

# FaithTalk



A publication of Crossville Seventh-day Adventist Church

## TeensTARGETED

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### March 2018

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Saturday nights mean a lot of different things to different people. Many members of the Crossville SDA Church enjoy closing the Sabbath and spending time with family. Maybe a wholesome meal and a funny movie. However, at TeensTARGETED, Saturday nights mean basketball nights!

This past Sabbath, all 14 basketball teams with ages ranging from as young as 4 to 17-year-old high school students competed for the spot of champions in their age brackets. Since November, approximately 130 Crossville and Cumberland County youth from all different backgrounds have worked hard during basketball practices and games. Players learned teamwork and valuable life skills while working with their coaches and fellow teammates.

This year's champions include the Jaguars (ages 4 to 6), Tim Wyatt Construction (ages 7 to 9), Rick's Reliable Transmission (ages 10 to 13), and Ivy Gardner, Attorney (ages 14 to 17). Each individual player worked very hard and our organization is very proud of them.

In addition to our champions, many

volunteers made our program possible. Mark and Nancy Anderson worked tirelessly in the concession stand. Donald and April Oakes assisted with scoring along with Mr. and Mrs. Farmer. These valuable volunteers (and many others from the church and community) helped make this program a success.

We are looking forward to a new basketball season next year and for more opportunities to be a blessing to youth in the community. Please keep us and our program in your prayers.

- Eric Hickman



Prayer Meeting resumes - every Wednesday, 6 p.m.







*From the  
Pastor*

### **Sounding Brass & Clanging Cymbals: Empty Christianity**

No one admires an orchestra's rendition of a classical piece of music if the strings, brass, percussion, or woodwinds play in a disjointed, out-of-tune way. We'd demand a refund. Clanging, screeching, or awkwardness is not a symphony!

Yet, could the symphony of our Christian experience and witness be clanging, screeching, awkward, disjointed? Could we somehow "talk" the right theological rhetoric, but miss the true essence of Christianity in our walk with Christ? Unfortunately, yes! Paul stuns us with this sobering reality in 1 Corinthians 13—the love chapter.

I could speak eloquently, possess the gift of prophecy, wisdom, or knowledge; have rock-solid faith, give generously to the poor, and even die a martyr's death. Yet, if I don't have God's divine agape-love, it's all wasted, useless. Ouch to my "Christian" ego.

As another Valentine's Day holiday has just come and gone, Hallmark and Hollywood tried to convince us that sentimental, mushy, or me-centered love is the real thing—the love to cultivate. Yet the Holy Spirit taps us on the shoulder with the reminder that God has something much better in the gift of His selfless, self-sacrificing, agape-love. This is the real thing. Bask in the beauty of His love for you as you read the Spirit's description in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Prophecies will fail. Tongues will cease. Knowledge will vanish. Yes, but God's love never fails! This is the love to have, to hold, and to share with others so they can see Jesus in us!

- Pastor David Sider

## Meet the Hammans



Here is a thumbnail sketch of our lives.

- Have lived in Jellico, Tennessee for 29 years while employed by Jellico Community Hospital. Gerald retired from the position of Dietary Manager, and Pam, a nurse, is the Home Health Administrator.
- Married in 1969 in the La Sierra College SDA church and have lived in California, Oregon, Hawaii, Virginia, and Tennessee.
- Worked at Rio Linda Academy, Milo Academy, Hawaiian Mission Hospital, Weimar Institute, and Hartland Institute.
- Have four children: Sonny in Vancouver, Washington; Karla in Redmond, Oregon; Jennifer in Nashville; and Tamara in Knoxville.
- Have two grandsons and four granddaughters, ages 6-24; one grandson in the U.S. Army, currently serving in Iraq.
- Moved to the Cumberland Plateau to live near two of our daughters and grandchildren.
- Enjoy Bible study, church fellowship, traveling, nature, hiking, and mountain trips.

~ Pam Hamman

### Newsletter Suggestions Welcome!

If you have ideas or suggestions for our church newsletter, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

Also, if you have items to include in future *FaithTalk* issues, please e-mail them to: [mamaples424@gmail.com](mailto:mamaples424@gmail.com).

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## Peanuts, Produce, and People

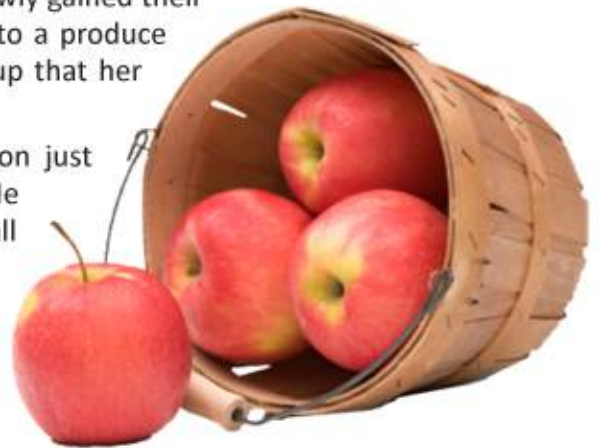
**S**haken Together employs a novel method of meeting people and developing relationships in our local area.

Over the past few months, I have developed good friendships with two people in a local museum. I began by offering rice, apples, and peaches at discount prices and asking a few questions. This has allowed us to begin discussing non-controversial topics. Over time, one man appreciates the free dried fruit samples that I share at his office. Recently, this has led to a thirty-minute discussion about “the rapture” in that office. At another location we engaged in a conversation about wine and alcohol in the Bible.

Farmers, bank tellers, librarians, and shoe salespersons become comfortable with our “food” visits, such that they are calling us for dried fruit and nuts; and we have slowly gained their confidence in talking about other things. When I commented to a produce manager that I noticed she was gone last week, she opened up that her sick husband had died the previous week.

A gentleman connected with the Bread of Life Rescue Mission just called, asking for several of our tasty and healthy products. He said his wife enjoyed our freshly made peanut butter without all the added shortening, sugar, and salt.

Beyond simply providing rice, popcorn, and cornmeal flour, we are introducing Adventists to the community in a way that develops friendships. A new definition of Adventists: “the folks with simple wholesome food for body and soul.”



~ Jack McNeilus

### Monthly Memory Verse

*“Thus says the Lord, ‘Heaven is My throne, and the Earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made, And all these things exist.’ Says the Lord: ‘But to this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My Word.’”*

Isaiah 66:1, 2 (NKJV)

Why such regard for the poor and contrite? Because they are emptied of self and are fully surrendered to God’s authority in their lives. No part of them is held back, no secret sin or cherished habit off-limits. They are allowing God to re-create them into people fit for sinless eternity in Heaven. The one who seeks for, and successfully finds, salvation is the one willing to abandon everything in the world for it. “There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. . . . Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the Kingdom of Heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost, but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 118).

Pray earnestly that each of us might become wholly Christ’s and wholly fit for Heaven.

~ Don Richards

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Visit us online at our  
**NEW website**  
[www.CrossvilleSDA.org](http://www.CrossvilleSDA.org)



*We'd love to have you come and  
worship with us this Sabbath!*

**9:15 a.m. Study & Praise**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**

**2335 West Avenue • Crossville, Tennessee 38571**