

March 6th  
2021

Volume 7  
Issue 3



# Hampden Heights Sentinel

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Helping our children help themselves. Page 1
- Demonstrating Christ's love through service to the community. Page 2
- The progressive nature of temptation and sin. Page 3
- Hope for the best, but also be prepared... Page 4
- As usual, the best cure is prevention. Page 5
- Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers. Page 7
- Too much praise?!

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*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." ... And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ~Galatians 2:20 NIV~*

## RJA News Corner

by Lee Stahl, Principal

### Developing a Work Ethic

I've been teaching for over 30 years now, and one of the attributes that I have seen significantly decline is a strong work ethic in students. Work ethic is "a belief that *work* and diligence have a moral benefit and an inherent ability, virtue or value to strengthen character and individual abilities. It is a set of values centered on importance of *work* and manifested by determination or desire to *work hard*."

When I was growing up there were always a few students that were thought of as being "lazy". I even had moments where I didn't try hard because I didn't "feel" like it. But today it seems to be the norm that most students don't have the desire to do their best. This is scary, and makes me wonder what the future holds for our country if the Lord should tarry in his return. Years ago, American-made was a symbol of quality products from hard working people. Today, much fewer products are manufactured in the United States, and they are not often seen as the best quality.

Colossians 3:23-25 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." We can see in scripture that it is important to teach our children to have a good work ethic. But, how do we do that?

Teaching a good work ethic first starts with ourselves. Whether we are a parent, a teacher, a pastor, a church member we must make sure that we demonstrate to the next generation a strong and healthy work ethic. If we don't seem to care, why should our children.

Next, it is important that all children are given age-appropriate tasks to complete, with the expectation that they are completed not only in a timely manner, but with the expectation that quality is important. This can easily begin at

the toddlers age with the expectation that they put their toys away in their proper place when they're done playing with them.

Communication of expectations, and holding your children to them in the younger years will pay off greatly when they reach their teenage years with their desire for more independence.

We also need to be careful that we don't stunt our children's work ethic by doing the work for them. Yes, at the beginning it is often quicker to do it ourselves, but children will only learn that if they do a lousy job, someone else will end up doing it for them. Let us together help our children be the best they can be!



**Let It Snow** submitted by Darlene Peterson

After our morning school work, first and second graders got ready to go outside in the snow for recess. They had the best time, working as a team to build a snow fort. They wanted to build one like the one they heard about in morning worship.

We had read a story about a teacher that surprised her class by taking them outside to build a snow fort.

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**The Pastor's Pen**

by Shawn Shives, Pastor, Hampden Heights SDA Church. [sshives@paconference.org](mailto:sshives@paconference.org)

Since October of 2020, the Reading Hampden Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church has partnered with the Jewish Federation of Reading, Pa to establish a new branch food pantry. Directly because of the negative financial and emotional effects of the pandemic, many individuals have been forced to seek assistance in providing even basic needs to their families. Among the Hampden Heights membership, two individuals, Lester Johns age 94, and his spouse Mildred age 93, were extremely pleased to see God's hand in this outreach to their community. In fact, recently their son Wayne Johns (A church elder), advised them "To stay at home if it was snowing on the day of the scheduled food distribution." Mildred prayed throughout the night that God would hold back the snow until after 11 o'clock the next day, when the pantry would be concluded; the snow did not fall until 11:15. Thus, Lester and Mildred were able to help distribute the food, and also show their concern and compassion by providing a copy of the "Pathways to Peace" (Steps to Christ), and coloring books with biblical stories to each of the families. How does the leadership of the Jewish Federation feel about sharing Christian literature? The answer can be explained by the caring partnership and trust which has evolved through a shared concern for others. Thus, the leaders of the Jewish Federation are secure that anything shared by this church must be a blessing to those of their community who are searching for hope in this challenging time.



