

LIBERTY CONNECTIONS

Where the Spirit is, there is Liberty

December 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

A Theology on UNITY

Unity involves the ideas of social others interacting somehow. This involves identity, diversity, and volitional decision to affiliate.



Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore (Psalms 133).

According to this passage, unity is good like anointing oil running down Aaron's beard. What does this say about non-priests and females? The imagery seems to suggest that anointing oil validates God's election to service like dew validates the process of irrigation which is essential for the agricultural ecosystem. It is a blessing designed by Yahweh.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? (Amos 3:3)

The shepherd prophet, Amos, refers to unity when he asks rhetorically about how two different persons would walk together unless they agreed. People don't walk (volitional act) with someone they are in dispute with, but someone they share values, beliefs, and interests with.

The mechanics for developing unity involve eye-contact, active and reflective listening, negotiating win-win exchanges and perpetual dialogue as the participants pilgrimage along life's pathway.

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- Pastor McCleary

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A Theology on unity continued

As a disciple of God, it is your privilege and responsibility to consciously work for unity with others. You will not live productively if you live as if you are the only person in your social sphere. It is good to use God's time and space while being mindful of others. Look up and speak up for self but remember the theology of unity appeals that you respect others. You nor they should conform to each other, but walk in unity so each other is valued, recognized, and empowered to glorify God and be edified in this life toward eternity. Oh, how good that would be.

Pastor Mark McCleary



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for Cervical cancer every 3 years with cervical cytology/ Pap test alone in women aged 21 to 29 years.

For women aged 30 to 65 years, the USPSTF recommends screening every 3 years with cervical cytology alone, every 5 years with high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) testing alone, or every 5 years with hrHPV testing in combination with cytology (co-testing).

Cervical cancer is the 18th most common cause of cancer death in US. In 2018, an estimated 13,240 new cases and 4,170 deaths will occur related to cervical cancer. Most cases of cervical cancer occur among women who have not been adequately screened, followed up or treated. In 2013, approximately 81% of women reported receiving a Pap test/ hrHPV screening. The burden of cervical cancer incidence and mortality disproportionately falls on minority groups. Please visit your Primary Care Provider (PCP) and discuss cervical screening.

Edwin Juma

The Currency of Souls: How our misunderstanding of the church's fundamental Business is making the church ineffective

Most of my professional career has been in the restaurant business and the one constant, is that restaurants come and go. As restaurants start off with these shining openings only to close within a year or even a few months, a stark reality shines through that gives good insight as to what it takes to succeed. Restaurants generally fail for one reason and one reason only, they forget (or never realize) what business they are in. Restaurants are in the business of making and managing money! It is not about power, employment or entertainment. It is not even about good or healthy food. People may love your food, they may even buy it faithfully; but at the end of the day if your costs exceed your income your business will fold like a polyester cloth napkin.

So here is another stark reality. What money is to a business, souls are to a church. The church is in business for one reason and one reason only; to save and manage souls for salvation. Anything that the church does that is not engaged in this purpose is not only a waste of time; it is a competing interest and is at its very core satanic. The word of God tells us that our "adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about" 1 Peter 5:8. He is working feverishly to align his minions and muster every means he can gather to the end of destroying souls and leading men and women to destruction and degradation. It is the church that was given to Christ to be His help on earth as He works to stem the tide and offer redemption to all. The Church is to be Christ's bride. As they work together, it is the two against the world in the name of God the Father and through the power of His Spirit. So what kinds of things act as competing interests and subvert the church in her mission? Some of the same things that have plagued the church since the first century, but the time has come to move beyond the impasse.

(1 Cor 11:20-22; Matt 18:7) This is your work not your home. Have you ever had a waiter who got too familiar? Whether he/she says something inappropriate or simply becomes inattentive, the end result is always the same; a souring of the experience. The same is true at church. Where the Spirit of God is; there is rest, peace and comfort. The disarming effect brings us together as such a tightly knit family, that we can often forget that we come from very diverse backgrounds and upbringings. To make matters worse, visitors come in and you have no idea what baggage they are bringing with them. Here are some simple rules that can help us not become obstacles in someone else's road to Jesus:

1. Mind your manners. Everyone wants to be comfortable but the truth is that social interactions can be minefields. So when you are dealing with someone who is not a close friend (you do not know her/his middle name) it is better to be formal and polite, then speak off the cuff and say something you later regret.

