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# Hampden Heights Sentinel

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Students are learning "Light" skills at RJA this year. Page 1
- Taking inventory of my gratitude. Page 2
- What is your dream job for the Lord? Page 2
- Be careful of letting your faith be summed up in clichés. Page 3
- The fact is, media and reality have a very complex relationship. Page 4
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- What kind of king or queen would you be? Page 6

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*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness."*

*~1 Corinthians 3:19 NIV~*

## RJA News Corner

by Lee Stahl, Principal

### A New School Year Begins

Reading Junior Academy started its new school year on August 21. We are starting out the year so far with 79 students with 23 being new to our school this year. We are still hoping that there may be even more to come!



### Students waiting for instruction before going swimming at Ken Grill Recreation Center

On Friday, August 23, RJA students enjoyed an afternoon at the pool. Even though it was raining throughout the morning, the rain weakened enough that we were able to keep our tradition of an afternoon of swimming the first Friday of school.

### Spiritual Focus

Mr. Stahl led out in the first school chapel by introducing this year's spiritual theme, **Let Your Light Shine!** The theme is based on John 8:12: *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* We want our students and staff to develop Christ's character and to "have the light of life." We call these character traits *light-skills*. Each week and throughout the school year students will be introduced to one of the following light-skills: active listening, caring, common sense, cooperation, courage, curiosity, effort, encouragement, flexibility, friendship, initiative, integrity, organization, patience, perseverance, personal best, problem solving, punctuality, resourcefulness, responsibility, self-control, sense of humor, trust in God, truthfulness, respect, stewardship of the earth, stewardship of time, and stewardship of money.

### Church & School Picnic

On Sunday, August 25, students and families from RJA and members from several of the area Seventh-day Adventist churches had a picnic at the Shoemakersville Park. Besides all the good food and playground equipment for kids to play on, we also had table games, croquet, bean bag toss, and of course our annual softball game. It was a beautiful cool summer day and a great time to fellowship together. We hope this annual event will continue to grow!

## Grace's Outpost by Ashley Richards

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe." – Hebrews 12:28, NASB

I'm grateful for still moments at the end of the day when magenta and tangerine streak the sky and blush the clouds, the place where the horizon meets outer space. I'm grateful for the perspective under a magenta umbrella on a peaceful, rainy morning, joy bursting into my heart thrumming with peace and utter contentment. I'm grateful for the breath-snatching view on the cliff of a craggy mountaintop that drops into nothing, the tree coverage breaking wide enough to reveal awe-inspiring vistas for ten miles (in nearly every direction). I'm grateful for the feeling of gooey sand squishing between my toes as salty waves tickle my feet and seagulls scream and the

living sea roars. I'm grateful for lilies and daisies and lilacs in unexpected places, the fullness of their beauty and sweetness. I'm grateful for the feeling of damp, cool grass beneath my body as I stare up at balls of fire so mesmerizing, so far away that they can only speak of the God on the other side of them, and how He loves me.

I'm grateful for the beauty of God, and my God of beauty.

I'm grateful for a cozy chair to curl up in and a really good book to take me to faraway lands. I'm grateful for adventures to faraway places and friends and sisters (and a brother) to make the journey worth having. I'm grateful for peaceful sonatas and happy overtures and emotional fugues. I'm grateful for cuddly, giggly children. I'm grateful for hearts made whole. I'm grateful for friends who are heart of my heart.

I'm grateful for my personal,

affectionate God (He loves me!).

I'm grateful my King Jesus creates worlds, but also creates mysteries that leave us spellbound—like the communion of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I'm grateful my King Jesus came as a poor baby, and not as an untouchable Prince of Empires. I'm grateful my King Jesus doesn't just forgive sins, but also heals handicaps and resurrects the dead. I'm grateful that even death couldn't put my King Jesus in a box. I'm grateful my King Jesus is *kind*. I'm grateful my King Jesus loves me as personally as He loves Queen Elizabeth or Mother Teresa or Abraham Lincoln. I'm grateful that King Jesus has *good* plans for my life, no matter how often I mess them up. I'm grateful my King Jesus is preparing a mansion in heaven, just for me! I'm grateful that He knows my heart and my desires, and they *matter* to Him.

