

# Church News

## Take the 90 Day Challenge - Pastor Jeremy

Have you ever read the Bible all the way through? It's a fair question to ask a Christian and yet many aren't able to say with certainty that they have. Often we treat the Bible more like an encyclopedia than a book. We turn to it for promises, for proof texts, for instructions, but seldom do we read it through like we would with a typical novel or biography. Thus when asked if they've read the entire book, many have to stop and think. While in-depth study certainly has its place and is necessary, there is something to be said for reading through the entire book, front to back. If one fails to read it through in a reasonable amount of time, you lose the flow and rhythm of the book. As Christians, we teach and believe that the Bible is the inspired will of God and that prophets were guided by the Holy

Spirit as they wrote words of truth. So if the Author of Scripture guided the writers and compilers of this masterpiece, doesn't it go to reason that there



would be benefit in reading it from cover to cover.

Here is where I would like to introduce you to the concept of reading the Bible in 90 days. I recently came across the idea when looking through a Christian Bookstore catalogue. A program has been put together and marketed by Zondervan Publishing that is entitled, "Read the Bible

in 90 Days." While their resources are helpful, we will only be using their reading plan and not their specific materials. This will allow you to use the Bible of your choice. Why 90 days? Many have read the Bible in less time but to do so requires a great deal of commitment. 90 days breaks it down so that you are reading roughly 8,000 words a day or the equivalent of 4 pages out of a USA Today newspaper. For the average reader, such an amount entails around 45-60 minutes of your time each day. A second reason for the 90 day approach is that it allows you to glean the big picture of Scripture. Having the big picture is very important when you approach a particular story or passage.

If you are like most, you have often set out to read

*(continued on page 5)*

### Inside this issue:

The Family Life Center: A Concern	2
Adventist Food Buying Club	3
A Farewell Letter from the Stovall Family	4
Personal Ministries Minute	5
Online Giving Now Available	6
Reaching Out to the Community	6
Church Calendar	7
Adventists & Military Service	8

## Mighty Men of God



Presented by  
Pastor Doug Bachelor

A Four Part  
Series for Men

**March 27, 6-8pm**

INFORMATION :  
277.5012 or 800.216.3231 ext. 227

## The Family Life Center: A Concern —Elder Charles Case

I have sat by for almost a year and said very little, but my interest and concerns have vaulted me to write this letter of concern to you my fellow brothers and sisters.

Millie and I came to this church in August of 1997, and were excited to do so (and we still are). The members back then were all excited to build a gymnasium. They had been putting moneys in the treasury every month for this project, and they had in the bank about \$20,000.

Over the next few years needs came along—A new organ, \$10,000, paid for by 10 families; paving of the parking lot and lane to school, \$29,000; new heating & air system and a new fire alarm & security system, in the school, \$25,000+; re-roofed the school, \$15,000; installation of new PA and audio-visual systems in the church, \$7,500; and other misc. equipment, \$2,500, for a grand total of \$89,000, which was all paid for almost immediately, or within two years, as we went along. Not only that, this church family accumulated an additional \$112,328 for the new gym, for a grand total of \$185,000, all within a 7 year period. Plus, we supported our school by around \$100,000 a year. Can you say AMEN to that?

You can see the great “lifting power” this church had to this point, Dec. 31, 2003, with \$117,267.27 in hand for the new gym. WOW!

We voted, after much discussion of the pros and cons, to start our gym project, and by August, 2003, the ground had been filled and leveled and we began the new Family Life Center, coordinated by Loraine Sweetland and her committee. I was asked to head

up the construction project.

For two long years we struggled with small crews of volunteers and some contracted labor for the erection of the building, laying of cement block, installation of heating and air system, outside and gym floor painting, sheet rock, suspended ceiling, and fire alarm system.

During construction we had to re-



evaluate our financial situation and you voted to increase our conference loan twice, due to the length of time and the spiraling material costs. When all was done, we had a total investment of around \$480,000 for an estimated \$750,000 building. I believe that our final loan was about \$280,000. The Georgia-Cumberland Conference subsidized us with more than \$20,000 over the four year period.

On November 12, 2006, we opened officially the doors of the FLC and began to use it. Shortly thereafter, I noticed that our monthly income began to wane. (You will notice the amount in the weekly church bulletin.) I have continually prayed about this situation, but I felt I needed to share with you of my concern.

