

QUARTERLY REWIND

The newsletter of Colton Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Editor's Note

Words from a newcomer

Hello! Welcome to the Colton Seventh-Day Adventist Church newsletter. I am really excited to be taking over the newsletter and want to extend a huge thank you to the previous Editor, Kristi Cruise. Her years of hard work, devotion and willingness to create content with the sole intention of delighting our congregation with this wonderful publication is inspiring. I hope to keep it going with the same spark of enthusiasm and focus on highlighting the events we participate in as a community invested in worshiping the Lord.

I want this publication to not only reflect past events, but spark conversation and collaboration in our church through a new medium of discourse, print publication. As I am new, I am open and receptive to suggestions and submissions from you all...especially submissions! The newsletter really relies on submissions, whether it be photos or articles, short devotionals, etc., in order to thrive. Please do not worry about personal writing skill or level. If there is something you would like to write and share with the congregation, I am more than happy to help. Submissions/suggestions can be submitted to the following email:

newslettercsda@gmail.com. Questions are welcome as well. Also, feel free to track me down if you prefer spit balling an idea in person. Let's do this!

Excited to collaborate,
Kristen Elsasser



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But the Lord is the True God

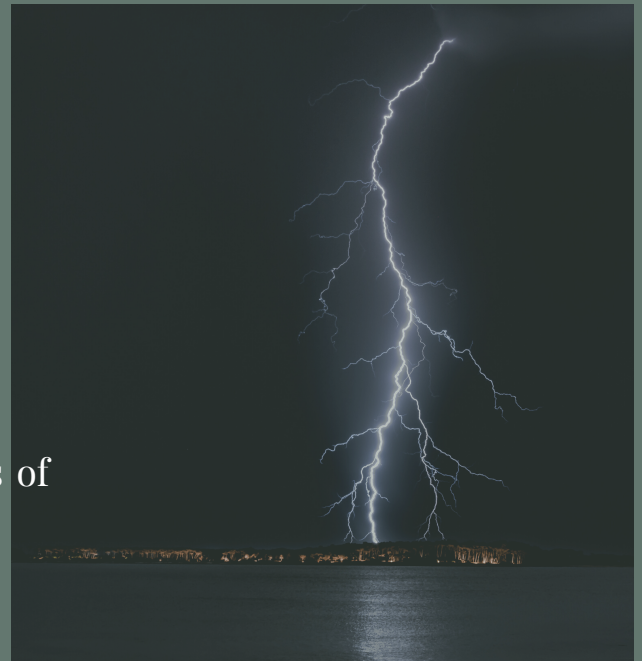
Avoiding material temptations

by: Kristi Cruise

66 He has made the earth by His power,
He has established the world by His wisdom,
And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.
13 When He utters His voice,
There is a multitude of waters in the heavens:
“And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of
the earth.
He makes lightning for the rain,
He brings the wind out of His treasuries.”
Full Excerpt: Jeremiah 10: 1-16

God does not mince words about idols in these passages. He is making fun of them! They cannot stand up by themselves, they cannot speak or walk, nor can they do evil or good. There is no need to fear them or revere them. Today, idols are considered primitive, a problem of the past. If only that were true. Unfortunately, we are just as human as the Israelites of old. In this passage, ornamentation is emphasized. The idols are made of gold and silver and wear costly clothes much like our idols today; Money and/or materialism is a measure of success that is often flaunted in the media. We enjoy telling ourselves that if we had more money, we would not have problems. These thoughts often make me laugh at myself. No matter how much money I have, I will still have problems.

A while back, I was scanning a young man who had been stabbed. As part of my job, I often ask how this has happened. After many years and reflection, I have stopped asking how these patients were stabbed, shot, etc. It is not because I lack curiosity. Instead, it is because I can already infer what their response will be, “I didn’t do nothin’. That guy stabbed (e.g., shot or hit) me for no reason.” They always conveniently leave out their participation in the altercation, casting the blame on the other party. While I was working on this man's leg, he began telling me how I must not have any problems because I must make a lot of money. When I told him I have plenty of problems and money cannot solve them all, he was sure I was wrong



“Look,” I said, “I work in a hospital and I can tell you that no matter how rich you are, you can still get sick or injured and die. NO amount of money can keep you from dying. That is a problem money cannot prevent.”

“Oh,” he replied, “You sure told me. I never thought of that.”

Now I sound real smart here, but I can tell you that too often I get caught up in money and materialism. Amazon is a challenge. I generally dislike going to stores but now I can spend a fortune before I even get out of bed. Impulse buying takes on a whole new meaning with online shopping. If I’m not buying, then I’m trying to figure out how to pay for what I bought. Maybe you struggle to avoid the love of money too. Contained in verses 12-16 of the passage above is the antidote. God made everything your money can buy! God made the gold, silver and every other precious substance we desire. Everything from plastic to glass, metal to wood, rubber to ceramic is produced from something God made. All human-made things ultimately come from something God created.

God owns it all.

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

Psalm 50:10-12

Our worship, trust and devotion needs to rest squarely on the Creator rather than the creation. When we take our focus off the creation and zero in on the Creator, verse 2 is possible, "{...}Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven." When we focus on the creation of natural hazards and disasters (e.g., earthquakes, tornados, landslides, flooding, drought, fires, tsunamis and lightning strikes), it completely terrifies us. Creation, racked by sin, can turn on us, but God is on our side. Jesus is the only One who can save us from death.



November Group Walk in Redlands

by: Jerry Johnson

The final Healthy Resolutions Group Walk of 2017 happened on Saturday afternoon, November 11th, in suburban East Redlands. Starting and ending in Sylvan Park near the University of Redlands, the walk route passed through the middle of the University campus, then followed the course of the historic Zanja (one of the oldest man-made irrigation channels in Southern California), and finally returned along a recently developed "rails-to-trails" route. Seven people participated in this walk, enjoying the beautiful sunny mid-autumn weather and wonderful views of the surrounding mountains.

Blast from the Past

Photos in review



Continued on next page





Picture credits:
Donna Moura, Jerry Johnson
and Kristi Cruise.



Church Christmas Party

2018 & '19

by: Jerry Johnson

The Colton SDA Church family met for their annual Christmas Party on Saturday night, December 9th, in the church's fellowship hall. More than 50 people came to share a potluck supper of soup, sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres. Afterward, there were separate festivities for children, while the adults enjoyed the usual rollicking "White Elephant Gift Exchange."

