

SERVICES FOR SABBATH 13th April 2013

BIBLE STUDY HOUR – 10:00 am

The theme for this quarter is: “Major Lessons from Minor Prophets”

This week’s study is on the topic: “Love and Judgment: God’s Dilemma (Hosea)” led by Johnny Addai-Peprah

DIVINE SERVICE

Welcome and Announcements	
Opening Hymn	SDAH# 248 - 'O How I Love Jesus'
Prayer	Pr. Jimmy Botha
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 30:18
Tithes & Offerings	
Baptism	
Children’s Story	
Acceptance into membership	
Sermon	'Nonetheless, the Lord is Waiting'
Closing Hymn	SDAH# 470 - 'There's Sunshine in My Soul Today'
Benediction	Pr. Jimmy Botha

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Family Ministries Meeting

Minister:

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Sunset Times:

Sabbath 13th April – 8:13 pm
Friday 19th April – 8:25 pm

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Romancing the Soul: What I’ve Learned as a Parent of an Autistic Child

Romance is in the air in February – at least according to the grocery store aisle. Valentine’s candy and gifts fill every available space.

So, I’ve been contemplating: What is Romance?

My following conclusion might not be what you’d expect, but perhaps I have found the greatest romance of all.

When Rachel was little, she had frequent fits. Not “didn’t get my way” fits. It was like night terrors, except any time of the day or night. She could scream for an hour without stopping. One night, while visiting my sister, Rachel had one of her fits. She stood up and screamed. And screamed.

Afraid we were keeping the entire neighbourhood awake, hubby and I tried to hold her, but she knocked all attempts away. We tried to say soothing words to her, but she kicked and screamed louder. We tried to sit by her, but she swatted at anything that came close. I looked at hubby through bleary eyes. “Do we need an old priest and a young priest?” He let out a small laugh and shook his head. But we both were thinking the same thing: Maybe we do... And wouldn’t that be nice? To have a solution to this.

But there was no quick solution, no miracle that made her well. We were helpless. She was unreachable. Autism held her in an unyielding grip of isolation. The only thing we could do was love her from afar and reach out to her even though she gave us nothing in return. It wasn’t until Rachel was past age three, that she began wanting me to hold her. Then she wanted me to carry her all the time. And I did for years, even after she reached 50 pounds. People told me to stop, but how could I help them see that this was one of the only times my baby wanted me to hold her? That I was making up for years of lost time? That I was so glad she finally accepted any kind of affection from me? I was going to take all I could get. Even though I had been there for Rachel her entire life, it was like autism had blinded her to my mothering love, had stolen from her the close bond we should have had.

In talking to hubby about this post, he said it so succinctly. “I did not grasp the depth of God’s love, the way He romances us daily even if we offer Him nothing in return, until we had Rachel.”

And that is the heart of the matter:

The Divine Romance: God always opens his arms to us. He wants to carry us through trials. He, a perfect God, even died a brutal death for the object of His love: us.

So many people, like my beautiful daughter Rachel, fail to grasp the idea of the Divine Romance from the One who reaches for us always. Who longs to hold us, His children. Even when we shove Him away, He still loves, still waits with open arms. His heart might break at the lack of response, but He always loves, always hopes, always protects.

So, what is my idea of romance? It is learning that if I, an imperfect person, can love my child even when I receive nothing to return, then I can see a glimpse of how deeply Jesus loves children, even when we feel we have nothing to offer him.

And this, my friends, is the greatest romance of all.

Where have you seen glimpses of the depths of God’s love?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **Welcome.** The pastor and congregation are delighted to welcome you to Dundee Seventh-day Adventist Church; especially if this is your first visit. May our time together be blessed!

* **Fellowship meal.** We extend a warm invitation to all to join us for a meal immediately after the service.

* **Ingathering Annual Appeal 2013** (March 30-14 April): It's that time of the year again - Ingathering in Scotland has begun. The funds collected for the 2013 appeal will support a range of projects in Africa, Asia, and the UK, as well as helping people affected by disasters. With your help Dundee will make a difference to the suffering and needs of others. For further information see Bankole.

* **Baptism:** it is with great pleasure that we announce the baptism of Laud Kodji. Let us prepare to join in the celebration of another soul who has decided to accept the Lord Jesus as a real part of his life. The baptismal service will take place today during the divine service

* **Family Ministries meeting:** There will be Family Ministries meeting today. Everyone is invited and the meeting will take place soon after lunch.

* **Social event.** tonight - Our Filipino friends have kindly accepted to lead out in an evening of games and fun. Everyone is invited to bring along their own supper (around 18:30). We shall close Sabbath together and afterwards participate in a lot of wonderful activities which are meant to relax us all and put lots of smiles on everyone's faces. Please, invite along your family and friends to participate in a memorable evening.

* **Pathfinder & Adventurer Camporee:** 30th Aug - 1st Sept 2013, Venue: Galloway Activity Centre, Cost: £42 per person + food & own transport, Application Form by February 28th, Deposit of £20 by March 30th, Balance by June 30th.

* **Parenting for Heaven:** lectures on parenting with Dr Saustin K Mfune on 4th - 5th May in Glasgow church, please see the board for more details.

* **A Prayer Team.** Anyone who would like to be part of the prayer team, please see Sandra.

* **Toddler group** meets every Tuesday morning 10-12 noon. Helpers are needed to talk to the parents, play with the children and help prepare the snack. Please come and help if you can!

* **Bible Study/Prayer meeting.** The weekly Bible Study takes place in the church at 6:30 pm every Wednesday. The study currently focuses on Jon Paulien's exposition of book of Revelation.

* **Lost Property:** There are quite a few items that have been left behind in church. Please look in the Lost Property Box on the piano in the Barrie Centre if you have mislaid an item.

Future Preachers:

20th April – Brenya Obeng

27th April – Pr. Marcel Ghioalda

4th May – Pr. Marcel Ghioalda

11th May – Tarzan Bhebe

18th May – Anthony Keough

25th May - Johnny Addai-Peprah

Future Events:

4-5th May – Parenting – Dr Mfune - Glasgow

18th May - Tessera Adventist Quartet (concert in evening)



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

DUNDEE CHURCH BULLETIN

-- April 13th 2013 --



*We extend a warm welcome to you and hope you
enjoy worshipping with us today!*

Receiving God's grace in our hearts
Responding to God's grace in worship
Reflecting God's grace to each other
Revealing God's grace in service