

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

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

September 5, 2015

36th Sabbath

Trouble Just Ahead

The time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment. The time of trouble - trouble such as was not since there was a nation [Daniel 12:1] - is right upon us, and we are like the sleeping virgins. We are to awake and ask the Lord Jesus to place underneath us His everlasting arms, and carry us through the time of trial before us.

The tempest is coming and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent. Confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The earth's crust will be rent by the outbursts of the elements concealed in the bowels of the earth. These elements, once broken loose, will sweep away the treasures of those who for years have been adding to their wealth by securing large possessions at starvation prices from those in their employ. And the religious world, too, is to be terribly shaken, for the end of all things is at hand. Ellen G. White, Last Day Events, pp. 23-26

Prayer focus:

Prayer for the necessary spiritual preparation for the last days.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Watching Unto Prayer

1 Peter 4:7

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.



Remembering Ferguson Missouri

There are in the world today many who close their eyes to the evidences that Christ has given to warn men of His coming. They seek to quiet all apprehension, while at the same time the signs of the end are rapidly fulfilling, and the world is hastening to the time when the Son of man shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven. . . The watchful Christian is a working Christian, seeking zealously to do all in his power for the advancement of the gospel. As love for his Redeemer increases, so also does love for his fellow men. Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, p. 260.

We are to be diligent workers; an idle man is a miserable creature. But what excuse can be offered for idleness in the great work which Christ gave His life to accomplish? The spiritual faculties cease to exist if they are not exercised, and it is Satan's design that they shall perish. All heaven is actively engaged in the work of preparing a people for the second coming of Christ to our world, and "we are laborers together with God." Now is our opportunity to work. We are living in an age when there is to be no spiritual idleness. Every soul is to be charged with the heavenly current of life. Crowd all the good works you possibly can into this life. Ellen G. White, Christian Service p. 85.

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
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10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

September 12, 2015

37th Sabbath

Prayer Answered

. . . . And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4: 31

Throughout the world individuals face harassment and imprisonment as a result of exercising their right to freedom of expression. Everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas without fear or interference. This right is important for the personal development and dignity of every individual and is vital for the fulfilment of other human rights. According to the 2014 U.S. Annual International Religious Freedom report, at least 33 of 195 countries worldwide are considered "countries of particular concern" defined under law as countries where particularly severe violations of religious freedom are tolerated or perpetrated . . . and the numbers are growing.

Each day brings news of civil war and unrest that makes it possible for fanatical elements to implement extremist ideas and worldviews upon hapless populations. From tribute money being exacted on Christian citizens in Syria to mass murders in Nigeria to the death sentence of a pregnant Sudanese woman for taking her stand as a Christian under an Islamic regime, Christians today must awaken to recognize the darkness rolling over the earth.

Prayer focus:

That we too will work the works of him who has commissioned us to go (Matt. 28:19), knowing that the night is coming when no one can work. (John 9:4)

Adapted from: Amnesty International factsheets and the annual Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom 2014.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Holy Boldness



NEC School of Prayer

Acts 4: 29,30

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

The principle for which the disciples stood so fearlessly when, in answer to the command not to speak any more in the name of Jesus, they declared, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye," (Acts 4:19), is the same that the adherents of the gospel struggled to maintain in the days of the Reformation. Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and their unanimous decision was, "Let us reject this decree. In matters of conscience the majority has no power." Merle d'Aubigne, History of the Reformation, b. 13, ch. 5.

This principle we in our day are firmly to maintain. The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 67-68

Prayer Leader's Section:

September 19, 2015

38th Sabbath

God's Need of Men Who Pray

The man of prayer, whether layman or ordained minister, is God's right-hand man. In the realm of spiritual affairs, he creates conditions, inaugurates movements, brings things to pass.

By the fact and condition of their creation and redemption, all men are under obligation to pray. Every man can pray, and every man should pray. But when it comes to the affairs of the Kingdom, let it be said, at once, that a prayerless man in the Church of God is like a paralyzed organ of the physical body. He is out of place in the communion of saints, out of harmony with God, and out of accord with His purposes for mankind.