I'm grateful my King Jesus is coming soon, full of victory and glory. I'm grateful my King Jesus makes wars to cease and splits the bow in two. I'm grateful my King Jesus brings me peace, and not a sword. I'm grateful that my King Jesus *loves* me, and gave *Himself* for me. I'm grateful that my King Jesus clings to me, even when I'm too weak to cling to Him. I'm grateful my King Jesus rescued me out of a miry pit.

I'm grateful that my Everything is the God of Everything.

And He picks me.

## Question of the Month by Ashley Richards

**If you could do anything for Jesus, and money, health, time, or any other obstacle couldn't stand in the way, what is one thing you would do for Jesus that you've never done before?**

"I would quit my job, and work in any capacity He would put me in. Probably mission work." – Londa Torres

"I would love to have courage to pray in front of others." – Esther Piry

"I'd like to go to the mission field, where it's really, truly a mission field. I've worked in places where I've told myself I was being a missionary—the military, England, and so on—but there's a part of me that always wanted to go to the jungle where no one has heard about Jesus before." – Chaplain James Ellison

"Spend more time with Him." – Jack Romyn

"Be a missionary. That's always something I wanted to do." – Mary Jane Morgan

"I would be a missionary to the American Indians out west." – Matt Wlasniewski

"Probably be a missionary. Wherever Jesus called me. I'd love to go to the jungle. Teach English to children." – Suzanne Beard

"I would open a children's home. To be able to do that—get them out of the city, teach them work ethic—that would be my dream." – Wendy Stahl

"I would help young people not have to pay so many student loans." – Delilah Romyn

"I would give God 100% of my time, everything! Everything that takes our time is just a distraction. I want people to see I've been with Jesus." – José de Peña

## Going Deeper by Barbara Snyder

### Does Everything Really Happen for a Reason?

There are some phrases that we good Christians say to each other and to non-church others that really irk me. Almost all of us have been on the receiving end of these phrases, meant, no doubt to console us in times of need. In actuality, they often leave us, **if we are honest**, more desperate, shocked, depressed, alone, or dependent than before. We can be in the dark, still not understanding that some words are just not helpful to our fellow human beings who are in pain, grief, confusion, or despair. One of these phrases is "Everything happens for a reason." But dear family, don't be lightly paraphrasing Bible verses. You may do more harm than good.

Does everything happen for a reason? Think about the beliefs behind that sentence. God loves us. God wants what is best for us. God knows what is best for us. We belong to God; we have given ourselves to God. We have given Him our life day by day. We are in the hands of a loving God. All of these sentences are true. We have attempted to give examples of these truths to ourselves and our young people. Here are some from my own life or from some of my acquaintances:

First, a friend was returning home late evening and could hardly keep his eyes open.

After almost falling asleep at the wheel he felt the best thing to do was to turn off the road and rest. After about 15 minutes he woke up rejuvenated and proceeded. Further on down the road he saw an accident between a semi and a freight train. If he had continued to drive drowsy, he may have been slow on the brakes, get hit by the train, or the semi could have hit him from the rear unable to stop.

Second, a newly baptized member owned and drove truck for a living. He made a very good income crossing the southern border with his usual cargo. But Sabbath driving was almost a given for the business he was in. Sadly, he sold his truck and found other work. Very soon after that, a tariff law taxing his type of cargo was passed. Had he kept his business his costs would have increased greatly. As it turned out, he more than broke even.

Third, and this is tongue-in-cheek, we all know the story of the Christian farmers who keep Sabbath. The year of the locusts came and it was as a plague. The locusts ate crops from everyone's fields except the fields that belong to the Sabbath keepers! Kind of like the plagues of Egypt, and we all know those stories!

The examples above are good event examples. But in the tragic experiences of life we often utilize the same way of thinking. "In situations that

are painful it's easy to sigh and think "Everything happens (or is kept from happening) for a reason". 'Everything happens for a reason', we may bravely profess in the face of disappointment or sorrow, and in faith we wait for God's good purpose to reveal itself. So far, so good. But as we can see from some experiences (rape, murder, arson, kidnapping, suicide, terrorism etc.) the more painful the tragedy, the harder we have to work to wrap our faith around it. And sometimes our faith just won't stretch that far. It has to bend, or it's going to break." (The rape, murder, etc. examples are my examples, not the author of this quote.) If I were a teenage girl who was raped, for example, my life would be a search always in pain looking for that reason. If I were a child orphaned by 9/11 and given that reason, I would be helpless throughout my life, always wondering if I could have been good enough to save my parents.

