

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the  
School of Prayer at the NEC Office**

**10 am - 1pm**

Prayer Leader's Section:

July 4, 2015

27<sup>th</sup> Sabbath

**My Country Tis of Thee**

Early in 1863, Seventh-day Adventists were faced with a serious problem. The nation was at war. Although at heart noncombatants, the sympathies of the church members were, almost without exception, entirely with the government in its opposition to slavery. As the conflict progressed, more and more men were called to the army. At each call every district was under obligation to furnish a certain number of recruits, and when the voluntary enlistments fell below that number, names were drawn to make up the lack. For a time it was possible by the payment of money to buy a substitute and thus release one whose name had been drawn. As there was no provision made for assigning Seventh-day Adventists to noncombatant service, and no allowance for Sabbath observance, Sabbathkeepers, when drafted, usually in this way purchased their exemption. If the individual was unable to raise the money himself, he was helped by a fund raised for that purpose. Now, as more men were needed, and a national conscription law without such exemption privileges was impending, our brethren were in perplexity regarding their response to such a draft, where they might be compelled to take up arms or to work on the Sabbath.

The experiences of Seventh-day Adventists in connection with the Civil War led them to take steps that secured for them a recognized status as noncombatants, which at the same time enabled them to follow the Scriptural injunctions regarding their relationships to "the powers that be," which "are ordained of God. Ellen G. White 1T, 717

Prayer focus:

For our country, for those who have served and who continue to serve in the Armed Forces.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Matthew 5: 38-39

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.



January 4, 1862, I was shown some things in regard to our nation. My attention was called to the Southern rebellion. The South had prepared themselves for a fierce conflict, while the North were asleep as to their true feelings. The North did not understand the bitter, dreadful hatred of the South toward them, and were unprepared for their deep-laid plots. The North had boasted of their strength and ridiculed the idea of the South leaving the Union. They considered it like the threats of a willful, stubborn child, and thought that the South would soon come to their senses, and, becoming sick of leaving the Union, would with humble apologies return to their allegiance. The North have had no just idea of the strength of the accursed system of slavery. It is this, and this alone, which lies at the foundation of the war.

Thousands have lost their lives, and many have returned to their homes, maimed and crippled for life, their health gone, their earthly prospects forever blighted; and yet how little has been gained! Thousands have been induced to enlist with the understanding that this war was to exterminate slavery; but now that they are fixed, they find that they have been deceived, that the object of this war is not to abolish slavery, but to preserve it as it is. Ellen G. White, 1T, 254.1

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the  
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Prayer Leader's Section:

July 11, 2015

28<sup>th</sup> Sabbath

**Managing Conflict in the Church**

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? James 4:1 KJV

Conflict and division destroys faith and blights the Christian witness in the community. Some churches with a great history of evangelism and growth have been torn apart by dissension and factions and are now only a shadow of what they used to be.

The potential for conflict exists where two or more people are present, and the church is people. People often experience conflict as a result of divergent ideas and opinions, conflicting ambitions and goals, and varying needs and concerns. The potential for conflict is never far away. It crouches at the door ready to move in to disrupt, divide, embarrass, and destroy all that is sacred and holy.

The church must ever be prepared to become actively involved in the ministry of reconciliation. We are a new creation, a community of love, living in answer to Jesus' prayer, "Father, make them one, even as we are one." We are a prophetic people empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim by word, action, and example the redemptive, reconciling message of Christ. For a gathering of people to call itself a church, it must be a reflection of the first assembly that congregated in the upper room where there was prayer, fellowship, and oneness.

Prayer focus:

That we may embrace the spirit of reconciliation by implementing the injunctions of Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 18: 15-17 into all our conflicts.

H. Jack Morris, "Managing Conflict in the Church." Ministry, May 2001

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Prayer for the Saints

Colossians 1:9

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.



Satan is constantly seeking to introduce distrust, alienation, and malice among God's people. We shall often be tempted to feel that our rights are invaded, even when there is no real cause for such feelings. Those whose love for self is stronger than their love for Christ and His cause will place their own interests first and will resort to almost any expedient to guard and maintain them. Even many who appear to be conscientious Christians are hindered by pride and self-esteem from going privately to those whom they think in error, that they may talk with them in the spirit of Christ and pray together for one another. When they think themselves injured by their brethren, some will even go to law instead of following the Saviour's rule.

Christians should not appeal to civil tribunals to settle differences that may arise among church members. Such differences should be settled among themselves, or by the church, in harmony with Christ's instruction. Even though injustice may have been done, the follower of the meek and lowly Jesus will suffer himself "to be defrauded" rather than open before the world the sins of his brethren in the church. Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, p. 305.

