

PIONEER

CONNECT

MAY 21, 2016



China Mission Report: In the Land of the Dragon, the Lamb



PIONEER ONE • PAGE 8 | PIONEER TWO • PAGE 11

21 weeks until *Hope Trending*

WELCOME




to Pioneer

Everything we do for God is an expression of thanks to Him. Pioneer is here because of dedicated volunteers—many of whom are serving behind the scenes and might never stand up front, but they serve gladly because of what God has done for them.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (Corinthians 9:12-15 *NIV*)

When we say thanks to them and each other—we joyfully acknowledge that God is at work! We are thankful and glad that you are here today. Welcome.

—Sabine Vatel

 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
OFFICE HOURS Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)		PHONE – 269.471.3133 FAX – 269.471.6152
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4

**THE FOURTH
WATCH BLOG**

From China With Love:
For the Woman I
Never Met

6

PIONEER LIFE

5 Ways to Maximize
Sabbath School Learning

8

PIONEER ONE
9:00 AM Worship

10

SABBATH SCHOOL
Peter and the Rock

11

PIONEER TWO
11:45 AM Worship

12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

14

**PIONEER
APPRECIATION**
Looking for Lego Jesus

15

CONTACTS



FROM CHINA WITH LOVE: FOR THE WOMAN I NEVER MET

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

I'm sitting here in my 26th floor hotel room in Hong Kong—high rises towering into the sky all around me. I don't think I will ever forget the anguished, nearly despairing look on her face last Friday afternoon—a desperate face not even my iPhone camera could possibly have captured.

We flew in this afternoon from Xiamen, China—where we (my two translators and

I) spent the last nine-plus days and nights in that thriving seaport city of Fujian Province—a city once remembered in British annals as Amoy (one of the five Chinese ports opened to foreign trade by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842). Our mission in Xiamen—to conduct a public evangelistic series. I say "public," though government officials overseeing religious affairs allow no public marketing of the gospel through

evangelism, thus leaving word-of-mouth and discreetly hand-distributed printed pamphlets as the only advertisements for this series of meetings.

Actually, that we were there at all is a tribute to the influence and respect the pastor of the Xiamen Seventh-day Adventist Church enjoys in the government circles of the city and province. A humble, deeply spiritual and loyal Adventist pastor and leader, he also sits as a leader on the Three Self Patriotic Movement council (a government oversight board established for government sanctioned Protestant churches/congregations). It is because of his relationship with governing authorities that the church received tacit (but necessarily unwritten) permission to invite a foreign preacher to preach in his church for this series, the first time such permission has been granted in Xiamen and the southern provinces of China.

And the woman with the anguished and pleading countenance—I spotted her Friday afternoon as we were touring the large ornate Buddhist temple in Xiamen (across the street from Xiamen University with its commanding 30- or 40-story administration tower). The temple precincts were bedecked with bright red festive hanging lanterns, banners and floral bouquets for the next day's celebration of Buddha's birthday. Shining golden images of Buddha were everywhere you turned on the hillside temple grounds. But as part of the birthday preparations, the entrance to the "most holy place" shrine within the temple was cordoned off from the public with yellow traffic/crowd control tape, leaving all of us sightseers and adherents alike on the outside looking in.

That's when I saw the woman, oblivious to the people milling around behind her, on her knees beneath the yellow tape, her hands clasped, her lips moving, her head

bowing repeatedly toward the now inaccessible golden image of Buddha across the cordoned off courtyard. But it was her face—a face etched I think forever inside of me now—a face I can still see even here as the Hong Kong sun vanishes and the high rise lights below and above me now twinkle in the night—a face of such absolute despair and anguish welling up from a heart that appeared to be breaking in real time while I silently watched—breaking for what, I will never know—but breaking in front of a cordoned off idol that I swear never heard her pleas—and will never answer her prayers.

AND THE WOMAN WITH THE ANGUISHED AND PLEADING COUNTENANCE—I SPOTTED HER FRIDAY AFTERNOON AS WE WERE TOURING THE LARGE ORNATE BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN XIAMEN

Back in my Xiamen hotel room two hours later, my heart broke for a nameless Chinese woman loved by the God whose own heart broke for her on a cross, on another Friday afternoon much longer ago than last week.