**Lester and Mildred Johns**



**Food pantry distribution on 3rd Tuesday of each month**



**Serving over 100 families**



## Alabaster Box by Dave Taylor

### The Stolen Lamb – Part I (2 Samuel 11)

It was a prosperous time for the kingdom of Israel during the reign of King David. Israel continued to strengthen its position over the Philistines, the Moabites, the Syrians and the Edomites (2 Samuel 8). Now Israel was engaged in a struggle against the Ammonites, a tribe descended from Lot's son Ben-Ammi. David sent the army under the command of his nephew Joab, the son of his sister Zeruiah, to battle the Ammonites and lay siege to their capital city Rabbah, but David tarried at Jerusalem (2 Sam 11:1). The reason for David's tarrying is not readily apparent. David was no stranger to the battlefield, yet in this circumstance the king chooses to tarry in idleness. This was the first misstep that David makes in a chain of missteps that leads to transgression, loss of multiple lives, divine reprimand, and punishment. The nineteenth-century English author George Borrow wrote, "It has been said that idleness is the parent of mischief which is very true; but mischief itself is merely an attempt to escape from the dreary vacuum of idleness." Before establishment of the well-known English proverb about idle hands being the devil's workshop, Jerome wrote in the fourth century, "Engage in some occupation, so that the devil may always find you busy." As further evidence that David's tarrying at Jerusalem did not spring from some necessary or productive work he needed to accomplish in his capital, we find David arising from his bed at eveningtide to stroll about upon his rooftop (2 Sam 11:2). "Eveningtide" is

an archaic word meaning evening, twilight, dusk, or that time between late afternoon and nightfall (thefreedictionary.com). This is a rather peculiar time of day to be rising from one's bed or couch and is indicative of idle behavior.

David's second misstep is detailed at the end of verse 2. "From the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. Although seeing the woman washing herself could have been an innocent, accidental visual encroachment, the statement that the woman was very beautiful implies this was more than a casual glance, but rather consisted of a lingering observation. This interpretation is supported by verse 3 which relates that "David sent and enquired after the woman." David's intelligence gathering brings back information that this is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite. Later in the book of Samuel, Uriah the Hittite appears as the final name on the honor roll of David's 37 mighty men (2 Sam 23:39). David has initiated an operational pursuit from which he cannot be dissuaded, even by the inconvenient knowledge that Bathsheba is a married woman. "And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her (2 Sam 11:4). Here we see the path of temptation detailed in the first four verses: David tarried. David looked. David enquired. David took. This illustrates the progressive nature of temptation and sin. Little steps that violate duty or conscience ultimately lead with certainty to observable transgression of the law. Thoughts, whether good or

evil, give rise to deeds. Sin occurs in the mind before sin is executed by the hand.

After some amount of time goes by, Bathsheba finds that she is pregnant and she reports the news to David (v5). Desperate to keep hidden things hidden, David initiates a cover-up scheme by asking Joab to send Uriah to him from the battle front (v6). After asking Uriah for an update on the war's progress (v7), David tells him to go home and visit his wife (v8), but instead, Uriah sleeps at the door of the king's house with all the other servants (v9). Clearly, the purpose of David's scheme is to provide opportunity for a conjugal visit between Uriah and Bathsheba that could create an alternative explanation for the origin of Bathsheba's pregnancy. Frustrated by Uriah's lack of cooperation, David asks him why he didn't spend the night at home (v10). Uriah responds, "The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? I will not do this thing" (v11). Uriah's principled ethics and complete devotion to God, king and country stand out in stark contrast to David's devious, self-serving and manipulative scheming. David tries the same approach one more night, but this time he uses alcohol to impair Uriah's judgment. Still, faithful Uriah sleeps at the door of the king (v13).

It is hard to imagine that David can sink any lower in his mistreatment of his devoted soldier Uriah, and yet sadly, he does.

David writes a letter to Joab, telling him to put Uriah in the hottest part of the battle against the city of Rabbah and to pull back supporting troops from Uriah "that he may be smitten and die" (v15). As horrific as David's murderous plan is, it somehow is made worse by the fact that Uriah was ordered to deliver this sealed message to Joab by his own hand (v14). Three thousand years later, the audacity of David's coldly calculated plans still send a chill up the spine of God-fearing believers. Uriah serves as a type of Christ in his role as innocent victim. Uriah died, not because of anything he had done, but because of the sin of David. A millennium later, Jesus of Nazareth, a truly innocent victim, died on a cross for the sins of the world. Uriah was smitten of King David and afflicted, just as Jesus, the Son of David, was "smitten of God and afflicted" (Isaiah 53:4).