## Prayer Leader's Section:

July 18, 2015

29<sup>th</sup> Sabbath

### It is God's Will That We Be Free From Cares and Worries

Some time ago the United States public health service issued a statement in connection with the prevalence of nervous diseases and the tendency of worry to weaken and shorten life. In this statement was the following observation, no doubt suggested by the words of Jesus: "So far as is known, no bird ever tried to build more nests than its neighbor. No fox ever fretted because he had only one hole in which to hide. No squirrel ever died of anxiety lest he should not lay by enough for two winters instead of one, and no dog ever lost any sleep over the fact that he had not enough bones laid aside for his declining years."

There is a world of sense in that observation. Even in the hardest times it is a remote, a very remote, chance that anyone in the population will starve to death or freeze to death, and in the case of those who fear God it becomes so remote as to be practically an impossibility. A long time ago the psalmist said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Ps. 37:25).

The Apostle Paul tells us to be careful for nothing. His direction is very specific. "Be careful for nothing." Be careful for not one thing. Be careful for not anything, for any condition, chance, or happening. Be troubled about not anything that creates one disturbing anxiety. Have a mind free from all anxieties, cares, fretting, and worries. Cares divide, distract, bewilder. They destroy unity, energies, and quietness of mind. Cares kill weak piety and weaken strong piety. What great need to guard against them and learn the one secret of their cure - prayer!

**Prayer focus:** Praying for a trusting spirit that will guard against worry.

Adapted from: E.M. Bounds, The Classic Collection on Prayer, p. 235

### Sabbath Prayer Focus:

#### Be Careful for Nothing

Philippians 4: 6,7

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



Moderator/Intercessor  
Sis. Cassandra Thomas

#### Plants Do Not Grow Through Worry or Conscious Effort

In place of growing anxious with the thought that you are not growing in grace, just do every duty that presents itself, carry the burden of souls on your heart, and by every conceivable means seek to save the lost. Be kind, be courteous, be pitiful; speak in humility of the blessed hope; talk of the love of Jesus; tell of His goodness, his mercy, and His righteousness; and cease to worry as to whether or not you are growing. Plants do not grow through any conscious effort....The plant is not in continual worriment about its growth; it just grows under the supervision of God. Ellen G. White, Mind, Character and Personality, Vol.2, p. 471

Worry is blind and cannot discern the future, but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 330

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Prayer Leader's Section:

July 25, 2014

**30<sup>th</sup> Sabbath**

**The Model Overcomer**

One of the central issues in the great controversy between God and Satan was that God's law appeared too severe. Satan and one third of the angels decided not to comply, and later the first couple God created on earth likewise chose to disobey. The disobedience of angels and of earth's first couple was not a matter of insufficient information. No one was tricked into disobedience . . . Eve may have been enticed; yet she was conscious of her duty, fully aware of the dangers that threatened her and her husband if they distrusted God.

Jesus was tempted as all other men [and women] are tempted. . . But God exalted Jesus, not because as God he acted like God, but because as man He did not act like every other man. Jesus did not fall into sin, a victim of self-interest and self-indulgence, as every other person has fallen. The accomplishment that cheered the angels was that Jesus had proved God right again - man, even with all the liabilities of fallen, human nature, could live above sin on this planet!

Ellen White declared, "We need not place the obedience of Christ by itself, as something for which He was particularly adapted, by His particular divine nature, for He stood before God as man's representative and was tempted as man's substitute and surety. If Christ had a special power which it is not the privilege of man to have, Satan would have made capital of this matter. The work of Christ was to take from the claims of Satan his control of man, and He could do this only in the way that He came - a man, tempted as a man, rendering the obedience of a man. (E.G. White, Manuscript 1, 1892, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p, 930).

Adapted from: Herbert E. Douglass & Leo Van Dolson, Jesus the Benchmark of Humanity, p. 52

**Sabbath Prayer Focus:**

**An Example of Prayer**



Moderator/Intercessor Sis. Tess Ongkingco

Psalm 119: 17,18; 33-40

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Such prayers as this the Lord's servants should be continually offering to Him. This prayer reveals a consecration to God of heart and mind; it is the consecration that God is asking us to make. We should pray as did David, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." No man can have insight into the Word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. If we will but come into the right position before God, His light will shine upon us in rich, clear rays. God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly.

The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring His Spirit upon the early disciples. We, also, may receive of the fullness of His blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that He has promised. . . . To the obedient child of God, the commandments are a delight. With the presence of the Holy Spirit abiding in the soul, we like David can declare, "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end." (v. 111-112).

Ellen G. White, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 3, pp. 1152-1154