

Mid Week Letter 2-7-24

Good day, everyone! There is a lot happening this Sabbath, so let's jump right in.

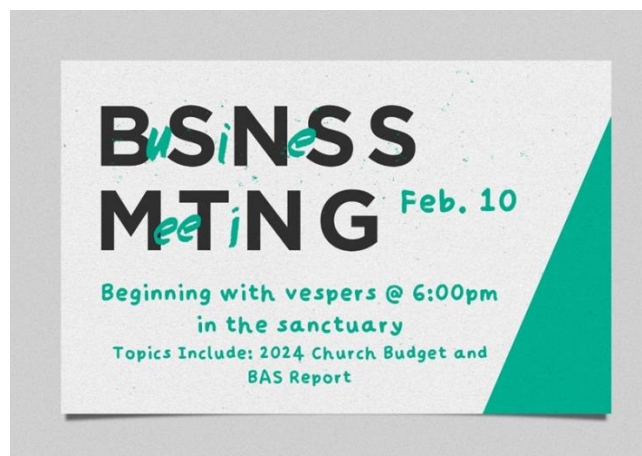
**THIS SABBATH:**

- The Burton Academy chorale and drama group will be having the worship hour. I know it will be a blessing!
- The offering emphasis is for Adventist TV Ministries (NAD)



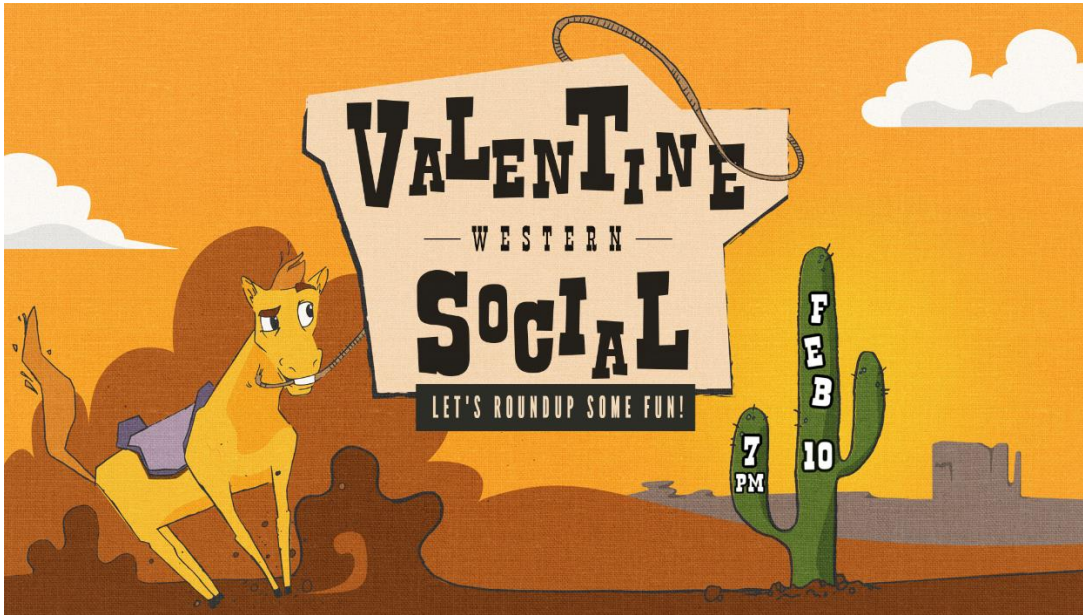
**CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING:**

It is our custom to be transparent and informative with our members when it comes to finances and other church business. That being said, we will have a short Church Business Meeting this Saturday night (beginning with vespers at 6pm) to present and approve the Church Budget for 2024, receive a report from BAS, and hear some exciting missional plans from Pastor Kevin .



## ROUNDIN' UP SOME FUN!

This Saturday night at 7:00 (following the Business Meeting) we're going to have a heap of fun at our Western themed Valentine Social in the Fellowship Hall. There will be plenty of good grub (provided by the Pathfinder Club as a fund raiser, so bring some cash to tip 'em), games, and fun for the whole family! Come in your best western "get up" if you got it! And if you have any western/rustic barn décor we could use to decorate, please let Michelle Lizardi or myself know. See y'all there!



## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD:

As you know, 2024 is an election year and the Texas primary election is Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Early voting starts February 20<sup>th</sup>. If you're not sure if you are registered or need help getting registered, text or call Ken Fritz (who is certified to help with this) at 817-558-1420. Ken will be available in the lobby after the Church Business Meeting this Saturday night and can also answer questions about voting times and polling places.

Let's all plan to take advantage of the great privilege of making our voice heard through the voting process!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT REPORT:

We had a wonderful Women's Ministry Event last Sabbath, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Melinda Adams, Linda Knutson, MeLanie Walkowiak, Maria Verdugo, and Cindy Nunez (I sincerely apologize if I missed anyone else involved) for making this a special time of fun (you should have seen the competitive "red hot relay race") and spiritual nourishment as we were challenged to be deliberate in our attitude of giving.

