
WHEN GOD INTERRUPTS YOUR LIFE:
**THE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS**

RODLIE ORTIZ

DECEMBER 8

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH




9:00 & 11:45 AM

WELCOME

to Pioneer

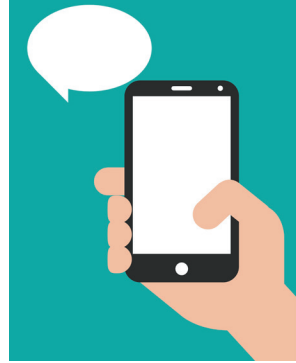
In the book *Give and Take* the authors share research about 3 different types of reciprocity styles. Takers like to receive more than they give. Matchers balance and give on quid pro quo basis. Givers like to give more than they get. During this Advent season, one cultural trait of givers stands out. Givers focus on the success of the group than the self. Sound familiar? Take a second and scroll to John 3:16. God is a giver. It can be easy to lose clarity on one of the top characteristics of God in the midst of the socio-political culture war happening now. This Advent season let's ensure the world is clear: God gives His loves to all. Join with me in proclaiming without reservation God is a giver. Welcome!

-José Bourget

 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
OFFICE HOURS Monday – Thursday (9 to 5) • Friday (9 to 12)		PHONE – 269.471.3133 FAX – 269.471.6152
LIVE STREAMING www.pmchurch.org Sabbath 11:45 AM	ONLINE www.pmchurch.org www.newperceptions.tv	RADIO WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM
 NOMINATING REPORT Scan this code to read the Nominating Committee Report.		 FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL

FIND IT HERE

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO



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9:00 AM Service

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WE STUDY

"Unity and Broken Relationships"

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WE WORSHIP 2

11:45 AM Service

blessings OVERFLOW

BY JIM FORD

Dear PMC Family—Many of you systematically and sacrificially support students at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and at Andrews Academy through giving to the Student Aid Fund on your tithe envelop. Giving to this fund from January through September totals \$28,296. Year-end (December) giving typically swells this amount. The average giving is around \$50,000 a year.

Therefore, this is the amount of money your Student Aid Committee allocated to fund Christian education this year. This goal was set in the summer and allocations to individual students were made in faith that you folks will come through again. Please remember that the Christian Education offering supports school operations, which are important, but the Student Aid Fund goes directly to reduce education costs for students. For the current school year, we (you) are helping 70 students, 41 at Ruth Murdoch and 29 at Andrews Academy. We look to you, the PMC family, to donate to cover this cost through the Student Aid offering.

The local public schools provide a high-quality education, academically and physically, for the children who attend these schools. However, God is not incorporated into the public-school curriculum as it is at Ruth Murdoch and Andrews Academy. Christian education can have life-lasting positive impacts on children.

Following are several excerpts taken from thank-you letters, written by parents and students, addressed to YOU, the ones who support the Student Aid Fund.

From a parent: "With love and gratitude I express my profound appreciation on behalf of my family to the entire Pioneer Memorial Congregation for the active part they played in providing the assistance needed for my daughter to benefit from Adventist Christian Education at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School.

My daughter has longed for the opportunity to attend an Adventist school just like her siblings. She got home one day from the public school and expressed her sadness and concern for not having the opportunity to listen to the story of Jesus. She asked me, "mum, when will I start to attend the school where the stories of Jesus are told every day?" My heart bled and tears rolled down my cheek as I assured her that God will provide. I therefore summoned up the courage to take the bold step of faith which is now a reality.

My heart rejoices and I am encouraged to be a member of the Pioneer Memorial family. Thank you for this golden privilege. God's blessings."

From a parent: "We thank you for being a part of this journey. As a result of your giving, many young minds are being molded for Christ that will lead them to



follow the Lord until He returns. We pray the reward of your gift follows you eternally."

From a student: "Thank you for your gifts of love. I enjoy going to RMES every day. I like my teachers. I like my friends and I love learning about Jesus."