We have a monthly goal of \$2,200 (mortgage payment of about \$2,000 and \$200.00 surplus for the parking

lot finishing) per month, plus the utilities each month, which run about \$4-500. As of our last church board meeting on Feb. 13, 08, our FLC budget was \$9,681.11 in arrears (four months behind), and we just do not seem to be keeping up with our monthly needs, plus the church expense is behind as well.

When we went into the FLC building project, I made a statement to those present that I did not want to lead out in a project that was going to lag behind financially and be a burden to our church, and you voted and said “Move on”, which we did. All went well until we cut the opening ribbon, then many seemed to “relax” that the building was finished. You no longer heard the constant reminder after the FLC was finished. However, we still need to pay the mortgage and utilities each month, and prepare to enlarge the parking lot.

I know there are some supportive members who have left and many new members that have been added to our church family since we began the FLC, which has been exciting. Maybe you didn't get the history and our need to keep this project afloat, which is no doubt our fault, but now, we need every one's help from both our long-time and newer members. Our FLC is being used all through the week for many activities, and we heard recently from our head teacher, Gay Knap, that the accreditation committee was very pleased that we finally had a place where our children could do their recreation during recess periods and in inclement weather. That helped on our accreditation of our school.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## The Family Life Center: A Concern—Continued

If we are to maintain the FLC as we need to and prepare for the future, thinking about a new church facility which many have talked to me about, I can't even entertain the thought, until we get our FLC running on a financial sound basis.

Thank you for allowing me to share my concern, as this had been haunting me, since I was the one who lead out with faith in God and my church family as that was the right thing to do, and would be sustained financially,

and then to see us falling financially behind each month, has given me room for real concern. The cutting of the ribbon seemed to make a big difference financially. We seemed to start drying up financially, just as the FLC was beginning to be used substantially, which was our plan. This is our church activity center and we need to maintain it for our church family and our outreach to the community. *WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE!*

My plea to all of us, Millie and me included, is that we need to keep our "pledges" coming each month, and that each family put into the treasury as much as possible, to keep our church afloat, especially the FLC. And, we have a school on the hill that needs our support as well. Thank you and may God bless you all as you contemplate my concern for our FLC, church and school facility.

Your brother-in-Christ, CHUCK

## Adventist Food Buying Club Update—Lorraine Sweetland

The Adventist Food Buying Club (AFBC) is still active with growing pains as are most organizations. From our original 16 families, we have grown to 33 and back down to 30. Ten new people joined from October to December of 2007. Some people join and decide it is not for them, especially when they find out how much work is involved in creating an order, splitting it and repacking for each member. Some members are more active than others; some have jobs which keep them from participating as much as they would like. Our average group order is from 20 to 25 families and costs us from \$2000 to \$2500.

For those of you who have not heard about food clubs, food clubs do not make money, but they save money and time by buying quality organic food in case lots and splitting the cases among the members. Soon we will have Web Site ordering for those who have computers, and the order takers will place orders for those without computers.

Our mission has been to offer special needs people in our community access to foods that are not always available locally. Some of us do not have the time or money to travel miles and hours to obtain the foods that we like.



Others of us just plain do not like getting groceries every week. It is fun when the large tractor trailer truck from United Natural Foods

comes every four weeks to deliver all kinds of grocery items from dried nuts and fruits, to frozen fruits and vegetables, to paper towels, baby foods, variety of breads, granolacereals, dog and cat foods, flour in bulk, and innumerable other items.

We charge ourselves 2% of our order each month to pay for expenses.

From that 2%, we were able to give \$75.00 to our Health Ministry Department in August as they are our sponsors. This in turn helps to support some of the expenses of the Family Life Center. We hope to be able to gradually increase that amount as our club grows. Come and visit on one of the delivery days, on a Tuesday afternoon. For more information, call Lorraine at 456-4706 or e-mail: [auriefern@frontiernet.net](mailto:auriefern@frontiernet.net).



Submit your stories and news for consideration in the next edition of Church News by emailing [pastor@arnall.org](mailto:pastor@arnall.org)

## A Farewell Letter from the Stovall Family

With much sadness (and some excitement) Mike & I announce that we will be moving. Mike has accepted a job at Livingston Hospital (just north of Cookeville). We have prayed long and hard for the past year for the Lord to lead us, and when this job opportunity was offered to us we knew this is what we were to do. We are planning on staying here in Crossville until June, which by that time we hope to have our house sold and new one obtained. So we ask for your prayers in that endeavor.

