



From The Pastor's Heart
The Stroudsburg
Seventh-day Adventist Church

CHURCH AT WORSHIP c2
April 16, 2016 **Second Service**

Greeting Brothers and Sisters;

Peace love and grace be unto you! Whether you have been a Christian for many years or just recently received the Lord Jesus, it's very important to know how to grow in Christ. What does it mean to grow in Christ? For some people growing in Christ means acquiring knowledge about Christ. Unfortunately, improving behavior, increasing Bible knowledge, or developing spiritual gifts are necessary but not sufficient for your Spiritual growth in Christ.

The bible says in 2 Peter 3:18 KJV: **But grow in grace**, and [in] the **knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and forever. Amen. Growing in knowledge is not a sure proof that we are growing in grace. You cannot grow in grace without having a greater knowledge of God, but you can gain a knowledge of God and not grow in grace. Some have concluded they were better Christians, were stronger in grace, and were more highly pleasing to God because they had learned more about the Bible and about what constitutes true Christian living. I am acquainted with people that know much about God, the Bible, and the plan of salvation, and yet have no grace at all.

To grow in grace, the conditions for growth must be complied with. The sincere milk of the word must be desired. There can be no growth without this. The word of God produces growth in grace as naturally as food promotes physical development. You must eat God's word. This is the only food that contains all the elements necessary for symmetrical Christian growth. We read, "I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up."* It is the word of grace that will build you up into a strong pillar in the kingdom of God. You must feed on the word of His grace, upon the sincere milk of His word. The Christian can no more grow in grace; he can no more get to be like Jesus or have a closer walk with Him, without feeding frequently and bountifully upon God's word, than the child can grow as He should without eating the foods so necessary to growth.

Growing in grace requires that we spend time with God and his word in prayer and Bible study. Read the Bible daily, thoughtfully, prayerfully, devouringly. Read it believingly. If you believe it fully, then it becomes a truth in your heart. Suppose we open the Bible to the forty-sixth Psalm and read, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* Believing this fully makes you strong; you can face any danger; you can conquer any foe. This will require time. You cannot get food for your soul from the word of God by hurriedly reading a chapter. You must meditate upon it and get it down into your heart by believing it fully. It seems I am so unable to say what I feel is needful to be said that many of my dear readers might be made to understand the need of taking plenty of time to feast upon the Scriptures. In the early morning take time to be alone with God, and in the twilight hour, oh! do take time to commune with Him who loves you and is all to you.

If you are growing in grace and are flourishing as the palm tree, you will become more deeply affected in your heart by the goodness and the mercy of God, and are gaining a closer walk with God.

Why not begin today by putting God first so that your life will be a witness of what God does in the lives of those who are growing in Grace.

Your Brother in Christ

† Pastor Livingstone Aaron

- Introit....."We Have Come Into This House"Praise Team
- Call to Worship.....Eld. Michael Douglas
- Doxology....."Praise God from Whom".....Congregation
- Invocation..... Pastor Livingstone Aaron
- Welcome..... Eld. Michael Douglas
- AnnouncementsChurch Clerk
- Pastoral Announcements.....Pastor Livingstone Aaron
- Hymn of Adoration.....#109.....Congregation
- Scripture Reading.....2 Samuel 7: 1-13..... Sis. Natalie Gibbs
- Intercessory Prayer..... Bro. Enrique Rogers

"I Must Tell Jesus"

- Special Music.....Children's Choir
- Children's Story.....Sis. Debbie Smith
- Offertory..... Eld. Janine Woodley- Brown

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

- Praise and Worship.....Praise Team
- Hymn of Meditation.....#484..... Congregation
- Sermon..... Pastor Livingstone Aaron
- Hymn of Consecration.....#307..... Congregation
- Benediction..... Eld. Michael Douglas

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED UNTIL USHERED OUT

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Holy Communion on Sabbath April 23, 2016

1. The Lord's Supper is a reminder of what Jesus did in the past, a symbol of our present relationship with him, and a promise of what he will do in the future. Let's review these three aspects

Paul said, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#)). The Lord's Supper looks back to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

So the Lord's Supper, although a memorial of a death, is not a funeral, as if Jesus were still dead. Quite the contrary—we observe this memorial knowing that death held Jesus only three days—knowing that death will not hold us forever, either. We rejoice that Jesus has conquered death, and has set free all who were enslaved by a fear of death ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)). We can remember Jesus' death with the happy knowledge that he has triumphed over sin and death! As Jesus said, our mourning will turn into joy ([John 16:20](#)). Coming to the Lord's Table and having communion should be a celebration, not a funeral.

