

THE GOOD NEWS

College Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter

Volume II, Issue III

November 2015

Our Vision

College Drive SDA Church:
at the Intersection of Serving
God and Changing Lives.

Meditation/Prayer

GIVING: The best thing to
give to

Your enemy is forgiveness;
An opponents, tolerance;
A friend, your heart;
Your child, a good example;
Yourself, respect;
All men, charity.

—F.M. Balfour

Show me your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths; guide me
in your truth . . . My hope is in
you all day long

—Psalm 25: 4 (NIV)

(Source: Bless Your Heart (series II), Heartland
Samplers, Inc.)

The Apple Tree

When I was five and my
brother, Bobby (Kelly's
father), was three and a
half, we were playing on
our grandfather Bishoff's
apple orchard. My
grandfather and the hired
apple pickers had finished
harvesting the fruit a day or
two earlier. As we were
playing, I looked up and
saw the most beautiful red
apple I think I had ever
seen. How the pickers had
missed it, I do not know.

Bobby and I started
throwing sticks at it to try to
knock it down, but to no
avail. I got the bright idea
that if I could reach the fork
of the tree, I could climb
out on the limb and shake it
until the apple fell off. An
apple tree is a small tree,



Thanksgiving

Throughout the Bible
thankfulness is
associated with giving.
thankfulness for a gift +

the sharing of that gift = Thanksgiving.
However, we live in a world that is obsessed
with "what's in it for me?" This type of
inward focus actually inhibits us from really
enjoying the celebration of the Thanksgiving
holiday. Maybe this is why, in our modern
culture, the Thanksgiving holiday has been
mostly reduced to over-eating and football.
However, true gratitude for a gift always
expresses itself in the sharing of that gift. So,
how can we really experience
"Thanksgiving" this year? Isaiah 12 tells us.
We must experience the gift, so that we can
share the gift. We have to be able to have the
"thanks" in order to do the "giving."
Otherwise, there can be no Thanksgiving.

Isaiah 12:3 says, "With joy you will draw
water from the wells of salvation." When the
Israelites were in the desert, God supplied
them with water from a smitten rock (Ex.
17:6; Num. 20:8–11). This miracle was later
celebrated by an impressive ceremony in the
temple at the Feast of Tabernacles. Water =
life, especially for Israel in the desert.
Centuries later Jesus alluded to this ceremony
in John 7:37 when on the last day of the feast,
He invited the people to come to Him and
drink. Christ is the fountain from whence
flows the water that will bring life and
healing to us. God gave us an amazing gift in
His Son, Jesus. Through his death and
resurrection, although we live in a
wilderness, work in a wilderness, and often
our lives feel like parched wilderness, we can

and I thought that for a five-year-old, it was
a good idea.

We saw several empty fruit boxes nearby, so
Bobby and I proceeded to stack the empty
fruit boxes on top of each other so I could
climb up to the fork in the tree. I then

come to Jesus and drink freely from His
water and be renewed. In fact Revelation
21:6 assures us that on the glorious day
Jesus returns, He will declare, "And he
said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha
and the Omega, the beginning and the
end. To the thirsty I will give from the
spring of the water of life without
payment." What an amazing gift!

Once we truly appreciate the gift of the
gospel (the "thanks"), giving is a natural
response. The very next verse in Isaiah
12:4 says, "And you will say in that day:
"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his
name, make known his deeds among the
peoples, proclaim that his name is
exalted." When you see His amazing
blessings, you will share His amazing
blessings. Think about it. . .if there were
more praise among the people of God,
there would be less pouting, people
pleasing, and faultfinding. It's because
we fail to remember the wonderful
mercies of heaven (the giving), that we
dwell on the mistakes of others. So let's
really celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday
this year by making known all He has
done for us! Dwell on the ultimate gift,
Jesus, and express your thankfulness by
sharing that gift with someone else.