From a student: "I want to thank the PMC members for helping me to have the opportunity to receive a Christian Education at RMES. I am happy for having the chance to learn a new language, to get to know friends from different parts of the world, and mainly, to learn more about Jesus."

From a student: "I am eternally grateful for the scholarship that you have granted to me. I am thankful for my school and the friends that influence me in a positive way. I enjoy the worship, community and other extra-curricular activities at RMES. This school has allowed me to grow a closer relationship with my God and Savior, Jesus."

From a parent: "My belief is that God will use this blessing [Student Aid funding]

to continue in places you may never imagine."

From a parent: " Just a few weeks ago I had one amazing experience with my son who is 7 years old. . . . I saw the lights were on and he was reading something. . . . He was reading his Bible, on his own. . . . When he saw me he asked me some questions about what he was reading. This really made me feel good. . . . I'm very happy as I see my son growing with love for God, and I know how important it is to have the school, the church and home together guiding him in the same direction toward heaven."

Thank you for your support of the Student Aid Fund. Look for Student Aid on your tithe and offering envelope or at AdventistGiving.org. ■

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write
"Christian Education"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary

How Brightly Shines The Morning Star • Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel • Traditional Melody

Call to Worship

José Bourget

Be not afraid because I bring good news of great joy!

Behold, a great joy will come to all the people!

An angel proclaimed, "For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Let us celebrate this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us!

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation

Rodlie Ortiz

Hymn of Praise

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear • 130

Congregational Prayer

José Bourget

O Come, All Ye Faithful • st. 1 of 132

Worship in Music

Advent Alleluia • Jonathan Willcocks

Children's Story

Andrew Vargas

Variations on "O Come, All Ye Faithful • Marcel Dupré

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-21 NIV • Joe and Felissa Francisco

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Hymn of Preparation

Away in a Manger • st. 1 & 3 of 124

Sermon

"When God Interrupts Your Life: The Meaning of Christmas"
Rodlie Ortiz

Tithes & Offerings

World Budget (NAD Community Services)

Hymn of Commitment

As With Gladness Men of Old • 123

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Fugue on a Christmas Theme • Marcel Dupré

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Brenton Offenback
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Brenton Offenback, director; Joshua Goines, organ

MUSIC ALIVE

"CAROLING"

"Caroling, caroling": But what is a carol? "Carol" properly denotes a song of English origin, although often it is used to refer to similar non-English songs such as the Noël (French) and the Weihnachtslied (German). Carols were sung as long ago as medieval times, when they commonly had English or Latin texts based on the Christmas story. Unlike most hymns in America today, the medieval English

carol began with the refrain (chorus), then continued with verse-refrain groupings. By the middle Renaissance, many carols apparently were associated with bodily movement such as walking in procession. Some carol melodies also have associated with non-carol texts, as with the melody in the Douglas Wagner arrangement today. In our time, the joy of the Christmas carol continues to inspire Christian worship. ■

Advent New

Over two thousand years ago God put to work His plan to give the world a new beginning through the gift of Jesus. Under the roof we experience all kinds of new starts, from dedications to baptisms. It is never too late or too early to take your first steps in giving your heart to Jesus. If you want to take those first steps email renovate@pmchurch.org or get in touch with one of our pastors today. Jesus will readily receive your gift!