2. So the Lord's Supper helps us look upward, to Christ, and be mindful that true life can only be in him and with him.

But when we are aware that Jesus lives in us, we also pause to think what kind of home we are giving him. Before he came into our lives, we were habitations of sin. Jesus knew that before he even knocked on the door of our lives. He wants to get in so he can start cleaning things up. But when Jesus knocks, many people try to do a quick tidy-up before they open the door. However, we are humanly unable to cleanse our sins—the most we can do is hide them in the closet.

So as we examine ourselves, we need to look around to see whether we are treating one another in the way that Jesus commanded. If you are united with Christ and I am united to Christ, then we are united to each other. So the Lord's Supper, by picturing our participation in Christ, also pictures our participation (other translations may say communion or sharing or fellowship) with each other.

1. The Lord's Supper or the Holy Communion reminds us of Jesus' Second coming. Jesus said he would not drink the fruit of the vine again until he came in the fullness of the kingdom ([Matthew 26:29](#); [Luke 22:18](#); [Mark 14:25](#)). Whenever we participate, we are reminded of Jesus' promise. There will be a great messianic "banquet," a "wedding supper" of celebration. The bread and wine are miniature rehearsals of what will be the greatest victory celebration in all history. Paul wrote that "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#)).

CHURCH AT WORSHIP c4

April 16, 2016

First Service

Introit.....Sweet, Sweet Spirit
(Please Remain Standing)

Call to Worship..... Eld. Michael Douglas
(Congregation, Please Stand)

Invocation..... Pastor Livingstone Aaron

Welcome..... Eld. Michael Douglas
(Congregation, Please Sit)

ADORATION & PRAISE

Hymn of Adoration..... Bro. Enrique Rogers
(Please Remain Standing)

Intercessory Prayer..... Elder Donna Wilson
(Those Able, Please kneel)

STEWARDSHIP & GRATITUDE

Offertory..... Eld. Janine Woodley-Brown

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading Sis. Wendy Carrington

Sermon..... Pastor Livingstone Aaron

Hymn of Consecration..... Congregation

Benediction..... Eld. Michael Douglas

THE CHURCH AT STUDY

April 16, 2016

9:15 AM — 10:45 AM

Welcome..... Bro Harold Bell
Opening Prayer.....Eld. Clive Cato
Opening Song..... “Learn To Lean” Congregation
Scripture ReadingBro. Nicholas Bell
World Mission Emphasis..... Bro. Kevin Batt
Lesson Study: Second Quarter, 2016.....Lesson #3
Secretary Report Sabbath School Secretary
Welcome Visitors.....Sis. Donna Bell
Special Music.....Eld. Glen Meliti
Closing Remarks..... Bro Harold Bell

HEALTH NUGGET

"The thoughts you choose to think have much to do with your ability to relax. Thoughts which have been stressing your mind all day can be replaced with thoughts that are restful, forgiving, and hopeful.

Probably one of the greatest hindrances to a calm relaxed state of mind is guilt. There can be no substitute for the strength and peace of mind that comes from a sense of right doing. If you have wronged someone else, go and make it right. If someone has wronged you, the resulting anger and resentment will increase stress hormones and leave you anxious. Forgiveness to all is essential to a stress free mind and body." <http://newstartclub.com/resources/detail/stress>

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

C3F2

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Biblical principles of financing a church building project

Church fund raising is biblical and necessary. As Christians, we should give, and give generously. However, giving also involves a great deal of discernment and wisdom. The Bible tells us to "Test everything, hold on to the good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). This certainly applies to our responsibility in giving to churches and other Christian ministries. Any type of fundraising activity needs to be tested against the scriptures:

- New Testament giving should always be voluntary. Christians are exhorted to give as part of their spiritual growth, but never forced to give in any amount or way. Ministries that demand a certain amount, or condemn members for not supporting a certain project, are violating biblical principles (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
- Biblical giving should be proportional to one's income. Giving beyond one's ability or to the point of debt is unbiblical and can lead to financial bondage. This is not to say that God won't test our faith and ask us to give more than usual, but scripture clearly instructs us to give out of what God has already given to us (see 2 Corinthians 8:11-12).
- Biblical giving entails accountability. It is important to know how His money will be used to benefit the Kingdom. One should be wary of any fundraising program that will not willingly disclose its financial activities. Paul made sure the churches appointed Godly men from their congregation to oversee the distribution of the funds, so no one could doubt the integrity of the projects (see 2 Corinthians 8:18-21).
- Biblical giving is always motivated by love - love for God and love for others. Giving must never be motivated by selfish gain or recognition. Love was the primary motivation for the collection made by the early church. Any fundraising activity that promises material blessings or says "give this and God will do this for you" should be heavily scrutinized (see 2 Corinthians 8:24)

Giving also demands great faith. Giving of our resources reflects our trust in God's provision. Our faith and reliance on God is increased when we are able to give and see God's faithfulness. God wants us to put our total trust in Him and not find our security in money and possessions. God is indeed all-powerful, and He needs nothing from us. However, He helps us grow in spiritual maturity by inviting us to play a part in His plans and purposes through our giving. As Christians, we give not out of guilt or coercion. We give out of a profound sense of wanting to share in the love and blessing God has already bestowed on us. Whether the amount is great or small, our obedience in giving brings forth joy and enlarges our faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Up-Coming Events

No Adventist Youth Society (AYS): Today, see you next Sabbath at 4:30 PM.

