CONSER — CONSERT

DECEMBER 20, 2014



CHRISTMAS @ PIONEER • PAGE 10

NEW HOPE, STRENGTH, & COURAGE

Life can be challenging at times for all of us, and the people who gather together here are no different as we deal with many of the same issues. We realize we are people who are in need and are not ashamed to admit it! But we come this Sabbath to meet in the presence of God, who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain,

and heals our wounds. As we worship, let us pray that He will open our eyes that we may behold and experience the blessings He has for us today. It is our prayer that we all may find new hope, new strength, and new courage.

-Don Dronen

FEAST OF LIGHTS

The Andrews Academy Band performs for the annual Feast of Lights, here conducted by student teacher Sharnelle Henry. This program included around 175 academy students and was put together by Byron Graves and Héctor Flores.

(Photo taken by Steven Atkins)



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THE FOURTH **WATCH BLOG**

The Lord of the Rings

FEATURE ARTICLE

I Won't Be Home for Christmas

SABBATH SCHOOL

Prayer, Healing, and Restoration

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

PIONEER @ WORSHIP

11:45 AM Worship

12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

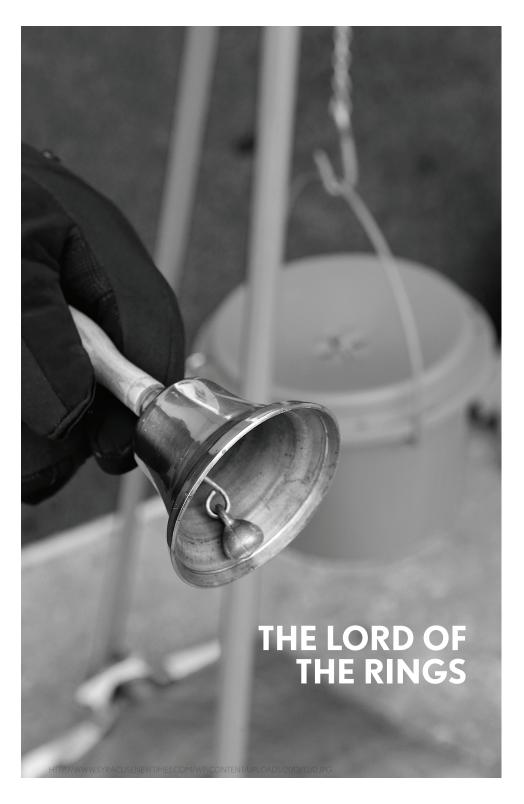
MUSIC ALIVE

STUDENT AID

Thank You

CONTACTS

SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTORY



BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

ot even J. R. R. Tolkien could dream up rings as precious as these." So began the story of the Salvation Army red kettle outside Boston's North Station a couple weeks ago. The ringer hadn't noticed that one of the passers-by had dropped into the kettle a letter with two objects tucked inside. When the charity emptied the kettle late that night, they found the letter, from a widow. Recalling her late husband as an especially giving soul (particularly during the holidays), the anonymous widow donated both her diamond engagement ring and wedding band. The note asked

that the two rings be sold and the proceeds used to buy toys for poor children. "I'm hoping there's someone out there who made lots of money this year and will buy the ring for 10 times its worth. After all.

there's no price on love or the sentimental value of this ring. But money will help the kids." her note read.

Massachusetts Salvation Army Major David Davis later reported that the diamond ring itself was valued at \$1,850. In keeping with the widow's wishes, the Salvation Army spread the word about the widow's gift and her desire. Soon multiple offers were made for the rings.

But the highest offer actually came from a former Salvation Army ringer. In fact she offered \$21,000 for the two rings, more than ten times their worth! But as the Associated Press reported: "This heartwarming Christmas story gets even better: The anonymous

woman redeeming the rings is also a widow, and she wants to return them to the woman who originally donated them" (South Bend Tribune 12-16-14). Why so generous an offer from the second widow? "I want to be involved in this because it's about the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of giving. My wish is that the rings can be returned to this woman who gave them up in memory of her husband for the sake of the children at Christmas."

As church official Davis put it, "One expression of love has inspired another grand gesture to help those in need

"FREELY YOU HAVE

RECEIVED-

FREELY GIVE."

during the holiday season. Because of these two amazing individuals, our Salvation Army officers, staff and individuals will be able to extend our outreach to the many families and children in

need. We are dedicated to fulfilling the sentiment behind these two heartfelt donations."