I would like to thank my church family for all the wonderful support that you have given us. When Mike and I first looked at Crossville, it was this church that made it feel right. I had never really felt welcomed in a church before (even though I have gone all my life), and that day we walked in it was the first time I didn't feel judged or ignored. Everyone was so kind and interested in us. When we went back home to Nashville, we just knew. We knew this was the right place for us, this was where we wanted to be. So, much to the surprise of the Jenkin's - who thought they would never see us again - we came!

We have enjoyed the friendships that we have gained. You all mean so much to us and you are what make this church special. I sit here crying because you guys just don't realize what you have given to me and my family. You gave me friendships, and through that I got to see a glimpse of God. You have helped us create a God centered home and gave me a relationship with Him that I NEVER

had before! It is exciting to look back and see how much He has led in our lives. I gave up on God a lot, but He never gave up on me!

Many would be shocked to know that I had never held a church office or lead out in major endeavors in the past. Yes, you read that correctly! I had never held a church office. But God prompted me take on "jobs" I never had before. That first year I had never spoken up front before and I was terrified! My stomach would roll and my hands would shake, but I guess from what others told me - you could never tell. I was scared of Cradleroll, but I keep telling myself that my critics (those 0-4 years olds) are harsh! I just have to laugh and roll with it. I have to laugh when I think I found myself offering to do children's story! I was scared and after I offered wished I hadn't, but felt that the Lord had given me a story to tell. I have learned a lot here and I thank you for all putting up me and helping me learn confidence in myself. I guess I want to say if God can use me, he can use anyone. We just have to be willing to lend our bodies and energy to His cause.

I would like to thank the teachers and students of Inez Wrenn School. I had lost faith in our Christian education - even after attending for 16 years! I didn't think much of that little school on the hill and didn't care; because we didn't want to send our child to such a small school. I had met quite a few strange kids from small schools! But then I met some of the most amazing kids. They were kind, sweet, tolerant, smart and Christ centered; and I wanted to know

more about these kids and where they went to school. Teachers and parents - it was your guidance that shows through your kids. Their actions and behaviors spoke louder than any voice ever could have to me. For that reason, and that reason alone, we placed Alex in Inez Wrenn School, and I am so glad we did. He has learned more there than he could at any other school. We have a child who is excited about Jesus, who says that he can't wait to go to Heaven and wishes that there was no sin. He talks to his brother and sister about Jesus and wants them to ask Him into their lives. He came out crying one night, because he was happy that Caleb asked Jesus into his heart. He said he was crying tears of happiness. Here I am crying tears of happiness for the love and faith that I have now because of you.

Each of you are an important part of our lives, and we don't want that to change. We still want to celebrate your joys, hold you in your tears, and stand by you through the storms that come and go. I can honestly say you were my first true church family! I happen to like family and I don't let friends go easily. So I guess we are not saying good-bye, just we will see ya later.

*Mike, Heather, Alex, Caleb and  
Jaelin Stovall*

## Personal Ministries Minute - Kevin Zais



When did God make me?" Her little voice filled the room with the question. Almost simultaneously my mind raced with several bits of scripture that would provide scriptural evidence supporting my belief that God and only God is responsible for the gift of life.

But you see in a **minute** such as this, all the bible verses in the world don't seem to matter. No, instead you are presented with innocence that transcends the world were we back up our beliefs with the Word of God.

Looking into the eyes of my child, looking into the eyes of a little girl that is trying to understand what daddy means

by God. This person that she's never seen come over to visit, never seen when we attend church on the Sabbath, never seen at night as we read bedtime stories together, this person that she's never seen except through the eye's of her father, her mother, and her Sabbath school teachers.

It really is funny, isn't it? How much can transpire in the mind in such a short amount of time. Before I had a chance to answer, I heard her mother's voice saying, "Almost five years ago now Honey." "Oh" she said, and almost in a flash my daughter was climbing up into her mothers lap. "God loved you so much that he put you into mommy's tummy for mommy to take care of you until it was time for you to come out." Giggling together, everything was

perfect knowing that God had provided safety and love for them to share. No others questions were needed, no scriptural evidence to be sought and substantiated, no; in the end the only thing really needed was truth and love.