A prayerless man handicaps the vigour and life of the whole system like a demoralized soldier is a menace to the force of which he forms part, in the day of battle. We are told through the servant of the Lord that prayer in times of peace will prepare God's people for times of trouble at the end. We are warned that now, more than ever, we who are living in the last days especially need to pray. We who profess the truth for these last days, above every other class of professed Christians, should imitate the great Exemplar in prayer. Like the patriarchs of old, those who profess to love God should erect an altar to the Lord wherever they pitch their tent. If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now.

Prayer focus:

That we may be known of God as men and women, boys and girls of prayer and strong faith.

Adapted from: E.M. Bounds, *The Weapon of Prayer*, pp. 53,54 and E.G. White, *Prayer*, p. 274

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

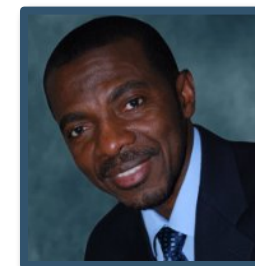
Obedience to God Through Prayer

Genesis 12: 4, 8

So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. . . . And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.” James 2:23. And Paul says, “They which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.” Galatians 3:7. But Abraham’s faith was made manifest by his works. “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” James 2:21, 22.

Many fail to understand the relation of faith and works. They say, “Only believe in Christ, and you are safe. You have nothing to do with keeping the law.” But genuine faith will be manifest in obedience. Concerning the father of the faithful the Lord declares, “Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” Genesis 26:5. Says the apostle James, “Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” James 2:17. And John, who dwells so fully upon love, tells us, “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” 1 John 5:3 Ellen G. White, *From Eternity Past*, p. 95.



Moderator Pr. Aphod Sinclair

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Prayer Leader's Section:

September 26, 2015

39th Sabbath

God's Great Need

"God Wondered." This is a very striking thought! The very boldness of the idea ought surely to arrest the attention of every earnest Christian man, woman and child. A wondering God! Why, how staggered we might well be if we knew the cause of God's "wonder"! Yet we find it to be, apparently, a very little thing. But if we are willing to consider the matter carefully, we shall discover it to be one of the greatest possible importance to every believer on the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing else is so momentous - so vital - to our spiritual welfare.

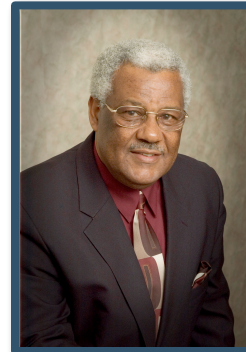
God "wondered that there was no intercessor" (Is.59:16) - "none to interpose" (R.V., marg.). But this was in the days of long ago, before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ "full of grace and truth" - before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, full of grace and power, "helping our infirmity," "Himself making intercession for us" and in us (Rom. 8: 26). Yes, and before the truly amazing promises of our Savior regarding prayer; before men [and women] knew very much about prayer; in the days when sacrifices for their sins loomed larger in their eyes than supplication for other sinners. Oh, how great must be God's wonder today! Do we realize that there is nothing the devil dreads so much as prayer? His great concern is to keep us from praying. He loves to see us "up to our eyes" in work - provided we do not pray. He does not fear because we are eager and earnest Bible students - provided we are little in prayer. Someone has wisely said, "Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Prayer focus:

That we will lay hold of the sort of prayer life that will make Satan tremble.

Author Unknown, The Kneeling Christian, pp. 1-8

Sabbath Prayer Focus:



Pr. Carlyle Simmons
AUC Executive Secretary
and Prayer Leader

"Come . . . Ask . . . Receive!"

1 John 5: 14,15

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Every earnest petition for grace and strength will be answered.... Ask God to do for you those things that you cannot do for yourselves. Tell Jesus everything. Lay open before Him the secrets of your heart; for His eye searches the inmost recesses of the soul, and He reads your thoughts as an open book. When you have asked for the things that are necessary for your soul's good, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. Accept His gifts with your whole heart; for Jesus has died that you might have the precious things of heaven as your own, and at last find a home with the heavenly angels in the kingdom of God.

The petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit he will not despise. The opening of our hearts to our heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love - this is true prayer. . . . The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian ... are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power. Ellen G. White, My Life Today, p. 16-18