Talk about a feel-good story for Christmas! Two widows, two sacrificial gifts, all because of one Child long ago who made the greatest sacrifice of all. Somewhere it is written, "Freely you have received—freely give." They are the words of the Child grown up to be Savior and Lord of the rings and every other gift that shall be given in His name. ■

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

hurch.tv/blog.

I WON'T BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

BY KEVIN SPENCER WILSON

hristmas is painful sometimes.
This is the third year that I have spent Christmas away from my home. And trust me, it doesn't get better.

A significant part of the problem is because I haven't been able to identify what "home" really is.

Home is where the heart is, people say. But what if my heart is in many different places? Does that mean I have multiple homes?

I am what they call a Third-Culture Kid (TCK). In short, this means that during my 23-year excursion of this world, I've spent developmental periods of my life in multi-

ple countries apart from my place of birth (which happens to be Sri Lanka, aka the most beautiful country in the world). Due to the high mobility shared by fellow TCK's across the globe, home is characterized by a state of intermittence—it

is fluid and in a constant state of flux.

I am a case in point.

For the first 12 years of my life, home was the verdant city of Kandy in Sri Lanka. Then, till I was 19, the metropolis of Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman was home. Thanks to Uncle Sam and his provisional invite affectionately known as the "Green Card," home, since then, has been the United States. Over the span of the last 5 years, I've gypsied from Maryland to

Michigan, to Beirut, Lebanon, and then back to Michigan.

Home, therefore, is not where my heart is. It is where my foot is. Home is everywhere. It is ubiquitous.

Christmas, unlike any other season, unabashedly and unapologetically reminds me of home. Recently, however, as I was reflecting on the Christmas story detailed in the Bible, I was refreshed to find that my sentiments regarding home found clarity and purpose in the birth of the ultimate TCK–Jesus Christ.

God became flesh. Divinity was enshrouded in humanity. The One who knew

no time was born into it. If there was anyone in history who knew the pains of being away from home it was Jesus. While families across the globe are reunited with their loved ones during this joyous season, the Reason for the season was separated

from his family, not just during his birth but for the rest of his life. However, this separation was not a complete separation. Jesus, through his life, exemplified the life of a human being who was in constant communion to his Heavenly Father. Even though there was a physical separation, Jesus felt the closeness of his heavenly home emotionally, spiritually, and relationally.

At this time I can't help but remember the many families who have adopted me



in like manner by giving a bed (or the couch) to sleep, food to eat, and a place to call home. The warmth and sense of belonging I have received in these places have undeniably alleviated the pain of distance. They have taught me that while I may be physically away from those places I call home, I am and forever will be connected to them in my heart.

I have had more than 10 addresses in the last 6 years. This Christmas I'm thankful for the many homes the Lord has provided for me during the course of my life. I truly have pieces of my heart in each of those places. I'm also thankful that even though I may be miles away from my family, I am but a prayer away from God. But above all, I thank God for the promise of

a permanent home. A place that is not tampered by the vicissitudes of life nor the tyranny of time; a place to call my own. This Christmas I'm reminded that there is indeed such a place. A home where I will no longer be concerned with my next flight away. A home where I don't need to validate my identity. A home where I don't have to live out of my suitcase. A home of perpetual joy, light, and happiness. A home whose builder and maker is God.

I won't be home for Christmas.

For now. ■

Kevin Spencer Wilson is a graduate student here at Andrews University.

WE STUDY

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

Song Service Christina Carroll

Opening Hymn Infant Holy, Infant Lowly • 127

Welcome Judy Wright

Scripture John 13:34, 35

Special Feature Judy Wright

Offertory Petite Pastorale • Joseph-Ermend Bonnal

Bible Study "Prayer, Healing, and Restoration" • 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 ©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction Christina Carroll

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan OFFERTORY: Jessica Yoong, organ

See page 18/19 for Sabbath School directory & map

| TRANSFERS IN |

CARR, Miriam
CHOLE, Candida
DI BIASE, Stephan & Tammy
DUBLIN, Keisha
GOMEZ, Edy
GRAU, Brenda
HENRY SATURNE, Sarah
IZUMI, Alexis
KAUNDA, Herman T. & Lydia C.
LOPES, Arcelie & Donald W.
RONENKO, Anastasia
RUIZ, Joseph, Miriam, & Samuel J.
VILLAFANE, Roy

| TRANSFERS OUT |

BOWLBY, Laura FORD, Heather GOETZ, Melanie & Micheal HURST, Carolyn KIM, Ashilie & Natalie LEACOCK, Angelina & Julia LIU, Michael Kuohsang MACLEAN, Andrew MORRISON, Daniel NGONDA, Enala, Linda, Lubasi Sr, & Lubasi Jr NUNES, Beverly, Larissa, & Leonardo REGAL, Darah & Jeffery SCHRAMM, Brad SHELLEY, Amy, Connie, Katie, & Tibor SMITH, Connie & Roger SSEMANDA, Susan

| FROM |

Rolla, MO
Westside • Niles, MI
Living Stones • La Crescenta, CA
Capital City • Albany, NY
Spanish • Astoria, NY
Spanish • Berrien Springs, MI
Memorial • Stoneham, MA
Spanish • Chico, CA
Chibavi • Mzuzu, Malawi
Kamiah, ID
Zaokski, Russia
Lakeview Hispanic • Chicago, IL
Spanish • Berrien Springs, MI

I TO I

Cave Junction, OR
Apison, TN
Campion • Loveland, CO
UEAB • Kenya, E Africa
Andrews Korean • Berrien Springs, MI
Mount Zion • Hamden, CT
Chinese • San Francisco, CA
Bellview, ON Canada
Iron Mountain, MI
Forest Lake • Apopka, FL

Spanish • Berrien Springs, MI Village • Berrien Springs, MI Santa Rosa, CA Clovis, CA Greenville, TN All Nations • Berrien Springs, MI

CHRISTMAS @ PIONEER

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

Pioneer Family Life

Opening Voluntary Glad Tidings of Great Joy • Kenneth Logan

Introit Infant Holy, Infant Lowly • Kenneth Logan

Christmas Call Dwiaht K. Nelson

PASTOR: On this Day in which we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus,

may you be welcomed and blessed.

PFOPI F: And may you be blessed.

PASTOR: Why have you come on this glorious Sabbath? PFOPI F: We have come, like the shepherds and the wise men,

to worship the Christ Child.

PASTOR: But He is not here—He is risen, ascended and soon to return. PFOPLF: But we come to celebrate that the Infant of Bethlehem was

and is our God, our Savior and our Lord.

PASTOR: Then like sages with gifts and shepherds with wonder,

let us come and adore Him.

PFOPI F: We have come to worship Him.

PASTOR: Then may He be glorified and may all be blessed this

Christmas Sabbath.

Invocation

Carols of the Season Good Christians, Now Rejoice • st. 1-2 of 136

> Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child • 133 O Little Town of Bethlehem • st. 1 & 3 of 135 Angels From the Realms of Glory • st. 1-3 of 119

Family Prayer Don, Fin, and Lilly Dronen

O Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus • 140

Infant Dedications Liliana Milada presented by Jose & Andrea Pena

> Kena Alemayehu Kuma presented by Kuma A. Debela & Addisalem K. Yade

One Family's Story Samir, Keila, Saila & Jaziel Sanchez Offering

PMC Operating Expense

Children's Story

Away in a Manger • 124

Christmas Scripture

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11 N/V • Lori & Duane Covrig

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Christmas Music

I Heard the Bells • Kenneth Logan See Music Alive on page 14

Christmas Homily

"Christmas Arithmetic: We Three Kings of Orient Are" Dwight K. Nelson

Appeal

To Make a King • David Phelps

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Good Christians, Now Rejoice • 14th Century Melody

PRESIDING PASTOR: Don Dronen; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Ryan Clough, tenor; Pablo Sánchez, violin; Priscilla Soto, viola TRUMPET: Eric Lofgren; APPEAL: Karen Nelson, vocalist; Lisa Jardine, piano

PIONEER PEOPLE

SUNSET TODAY • 5:16 **SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY** • 5:20

SUBMIT announcements by emailing bulletin@pmchurch.tv or by going to www.pmchurch.org and click on "submit a bulletin announcement." Requests must be received Monday by 5 PM for consideration.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

I SATURDAY I

PMC FAMILY VESPERS

5:00 PM • Youth Chapel

| WEDNESDAY |

CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

6:30 PM • PMC Sanctuary

I THURSDAY I

CHRISTMAS DAY

Have a blessed Christmas!

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 27 |

JOSÉ BOURGET

"Behind the Veil"

| 01 • 03 |

SABINE VATEL

"S.O.S."

PMC Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM YOUTH CHAPEL

This evening we will watch and discuss Media on the Brain, part six.

Christmas Eve Program

DECEMBER 24 · 6:30 PM **PMC SANCTUARY**

Enjoy the story of Christ's birth, interspersed with a variety of music including handbells and a children's chorus. Refreshments will be served in the PMC Commons following the program.

PMC Office Closed

Our office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday on December 24, 25, and 26. We will be happy to serve you on Monday. December 29.

Neighbor To Neighbor Holiday Break

Neighbor To Neighbor will be closed from December 24 to January 4. Thank you for holding your donations until after the holidays.

Exercise Class Break

Exercise Class will not meet during Christmas break but will resume on January 5, 2015.

Mitten Trees

The Adventurers have placed Christmas trees throughout the church. Bring some mittens, scarves or hats, place them on the trees and take a thank-you ornament.

Year-end Contributions

December 27 is the last Sabbath to return your tithe and offerings for 2014. If you plan to bring in a donation, our office is closed December 31. Donations need to be postmarked no later than that day to be included in your 2014 tax deductible receipt. You can also make your contribution through Adventist Giving. Go to www. pmchurch.org and click on the Adventist Giving tab. Contributions made until 11:59 PM on December 31 will be included in your 2014 tax-deductible receipt.

Evergreen Pathfinders Winter Registration

JANUARY 7 & 14 · 6:30 PM PATHFINDER BUILDING

If you missed the fall registration, but are interested in being a member of PMC's Evergreen Pathfinders, winter registration will take place at our first two meetings in January. Meetings are Wednesday nights, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. If you have guestions or need more information, please email evergreenpathfinders@gmail.com.

HIS Creation

JANUARY 10 • 6:00 PM HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Rich Aguilera will be presenting this family-friendly event with the giant screen, audience participation and special effects as he explores the issue of Creation vs. evolution. For tickets, call the box office at 888.467.6442.

The Gift of Time

JANUARY 30 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1 **CAMP AU SABLE**

Looking for the perfect gift for your son or younger buddy? How about some time? Come to Camp Au Sable's "Lessons from the Carpenter" Father/Son/Big Brother/ Buddy weekend. Go to www.campausable.org and click on "Registration" before January 22. Bring a pocket knife and learn some lessons about walking in the steps of the Carpenter. Call 517.316.1570 for more information.

Walking in Johnson Gym

There is free walking in the Johnson gym 5 days a week Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 9:00 AM for all age groups.

Nominating Committee

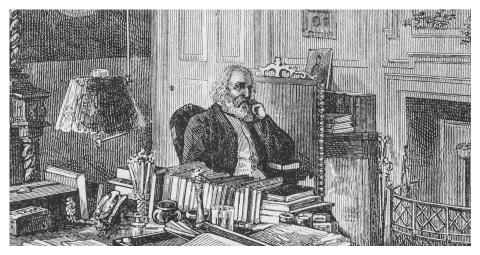
SECOND READING

Pathfinder Club Director:

Matt Johnson

Adopt A Family for Christmas

It is time again to pay special attention to our families who may need help with meeting the needs (and some pleasures) of their children at Christmas time. You have been so generous in the past. Please choose to get involved and bring cheer and gladness again this Christmas. To choose a family, or to gather more info. call Katherine Smith at 269.471.1502.



I HEARD THE BELLS

BY KENNETH LOGAN

ivil-War strife struck close to home while its battles remained far afield. in the life of Massachusetts poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). His teenaged son Charles enlisted in the Union Army, against his father's will. In March 1863, he was a second lieutenant. On November 27, "Charley" was wounded seriously in the battle of New Hope Church, Virginia. A bullet is said to have entered his left side and exited his right. An army surgeon warned the father/poet of the prospect of paralysis; by one account, he missed paralysis by less than an inch's deviation in the bullet's path. Charle's December 8 arrival home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, started a long process of home-town healing. One account has it that his poet-father wrote to a friend, "I have been through a great deal of trouble and anxiety."

Shortly before this injury to son Charles, the poet had in 1861 lost his wife to a domestic fire. He is said to have journaled, regarding Christmas 1862, "A 'merry Christmas' say the children, but that is no more for me."

It is against this background, then, of personal loss and wartime strife and suffering that Longfellow wrote (many accounts state in 1863) his famous poem that starts, "I heard the bells on Christmas day..." This poem is the basis for a new musical composition for today's worship service, based on portions of Longfellow's seven stanzas. While the poem as abridged is famous, a portion about Civil War cannon "thundering" in the South often is omitted. However, in this new composition the sequence of hopeful Christmas bells—war cannon thundering—personal despair—hope for peace and goodwill, is retained.

What is in the collective "soul" of the United States of America, and the world, this Christmas, a century and a half later? Are we not a nation, a globe, divided? Where is there strife, where despair, where hope? And what about personally, individually? How many will join Adventist poet Wayne Hooper to affirm coming peace and ultimate goodwill: "We have this hope that burns within our hearts, / Hope in the coming of the Lord"?



THANK YOU

BY JIM FORD

s you plan your gift giving and year-end financial contributions please remember "our own"our young people who, along with their families, struggle to gain a Christian education. Through your generosity to Student Aid, there are currently nearly 90 students in Christian education who may not have been there without your help. Please help one of "our own" get to know God better. It may have an impact on eternity for them.

Here is a thank-you letter addressed to you from a grateful mother:

Dear PMC Family,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the financial assistance [Student Aid you provide our family so that my daughter has the opportunity to receive a Christian Education at RMES. As a single mother with several children, it has been a struggle financially. However, it is my conviction that it is God's desire that our children be taught by Christian teachers and with a curriculum that points to our Maker.

God has rewarded our commitment to Christian Education and thus far has provided a way.

My daughter is very blessed to belong to a church family that is not only concerned about having good Sabbath School classes, which she enjoys very much, and Pathfinder clubs, etc., but that understands the importance of Christian Education in their daily lives.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless your ministry, the church as a whole, and our schools.

With much appreciation, A mother

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Ruth Murdoch / K-8 · David Waller waller@andrews.edu 471.3225

Public Address · Joel Kitchen audio@pmchurch.org



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)

PHONE – 269.471.3133 **FAX** – 269.471.6152

LIVE STREAMING

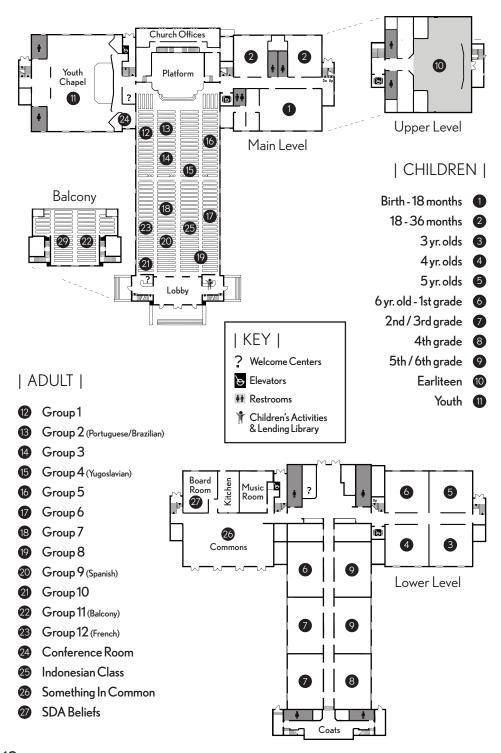
www.pmchurch.tv Sabbath 11:45 AM

ONLINE

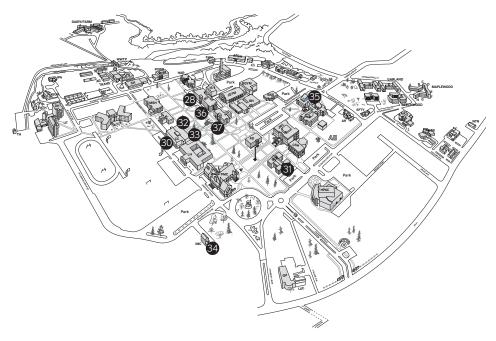
www.pmchurch.org www.pmchurch.tv

RADIO

WAUS - 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM



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N110

N120 (New Life Church Choir)

N150

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N235

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- Faculty Lounge
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- 37 Bible Journey (Nethery 143)