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**Daniel & Revelation
Prophecy Seminar
Learning from the Bible, So I Can Live By Faith!**

The Bible enjoins its readers to study (2 Timothy 2:15). That is a more intense and focused approach to discovering Bible knowledge than superficial reading. This past September into mid-October, the Liberty Seventh-day Adventist Church, with Pastor Mark McCleary as the facilitator, sponsored a 3-week Daniel and Revelation seminar. Such seminars have been held for years throughout the Seventh-day Adventist fellowship. Usually sponsoring churches and facilitators have used prepared materials from either North Carolina or Texas for studying with seminar attendees. These materials focus primarily on the content contained within the books of Daniel and Revelation using a fill-in-the-blank method. However, Pastor McCleary, who had authored a book on these significant Bible books, *Reflections of Daniel and Revelation*, that includes a workbook section, facilitated the mechanical handling of the Bible by reading its script.

The Daniel & Revelation Seminar was held at two locations, Liberty Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Randallstown Library. The nightly library attendance consisted of members and several visitors. Pastor McCleary presented each message with confidence and assurance in a God who will never leave or forsake His children in these last days, and he emphasized that Daniel and Revelation are not to be feared but embraced.

One of the attendees shared this response, "The seminar was down to earth revealing." Let's continue to pray for those who attended, that their understanding from God's Word will lead them closer to Him, as well as share what they have learned with family and friends.

Thank you, Liberty, for helping to make this seminar a success. The seminar ended with three baptisms and 3 other who joined Liberty by Profession of Faith. To God be the glory; great things He has and will continue to do.

LOVE is...



**Edward "Grant" & Erica Johnson
September 9th**



**Gladstone & Mary Smith
May 20th**



**Paul & Tanya Kirkpatrick
March 17th**

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

How do you preserve your spirituality in the midst of disunity in the church?



"It's not the building that makes it a church, it's the people in it". It's essential to know where you stand personally & continue to pray. Take a look at yourself and pray on your position in the church. Also, we need to remember we are all still family. You never want to split up and leave someone alone. It's much easier to stand with a group than to stand by yourself. "
- Elijah Davis



"It's best to understand & remember that everyone is human and will make mistakes. Continue to pray for the church and keep God in your hearts." - Abbie Charles



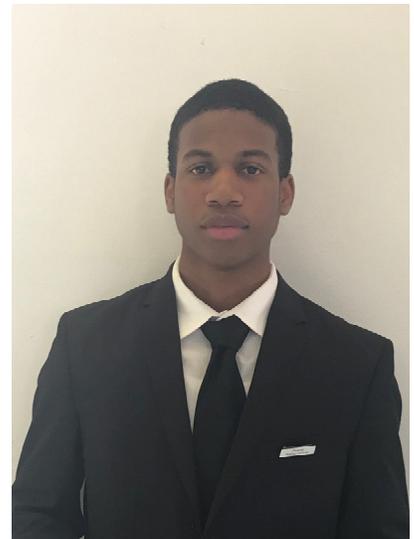
"During this time, it's best to continue to pray for individuals and the church. Stay in the word for guidance." - Delsha Mitchell



"I preserve my spirituality by praying and doing daily devotion. Overall, it never feels good to see family leave the church".
- Shemar Melbourne



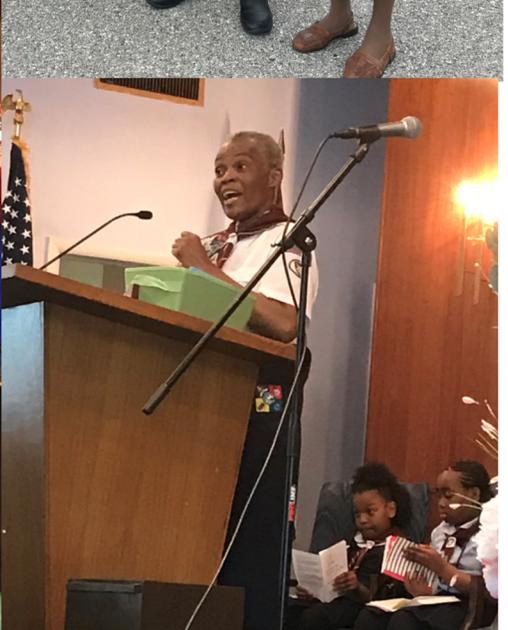
"I preserve my spirituality by staying focused, always showing love, and going back to the truth (reading the word). It's good to stay close with God and fellowship with others who have the same beliefs. It's sad to see the disunity in the church and see folks leave whom we grew up together with, but I will continue to pray."
- Adiv McLean



"My spirituality is preserved because I try my best to block out negative things and stay on a straight and narrow path. Praying is also a major key in my life."
- Nathan Manuel

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018





IN MEMORIAM



Eileen Victoria Henrietta Mitchell (06/03/1935-02/3/2018) lived to be 82 years young. She was a nurturing mother and wife who leveraged her nurturing gift into a career as a nurse assistant. She migrated to the USA from Trinidad in 1967 with her husband Linsford Mitchell and their children. She enjoyed the company of others and forged friendships seamlessly. Her friendships extended to inhabitants in various corners of the world. She was a devoted member of the Liberty SDA church for over 40yrs and is remembered as a kind and caring member. Gifted in the tending of plants, she enjoyed working on her rose garden and was recognized by Baltimore City for having an impressive garden.