"And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all people to Me" (John 12:32).

But who will go—to her, to them, to all the broken hearted—and lift Him up—there, here, wherever? Only the broken hearted, of course—God, you, and me. ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at www.pmchurch.tv/blog.

5 WAYS TO MAXIMIZE SABBATH SCHOOL LEARNING

BY GLYNIS BRADFIELD

“We get what we are” is how the *National Study on Youth and Religion* sums up the strong link between the quality of parents' spiritual growth and that of their children. Research keeps finding that religious foundations change little after the age of 14, and that parents continue to be most influential in spiritual growth through the teen years (yes, stronger often than peers).

What a sobering reality! And awesome opportunity, parents, when we adopt Paul's model: “Follow me as I follow Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1, *MEV*).

Our PMC Junior I Sabbath School is a layered small group that connects, grows, serves, and goes where God leads. We encourage ten-year-olds to study lessons at home. Our small groups build friendships through the year, with teachers sharing their excitement in learning from God's Word each week. Our experienced leaders and teachers (a community member small group) are committed to a third level of ministry: we build friendships with Andrews students who join our team each year, helping them gain experience in Sabbath School ministry. We create ways to serve during the Sabbath School hour, including connecting with the student missionaries through technology,



and shadowing deacons, greeters, and younger Sabbath school division teachers.

There are many ways for you to help your children maximize their Sabbath School learning. Here are five ideas to get you started:

1 CONNECT ANYWHERE

Carry devotional music, Bible readings, and stories to listen to in daily commutes. Try YouVersion—a free Bible app with text and audio in many versions and languages or check out the free Sabbath School app (www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/page-67) which includes text and animated podcasts for all levels. Ask questions, listen, and reflect together on the day's experiences. Model ways to connect with God anywhere, anytime.

2 EASY ACCESS

Keep a Bible, Sabbath School lessons, and other worship materials visible and in the



same place for easy access daily. Rushing in the mornings? Turn breakfast blessing into a prayer for everyone's day. Kids go to bed at different times? Have family worship together right with the evening meal some nights, and individually with kids in their bedrooms other nights—or both. Personal time with each child at least once a week provides golden moments to discuss deep questions, and pray for their personal convictions in dealing with life's challenges in privacy.

③ MEMORIZE THE BIBLE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Write out Bible passages together to attach to the fridge, a mirror or a bedside lamp each week, or carry them as flashcards (on your phone works too). Recapture moments working or traveling together, building reading and speaking skills through memorizing the Bible. Make this something every family

member does—three minutes twice a day for one week, reviewing several passages on a Friday evening, works well for many. Celebrate knowing and recalling memorized Bible teachings. Invite and trust the Holy Spirit to prompt each family member to recall God's word when decisions for right are needed.

④ USE THE TOOLS

Help your child bring their Sabbath School lesson quarterly and Bible to Sabbath School. In Junior I, we build opportunities to use these and incentives for preparing for Sabbath School each week.

⑤ MAKE IT FUN

Make family fun times around worship experiences. Turn a campfire into a time of sharing God's leading in your lives and those of faithful giants from the Bible in your culture long ago as well as currently. Spend time with families who prioritize Christian character-building activities. Get involved with your child in PMC's Moms, Adventurer or Pathfinder Ministries, and invite their friends to join you.

We get what we are; so parents, walk your talk. Prayerfully grow God's upside-down kingdom daily in your home. Enjoy following Christ together, using Sabbath School as a great launchpad to boost your family's spiritual growth this summer. ■

Glynis Bradfield is the leader of Junior I Sabbath School here at PMC.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please indicate
"PMC Operating Expense"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary *Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies • Chi-fang Liang*

Introit *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens • Anonymous Melody*

Call to Worship Sabine Vatel

God's justice is greater than our own, yet God grants us mercy.

**God's wisdom surpasses our understanding,
yet by faith we are learning.**

God's call is demanding, yet God gives us companions for our journey.

Let us worship and learn in God's house this day.

