

PIONEER

CONNECT

JUNE 4, 2016



the
Widow Factor
Living on the Edge with God-1

PIONEER ONE • PAGE 8 | PIONEER TWO • PAGE 11

19 weeks until *Hope Trending*

WELCOME




to Pioneer

Can you imagine the scandal? Word was that those early Christians were behaving in abhorrent ways, disregarding social norms to the extreme. One of the leaders of the Christian movement—who essentially functioned as a bounty hunter—Paul, followed Jesus’ lead by teaching seemingly disruptive propaganda:

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

Those early Christians cared for one another without regard to social status. They challenged the economic system by sharing so that none would be in need. Jews and Gentiles would sit and eat together at the same table. It was a community based upon the premise of gracious welcome towards those who were not like them. I know it often doesn’t seem like it, but that is the purpose of church: to be a welcoming community. So on behalf of all of us at Pioneer Memorial Church, welcome. We’re glad you’re here.

—Rodlie Ortiz

 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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FIND IT HERE

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO



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This Will Never Be a
Children's Story!

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PIONEER LIFE
FLAG Camp

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Jesus in Jerusalem

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THIS WILL NEVER BE A CHILDREN'S STORY!

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

Now the country's boisterously divided—not only between political parties and candidates this presidential election season—but water cooler conversations reveal a nation divided as well over the videotaped encounter of a 17-year-old male lowland gorilla and a three-year-old boy. By now you've heard the story retold a hundred times (make that 101 now). An unidentified boy with his mother and a group of children were visiting the Cincinnati Zoo last week, when the youngster pulled away from his mother, climbed into the gorilla enclosure, slipped on the edge and fell ten feet into the moat. Whereupon Harambe, the popular 450 pound gorilla, appeared to attack the boy, tossing and dragging him across the moat (www.cnn.com/2016/05/31/us/gorilla-shot-harambe/). Moments later zoo officials made the decision to shoot and kill the endangered gorilla in order to save the child.

Animal rights activists protested Harambe's killing. Others sided with the zoo administration's decision. And given social media's ubiquitous platform combined with America's penchant for overheated public conversation, it was the perfect storm for another raging debate. "The boy's mother has not been formally identified by police, but other women who share her alleged name on social media have received threatening messages

intended for her, attacks that called her 'scum,' 'a really bad mother' and a '[- - - -] killer.' 'that animal is more important than your [- - - -] kid,' one man messaged. Another woman wrote: 'u should've been shot.' At times, the barrage of insults was racially charged, reported the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. By Monday, the threats grew so intense that Cincinnati police felt compelled to act." (www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/05/30/shooting-an-endangered-animal-is-worse-than-murder-grief-over-gorillas-death-turns-to-outrage/)

But I retell this story—not as a commentary on the burgeoning demise of civility in our civil conversations—but as a startling reminder that we seem to be losing a common sense of human values. How much is a 3-year-old boy's life worth? Never mind the parenting (or the lack of it) by the boy's mother (whom bystanders described as being distracted at that moment by other children in the group). How much was that boy's life worth, when to all outward appearances a 450 pound gorilla was taking hostile action against this small intruder? If you have to choose between an endangered gorilla or an endangered child, what's the choice? That they should've shot the mother of the child instead? Or does the anonymity of social media excuse deranged dismissal of human life, or at least dismissal of its fragile value?



No gorillas in our parish—but little boys and little girls abound. How endangered are our own children? How does the value of Adventist education for these little ones compare with the greater value parents and guardians apparently have awarded a new car or a house equipped with the latest electronic gadgets and toys—but no one at home can afford sending their little one(s) to church school? What is wrong with that picture?

I realize this comparison between choosing the life of a gorilla over the life of a child and choosing personal or family luxuries over the Christian education of your children is a bit painful. Particularly because there are families who have forgone those luxuries and yet still struggle to afford church school tuition. But it is precisely those families on whose behalf I am appealing right now. There are many of us who have more luxuries and toys than we really need. Which means there are many of us who have the means to offer compassionate assistance to families who

long to have their children in our church schools, but cannot afford the tuition. For these families, for all of our children, for all of us there is Line Three on our tithe envelopes—“Christian Education.” Your generous offering marked on that line goes directly to Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and Andrews Academy to financially assist our own families in need.