In these small hours when the questions appear so large. God and God alone will supply the words needed, they were wrapped up together in the gift of the Holy Spirit, He wrapped around them as if He were a soft snugly comforter on a chilly night.

So, I ask you this question, was it wise to let love be the answer?

## Read the Bible in 90 Days (continued)

the entire Bible only to become distracted or frustrated. By doing the program together as a church family, you can find the support and encouragement you need to fulfill your dream.

Beginning Wednesday, March 19, we will meet at 6:30pm at the church to prepare for the journey. In addition to praying for one another, an orientation will be given regarding the program and a reading plan will be distributed. Then on Easter Sunday, March 23, we will corporately begin the reading plan. During the 90 days, we will meet weekly on Wednesday nights to review where we've been, to lift each other up in prayer, and to encourage each other to keep pressing on.

By Friday, June 20, you will have read the entire Bible through just in time for Summer. Think, while the flowers are blooming and the grass turning green, while the days are growing warmer and the birds are beginning their song, you can grow in Christ through the reading of His Word. Indeed, just as new life begins in Spring, so a new experience can develop in you. I can think of no better way for revival and power to be granted us in preparation for our summer prophecy series than to read through God's Word. Yes, it will take a commitment. It's going to take time but what better way to invest your time. If you feel that you don't have an hour to give each day, then you might consider purchasing the Bible on MP3 or Tape and listening to it while you drive to

work or run errands. In the time that it takes to watch both the local news and world news on TV, you could have completed one days worth of reading. Whatever you need to do to make it happen, I would plead with you that you do it. Don't miss this opportunity to grow as a family together in a greater understanding of God's Word!

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15:4 NKJV Spending time with God amidst all the distractions of the World takes real effort, but I promise you that you will find reward through this experience. Please join us as we journey together for 90 days!

## Online Giving Now Available—Pastor Jeremy

Several months back, the church board voted to proceed with a program called Adventist Giving. This program allows anyone, member or not, to give an offering or tithe online through our local church web site. The North American Division introduced this plan several months ago in an effort to make it easier for members to give of their first fruits as Scripture commands. Because of traveling and the like, many are not able to be in their local church on a regular basis and by giving online, they can stay current with their giving regardless of where they might be on any particular Sabbath. Some folks simply like to do their finances online and would like to give their tithe and offering right away when they are paid. By using this new service, they can. All that is required to use the service is a computer with an internet

connection, a credit or debit card and the completion of a quick registration process. So regardless of whether you are in Crossville or Bangkok, you can give to your local church.

To give online, simply visit our web site at [Crossvillesdachurch.org](http://Crossvillesdachurch.org) and click on the tab, "Online Giving." There you will be guided to a link that will take you to a secure site where you will be asked to create a new username and password. Note that this isn't the same password and username that you use on our local church site. After completing this registration process, you will be shown a form that has a list of the accounts you can give to. For exam-



ple, like with the tithe envelope, you can give your tithe on one line, and then to local church budget on another line. There is even a place to give to our school or for the building fund which will help to pay for our Family Life Center. After you have designated where you want your offerings to go and designated the amount for your tithe, you will enter your credit card or debit card information and submit your offering. All of your online offerings and tithe are funneled through the local church and the local church treasurer handles the offerings like he normally would had you placed it in the offering plate. Tithes and appropriate offerings are still sent to the conference as usual and you will still be issued a tax deductible receipt at the end of the year. Please feel free to take advantage of this new service.

## Reaching Out to the Community—Pastor Jeremy

We are off to a good start already this year with a very successful CHIP program. We have 35 people taking part in the project. After CHIP, we will begin our "Read the Bible in 90 Days" program. From what I can tell, this program isn't being offered in our community right now. So we plan to advertise in the paper and hope that you will invite a friend to participate with you. Then there is a Men's Ministries series beginning on Thursday, March 27 entitled, "Might Men of God." This four part series will meet every other week and challenge men to be all that God has called them to be. On Sunday, April 13, we will once again offer our Free Spring Portraits for the community. This allows members of the community

to visit our church and pastor in a casual setting and provides them a meaningful service. While our numbers were not great last time, we had some excellent visits and experiences with the few that did participate. We hope that with improved advertising we can reach more this time around. In early January we sent out thousands of Bible study invitations and have had over 80 respond to the invitation. This program operates quietly in the background but serves an important part in our overall outreach. Of course our Family Life Center is being used to



serve the community. On Tuesday evenings, Brian Hickman and a group of men play basketball. Occasionally on Saturday nights, Pathfinders or the church sponsors an activity such as a game night or movie night. As Seventh-Day Adventist Christians, we believe that all these activities, while fun and rewarding, provide more. We believe that they provide us the opportunity to grow closer to Christ and allow us the opportunity to share our love for God with others and in time share the everlasting Gospel as proclaimed in the Three Angels Message. This World is not our home and we are ever mindful of this. Thus may we always seek for an opportunity to share our faith. Press on!

# ▶ March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy Vespers 5:30pm
2	3 CHIP 6PM	4 Church Finance Comm. 4:30pm CHIP 6PM	5 CHIP 6PM	6 CHIP 6PM	7	8 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy  Vespers 5:30pm
9 Set Clocks Forward 1 hour	10 School Board 4:30pm CHIP 6PM	11 CHIP 6PM	12 CHIP 6PM	13 CHIP 6PM	14	15 Morning Worship— Pastor Ahn Vespers 6:30pm Game Night 7:00PM
16	17	18 Church Board 5:30PM	19 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	20	21	22 Morning Worship & Communion- Pastor Jeremy  Vespers 7PM
23 Easter <b>90Days Begins</b>	24 <b>Bible in</b>	25	26 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30PM	27 Men's Group 6PM	28	29 Morning Worship- Elder Jensen  Vespers 7PM
30	31					

# ▶ April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 School Board 5:30pm	2 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30pm	3	4	5 Morning Worship— Elder Kuebler  Vespers 7PM
6	7	8 Church Board 5:30PM	9 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30pm	10 Men's Group 6PM	11	12 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy  Vespers 7PM
13 Free Spring Portraits for the Community 12pm	14	15	16 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30pm	17	18	19 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy  Vespers 7PM
20	21	22	23 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30pm	24 Men's Group 6PM	25	26 Morning Worship— Pastor Jeremy  Vespers 7PM
27	28	29	30 Pathfinders 6PM Bible in 90 Days 6:30pm			

Crossville Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
PO Box 645  
Crossville, TN 38557

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE.

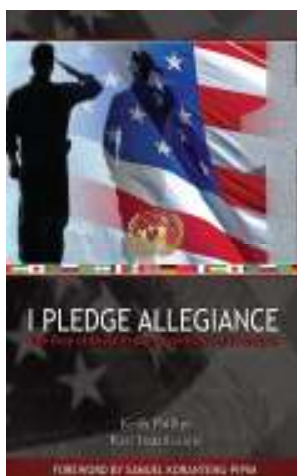
Visit us at  
[www.crossvillesdachurch.org](http://www.crossvillesdachurch.org)

## Adventists & Military Service—Jerry Stevens

**D**o you know a young Adventist person who is contemplating military service? If so, both of you should be aware of the controversy currently swirling about this hot topic.

A few weeks ago I donated a brand-new book to our church library. It's called *I Pledge Allegiance: The Role of Seventh-day Adventists in the Military*. Since the authors, two SDA pastors in the Michigan Conference, asked me to edit the book, I became intimately familiar with their stance, and I believe that it is a very fair and balanced one.

The topic itself is at least controversial, if not explosive. Such matters as



war. It may no longer be possible both to obey orders and to remain a noncombatant. What about medics and military chaplains? What about

S a b b a t h  
k e e p i n g  
p r o b l e m s  
i n  
t h e  
m i l i t a r y  
a r e  
b r o u g h t  
o u t .  
E q u a l l y  
i m p o r t a n t  
i s  
t h e  
c o n c e r n  
a l l  
o f  
u s  
s h o u l d  
h a v e  
a b o u t  
S D A  
y o u n g  
p e o p l e  
s e r v i n g  
i n  
t i m e s  
o f

tacit acceptance of killing by virtue of being connected with those whose mission it is to eliminate the enemy?

Many questions of this type naturally arise. I encourage any who have an interest in this subject to check out the book and give it a careful and prayerful read. The authors are Keith Phillips and Karl Tsatalbasidis. Keith spent several years in the military, so his knowledge and experience go well beyond the merely theoretical.

If you would like to purchase your own copy of the book, please go online at [ww.AdventistsConnect.org](http://ww.AdventistsConnect.org).