Doxology *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2*

Invocation Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee • 12*

Congregational Prayer Sabine Vatel
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee • st. 1 of 241

Worship in Music *Praise Our God Above • Anonymous Chinese Melody*

"I Thank My God" Children's Sabbath School Leaders
Sherrie Davis

Children's Story *I Love to Tell the Story • Emma Lou Diemer*

Scripture Jeremiah 16:19-21 NIV • Paul & Marit Petersen

Lord, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our ancestors possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good.

Do people make their own gods? Yes, but they are not gods!"

"Therefore I will teach them—this time I will teach them my power and might. Then they will know that my name is the Lord."

Hymn of Preparation *Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming • 358*

Sermon

“China Mission Report: In the Land of the Dragon, the Lamb”
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Cards, Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense

Hymn of Commitment

O Zion, Haste • 365

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Be Not Afraid (from Elijah) • Felix Mendelssohn

PRESIDING PASTOR: Sabine Vatel; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Debra Rosengren, flute

MUSIC ALIVE

FROM CHINA

Today's Worship in Music derives ultimately from an anonymous Chinese melody that is perhaps more than a millennium old. It shares with much anonymous music the trait of using a "gapped" scale, in this case excluding a sixth scale degree. Not nearly so ancient are words by Tzu-chen Chao (Zhao Zichen), born in Deqing, Zhejiang (Chekiang), China in 1888. This author was from a Buddhist family, but a missionary middle-school education helped turn him toward

Christianity. Translator Frank Price was born in Kashing, China. Price's translation reads in part,

"Praise our God above, source of
boundless love:
Spring wind, summer rain, then the
harvest grain...
Through God we are strong; sing our
harvest song.
Sing praise, field and flower, praise
God's mighty power." ■

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service

Ed Higgins

Welcome & Prayer

Tom Baker

Special Feature

Sabine Vatel

Offertory

How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them • George Frideric Handel

Bible Study

“Peter and the Rock” • Classes

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

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Benediction

Ed Higgins

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

OFFERTORY: Afia Asamoah, soprano; Joshoua Goines, piano

WE PRAISE

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

As We Begin

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens • Anonymous Melody

Praise

Days of Elijah • Shout to the Lord • Your Great Name

Prayer

Sabine Vatel

"I Thank My God"

Children's Sabbath School Leaders
Sherrie Davis

Children's Story

I Love to Tell the Story • Emma Lou Diemer

Worship in Music

Praise Our God Above • Anonymous Chinese Melody

Sermon

"China Mission Report: In the Land of the Dragon, the Lamb"
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

Hymn

O Zion, Haste • 365

As We Depart

Be Not Afraid (from Elijah) • Felix Mendelssohn

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
PLATFORM MANAGER: Debbie Weithers; GUITAR: Jerry Wasmer; KEYBOARD: Nathaniel Cogen
MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANO: Joshua Goines; VOCALS: Afia Asamoah, Sinegugu Katenga, Melody Morgan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Debra Rosengren, flute

SUBMIT announcements by emailing bulletin@pmchurch.org or by going to www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
Michigan Advance Partners

SUNSET TODAY • 9:03
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 9:10

PIONEER PULPIT

| 05 • 28 |

1ST SERVICE—Ben Martin
2ND SERVICE—AA Baccalaureate

| 06 • 04 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON
The Widow Factor:
Living on the Edge with God—1

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

The SDA Church is a worldwide movement, but the local church is the center of church ministry. Sabbath School, divine worship, Pathfinder programs, Community Services, evangelism, and many other programs and activities take place in thousands of SDA churches around the world. These activities take place because church members generously give of their time, talents, and means. Today's offering is for the ministries and operations of our church. In Proverbs 11:25 (NIV), we are told that "a generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Let us test this promise and be generous today.

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's flowers are given in celebration of the 68th wedding anniversary of Andrew and Julia Snyder with thankfulness for the blessing they are in our lives every day. With love from their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. —*The families of Denise Snyder Grentz, David Snyder, Becky Snyder Becker, Rachel Snyder Kroncke*

Visitors' Dinner

Join us today after second service in the PMC Commons (downstairs) for a home-cooked vegetarian meal.