We’re not talking gorillas versus little boys now. But we *are* dealing with eternity, with eternal values taught and modeled to our children by our church school teachers every day. **“Let the little children come to Me,” Jesus still invites us (Matthew 19:14).** That’s why He invented church schools—and why we must support them. Today. Line Three. Your tithe envelope. Thank you. ■

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



FLAG CAMP

BY ELIZABETH HELM

My first summer working at FLAG Camp was at age 16, and I remember it as a summer filled with absolute joy, tons of fun, and an opportunity to share God's love with the kids in our community. I loved counseling my 8-year-old girls and forming bonds that last to this day. That first summer, I witnessed the amazing power of God at FLAG Camp and I was hooked for life.

That was 15 years ago. My 8-year-olds are now adults, some with children of their own. I'm grateful to have witnessed hundreds of our children grow physically, socially, and spiritually from summer to summer, and I appreciate the positive influence FLAG Camp has on campers and staff. From a parent's perspective, I am incredibly thankful my daughters will be able

to build relationships with youth and young adults they may look up to and emulate.

FLAG Camp has changed through the years: there have been transitions in leadership and staff, and the programming and format have changed to meet the needs of a changing world. But the essence of this ministry is unwavering. It is here to ensure kids have a fun summer experience, while deepening their knowledge of, and relationship with, God.

This summer we have an amazing staff of passionate young men and women. Keep our program in your thoughts and prayers. Only God knows the potential this ministry has to guide the hearts and lives of campers, their families and the staff.

Here are some things this year's staff shared about camp:

One memory I have of flag camp that I will never forget happened on a beach day. One of my little girls was feeling a bit down, and when I took her aside and asked her what was wrong, she told me she felt like she didn't have any friends to play with. Remembering the thought from staff worship that morning, which was about prayer and Divine intervention, I thought "Well, God, this would be a great opportunity for You to show Your power. I don't know what to do right now, but I know You do." Then I asked the girl if she would like to pray. Sniffling, she nodded.

We prayed, first me, than her. Specifically, I asked God to bring her a special friend. At the last Amen, a little voice spoke up behind us, "Hey, what's wrong?" It was another of my campers. Trying unsuccessfully to hide my smile at the way God was answering our prayer, I told the little angel that this girl had been feeling rather lonely, like she didn't have any friends to play with. At the end of the story, the angel's eyes lit up, and she exclaimed, "I'll be your friend!!" "Ok" the other said, sniffing, but she was smiling now. The two held hands and ran off to go running down the dunes, leaving me to marvel at what an awesome God we serve!

Ruth Burn,
4-5 grade girls' counselor

Working at camp is a fulfilling summer job that is lots of fun. I am excited to see what this summer has in store!

Dave Sherman, Jr.,
K-1 grade boys' counselor/Asst. Dir.

I come back every summer for one reason: the kids! I love learning from their perspective on life. Plus, they remind me to laugh and smile everyday, even when I don't feel like it.

Chelcie Coleman,
K-1 grade girls' counselor

Not only do I have the opportunity to work with kids and help them take their spiritual life to the next level, but working at camp enhances my spiritual life as well.

Michael Von Dorpowski,
4-5 grade boys' counselor

I can't wait to help kids learn more about God in a fun way. When I went to flag camp as a kid I had a great time and was very blessed. It's going to be a great summer!

Matt Lemon,
K-1 grade boys' counselor

Elizabeth Helm is the director of FLAG camp.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please indicate
"Master Plan-Evangelism"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary *Alone to God in the Height Be Glory • Johann C. Bach*

Introit *Come Into His Presence • Anonymous Melody*

Call to Worship Rodlie Ortiz

People ask, "Who is this one you worship?"

He is the Christ, the one whose word calls creation into being.

People ask, "Who is this one you worship?"

He is the Messiah, the one who is before all things and in whom all things hold together.

Come, then, let us worship him who made heaven and earth.

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

Invocation Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise *My Maker and My King • 15*

Congregational Prayer Rodlie Ortiz
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee • st. 1 of 241

Worship in Music *Sweet Hour of Prayer • David Miller Williams*

Baptisms Aiden Christopher Campbell & Kaila Lee Campbell
with Ben Martin

Children's Story *All Creatures of Our God and King • Charles Callahan*

Scripture Psalms 50 & 118 *selected NIV* • Marcellos & Rita Santos

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak, . . . I am God, your God."

"Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the field are mine.

"If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it."

"Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Hymn of Preparation

The Wonder of It All • 75

Sermon

“The Widow Factor: Living on the Edge with God”—1
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Cards, Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense

Hymn of Commitment

God Will Take Care of You • 99

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

This Is My Father's World • Franklin Sheppard

PRESIDING PASTOR: Rodlie Ortiz; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, director

MUSIC ALIVE

MAKER AND KING

One might not suspect it from the brave, strong stride of the poem. "My Maker and my King, To Thee my all I owe . . ." What a brave, courageous text it is! "Thy sovereign bounty is the spring Whence all my blessings flow . . ." And it springs from such a sorrow-ridden, physically-challenged individual! "The creature of Thy hand, On Thee alone I live . . ." She was born in 1716 or 1717, and

she was the elder daughter of a volunteer Baptist minister. An accident in childhood left her an invalid. Her life was marked by extreme sorrow when her fiancé drowned on the eve of their planned wedding. "O! let Thy grace inspire My soul with strength divine . . ." This was the strong prayer of poet Anne Steele, author of hymn no. 15, "My Maker and My King." ■

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service

Rachel Sauer

Prayer

Caitlin Jankiewicz

Scripture

Gabi Francisco • 2 Timothy 2:2

Special Feature

Caitlin Jakiewicz, Caleb Gomez & Ben Martin

Offertory

Andante • Johann Sebastian Bach

Bible Study

“Jesus in Jerusalem” • 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

Rachel Sauer

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: Ruben Balorda, piano

WE PRAISE

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

As We Begin

Alone to God in the Height Be Glory • Johann C. Bach
Come Into His Presence • Anonymous Melody

Praise

Prayer

Rodlie Ortiz

Baby Dedication

Asher Keith presented by Byron & Jennifer Graves with Dwight K. Nelson

Children's Story

All Creatures of Our God and King • Charles Callahan

Worship in Music

Sweet Hour of Prayer • David Miller Williams

Sermon

"The Widow Factor: Living on the Edge with God"—1
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

Hymn

God Will Take Care of You • 99

Benediction

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You • John Rutter

As We Depart

This Is My Father's World • Franklin Sheppard

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

BASS: Sam Lewin; GUITAR: Matthew Master

VOCALS: Sinegugu Katenga, Matthew Master, Lauren Snell

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, director

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
World Budget

SUNSET TODAY • 9:15
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 9:20

PIONEER PULPIT

| 06 • 11 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

The Widow Factor:
Living on the Edge with God—2

| 06 • 18 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

The Widow Factor:
Living on the Edge with God—3

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

“For everyone to whom much is given... much will be required” (Luke 12:48). Many are tempted to think of the extremely wealthy when they read this verse, but what about ordinary people like you and me? What has God given you? Has God given you property, speech, strength, or influence? “According to the talents bestowed will be the returns called for” (*Stewardship*, 116). Being rich toward God is about where your treasure is. Your heart follows your treasure. Where is your heart today? May the Lord help you to be rich toward God as you support the local PMC ministry with your offerings today.

Visitors' Dinner

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

The Journey to Wholeness

Are you looking for a non-judgmental, Christ-centered, 12-step meeting, “a safe place” for healing? This weekly program is all about breaking the bondage of addiction. Share as much or as little as is comfortable for you. There is hope—please join us. For meeting time and location call 269.313.1677.

Family Vespers

TODAY • 8:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

You are invited to a special service of hymns entitled “Singing with Power” by Isaac Nicolao.

Scrapbooking Together

TOMORROW • 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. Enjoy an afternoon with friends as you finish up your projects before the summer or start some new ones! Bring your favorite snack to share with the group. We will provide chocolate and prizes.

Free Physical Therapy Service Clinic

TOMORROW • 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
AU PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT
(8515 EAST CAMPUS CIRCLE DRIVE)

Students from AU's Physical Therapy program are offering a free service clinic. The clinic was designed as a way for the department to give back to their community. Free screenings and follow-up guidance will be provided, alongside certified physical therapists. Schedule an Appointment: ptserviceclinic@gmail.com

Open House

TOMORROW • 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.