So, David's plan, as executed by Joab, succeeds in its purposes. Uriah is killed publicly by the enemies of Israel, giving David complete deniability as to his personal involvement. Only a few know that David is guilty of covetousness, adultery or murder, and perhaps no single individual knows that he is guilty of all three. Joab sends a messenger to David to report the loss of troops at Rabbah, parenthetically confirming that Uriah the Hittite is among the dead. David's return message to Joab through the messenger is a cold response, lacking in empathy, but a perfect match for his recent behavior.

(continued on page 4)

**Alabaster Box** (continued from page 3)

David says, "Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another" (2 Sam 11:25), a response that suggests war is unpredictable and warriors die randomly, but this was no

simple case of bad luck for Uriah. After Bathsheba went through a period of mourning for her husband Uriah, David married her and she delivered his son. David's bold actions seem to have turned events

in his favor, but chapter 11 ends with this ominous understatement: "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:27).

To be continued...

**Going Deeper** by Barbara Snyder

**Learning from the Mistakes of Others**

The tragedy in Texas is my subject for this month. So much wrong: money as the bottom line, ignorance of the possibilities, and important things left to chance has come together as unexpected, costly, and deadly. The people of Texas have lived through a short number of days with a short, or long number of grief and trials. From irritations, to downright basic survival, millions of people have, in the aftermath of the historic cold, ice, and snow of these past few weeks, been jolted back to the early 20th century. My sister lives in Texas, and the 3 days of abject cold, with the addition of a day or two of uncomfortable cold, isolation, and unknowns had me up at night. She texted my other sister and said she had no power or water, and that she was shutting down her phone because she had no way of charging it. The next morning, having figured out that she could charge her phone in the car, she told us she already had one burst pipe, even though there was no water running through it, of course, and it was freezing in her home! We gave her a litany of things she could do to "help" the situation, but few were feasible.

Now we know that children have died in Texas, and that certain organizations and

people are in trouble. Rightly so. But it would be at least a consideration to look at this disaster systematically and logically, so companies, emergency services, neighborhoods, and families can learn and recover to do some good in the world. At all times and in all circumstances, let us look at our own lives and ask "What can I do?" It is imperative that we look at most things this way.

My sister lost her electric at 1:30 AM on Monday morning, and there were no rolling periods. It was finally restored Wednesday at 10:30 AM. At that time, the temperature in her house was 38 degrees. I can't imagine that kind of cold in my house. We had some long periods without power and water, but we had a wood stove, melted snow for necessities, and drank water that we had stored for just such an occasion. On a very practical level it is imperative that we do as individuals what the government has been suggesting for a very long time; put together an emergency kit!

My sister had no drinking water, no generator, no sleeping bags. She did however have a swimming pool, which she took advantage of and kept toilets flushed. She vowed that she will prepare for the next emergency, and she will not feel like she is wasting her

money, even if she may never have use for it.

The following items have been taken from the website: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare>. They are inclusive of most types of disasters short of having a disaster shelter. At a minimum, you should have these basic supplies:

Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) I don't have to tell you that is a lot of water. At any given time, for a family of 4, that means at home there would be 4 gallons a day and 56 gallons for a 2-week period.

Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) I keep a supply of nuts, dried fruit, potatoes, rice, oatmeal, dried milk and dried cheese, plus routinely used canned items, especially beans.

Manual can opener, scissors.

Matches, duct tape, plastic sheeting.

Flashlight, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, and two-way radios.

Extra batteries\*

A family first aid kit\*

7-day supply of medications, including medical items such as hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.