RENOVATE

heart & house

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH





WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service Vladimir Slavujevic

Scripture Matthew 18:15 • Lonnie Ayaz

Welcome & Prayer Qaisar Ayaz

Special Feature "Empower-One Mission" • Timetta Wilson

Offering

Lesson Study "Unity and Broken Relationships"

Theme Song *Make Me a Blessing*

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.
Out of my life may Jesus shine.
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

"Make Me a Blessing," Ira Bishop Wilson
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction Vladimir Slavujevic

ORGANIST: Brenton Offenback
OFFERTORY: Joshua Goines

WE WORSHIP 2

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" —*Matthew 1:18-21 (NIV)*

We Begin

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Traditional Melody

Praise

What Child Is This
Away in a Manger/How Many Kings
Unto Us
Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Prayer

José Bourget

Children's Story

Andrew Vargas
Variations on "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Marcel Dupré

Worship in Music

Advent Alleluia
Jonathan Willcocks

Sermon

"When God Interrupts Your Life: The Meaning of Christmas"
Rodlie Ortiz

Tithes & Offerings

As With Gladness Men of Old
123

As We Depart

Fugue on a Christmas Theme
Marcel Dupré

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Brenton Offenback

PRAISE LEADER: Rob Folkenberg; CAJON: Marielle Kahler; HARP: Bethany Folkenberg

PIANO: Joshua Goines; VOCALS: Bethany Folkenberg, Cassandra Kern, Randy Folkenberg

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Brenton Offenback, director; Joshua Goines, organ

SUBMIT bulletin announcements by visiting our form online at www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received Monday by 5:00 PM for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
Church Operating Budget

SUNSET TODAY • 5:14
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:14

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 15 |

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Ben Martin

| 12 • 22 |

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST 9:00-10:00 AM

9:00 AM service will not meet

FINANCIAL FEATURE

WORLD BUDGET (NAD COMMUNITY SERVICES)

We see panhandlers frequently. The very sight of them tugs at our hearts, and we wrestle with whether to give or not. Recently, a pastor had an encouraging experience with some of these folks. He had been downsizing and taking many of his things to a flea market. One afternoon, a couple came by and asked if they could help because they were hungry. They worked hard. Evidently, this was a worthy case and he gave them a generous sum and prayed with them. As Adventists, we are blessed with our community services organizations. We can trust that our support goes a long way in making a difference in many lives.

Update Regarding Pastor Dwight K. Nelson

As you may have heard, Pastor Dwight had two unexpected surgeries for injuries incurred while on a pastoral staff Christmas excursion. He is recovering and appreciates the kind notes and thoughtful prayers you've lifted. At the present time, we are asking for no-one to visit so that Pastor Dwight can have the necessary rest and recovery important in these early days post surgery. To share your own note of support and read the latest updates, please visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/dwightnelson.

We Mourn

- We grieve today with Pioneer member Tari Popp whose brother-in-law, Bill (Lynda Popp) Swanson, died on Friday, November 23, in Apopka, Florida. A funeral was held on Sunday, December 2. With the Popp and Swanson families we pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
- George Daniel, a PMC member since the early 70s and a Sabbath School teacher, passed away on November 30, 2018. Visitation is at Allred Funeral Home on December 15, 5:00-7:00 PM and the funeral service is at PMC on December 16, 2018, 9:00 AM. With his wife, Vimala, brother, William Daniel, two daughters Sabeulah (Brian) Bates and Lynda Daniel-Underwood, and their families we long for Jesus' triumphant return.

• The memorial service for Pastor Arne Swanson will be here in the sanctuary Tuesday afternoon, 4:00 PM, December 11. Visitation will be on Monday, December 10, between 6:00-8:00 PM at Allred Funeral Home.

Family Vespers

5:00 PM • PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

This evening we will enjoy a video of Christmas music by Livia and Florin Liga.

Thank You!

I wish to thank my church family for the support given me during Bob's illness and death. I've been encircled in God's arms of love. Thank you. —Jean Patterson

Adventist Forum Meeting

TODAY • 3:30 PM

CHAN SHUN HALL

Michael Nixon, Esq., Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion at Andrews University, will present "How Can Reform Movements for Racial and Social Justice in the Past Inform the Church's Direction on Justice and Reconciliation Today?"