The refreshments were delish, the craft was cool, and the Patchwork Soup Mix we assembled to share was very tasty (according to my mom). We also put together gift bags for all of the Next Step Women's Center staff to let them know we are lifting them up in prayer and recognize the wonderful work they are doing. In case you didn't know, our church has adopted February as a month to make special efforts to bless the Next Step ministry.

If you haven't been able to attend these Women's Events, I encourage you to plan on joining us for the next one in April!

## SECRET SISTER DEADLINE:

Don't forget to turn in your Secret Sister Profile this Sabbath! The box is at the Connect Corner as well as some extra Profile forms in case you weren't at the Women's Event. Once all the forms are submitted, Auri Powell will match you up with a "sister" and have that information back at the Connect Corner for you. Then the fun begins! Thanks, Auri, for spearheading this!

## CLOSET CLEAN UP:

Our church got a good sprucing up, inside and out, before our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last April. But some much needed areas that we didn't get to are the closets. You know how those can get out of hand over time! Many church ministries have a designated closet or area (i.e. Children's Sabbath School classes, VBS, Youth, Pathfinders, Adventurers, AV, Deaconess, Decorating, etc) so we are setting aside a few hours on February 25<sup>th</sup> to debride, clean, and organize these areas. If you are part of one of these ministries or would like to exercise your spiritual gift of service, come for a while from 9:00-1:00. We'll even provide some pizza to keep your energy level up!



### HELP NEEDED:

We voted in our new Sabbath School Secretary, Kysha Lucas, last Sabbath, and she is looking for some assistants to help with duties on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> Sabbaths. I believe duties include distributing the Sabbath School materials and distributing/collecting the Sabbath School offering envelopes. If you are willing to help with this, please see Kysha at church, reply to this email, or contact the church office. Thank you.



This week's GraceNotes spoke to me as it brought to mind the hours of piano practice I had to "endure" as a child. But, as I often told my own children, no one EVER grows up and regrets the time invested in honing a skill that brings them and others a blessing. So it is with practicing grace! I hope you take the time to read Bill Knott's insights on this subject. As Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give!" Be blessed, ~ Liz Simons ~

## Practicing the gospel is all about repeating what is really true.



GraceNotes

**When we were children, practicing was frequently the bane of our existence.**

**Endless loops of cursive handwriting; sticky valves on rented clarinets; stubborn keyboard ivories that mocked our stubby fingers. Practicing brought little joy as we outlasted clocks.**

**But then, perhaps, we found some sweet proficiency—some pleasing skill still short of smooth perfection. We scored the winning soccer goal; our fingers or our voices shared a recognizable tune.**

**And so it is as we learn grace. Against the backward pressure of our fears, we sing to others and ourselves of mercy when we least deserve it; of God's rich kindness finally overwhelming all our callousness. We now rehearse the stories of what Jesus did; what He is doing; what He will do. "For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son" (Rom 5:10).**

**Practicing the gospel is all about repeating what is really true against the echo of our past. The Father still calls prodigals back home; embraces all who stumble on the way; forgives the ones who never seem to get the tune just right. Day by day, we grow in grace as we remind ourselves of Jesus' blood and righteousness.**

**Keep practicing until you're sure He got it right. And stay in grace.**

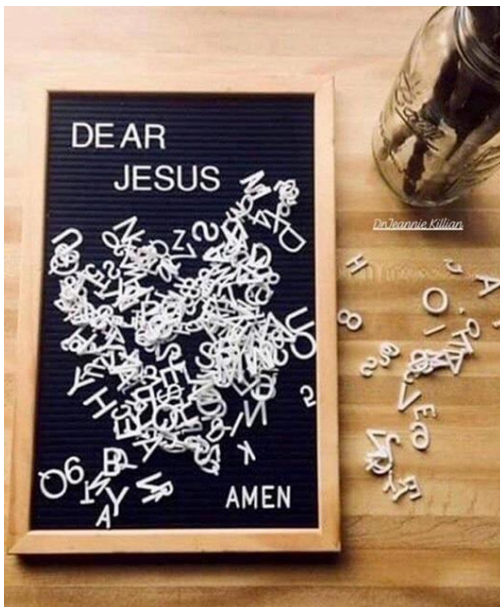
**—Bill Knott**

## FUNNIES:

Nice try laundry, I'm still going to nap



I wanted to go jogging this morning  
BUT Proverbs 28:1 says "the wicked  
run when no man is chasing them"  
So I stopped 🙄🙄🙄🙄



Me: "God, help me strengthen my  
prayer life"  
God: "Haha no problem kiddo"



Me, when I lean on  
my own understanding