2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)\*

Medical supplies such as band aids, dressings (sterile and non-sterile), surgical tape, antihistamine creams, antibiotic creams, antiseptic wipes, roller gauzes of several sizes, 1 instant cold compress\*

Oral thermometer (non-mercury/non-glass)\*

2 triangular bandages\*

Tweezers

N95 or surgical masks and 2 pair large non latex gloves

Multi-purpose tool

Sanitation and personal hygiene items

Emergency First Aid guide

Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home,

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## The Path to Better Health by Leo Pena

### Multiple Sclerosis

Working in aviation for over 20 years has taught me a very valuable lesson, communication is vital for the safe operation of an airplane. Any disruption in the chain of communication, and the results are fatal. Our body is in danger of the same outcome if the system in charge of transmitting information is not working properly. Multiple Sclerosis (MS) happens when one's immune system attacks the nerve cells and renders them unable to properly transmit information, causing balance issues, weakened vision, fatigue, and other unpredictable symptoms. March is Multiple Sclerosis awareness month in the US. Let's learn about the causes, symptoms and healthful practices to help prevent or treat this disease.

Approximately 2.5 million people worldwide suffer from multiple sclerosis. The cause is unknown, and there is no definitive cure as of this writing. However, there are many effective treatments, so those troubled with MS should not lose hope. This month is all about raising awareness, educating wider society, fundraising, and getting behind those scientists that seek to advance our understanding of MS.

There are many activities taking place, like walks that are organized nation-wide to raise funds. You can visit <https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/> and find local walks taking place in Berks county to show support. One of our Adventist magazines, Mission 360 in June 2019, had an article titled "Woman Behind

the Wall." A story of a family dealing with a woman's physical illness, (MS) and also facing the heavy economic costs associated with medical treatment, as well as the psychological trauma of having to flee from their homeland during this difficult period.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic illness involving your central nervous system (CNS). The immune system attacks myelin, which is the protective layer around nerve fibers. This causes inflammation and scar tissue, or lesions. This can make it hard for your brain to send signals to the rest of your body. People with MS experience a wide range of symptoms. Due to the nature of the disease, symptoms can vary widely from person to person. They can also change in severity from year to year, month to month, and even day to day. Two of the most common symptoms are fatigue and difficulty walking.

### Difficulty Walking

Difficulty walking can occur with MS for a number of reasons:

- numbness in your legs or feet
- difficulty balancing
- muscle weakness
- muscle spasticity
- difficulty with vision

### How is MS Diagnosed?

Your doctor will need to perform a neurological exam, request a clinical history, and order a series of other tests to determine if you have MS.

Diagnostic testing may include the following:

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan. Using a contrast dye with the MRI allows your doctor to detect active and inactive lesions throughout your brain and spinal cord.

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). OCT is a test that takes a picture of the nerve layers in the back of your eye and can assess thinning of the optic nerve.

Spinal Tap (lumbar puncture). Your doctor may order a spinal tap to find abnormalities in your spinal fluid. This test can help rule out infectious diseases and can also be used to look for Oligoclonal Bands (OCBs), which can be used to make an early diagnosis of MS.

Blood Tests. Doctors order blood tests to help eliminate other conditions with similar symptoms.

Visual evoked potentials (VEP). This test requires the stimulation of nerve pathways to analyze electrical activity in your brain. In the past, brain stem auditory and sensory-evoked potential tests were also used to diagnose MS.

### What Causes MS?

If you have MS, the protective layer of myelin around your nerve fibers becomes damaged. It's thought that the damage is the result of an immune system attack. Researchers think there could be an environmental trigger, such as a virus or toxin, that sets off the immune system attack. As your immune system attacks myelin, it causes inflammation. This leads to scar tissue, or lesions. The inflammation and scar tissue disrupt signals between your brain and other parts of your body.

### How is MS Treated?

No cure is currently available for MS, but multiple treatment options exist.

No specific type of diet has been proven to prevent or cure multiple sclerosis. But there is some evidence that following a diet that's high in antioxidants and healthy fats can be one of several basic Multiple Sclerosis natural treatments that may help with symptom management. Experts believe that high-calorie, highly-processed "Western Diets" may be a trigger for MS and other neurological disorders. MS is more widespread in Western countries with the highest income (and also the greatest distance from the equator). Western Diets are categorized by high amounts of salt, animal fat, factory-farm-raised red meat, sugar-sweetened drinks, fried foods, and low-fiber foods. To top it off, most people eating a Western diet are not getting enough physical exercise, and potentially lacking sleep and time for relaxation too.