Nathan Greene Open House

DEC. 9, 2018 • 12:00-6:00 PM

Nathan Greene's Art Studio will feature the Seven Days of Creation Series, the Historical Art and Artifacts Loft, and the classic favorites. The Studio is located at 8458 Painter School Road, Berrien Center, MI 49102. Questions? 269.461.6347.

Violin Needed

The Honduras mission team needs a used violin and children's recorders (or funds to buy some) for the children's home in Honduras. Contact Glenn Russell (glenn@andrews.edu). We want to share the joy of music with these precious children.

Christmas Angel Tree (previously known as Adopt-A-Family)

GIVE TODAY

Brighten someone's holiday and bring smiles to struggling individuals. This is a great opportunity to show someone in need that we as a church care. Please stop by the Christmas Angel Tree located at the Welcome Center. Choose an angel from the tree. You can either give a donation (money, gift card, food, toys, etc.) or buy a gift for them. Then bring the gift wrapped with the angel attached to it to PMC by December 17 (Monday). You may call Lailane Legoh at 471.3543 if you have any questions.

Andrews Academy Concerts

All are invited to attend this free program held at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University. Andrews Academy will be presenting the 46th annual Feast of Lights program on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The community is invited to attend this spectacular night of music, Scripture and drama honoring the King of Kings. It is an evening of bells, instruments, choral singing, congregational singing, and the retelling of a glorious Christmas story. Chorale and Orchestra will end the program with four choruses from Handel's Messiah including the Hallelujah chorus at the end. The church sidewalks will be arrayed in Christmas lighting. The program will speak to your hearts of His wondrous love.

You are also invited to an evening of popular Christmas music on Saturday, December 15, at 7:00 PM at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University. Join us as we bring in the holidays with a variety of well-known Christmas songs including a grand finale played by the combined musical groups.

Soup for Students

DECEMBER 11 • 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Finals week is one of the most stressful weeks for a college student, and it's definitely important for them to focus and be prepared, but they must also remember to take breaks, sit back, relax, and sip some soup. On Dec. 11, Tuesday, we are inviting them to come to PMC to enjoy home-cooked soup from you, our church members. We need 30 pots of soup, cookies and bread. We also need volunteers to help serve and clean up. Let us know by Dec. 10 if you can donate or help. Call Lailane Legoh at 269.471.3543.

Paper Crafting Together

DECEMBER 16 • 11:00 AM- 5:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

Have Christmas gifts you need to finish? Cards you want to make to send out? Come to the PMC Commons and work on your projects. Bring your favorite snack. We will provide the chocolate. Questions email sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org.

Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Christmas Programs

DECEMBER 18 & 19

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Please join us at the Howard Performing Arts Center for our annual Christmas programs. The Vocal Christmas program is 7:00 PM on December 18 and the Instrumental program is at 7:00 PM on December 19.

Share Your Story!

Hope Channel is celebrating 15 years of changed lives, and we want to hear yours! Has your life been impacted, changed, or improved since watching Hope Channel? Share your Hope Channel story at www.hopetv.org/yourstory or by calling 1.888.446.7388.

Funeral Dinner Team

The funeral dinner team needs additional helpers to bring food and/or work in the kitchen. If you would like to assist in this way, please contact Pat Erhard at 471.7366 or the church office at 471.6565.

Expedition to Biblical Jordan and Egypt 2019

JUNE 8-21

Join Timeless Tours this coming June 8-21 for an adventure to the biblical lands of Jordan and Egypt. Featuring Andrews University professors Robert Bates—Archaeologist and Egyptologist, and Stefanie Elkins—Archaeologist and Art Historian. This all-inclusive tour includes RT airfare, features visits to Jerash, Petra, the baptismal site of Jesus, a hot air balloon ride, cruise on the Nile and more! For more information www.digtheadventure.com.

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DECEMBER 15

Children's Celebration of Christmas

Join us in collecting toys
for families that need some
extra kindness during this
holiday season.

**Bring an unwrapped
toy to the church
for a child ages 1-16.**