Robert Francell Moses Sr (7/5/1944-4/27/2018) was 74 years old when he fell asleep in Christ. A beloved father and husband, he was a devoted member of Liberty for many years. An Adventist since his baptismal in 1974, he was a very successful AEC literature evangelist with recorded 900 baptisms from his evangelistic work. He was a passionate spiritual mentor to many. He delighted many of us with his great humor and his modish fashion style. His hobbies included sports and music. A devoted family man with a big heart, Elder Moses opened his home to raise and care for over 200 foster children, together with his wife Sister Marlyn Moses.



Coleman Kerr (5/31/1946-7/22/2018) was 72 years old when he passed. He was a devoted father and husband of Yvonne Kerr, who originated from Jamaica and migrated to the USA in 1977. He embraced the faith from a young age and was a proud member of the usher ministry at the Berean Baptist church. He was baptized into the Liberty Adventist church by Pastor Melvin Hayden. He was passionate for Christ and enjoyed discussing the Bible. He hardly ever ended a conversation without mention the Lord. He loved his family and was a good provider.

Richard Reuben Price's (08/20/1958-09/23/2018) life came to an untimely end at the age of 60. He was a loving father and husband who moved to the USA in 1986 from Bermuda. He attended Liberty for many years and often enhanced the worship service with his extraordinary mellifluous voice. He was a nurturing and passionate clinician and worked as a nurse till his passing. A loving and jovial gregarious spirit, he often welcomed others into his home he formed with the love of his life Pansy Price, with kindness. He partnered with church members to organize a ministry in Baltimore city for the homeless and drug addicted. He provided health resources, money, food and clothing to many he helped lift out of destitution.





A State of Health Unity Case Study

A young lady was suddenly rushed to the hospital complaining of sickness and pain all over. She had headaches, blurred vision, sore throat, and even some numbness and tingling in her arms and legs. The doctor asked her how long she had been experiencing the symptoms. She answered, "It started a while ago, but recently they have been getting worse". The doctor asked her again, "so is there anything else you would like me to know before I make my diagnosis?"

"Yes doctor, my feet at times get so tired and I feel like they're going limp. Sometimes my heart races or feels like it is skipping a beat". The doctor told the young lady, "You have complained of many problems, please try and relax as I try to review everything that is going on with you and make a diagnosis". The doctor left the room and returned later to provide a diagnosis.

The doctor told the young lady that she was suffering from a severe case of Disunity. She asked the doctor what was Disunity? He explained that it is a disorder that occurs due to disagreement and conflict within the body. She had a puzzled look on her face. The doctor replied, "Let me explain, you see your body parts are not in agreement with each other, so they are not working well to benefit you". The doctor continued to explain what this diagnosis meant. "Your headaches are occurring because you are swell headed, you think it's all about you, no one else matters in your eyes. Your ear aches occur because you listen to too much gossip and negativity. Your eyes are becoming blurry because they watch things that are not uplifting. Your sore throat is nothing more than consuming harmful substances and talking too much about people's business". The young lady started to get very uneasy and nervous as she continued to listen to the doctor. "The numbness and tingling sensations in your arms and legs are due to inactivity or over activity. When you refuse to help those that are in need and instead run off to tell others about their problems, you get those sensations. Lastly, your heart problems are due to all the burdens of life you are carrying around. Including disappointments, missed opportunities, failures, loss of love ones, rejections, and feelings of loneliness". Before the doctor could finish, she was sobbing profusely. She finally got herself together and asked, "Doctor, do you have a prescription for Disunity"? He replied, "Yes my daughter, take as prescribed daily".

Head Aches----Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. Proverbs 16:19.

Ear aches----The words of a talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Proverbs 18:8

Sore Throat---Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips from speaking guile. Psalms 34:13

Blurred Vision---Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. James 1:13

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HELLO NEIGHBOR!



What is your name? Hellon Ogallo

How long have you been an Adventist? Since birth. I was born in an Adventist family, my father and mother were all Adventist and my grandparents from both sides were Adventist too.

What attracted you to the message? Truth be said I assimilated into the message.

What was your impression when you first came to Liberty? Do you still feel the same? The none charismatic nature of worship. I am an old school (hope I am not betraying my age).

What is your passion and mission (for the church)? Making sure that the once we have baptized do not leave through the back door. I am looking forward to the time when we would establish programs within our church to that end.