Sabbath Prayer Session: Today - Immediately after Divine Service in the Kindergarten class room, all are welcome.

Women's book club meeting is postponed for this month due to the women's retreat. Next meeting will be held on May 22nd from 11am- 1pm sharp. Come prepared to discuss chapters 3,4 from the book I FORGIVE BUT and bring a friend.

Prayer Line: Sunday Apt. 17th @ 8PM. Phone number 712-432-0175 Access Code 853923#.

Men fellowship evening tonight: Saturday April 16, 2016. All men are invited to come and fellowship and to break bread one with thee another. Right after we discuss the Topic..... "ARE ALL MEN DOGS"

MT. Pocono Youth Concert

In celebration of their 5th Anniversary, MT. Pocono SDA is holding a Youth Concert tonight April 16 3 – 6 pm

Retreat Announcement; Singles

The Chesapeake Chapter of Adventist Single Adult Ministries invites all singles to our Spring Retreat. The event takes place on the weekend of April 15-17, 2016 at Hagerstown MD. The speaker will be Jose Hernandez. His topic will be "Walking the Walk." He will discuss how God is with us during the tough times in our lives. Mr. Hernandez is a hospice Chaplain and lay pastor and small group leader with a Masters Degree in Pastoral Counseling. Come and enjoy spiritual enrichment, fellowship and good food.

For more information, contact: Fred Thomas (410) 992-9731, or e-mail

fmthomas1950@gmail.com.

Question: "What is the value of a prayer meeting?"

"**Answer:** From the very beginning of the church, Christians have gathered to pray (Acts 4:24; 12:5; 21:5). Prayer meetings are valuable for the church as a whole and for the individuals who participate.

Prayer is only for those who believe that God is personal and who want a personal relationship with Him. Christians know prayer works because they have encountered a God who declares, "Talk to me and I will listen." The apostle John confirms this: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

Through our prayers, especially with one another, we are demonstrating and validating the faith we have in Jesus. Andrew Murray, the great Christian minister and prolific writer, said, "Prayer depends chiefly, almost entirely, on who we think we are praying to." It is through the discipline of prayer with one another that we develop a growing intimacy with God, and create a spiritual bond with one another. This is one of the most valuable aspects of praying with one another.

More than anything else, prayer meetings bring about change. Praying with one another, believers can witness God produce miracles and change hearts.

A prayer meeting is a time of real value as believers seek a deep intimacy and quiet communion with God at His throne. It is a time of unity with fellow believers in the presence of the Lord. It is a time to care for those around us as we share their burdens. It is a time when God manifests His never-ending love and desire to communicate with those who love Him.

We are inviting all of our brothers and sisters to please join us in spending an hour in study and prayer every Wednesday night. Come and let God do something wonderful in your life.

Q2 THEME SONG: LEARNING TO LEAN_{c6}

**The joy I can't explain fills my soul
The day I made Jesus my king
His Blessed Holy Spirit is leading my way
He's teaching and I'm learning to lean**

**(Chorus) Learning to lean
Learning to lean,
I'm learning to lean on Jesus
Finding more power than I've ever dreamed
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.**

**Sad broken hearted, at an alter I knelt
I found peace that was so serene
And all that He asks is a childlike trust
And a heart that is learning to lean**

**There's a glorious victory, each day now for me
I've found peace so serene
He helps me with each task, If I'll only ask
Everyday now I'm learning to lean**

CHURCH BUSINESS

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

- Sanctuary Choir – Sabbath after AY
- Youth Choir (12 years and up) – Sabbath at 2:30 PM
- Children’s Choir (2 years thru 11 years) - Sabbath at 3PM

Baby Dedications Third Sabbath of Each Month

Medical Personnel on Duty.....Sis. Joyce Anderson & Bro. Michael Dumpereh

Pathfinders Club: meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month.

This Bulletin is also available on-line.. @..... <http://www.stroudsburgsda.org>

Like Us on Facebook @.....*Stroudsburg Seventh-Day Adventist Church*

Please send all Requests for Church Related Information to.....
stroudchurchclerk@gmail.com

All heads of departments are asked to check their mailboxes weekly.