The Bible reminds us that God is the only one who can heal...

He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

~Exodus 15:26 NIV~

**Going Deeper** (continued from page 4)

passports, birth certificates, insurance policies) and family and emergency contact information

Cell phone with chargers

Extra cash and extra sets of car and house keys

Map(s) of the area

Consider the needs of all family members including pets and add supplies to your kit:

Baby and older children supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers), games and activities for children

Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)

Whistle, rain gear, extra clothing, sturdy shoes

Whether you buy a first aid kit or put one together, make sure it has all the items you may need and check the kit regularly. Check the expiration dates and replace out-of-date contents.

Include Common Emergency Scenarios When You Plan and plan for the emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live.

Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency.

Plan what to do if you have to evacuate. Plan for everyone in your home. Plan to let loved ones know you're safe.

All this sounds like a lot of work but it isn't. Items are available through the American Red Cross both online and through some ARC area offices. These items can be purchased either in entire or separately. A checklist and a trip to Walmart can provide most of them. Most can also be purchased separately with free delivery through Amazon Prime. I have most of mine in one red plastic container (minus the water, food, and the clothes.) but backpacks are better and more durable than my container.

If we have to be faced with disasters we may as well prepare for them with both prayer and a sense of satisfaction for a job well done. One thing we do know is that this world isn't getting any safer! We won't be able to prevent disasters as individuals but we can learn from individual accounts and experiences. Keep alert! Stay safe!

\* Indicates available through the American Red Cross Store online

\*\* The American Red Cross permits reprinting its disaster preparedness materials.

**Summary of Church Board Minutes from 2-15-21** submitted by Wayne

We have the ability to link FaceBook with the church's website. Our goal is to minimize sensitive information on website.

**Motion** with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> To develop a technical team for management of social media and our website.

**Motion** was approved.

**FYI:** Initiation of Department Reports: Will begin reports from 3 departments each month to highlight activities, needs, challenges and successes. Next month will be Plant manager, Deacon and Deaconess.

**FYI:** We appreciate Hampden's Newsletter and suggested departments highlight their activities, such as Community Services or

or Pathfinders, to represent our church. We would like a calendar of events included. Articles posted in the newsletter are to come from our congregation, i.e. not from outside sources. Articles and pictures should be submitted to Bob before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. The desire is the have our newsletter reflect Hampden Heights activities and help Bob by providing support for the newsletter, highlighting who Hampden Heights is. MPC will be asked to build a team to assist Bob.

**FYI:** Will return to fellowship meals on the third Sabbath with precautions so we have interaction again. We will start our first fellowship meal 3.06.21. There will be designated servers and hand sanitizer available.

Followed by the DVD "The Chosen."

**FYI:** Need to select 4 new members to be added to MPC. Members to be replaced are: Grace DePena, Arleen Johns, Bob Kondracki and Karen Richards. A membership list will be made available for Sabbath 2.20.21.

**FYI:** Members of the Benevolence Committee are: Dwight, Lorraine, Jason M, Pastor Shawn, Wendy H, Wayne. Duties include food distribution of our supply to cover needs of membership and/or other identified needs.

**FYI:** Consider starting socials in a safe format. Pancake breakfast scheduled for 3.14.21, Time: 9-10:30.

**Recipe of the Month** by Arleen Johns

**Vegetarian Sloppy Joes**

2 c. hot water  
 1 c. onions, finely diced  
 1 c. celery, finely diced  
 1 tsp. sea salt  
 1 tsp. McKay's beef-style seasoning  
 1/4 c. tomato paste  
 1 Tbsp. agave nectar, honey or sugar  
 3/4 c. ketchup  
 2+1/2 c. veggie burger of choice or soy curls

In a large skillet, over medium-high heat, place water, onion, celery and salt.

Simmer until the onions and celery are almost tender.

Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer for about 15 minutes.