From Pastor Richie

proceeded to pull myself up the tree and
just as I got my head and neck into the
fork of the tree, the boxes that I was
standing on fell from under me. My head
was now stuck in the fork of the tree and
my feet were just dangling. I think I can

Valuable Moments ~ Time With Our Kids



November's Moment ~ Talk at the Table With our Kids

Of course, one's thoughts would naturally turn to being thankful in November, saying/singing grace at the table on that special day and making a list of blessings. How about every day, not just Thanksgiving Day. I recently read a one page article in the October issue of, "Bon Appetit" that sharpened my focus on mealtimes with our kids, that takes us beyond the admirable goal of gathering the family at home for nutritious dinners regularly. Another periodical recommended, "Sit down and talk with your kids...if you don't think you have time, make time...Then we all sat down around the kitchen table—and I can't stress too strongly how important is to sit down." Or to value and protect the regularness of family time around the table together.

The title of the Bon Appetit article is "Small Talk" with the tag line, "Hoping to get more than one-word answers out of your kids? The dinner table can help." The author is mother, blogger, and writer, Jenny Rosenstrach. She recognizes the special and growing technological challenges competing for our kids' attention and has done some research herself. Her points are gathered from MIT psychologist Sherry Turkle's new book Reclaiming Conversation. Her bullet point suggestions are:

*No devices at the table--the not so subtle message of that is, something happening elsewhere is more important.

*Make it regular—the ritual is important. Dinner happens, then happens again the next night, it's ongoing.

*Make it safe—dinner conversations aren't performances.

*Don't ask how their day was—Her suggestion. "Try this instead. Do you know where your grandparents grew up?" "Studies show that dinner is a good place to remind kids that they are part of a larger narrative—if nothing else, it puts middle school

still feel the strain I had on my head and ears. I was struggling for each small breath of air I could get. There is no way I was going to be able to ask Bobby to go get help.

Once he saw my predicament, he just started running around and around the tree. Then all of a sudden he started running to the house. He grabbed my grandfather's finger and pulled it until grandfather realized he wanted to show him something. What grandfather saw was a foolish little boy who had gotten himself into deep trouble. Grandfather reached and lifted me up to get my head out of the fork of the tree. Bobby, being only three and a half years old saved my life. I will always believe that a small still voice told him what to do. P.S. I forgot all about the apple. My Savior lives.

By Billy Bishoff

Activities/Events/Ministries

Visitors' Lunch: Immediately following Sabbath service. Consult the church bulletin for details and changes. *Please contact Delane Lesh at (601) 668-9728 to sign-up to host a visitors' lunch.*

Fellowship Dinner: Second Sabbath of the month. See the church bulletin for details and changes.

Men's Ministry: Get involved. Contact Manuel Recinos or Enrique Guzman.

Women's Ministries: Ladies, come join us. Contact Janet Thomas at (601) 506-9750 or jthomas4951@Comcast.net.

Feeding the Homeless Ministry: Third Sabbath of the month, please join us. Contact Dan or Joann Mitzlaff to help (601) 824-9776.

Celebrate Recovery: Every Tuesday at 6:30 PM at the Ridge. Contact Melanie Womack at (601) 421-0177 for information about this ministry.

Food Pantry: Please continue to bring non-perishable food items to stock our food pantry. Remember to label them—for the food pantry.

Health Ministry: First Sabbath of the month, information display table of free water, and handouts about health. Contact Katie Dearborn to help with this ministry (601) 954-2652.

Hospital Ministry: Once a month Ms. Pat or Ms. Joyce visits Riveroaks and Crossgates Hospitals. Contact Pat Roan to help with this ministry (601) 214-4648.

Small Groups Meetings: Check with Teri Spracklen to get the details.

Prison Ministry: Every Friday night. Contact Nick Lesh to help with this ministry (601) 668-9727.

Christian School: Family or friends looking for an excellent elementary school within a Christian environment, contact us at (601) 933-0990 or www.collegedriveschool.com

drama into perspective."

And of course, if you want to encourage your kids to talk, the natural follow through is to be a good listener.

Proverbs 27:23: Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds... (NIV)

Feeding your family may well be the most important thing you do all day, make it count, make it delicious, and make it fun. I've included a few links below:

<http://www.dinneralovestory.com/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/04/books/review/jonathan-franzen-reviews-sherry-turkle-reclaiming-conversation.html?_r=0

By Kathleen Martin

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