Help Wanted

- Let’s Get prepared for Spring cleanup. Watch this space for the next scheduled Church cleanup, we need as many participants as we can get.

SICK & SHUT-IN

Bro.Richard Adams 1361 Resica Falls Rd, East Stroudsburg 570-223-7727

Bro. Drakes at Brookmont Health Care Center Effort, PA 610-681-4070

Sis. Nemesia Rance 267 King St, Stroudsburg, 570-619-5338

Bro. Norm Leap 570-992-4970

Please remember **Sister Pitts**, **Brother Colegangle** and **Brother Samson** in your prayers.

Financial Report as of 04/09/2016

.....	This Month	For The Year
Amount needed	\$10,998	\$ 131,976
Amount collected:	\$ 5,794	\$ 39,374
Amount Difference	\$ -5,204	\$ -92,603

Sunsets

CSF3 Today: 7:47 PM

Next Friday: 7:53 PM

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Consider Your Priorities.

PROVERBS 3:9-10 (Solomon)

9 Honor the LORD with your substance, and with the first-fruits of all your increase:
10 So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine.

MALACHI 3:7-11

7 Even from the days of your fathers you are gone away from my ordinances, and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you said, In what shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But you say, In what have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he will not destroy the fruits of your ground; nor will your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, says the LORD of hosts.

Note: God says that he will open the widows of heaven and pour a great blessing on us who pay tithes (Malachi 3:10), and that he will protect our crops from being destroyed. Honoring God with the first-fruits of "your increase" (Proverbs 3:9), which refers to tithes, also brings the promise of a great blessing (Proverbs 3:10). Many Christians may be losing money, as if they are putting their money in pockets with holes in, because they are not paying a tithe. Their crops may be destroyed by famine, or insects, or disease, or drought, because they are not paying a tithe, and they are cursed (Malachi 3:9). Tithing then is a matter of faith. God says that if we tithe we will be better off than if we don't, and the question is, "Do we believe it or not?" Those who believe God here will pay their tithe, and those who don't, probably won't.

God says that if we don't pay tithes we are robbing him (Malachi 3:8). Why? Because the tithe belongs to God (See #2.1). Let me ask this question: "If Jesus returned for his church, and you were in the actual act of robbing someone when he came, do you think that you would be saved?" How much less if you are caught in the act of robbing God when he returns, by not paying tithes? To obtain the blessing of God, and to avoid robbing him are two good reasons for a Christian to pay tithes.

WHO ARE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS?

WHAT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE

We believe that Jesus Christ;

Is found throughout the entire Word of God. (John. 5:39; II Tim. 3:16, 17)

Is the divine Son of God and our personal Savior. (John. 1:1-3; Heb. 7:25)

Offers His righteousness to all who accept Him by faith. (Rom. 4:3-5)

Soon coming will be visible to all, and at that time He will raise the dead.
(I Thess. 4:16, 17; I Cor.15:52)

Is the source of a new birth experience. (John. 3:3-5)

Is the Creator of the world, and established the 7th day Sabbath for His people to remember His creative power. (Heb. 1:1, 2; Ex. 20:8-11)

Is our example that the Ten Commandment Law is a reflection of God's perfect character, and that it is our pattern for successful living. (John. 15:10, James. 2:8-12)

In the Old and New Testaments, outlined the free giving of tithes and offerings to support the work of the church. (Mal. 3:10; Matt. 23:23)

Through His baptism, gave an example of His death and resurrection, and new life through our baptism. (Mark. 1:9; Rom. 6:3-5)

Through the Holy Spirit, makes our body His temple. (I Cor. 3:16, 17)

Gives the gifts of the Spirit for the unity of the faith and the perfection of the saints.
(Eph. 4:8-11; I Cor. 12)

Expects modesty and deportment in His children. (I Tim 2:9, 10)

Is now our heavenly Priest, and gives His last message for all mankind that,
"the hour of God's judgment is come." (Rev. 14:6-12; Heb. 8:1-6)

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US	OUR PEOPLE
<p>Prayer Meeting - Wed. 7:00 pm First Service - Sat. 8:30 am Sabbath School - Sat. 9:45 am Second Service - Sat. 11:00 am Adventist Youth Society Sat. 1 hour before sunset</p> <p>c1</p>	<p>Pastor: Livingstone Aaron 570-355-5762 416 Tranquility Ct. Long Pond, PA 18334 Email: laaron@paconference.org</p> <p>Church Clerk: Stacey Charles 570-534-5311 Head Elder: James Obegi 201-423-3227 Community Services: Jamala Asiyu - 570-369-5213 Pocono Adventist Christian School- 570-421-5577</p>