H₂O Fit Class

JUNE 7 TO JULY 28 • 7:30 TO 8:15 AM
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY POOL

Want to get fit this summer? Join this FREE new class with certified group fitness instructor Kathy Koudele. Open to everyone 18+ years old. Register at wellness@andrews.edu (spots are limited). If you have questions, contact Kathy Koudele by emailing koudelej@andrews.edu.

Adventist Retirees of Michiana

JUNE 23 • 9:00 AM TO 6:30 PM
BROOKFIELD ZOO IN CHICAGO

Join us on a trip to the Brookfield Zoo. If we have 45 people, we will leave by bus from the PMC parking lot at 9 AM and return to the same location. Contact Cleon or Sandra White (471.5553 or whitekaa@gmail.com) for pricing and details.

RMES Annual Garage Sale

JUNE 26 - JULY 1, AND JULY 3

Volunteers and donations needed. Please bring your donations to the gymnasium starting May 29. Donated items may include clothing, shoes, books, toys, kitchenware, arts and crafts, lawn care, furniture, appliances, and much more! For questions call 269.471.3220.

Popcorn and a Program

JULY 5 • 4:30 TO 5:30 PM
N2N COMMUNITY ROOM
(FRONT ENTRANCE)

You are invited to join us at the next R.E.A.L. Well-Being Café for popcorn and a program. These presentations are held the first Tuesday of the month and serve to meet the spiritual, emotional or physical wellness needs of the community. If you've got a creative health-minded treat or a favorite topping for popcorn—bring along a labeled sampling size. Don't forget to bring community friends. We'll see you there!

Healthy Families: Building a Strong Foundation

JULY 21 - 23

Join the 4th annual Adventist Conference on Family Research & Practice. The conference is geared towards Family Life Professionals and those wanting to further their knowledge and practical application of family ministry. Register at www.andrews.edu/familyconference. Questions, email acfrp@andrews.edu.

More Announcements

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

| TRANSFERS IN |

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 JOHNSON, Fanny
 JOHNSON, Rommel
 KIM, Kimberly
 MICHEL, Jean-Ir s
 NICOLAO, Isaac
 NYIRENDA, Johnson L.
 NYIRENDA, Kondwani
 OPOKU, George
 PARK, Sanhai
 PARK, Seungri
 PIEPER, Simone C.
 RAMOS, Vanessa
 RANDRIANAINA, Harinandrasana
 RANDRIANAINA, Ellen J.
 RANDRIAMAROSON, Ialiniaina
 SANTOS, Claudio S.
 SANTOS, Petala P.

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 BURNS, Josie
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 HULICK, Gerald
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 OVERSTREET, Tammy
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 PEREDO, Clara
 REYNOLDS, Michael
 SPRINGER, Arlen
 SPRINGER, Diane
 WOODLAND, Betty
 WOODLAND, Dennis

| FROM |

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 Univesite D'Haiti • Port-au-Prince, Haiti
 Highland • Benton Harbor, MI
 Philadelphia • Niles, MI
 Philadelphia • Niles, MI
 Hollywood, CA
 Brooklyn, NY
 Ubungo Hill • Salaam, Tanzania
 University • Malawi
 University • Malawi
 Michiana Ghanaian • Niles, MI
 Mokdong Language Institute • Seoul, Korea
 Mokdong Language Institute • Seoul, Korea
 IASD Central De Joinville • Brazil
 Hispanic • Benton Harbor, MI
 Anglophone • Madagascar
 Anglophone • Madagascar
 Anglophone • Madagascar
 IASD Central De Joinville • Brazil
 IASD Central De Joinville • Brazil

| TO |

Meridian, ID
 Dale Wright Memorial • Germantown, OH
 All Nations • Berrien Springs, MI
 Village • Berrien Springs, MI
 Village • Berrien Springs, MI
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 Fairplain • Benton Harbor, MI
 Collegedale, TN
 Collegedale, TN
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 Fairplain • Benton Harbor, MI
 University • East Lansing, MI
 Village • Berrien Springs, MI
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 Sunnyside • Portland, OR
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TRANSFORMING
THIS **GENERATION**



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