How would you describe your Christian journey? I was born an Adventist but at some time in my adult years I embraced the faith for myself. It this time I am an Adventist because I am convinced intellectually that this is God's church. However, my intellectual grasp has not transformed me into a practical Godly man. I am looking forward to the days when my knowledge will renew my mind and action into the new creature Christ desires of me.

If the nominating committee would call you today, which ministry would you hope they are calling you for? In the past I have been a Sabbath school teacher, a Deacon and an elder. In general I love to teach.

What are some fun facts about you? I am married with children. I work for Maryland State Highway Administration and am also a part-time teacher a Morgan State University.

What are your hidden talents? Since they are hidden how should I know? I am not God.

Boni Sibiya

A State of Health Unity Case Study continued

Numbness/Tingling ---He who give s to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses. Proverbs 28:27

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit serving the Lord. Romans 12:11

Irregular Heart Beats---I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. John 14:18

Yeah, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

A few weeks later the young lady returned to the doctor for a follow up visit. He asked her how she was feeling, but he already knew the answer. She looked different, had a smile glow on her face and definitely a different step to her walk. The young lady was happy to report that she followed the prescription as she was told. She asked, "Doctor, what is your verdict"? The doctor examined the young lady and then he came up with a new health state for the young lady, Unity. She requested an explanation and he replied, "It is a state of being united or joined as a whole". The doctor then took her hand and finally revealed himself to her. "You see, I am not just any doctor, I am The Great Physician".

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you: Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". John 14:27

Cleo Manuel

God's Children

Thank goodness we are
his children
We share hope not
dope
We aren't stressing but
a blessing
Oh! What a privilege it
is.

We got trust in him
We share hugs not
drugs
We aren't straining but
in training
We share his vision not
vengeance
Oh! What a blessing it
is.

We ALL got his protec-
tion & guidance
We share the passion
of prayer
Thank goodness we are
his children
Remember; Anger is a
letter short of Danger.

Sindiso Nyathi

The Currency of Souls Continued.

2. Silence is golden. A smile and a hug go a long way. If you are not comfortable making conversation, just be pleasant.
3. Empathize over questioning. If someone comes in and they have a limp, or broken arm, or black eye, the tendency is to question "oh what happened to you". The problem is that people are often sensitive about things that make them different. So it is generally better to choose phrases that empathize over phrasing simply designed to satisfy your curiosity. "oh sister ___or brother___ that looks painful is there anything I can do to help?" This way you have opened a dialogue if they want to share with you what is going on, they are free to do so. If they do not want to share then it really is not anyone else's business and we should move on.

(2 Peter 2: 2-3; John 2:16) You cannot serve and eat at the same time. The health department has very strict regulations regarding where and when staff can eat in a restaurant. There are also regulations stating what they must do before they can return to work after eating. Oddly enough the church has similar challenges and the principal still stands. If you are in a church office because you like the title or because you feel that it adds to you as a person then you are eating you are not serving. If you are fighting to gain a church position or to hold onto a church position, then you are consuming you are not serving. Every position within the church is a position of service. The higher you are in church leadership, the more people you serve. How disappointing it must be for our Heavenly Father to look down from heaven and see people fighting for positions as souls are suffering in separation from Him.

Lastly, **(1 John 3:19-21; 2 Tim 3:5) Sentiment is not good compass.** Nobody is keen to pay for goods and services but as a business owner or restaurant, if you do not set a price that makes sense for your business goals you will not succeed. As a church we must make decisions based not on sentiment but on goals. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that he "Came not to send peace, but a sword" Matthew 10:34. Those words serve as a reminder to us that we cannot take the path of least resistance as we work toward our goal, the saving of Souls. People have all kinds of personal agendas and when we allow ourselves to be taken off mission simply because we are unwilling to challenge a personal agenda; then we are being disloyal to the Lord. And we will not accomplish our goal if we are unwilling to stand up for what is right because it puts us at odds with those around us.

In closing, I hope that it marks the opening of a much more important discourse; a discourse between God and ourselves. Length only permits us to barely scratch the surface of what really needs to be addressed. However, if each of us will take ownership for the success of the mission of this Church, we can rest assured that the gates of hell will not prevail against us.

Elder Craig Davis

Freddie Mae Beasley (7/28/1927-11/19/2018) was 91 years old when she was laid to rest. She was a dedicated wife to Noah Beasley and the mother of four. She worked for the Federal government in various capacities but her greatest passion was for sharing the Advent message. She became an Adventist at a revival conducted by Pastor E. E. Cleveland and was later baptized into the Adventist church 1955. She then made it her mission to share the gospel with her family and friends. Her greatest desire was for her children and grandchildren to know the Lord for themselves.



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