It's easy to talk about the mercy of God until someone does something unforgivable to someone we love or when accidents, illnesses, and/or abusive events take away the "who" that we think we are. When life brings these realities to us, we are forced to examine what we really believe. Some of us during these hard times dig further into our upbringing, our beliefs, as we understood them, when we were young and in children's Sabbath School; others see reality as reality and attempt a deeper understanding.

"Such collisions between our professed theology and our lived experience can shake us to the core, but they can also be a profound gift. Either the things we say we believe are true even in the worst circumstances, or they were never true to begin with. What a blessing when we can dig down and discover which is which."

If you enter into a crisis of faith, don't think any less of yourself, my friend. The Bible is full of those who have been there. You will find these biblical figures like Job struggling to understand God in the face of suffering and you yourself have been there or will be sooner or later. Jesus was there: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Be prepared to come face-to-face with your theology and your understanding of God's character.

Job said several things that showed his progression in grasping God's relationship with him and with all mankind. His body, his piety, his various reactions, demonstrated the height of his pain and the depth of his peace. Job said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!" (Job 1:21) "We accept good things from God; should we not accept evil?" (Job 2:10) Then Paul in Romans 8:28 wrote, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God." Is this the same theology as "everything happens for a reason"?

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## The Crow's Nest by Bob Kondracki

### A World of Deception

*"We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality."*

~Iris Murdoch~

Not many people remain alive today that can remember the infamous 1938 radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" by H.G. Wells. Most of us however are familiar with the story. It lives on in our culture primarily because it was such a frightening deception perpetrated on the vulnerable and gullible public, and the profound unintended effect it had, including suicides, heart attacks, and general mass hysteria. Another reason for the well-known incident was the deeply flawed anecdotal accounts run by the newspapers at the time, sensationalizing the event.

Therefore, with so fresh an incident still convalescing in the public's mind, what were the chances that the same hoax could be orchestrated again, only a few short years later? Apparently pretty good.

In 1944 in Santiago, Chile the radio drama was restaged. The station advertised the broadcast a full week in advance, and interrupted the program multiple times to advise listeners it was not real, but still had similar results, although on a much smaller scale.

Now let's fast forward to Quito, Ecuador. 1949. At this point, you would think people would have learned from painful lessons of the past what to expect if they did this again. The first broadcast in 1938 had unforeseen results, and the Chile broadcast took precautions...but this one was deliberate.

Radio Quito spend a considerable amount of time and energy to convince all those who could hear the broadcast that the country was being invaded by space aliens. In the weeks before the show aired, they planted fake UFO sightings in the local paper. They also made sure those involved in the hoax didn't breathe a word to anybody else. Finally, they broke in right in the middle of their regular scheduled programming to convince the listeners this was authentic. During the broadcast, they even had actors imitate well-known officials, with the imitation of the mayor of Quito as the coup de gras.

At this point, it shouldn't surprise anyone that, in a town of 250,000, this created mass hysteria. Of course, people had only to look around to see that this wasn't real. But the charade was so convincing, people simply refused to even consider that the media was lying to them and this wasn't actually occurring.

When the chaos finally found it's way to the radio station, and the panicked mass learned that it was all just a hoax...well, it wasn't pretty.

The frightened crowd quickly turned into an angry mob, and attacked the building and burned it to the ground. There is no way of knowing how many casualties there were during the broadcast, but six people died in the radio building fire, and several more were injured jumping out of windows to escape the blaze. The station director and organizer of the event, Leonardo Paez, had to change his name, and barely escaped the country alive, never to return.

Naturally, these incidents beg the inevitable question; how did this happen, and could it ever happen again? "Oh, they were a lot more naïve and gullible back then. We've grown smarter now," you say. Every generation thinks it is smarter than the last. But the sad truth is that we're actually becoming dumber, and more gullible. Sure, today we have better technology, more sophistication, etc., but are we more intelligent? We've also become dependent on technology, and other people to do a lot of our work and our critical thinking for us.

But the point of this article is to examine; are we just as prone to deception and mass delusion as these people were? The sad truth is, of course we are.

The fact is, media and reality have a very complex relationship.

Many of us also simply don't want to exert the effort or put in the time to do our own thinking and our own research. We want somebody else to do it for us and then just spoon feed it to us, so we don't have to do any work. And the media plays...no, depends on this vulnerability to persuade us on so many fronts; advertising, politics, ethics, religion, etc. The media has their influence on just about everything. Their ability to manipulate the public is undeniable.

We are all going to be fooled by something from time to time. Who hasn't bought a product and then had buyer's remorse? Who hasn't believed a news story that had a particular bent, and then turned out not to be true? We must unfortunately

concede on some lesser important issues in our lives simply because of time constraints. But what about more important things...like family, health...religion? How do we tell reality from illusion in a world built on deception?

One way to allow deception to creep into our lives is to rely on social and general media for the truth. As I said earlier, many of us are too lazy or too unmotivated to investigate for ourselves. Another trend that I find most alarming is, many people seem to allow their emotions to over-rule their God-given common sense and logic. "Well, this is MY truth. You don't have to agree." How many times have you heard that refrain?

Let me ask you, are you willing to stake your eternal destiny on that kind of reasoning? Are you willing to let the media decide your fate? Will we be vulnerable to deception during last day events?

*"So if anyone tells you, 'there He is, out in the wilderness, do not go out; or, 'here He is, in the inner rooms, do not believe it. Matthew 24:26*

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the eternal spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." Colossians 2:8*

We need to start thinking for ourselves, instead of letting others do it for us. In a world designed to deceive us, only God's Word can be trusted to be the **absolute truth**. It's been proven time and time again.

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Calendar of Events for September

submitted by Wendy Hughes

9/7/19	Sabbath	Youth Sabbath	11:00 AM	Adventist Youth	Wendy & Daren	Sanctuary
9/7/19	Sabbath	Walk @ museum/ pack lunch	1:00PM	Adventist Youth	Wendy & Daren	w Rdg
9/7/19	Sabbath	1st of the Month Bible Study with Meal	12:30PM	Wayne Johns	Wayne & Arleen	Fellowship Hall
9/7/19	Sabbath	Sabbath School Play Meeting	12:30PM	Cheryl Cherington		Kindergarten Room
9/8/19	Sunday	Lay Leadership Training	11-2PM		Lance Moncrieffe	Fellowship Hall
9/11/19	Wednesday	Prayer Meeting w/ Meal	5:30PM	Personal Ministries	Wayne & Arleen	Wayne & Arleen
9/12/19	Thursday	Prayer Meeting	6:30 PM	Personal Ministries	Nancy	Fellowship Hall
9/14/19	<b>Sabbath</b>	<b>Faith 4 Family</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Evangelism</b>	<b>Nancy</b>	
9/15/19	Sunday	AA Annual meeting	8-4PM	Rental		Fellowship Hall
9/18/19	Wednesday	Prayer Meeting w/ Meal	5:30PM	Personal Ministries	Wayne & Arleen	Wayne & Arleen
9/19/19	Thursday	Prayer Meeting	6:30 PM	Personal Ministries	Nancy	Fellowship Hall
9/21/19	Sabbath	Potluck				Fellowship Hall
9/21/19	Sabbath	Sabbath school play meeting	12:30PM	Cheryl Cherington		Kindergarten Room
9/22/19	Sunday	Everybody's birthday party	10AM	Social	Arleen Johns	Fellowship Hall
9/26/19	Thursday	Evangelist Meeting	Evening	Personal Ministries	Nancy Stump	Fellowship Hall
9/27/19	Friday	Evangelist Meeting	Evening	Personal Ministries	Nancy Stump	Fellowship Hall
9/28/19	Sabbath	Evangelist Meeting	Evening	Personal Ministries	Nancy Stump	Fellowship Hall
9/29/19	Sunday	Evangelist Meeting	Evening	Personal Ministries	Nancy Stump	Fellowship Hall

Going Deeper (continued from page 3)

Actually, they are not. "All things work together for good" is not the same as "God causes all things for good." In fact, the Phillips translation says, "Moreover we know that to those who love God, who are called according to His plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good." The Good News Bible says "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." This is not the same as "Everything happens for a reason." In fact, everything happens for a

reason is not a Biblical principle. What Phillips and The Good News says is that God mines for the good in every situation. That's why people who have come through horrible times with God as their companion can meet and share and work for people in like circumstances. That's why the alcoholic benefits by a sponsor who is an alcoholic. That's why a rape counselor who is a victim of rape can help the healing process of those who are raped. There is evil in the world and there is free will. When the two meet and join hands, there is hurtful chaos.

To say that God allows something for a reason, that everything happens for a reason, or allowed evil for a purpose in teaching or punishing etc. only calls God's character into question. A bad situation becomes convoluted and thereby worse. There is no way that victims can fit what has happened with God's desire for their life.

So, what is the real situation here? It is this: "We are not alone, even in our darkest nights, because the God who did not want this for us is there with us, eager to make all things work together for good.

This God who suffers with us is the One to whom we really can surrender all. He weeps when we weep, and pours out the grace we need to move through tragedy to what lies on the other side. With mercies that are renewed each morning, our God holds us up and longs to draw us, step by halting step, to a future full of hope."

Amen, so be it.

Quotations are excerpts from Christine Marie Eberle September 2012 Liguorian.Org



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**The Children's Page** by Ashley Richards

"But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted." – 1 Peter 2:9-10, MSG

Have you ever imagined you were a great prince or princess? I'm sure you have! Pretending to be a prince or princess is great fun! (Although I'll tell you a secret—you don't have to pretend! That's right. Because we are children of Jesus, we are already princesses and princes!) In the puzzle below, you'll find the names of some of the royalty mentioned in the Bible. Most of them are men, but there are a couple queens. Can you figure out which ones they are? Some of these kings and queens were good, but some of them were bad. What kind of prince or princess will you be for Jesus?

J D A J G E J I A O G C M R C  
A I D O A Z E C H A R I A H N  
N S S S R U H L E I E T N R I  
D A V I D G O I B R A H A B G  
T U H A D A S S A H T I S W C  
E L N H P E H L U E V Y S E A  
S O F I E T A H I Z O E E N M  
U A L N E N P L A E L A H I A  
A J A S A A H A E K T I A S Z  
J E R O B O A M L I J A L E I  
O H D L I E T A Q A N M Z M A  
A U G O J T L A T H A L I A H  
S E Y M A L E S A E M T M O E  
H A W O H E H A B A O M R I D  
I M S N G A U E V E R A I N O

**Crow's Nest** (continued from pg.4)

*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient." Ephesians 5:6*

The Bible has withstood the test of time and criticism and skepticism, and has never been proven in error. The Bible is undefeated against all challengers! You don't believe it? You think there are mistakes in the Bible? You obviously have let someone else do your thinking and research for you. Whether it be the Bible, evolution, science, or whatever...the truth is out there. Often it requires that we dig for it though. But the world has a different agenda than God does.

*"For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people." Romans 16:18*

Be careful who you let do your thinking for you.

Abijah	Athaliah	Hezekiah	Joash	Saul
Ahab	David	Jehoshaphat	Josiah	Solomon
Amaziah	Elah	Jehu	Manasseh	Zechariah
Asa	Hadassah	Jeroboam	Omri	Zimri

**DID YOU KNOW?!**

1. Manasseh was the longest reigning king in Israel. He was king for 55 years!
2. Zimri was the shortest reigning king in Israel. He was only king for seven days!
3. King David was mentioned more times in the Bible than anyone else, except for Jesus! He was mentioned 1,139 times.
4. Joshua captured over thirty kings when God led him to conquer Israel!
5. King Ahasuerus, the husband of Queen Esther (she was also known as Hadassah), held a party that lasted 180 days! That's *six months*!
6. King Saul was so scared of becoming king that when the prophet Samuel looked for him, they found him hiding in a pile of luggage!
7. Even though the Queen of Sheba is one of the most famous queens in the Bible, nobody knows what her name was, or where Sheba actually was!
8. The books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally one book! If they had been kept as one book, they would be the longest book in the Bible.
9. Part of the book of Daniel was written in a different language from the other part. This is because King Nebuchadnezzar wrote part of that book!
10. King Solomon wrote over 3,000 proverbs! (Isn't that a lot?) And most amazingly, not all of his proverbs were written in the book of Proverbs!