

Winter 2008 Newsletter

By the Fireside

Our Family Camp had over 50 people attending this year—the first time in our 6 years of presenting these conventions that we have had this many. There seems to be an urgency in the air.

We have just returned home after presenting [You Can Survive!](#) seminars in LeCenter, Minnesota; Needmore, Pennsylvania; Weirton and Point Pleasant, West Virginia; Marathon, Florida; and Shelbyville, Tennessee. In Marathon, we learned that Juanita Kretschmar (who recently lost her beloved pastor-husband, Merlin) is shepherding two churches and continuing to direct the family ministry, A Key Encounter, in Key West, a beautiful public presentation of praise to the Creator God. Many of you may recall their van ministry in NYC from a few years back. Our team was encouraged by the response to our presentation at the Marathon Church.

At Point Pleasant, WV, I walked across the street to the hospital one evening and was sitting in the lobby when a young man, Chad, came by and introduced himself. After a short casual conversation, Chad mentioned that he was a Sunday School teacher and that his wife had been studying the book of Revelation. I gave him my card which shows a picture of the cover of our book, [You Can Survive!](#) When he took it home and showed it to his wife, she was shocked to see the picture. Just a couple of days earlier she had discovered our web site which shows the cover of our book and decided to order [You Can Survive!](#) I left a copy of the book at the front desk for him even before I learned of this amazing turn of events. Since then, they have been reading YCS and staying in touch by e-mail. We pray that they will keep studying and desire higher ground.

Another family, long time supporters of our ministry who had been trying to sell 2 properties for some time before our visit to Point Pleasant, West Virginia, asked for special prayer during our seminar. They wanted to be debt-free through selling their real estate. Just a couple of days later, they called to tell us that they had received not one, but two, viable offers on one of the properties! The response was overwhelming in all six of the churches we visited. Hundreds of people recommitted their hearts and gave Him the impossibilities of their past lives.

Since the first edition of our book, [You Can Survive!](#), was sold out, we recently had the second edition printed at the Review and Herald. It contains about 50 more pages of material, but can still be obtained for the same \$20 price from Ruth Maddy (509-369-2671). 10 or more copies may be obtained at a 40% discount. Some of the additions include: an expanded Closing Events chart, a discussion on the rapture, "Ready or Not" and "Only Safety" lists, a discussion on special creation, the sanctuary, and the intercession of Jesus. The Spanish edition has now been translated and will soon be ready for printing at the Review. [God's Appointed](#), the story of how a young man found the truth through God's plan for courtship, is now available from Ruth. Another outstanding providence is the reprinting of *From City to Country Living* by A. L. White and E. A. Sutherland. It contains information to help people make the transition from the city to the country. It is available from the ABC stores, or from us here in Canada. If you feel that we need conference leadership, in helping people make the change from city to country living, please write or phone Elder Halvard Thomsen, Assistant to the NAD President: 301-680-6402 or e-mail halvard.thomsen@nad.adventist.org

Our son, Jed, and wife, Amber, will have a child in mid-March. Prayers for them and praise to God! They have sets and singles of CDs and DVDs of our sermons (250-788-9421).

Current needs include: 1) use of a country property suitable for a family camp on the east coast, Midwest and western US and Canada and teams who feel called to help present camps.

Our British Columbia Family Camp will be August 27-Sept 5, 2009. Plan now to come.

In the Chapel

The news is full of negative reports about the economy. Experts are telling us that we are experiencing recession with strong tendencies toward depression. In our travels we sense, from the people who attend our meetings, that because of these economic conditions they need to be out of debt and out of the cities. "Don't these conditions indicate that the last days are here and that the Lord's is coming soon?" they ask. Let's take the first part of the question on economic situations first. GC 590 says "... and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity." If we are losing temporal prosperity (as it is today) then the

Sunday Law could come soon and the end of time could be very close.

The second question is about our motivation for being ready for these last days and the coming of Jesus. Because of the economy or any other catastrophe our motive for the return of Jesus must be because we love and miss Him not because of conspiracies, dates given for His arrival, or fear. 2 Timothy 4:8 states that a crown will be given, "...to those who love His appearing." These are the people who are motivated by love. In DA 480:3 the Spirit of Prophecy strongly endorses the love motivation for service and preparation for end time events. "*It is not the fear of punishment or the hope of everlasting reward that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Savior's matchless love, revealed through His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice and they follow Him.*" Love is the most powerful of all motivations.

2 SM 142 states, "*The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force.*" The world, conspiracies, debates on theology all vie for our attention and divert our attention from the work that God has called us to do in preparing for last day events. Let us keep preparing, continuing our work like Nehemiah 6:3, "... I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down." We should not give any attention to things that divert us from our work for God.

Your brother,
Jere Franklin

You Can Survive!
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