels, fish-shaped crackers, candy corn, dried cranberries, yogurt-covered raisins, etc.)

What you do:
1. Set up the table, placing each topping in a bowl. Place a spoon in each bowl.
2. Invite friends to create their own cornucopia by spooning chosen goodies into their waffle cones.
3. Enjoy!

Puzzle

A promise to the earth

After the flood in Genesis, God promised to “never again ... destroy all living creatures” (Genesis 8:21, niv).

Directions: Using the picture clues below, write each small word in the blanks to complete God’s promise in Genesis 8:22, niv.

“As long as the [ ] th

[ ] utes, [ ]

and har [ ]

and h [ ]

1+2= [ ] [ ] mer

and [ ] ter, day and night

w [ ] n [ ] r [ ] cease.”

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22, NIV
Ponder This...

† “Whatever fear still assails us is either a temptation of Satan or a remnant of the old man, for in Christ there can be nothing but supreme assurance and joy.”
—Martin Luther

† “Faith goes up the stairs that love has made and looks out the window which hope has opened.”
—Charles Spurgeon

† “Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God.”
—attributed to Ronald Reagan

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7, NRSV

Downey-Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church
9820 Lakewood Blvd., Downey CA 90240

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested