

THE LAST Letter



VOMIT (LAST LETTER FOR ADVENTISTS)

DWIGHT K. NELSON

-

JANUARY 19

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

9:00 & 11:45 AM



WELCOME

to Pioneer

Welcome. We are thankful you have joined us today. If you don't happen to have a church family right now, we'd be pleased if you would consider becoming part of our family. We'd love to have you.

Do you remember when you were younger and you received one of those letters where your "one and only" announced they were breaking up with you? (Maybe you were the one who sent it?) We used to call those "Dear John" letters. Well, we may have either sent or received occasional letters like that, but thankfully, we've never received a letter like that from our Heavenly Father. Isn't it amazing how He keeps on loving everyone of us in the human family so unconditionally, century after century? How wonderful to be loved like that. What a lover!

However, we have received a letter from our Father: it's in Revelation 3. It isn't a Dear John letter, but it is quite frank and honest, and in it God is telling us exactly what we need to know. Last Sabbath our Lead Pastor, Dwight Nelson, began a series of studies on this letter. This morning he continues this series "The Last Letter." May God's Holy Spirit bless you precisely as you need.

-John Glass



PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday (9 to 5) • Friday (9 to 12)

PHONE – 269.471.3133

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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

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Nominating Committee Report.



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SABBATH
SCHOOL**

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CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO



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**THE FOURTH
WATCH BLOG**

"My Life He Brings Back"

10

WE STUDY

"Jesus' Messages to the
Seven Churches"

12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WE WORSHIP

9:00 AM Service

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WE WORSHIP 2

11:45 AM Service

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UNDER THE ROOF

"Meet the Baltazars"

"MY LIFE HE BRINGS BACK"

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

Thanks to the generous largess of some kind, anonymous soul, I find myself in possession of the highly acclaimed new translation of the ancient Hebrew Bible. Robert Alter's three-volume *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* is being heralded as "the first single-author literary translation of the complete Hebrew Bible." I find the reading experience of this obvious work

of a lifetime both fresh and refreshing, without the forced novelty that can plague newly released translations trying to catch the eye and ear of a Bible-saturated market.

Take Alter's translation of the beloved Psalm 23 (which happened to be my psalm-a-day reading yesterday). He retains the familiar King James Version—"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall

not want." But a few lines later, Alter changes the KJV's "He restoreth my soul" to the more provocative "My life He brings back" (vs 3). In his below the line commentary Alter observes: "Although 'He restoreth my soul' is time-honored, the Hebrew *nefesh* does not mean 'soul' but 'life-breath' or 'life.' The image is of someone who has almost stopped breathing and is revived, brought back to life" (*Hebrew Bible* vol 3, p 70).

Perhaps we all have known of someone (someone even close to us) who has "almost stopped breathing" but who has been resuscitated, "brought back to life." I was disembarking a plane once when a passenger ahead of me collapsed in the gate area and was resuscitated with a defibrillator. That, Alter, writes, is the notion of the Hebrew. "My life He brings back."

Even spiritual communities can collapse into lifeless heaps. God Himself captures this tragic possibility through Ezekiel's powerful vision. "... I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. [The LORD] asked me, 'Son of Man, can these bones live?'" (Ezekiel 37:2-3 NIV) Ezekiel defers to God, who addresses the bones: "I will make breath [Heb: *ruach*] enter you, and you will come to life" (v 5). And indeed "they came to life and stood upon their feet" (v 10). But what is this breath that brings life to these skeletons? God speaks once more: "I will put My Spirit [Heb: *ruach*] in you and you will live" (v 14).

Ah, the breath of life is the Spirit of God. "My life He brings back," the psalmist exclaims. Very good news for a lifeless church, wouldn't you say?

Because in the divine geopolitical administration of universe and Earth, it is the Spirit of the Living God who is "boots on the ground" for the Trinity. Call Him the

Breath or the Wind of God, if you please. Call Him the Resuscitator of the church. Call Him what you will—but call Him! He's our only hope. Jesus Himself said as much: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit [born of the divine Wind]" (John 3:8).

"My life He brings back." The raw promise of this fresh sentence is ours for the asking—personally, collectively, organically, even organizationally—it doesn't matter. "My life He brings back" is divine assurance of resuscitation from a state of life-less, breath-less existence to a revitalized, resurrected living. (Think Laodecia!) So I say we ask (repeatedly ask) for the Breath Wind of God to blow into us each new morning—to rebirth us, to rebaptize us, to revive us with His fresh power. "My life He brings back."

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I constant be
And live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

—Edwin Hatch (*SDA Hymnal* 265) ■



THE FOURTH WATCH BLOGS ARE FOUND ONLINE
AT WWW.PMCHURCH.ORG/BLOG

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary

What a Friend We Have in Jesus • Robert Hobby

Introit

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus • Helen Lemmel

Call to Worship

John Glass

We come to God in the attitude of prayer and supplication.

We ask for your Spirit, O God, to abide with us.

May we be unified in the Spirit as we worship God.

For this reason we have come to pay our homage and pour out our lives before the Lord.

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling • st. 1, 3-4 of 191

Congregational Prayer

John Glass

Spirit of the Living God • 672

Worship in Music *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go • Albert Peace / David Phelps*

Children's Story

Keegan Fossmeyer

Christ Is Alive! His Love Adored • Kenneth Logan

Scripture

Jeremiah 2:13, 28, 32; 3:3, 22 NIV • Xiujuan Li and Bin Ren

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns.

Does a young woman forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number.

Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no latter rain.

Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding."

"Yes, we will come to you, for you are the Lord our God."

Hymn of Preparation*I Would Draw Nearer to Jesus • 310***Sermon**

"The Last Letter: Vomit (Last Letter for Adventists)"
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Budget

Hymn of Commitment*I Surrender All • 309***Benediction****Closing Voluntary**

The Lord Hear Thee in the Day of Trouble (Psalm 20)
Benedetto Marcello

PRESIDING PASTOR: John Glass; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Men's Ensemble; Joshua Goines, director

MUSIC ALIVE

"THAT, AGAIN?"

Yes, that, again! Concerning worship music for this week, my thoughts turned to a single section of a particular set of variations on words chosen from "Christ Is Alive!" (hymn 182). So very many times I have played this section in PMC worship . . . over, and over. . . . But as conceived with the fire ("hot") sound of reed tones from the organ, and in association with its end-time words, it

seems once again to be appropriate. The words? "Christ is alive! Ascended Lord / He rules the world His Father made, / Till, in the end, His love adored / Shall be to all on earth displayed." Yes, we need contrasting musical attempts to describe God's broad love from time to time. But need we contemplate that love so much? Yes, again . . . over, and over, and over . . . ■



RENOVATE

heart & house

Meet the Baltazars

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

BY BRIANNA MARTIN

This week I had the great pleasure of talking with a wonderful couple, Joshua and Alina Baltazar. Joshua and Alina have been members of Pioneer Memorial Church since they were 13 and 14 years old, and they have always loved being a part of the church community here. Their lives have changed during their time in this community: they've gone from being teenagers to college students, to a young married couple, and now they're (still young) parents to 3 young men who are also members of PMC.

Together, the Baltazars have experienced so much life at PMC. They were married in this church, they graduated here, Joshua's father's funeral was here. They've shared beautiful moments with their friends and family here while attending many weddings, baptisms, and baby dedications in this sanctuary. Their kids, Alex, Matthew, and Lucas, have grown up here, so they've gone through the full range of Sabbath Schools as a family, teaching and learning in different seasons. They love the fellowship and community they have

with the people here.

The love that Joshua and Alina have for the people that make PMC what it is, is evident when you talk to them. They've been involved in myriad aspects of ministry in the church, including greeting, teaching children's Sabbath Schools, volunteering at the Welcome Center, working on the Media Team, leading out the Family Life Committee, and more.

I asked the Baltazars to tell me, of all the ministries they've been involved in, which one has had the greatest impact on their family as a whole. It was only a brief instant before they both answered, "Sabbath School." They feel that the wonderful Sabbath Schools at PMC have been a great influence on their children's lives. And, since their season

of volunteering to lead out in their sons' classes has ended, Joshua and Alina have rediscovered a hunger for learning and studying Scripture in their adult Sabbath School class, led by Elder Daniels, until his recent death.

I asked the Baltazars to give their best advice and boil down their message to

**THERE IS A
SABBATH
SCHOOL
FOR
EVERYONE,
YOU JUST
HAVE TO
FIND IT.**



the rest of us who worship here, Under the Roof, and here it is, in 3 points:

"There's a Sabbath School for everyone, you just have to find it," Joshua advised. Alina agreed, urging us all to take advantage of the opportunity to learn from the wealth of knowledge that our adult Sabbath School teachers (and members) have, and join a class.

Choose something you enjoy, and get involved. Alina and Joshua have helped out with many different aspects of ministry over the years, and they pointed out that it's ok if one just doesn't float your boat. Find something that does, and engage!

Our church is the center and heartbeat of our community--take care of it! Our families are involved in church school, Sabbath School, Adventurers, Pathfinders, GROW Groups, Family Life

events, Andrews University, and more. Joshua's colleagues at Notre Dame know this church because they listen to WAUS. PMC's ministries make a difference in our lives and in our community.

PMC is a large church, and it's not always easy, at first, to find your place here. But, the Baltazars have learned from experience that if you want the church to feel smaller, the first step is to engage in something you enjoy and reach out to those you come into contact with. Sabbath School is a great environment for this, and the various social events for families are also great for finding new friends. There's not only room for you under the roof, but PMC will only be better for your involvement! ■

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service	Vladimir Slavujevic
Opening Song	<i>To God Be the Glory</i> • 341
Welcome	Sabeulah Bates
Scripture	Revelation 3:21
Prayer	Elisha Luyeho
Mission Spotlight	"The Family I Found"
Offering	<i>"Home Medley"</i> <i>arr. Jon Schmidt, Al van der beek, Steven Sharp Nelson, and Lyshll Prudente</i>
Lesson Study	"Jesus' Messages to the Seven Churches"
Theme Song	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>

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
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: Lyshll Prudente, piano; Calvin Imperio, cello

WE WORSHIP 2

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns. Does a young woman forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number. Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no latter rain.

Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding."

"Yes, we will come to you, for you are the Lord our God."

—Jeremiah 2:13, 28, 32; 3:3, 22 NIV

We Begin

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Robert Hobby

Praise

Moving Forward

Lord Most High

Your Grace Is Enough

O Come to The Altar

Prayer

John Glass

Children's Story

Christ Is Alive! His Love Adored

Kenneth Logan

Worship in Music

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Albert Peace / David Phelps

Sermon

"The Last Letter: Vomit (Last Letter for Adventists)"

Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

I Surrender All

309

As We Depart

The Lord Hear Thee in the Day of Trouble
(Psalm 20)

Benedetto Marcello

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan

PRAISE LEADER: Jamila Sylvester; CAJON: Trevor Furst; ACOUSTIC GUITAR: Randall Ulangca

ELECTRIC GUITAR: Lucas Aguiar; BASS GUITAR: Chris Wilson

VOCALS: Charis Granville, Joseph Capeles, Linda Sanchez; Johnathan Dixon

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Men's Ensemble; Joshua Goines, director

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
NAD/Religious Liberty

SUNSET TODAY • 5:43
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:52

PIONEER PULPIT

| 01 • 26 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"The Last Letter: Wretched (Last Letter for America)"

| 02 • 02 |

AUSA

Gina Corder

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

'This is not a black holiday; it is a people's holiday,' said Coretta Scott King after President Ronald Reagan signed the King Holiday Bill into Federal law on Nov. 2, 1983. So here we are this weekend, more than 50 years since his death. We reflect on other heroes from many lands, such as Mother Teresa, Martin Luther, and Nelson Mandela. Our church has had heroes and special people as well, and continues to have them. Undoubtedly, the great majority of heroes remain unsung and unknown. Today, we have the opportunity to be heroes for Christ and His church, by being faithful to our calling. Please give generously today.

PMC Family Vespers

5:00 PM

PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

This evening's vespers will be a season of testimonies and prayer.

We Mourn

• On Tuesday evening, January 8, Charles (Knobby) Mauro passed into the sleep of death. He was a long-time and much-loved member of this community and Pioneer. There will be a Memorial Service, Sabbath afternoon, February 2. With his wife, Pat, and children Steve (Mary) Mauro and Nancy (Greg) Gerard and their children we pray for the Lord's comfort to surround this family with His love.

• Last Tuesday, January 15, Dorothy Bradford went to sleep in Jesus. Please join the family for the celebration of the life of Dorothy Antisdell (Candy) Bradford on Sunday, January 20, at the Pioneer Memorial Church sanctuary. Visitation will be at 9:00 am, with the funeral service at 10:00 am. Interment at Rosehill Cemetery will follow the funeral service. May the Lord comfort and strengthen Dorothy's family as they (and we) long for Jesus triumphant return. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Swim N Gym

JANUARY 19 • 7:00-9:00 PM

Come and join your church family for some fun playing games in Johnson Gym and swimming in the Beatty Pool. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Resolve to Be Healthier This New Year!

PMC Health Ministries offers free co-ed exercise classes for anyone 18+ years old:

ToBoFit (Total Body Fitness)

Tuesday & Thursday • 5:00-5:50 PM

Lamson Hall Health Club Aerobics Room
H2OFit

Monday & Wednesday • 7:30-8:15 AM

AU Beaty Pool (free admission to class members)

Tai Chi

Wednesday • 4:30-5:00 PM

James White Library (begins mid-Jan.)

Check www.healthTent.org for updates.

Media Team Volunteers

The Pioneer Media Team is looking for new audio and video technicians for its local media ministry (High-school Seniors and above). If you want to use your talents to have a positive impact on the world through digital evangelism and learn new things while sharpening your technical skills, email mediateam@pmchurch.org. Volunteer teams rotate every 3rd Sabbath and are asked to volunteer for both services on their scheduled Sabbath.

Young Family Sabbath School

FEBRUARY 16 • 10:30 AM

PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

Parents with pre-school children (0-5 years) are invited to a special family Sabbath School. Join in singing and learning about God together. Become part of a new family discipleship vision. High-schoolers will adventure into the 0-5 year Sabbath Schools rooms for special workshops during this time.

Ways to Help Children and Youth in Benton Harbor

1) Pray for the children, youth, their parents, teachers, and the leaders in the Sabbath School classes.

2) Order Rada Cutlery and Gifts—Affordable and durable. Proceeds go directly to Harbor of Hope. www.radafundraising.com/?rfsn=1862551.e0e1d5

3) Order Citrus Fruit for yourself and/or a food pantry like Harbor of Hope, Neighbor to Neighbor, or God's Abundant Pantry. Just make a note of where you want it to go on your check memo line. Order it by mid-January--Proceeds also go to Harbor of Hope.

4) To help and support children and youth of Harbor of Hope contact: Terry Trecartin at fundraising4hoh@gmail.com or 423.645.5684, 2601 Pixley Ave., Saint Joseph, MI 49085.

Papercrafting Together

JANUARY 27 • 11:00 AM

PMC COMMONS

Want to preserve those Christmas memories? Need to make cards for the coming year? Have a mixed media project you want to get done? Bring your supplies/projects and enjoy fellowship while working. We supply the prizes and chocolate, you bring your favorite snack. Questions, sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org.

Seniors of Michiana Dinner Invitation

JANUARY 27 • 1:00 PM

ANDREWS ACADEMY COMMONS

No sign-up is required. We look forward to a delightful afternoon of food and entertainment provided by the Andrews Academy administration and students. We hope to see you there. If you have any dietary restrictions, please contact the Academy directly at 471-3138.

Howard Center Presents... Jasmine Murray

JANUARY 27 • 7:00 PM

Jasmine Murray is an independent American singer and beauty pageant titleholder from Starkville, Mississippi. Best known for her powerhouse vocals as a finalist in season eight of "American Idol," Jasmine has worked hard to overcome and achieve so much at a young age. Now at 25, Jasmine's experience contributes to the wisdom and poise she carries. She is on a mission to reach people with the message that God has given her, and she is just getting started.

Give the Gift of Life— Mark Your Calendars

FEBRUARY 27 • 1:00-7:00 PM

PIONEER COMMONS

Sponsored by Andrews University, The American Red Cross and PMC. Contact Larry Ulery at ulery@andrews.edu or 269.471.0467 and watch for more info in the bulletin. You are needed! There is no substitute for human blood.

Backpacks for Berrien Collection

Each month one of the various denominational churches in Berrien Springs collects food to be distributed on Fridays by Backpacks for Berrien to Berrien Springs public school students who otherwise may not have much to eat over the weekend. January is PMC's month. The food must be packaged in individual serving sizes. No cans or bottles. By the types of food we select to donate, we can even make a health statement. Here are the healthful items on the Backpacks' food list: fruit cups, pasta, rice, beans, nuts, protein bars. Food can be brought to the church and placed in the collection box in the lobby.

Grief Share Support Group

Grief Share, a support group for those who are hurting or suffering the loss of a loved one, is available in January. The group meets at the Village Church on Sundays from 4:00-6:00 PM. Contact Shirley Gammon at 989.427.5669 for more information or to register for the first session.

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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SABBATH— JANUARY 26

Your Religious Liberty Offering will sponsor Liberty magazine subscriptions to high-level government officials, federal, state, and provincial judges, and prominent social and religious leaders throughout North America. Your generous gift will also be used to support the North American Division litigation fund—resources needed to defend and preserve your religious liberty in court when necessary. And a portion of your offering is returned to your local union to aid in religious liberty promotion and education.