GROW Group Leadership Session

TODAY • 4:00 TO 5:00 PM
EARLITEEN LOFT

Join us for a GROW Group Leadership Question and Answer Session. If you have ever considered leading a GROW Group and want to know more about it or just need a refresher, this will be perfect for you! We will review principles and share strategies as well as answer any questions you have.

Adventurers Investiture Service

TODAY • 6:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

Join us for the Investiture Service of the Forever Friends Adventurer Club.

Family Vespers

TODAY • 6:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

We will be joining the Adventurer's Investiture tonight.

Spring Group Violin Recital

TOMORROW • 2:00 PM
HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The AU Pre-College Violin Division would love for you to join us for an amazing (and free) performance! Students ranging in age from 3 to 17 will be performing just over an hour of music from *See Saw* to *Flight of the Bumblebee*—all by memory!

Knitting Hearts Together

MAY 24 • 7:00 TO 8:30 PM
MACCARTY HOME

Are you interested in using your creative skills to bless others? Consider this ministry which creates and delivers items to remind people of this community that they are prayed for and cared for. For more information, contact Alice Williams (alicew@andrews.edu or 471.3373) or LynMacCarty (471.9060 or 208.3377).

WIN! Health & Family Wellness Ministry Conference

MAY 27-30 • SEMINARY CHAPEL

This conference will focus on sharing Jesus—the Great Healer—with anyone who wants to improve their health while serving others. Lead presenter, Wes Youngberg, author of *Goodbye Diabetes* and *Hello Healthy*, presents topics on improving physical, spiritual, and emotional health based on current research. Register on PlusLine at 800.732.7587. For more info check www.winwellness.org.

PMC Office Closed

The PMC office will be closed on Friday, May 27, and Monday, May 30, for the Memorial Day holiday. We will be open at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 31, and look forward to serving you.

Scrapbooking Together

JUNE 5 • 11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

Bring your scrapbooking or card-making supplies and join us for our last scrapbooking event of the school year. Bring your favorite snack to share with the group. We will provide chocolate and prizes.

Open House

JUNE 5 • 2:00 TO 4:00 PM
BERRIEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

You are invited to an Open House to celebrate the May 15 marriage of Joan Banks and Rick Register.

Free Physical Therapy for Balance Problems after Stroke

A group of students from the AU Physical Therapy Department is looking for individuals who have had a stroke at least a year ago to participate in our research project. We are offering free physical therapy sessions focusing on balance training in an overhead safety harness, 3x/week for 8 weeks. If you are interested in participating and would like more info, call Shelby King at 208.993.1272 or email shelby@andrews.edu.

More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, visit our website at www.pmchurch.org/announcements.



LOOKING FOR LEGO JESUS

BY JANE THAYER

This past summer Scott and Ericca, our son and daughter-in-law, with their 5-year-old twins, Gwen and Miles, visited us for two weeks. The family was in the middle of a two-year assignment in Taiwan for the company Scott works for. In Taichung where they lived, they attended a very small English-speaking church that meets in the basement of the Chinese-speaking church. There was no children's Sabbath School department because Gwen and Miles are the only children in the church.

The first Sabbath Gwen and Miles attended the 5-year-old Sabbath School department at PMC, they had no idea what to expect. There were songs to sing, a little car to ride, a puppet show, a Bible lesson, and a craft. Troy Furst, a junior mechanical engineer major and one who obviously likes the children, kept them busy and interested. Many other volunteers assisted in a variety of ways. For the twins, the highlight of the program came at the end when screens were moved back

to reveal a large, square table with a Lego stadium filled with a couple hundred Lego figures. A Lego train made its way around the track. The challenge was to find Lego Jesus. It wasn't easy to find him. He was in the ice cream truck.

The next Sabbath Ericca said that she had never seen Miles and Gwen so eager to go to church. Our grandchildren are not the only children who love to come to PMC's Sabbath Schools. These fascinating, instructive Sabbath Schools do not just magically happen. Week after week and year after year, faithful volunteers spend hours of creative time working on them.

Today, Pioneer Memorial Church is honoring all of the people who minister in the children's and youth divisions. An insert in the church bulletin lists their names. "Thank you" to each one. ■

Jane Thayer is a long-time member here at Pioneer Memorial Church.

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**LEAD A GROW GROUP
THIS SUMMER OR FALL**

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