Serve with homemade wheat buns, oven fries, and a vegetable relish tray.

**Notable Quotes** selected by Bob Kondracki

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.  
 ~Abraham Lincoln~

I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion.  
 ~Alexander the Great~

It is the set of the sails, not the direction of the wind that determines which way we will go.  
 ~Jim Rohn~

I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than live as if there isn't and to die to find out that there is.  
 ~Albert Camus~

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'  
 ~Robin Williams~

That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing.  
 ~Martin Luther King, Jr.~

I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever.  
 ~Thomas Jefferson~

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.  
 ~Naguib Mahfouz~

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.  
 ~Abraham Maslow~

Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.  
 ~Garth Brooks~

The Devil tempts all men...but some men tempt the Devil.  
 ~Arab Proverb~

Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.  
 ~George Washington~

**The Funny Bone** selected by Bob Kondracki

**The Sabbath School Lesson**

During a Sabbath school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."

**Wedding White**

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today."

After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

**Too Much Praise**

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop.

Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

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**The Children's Page** by Tina Kondracki

**The Birth of Christ Jesus**



Picture from Jennifer Slattery

1- What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel" mean? (Matthew 1:23)

- a. God with us
- b. He who is God
- c. Anointed One
- d. Son of God

2- When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he: (Matthew 1:18-20)

- a. No longer wished to marry her
- b. Tore his robe
- c. Rejoiced
- d. Beat her

3- Which prophet was born to Elisabeth, Mary's cousin?

- a. Peter
- b. David
- c. John the Beloved
- d. John the Baptist

4- Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David? (Luke 2:4-5)

- a. To seek Mary's cousin
- b. To pay taxes
- c. To visit Joseph's parents
- d. To celebrate their wedding

5- Who visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the night He was born? (Luke 2:15-16)

- a. Shepherds
- b. Shepherds, wise men, and all those dwelling in Bethlehem
- c. Wise men
- d. Shepherds and wise men

6- The wise men traveled \_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem. (Matthew 2:1)

- a. Westward
- b. Northward
- c. Eastward
- d. Southward

7- All the generations from Abraham to David are? (Matthew 1:17)

- a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 15
- d. 11

8- When Mary brought forth her firstborn son, she wrapped him in (Luke 2:7)

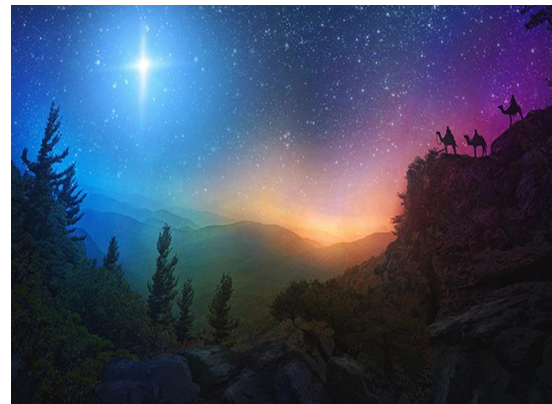
- a. Towel
- b. Swaddling clothes
- c. Sack cloth
- d. Camel's hair

9- When they returned, where did Jesus and His family dwell? (Matthew 2:23)

- a. Egypt
- b. Samaria
- c. Nazareth
- d. Greece

10- What was the shepherds' initial reaction to the angel who visited them? (Luke 2:9)

- a. They were angry
- b. They were excited
- c. They were afraid
- d. They were upset



Picture from David Jeremiah Blog

**True or False Questions About Jesus**

- 1- Jesus has a relative that is a Moabite from Moab. (Matthew 1:5)
- 2- There were three wisemen. (Matthew 2:7)
- 3- The wise men returned to King Herod after seeing Jesus. (Matthew 2:12)
- 4- Jesus was tempted two times by Satan (Matthew 4:11)
- 5- Peter denied Jesus three times. (Matthew 26:75)
- 6- The wise men gave Jesus silver and frankincense (Matthew 2:11)

**RJA News** (continued from page 1)

She wanted the children to learn how God can be a fort as it says in Psalms 18:2 "The Lord is my fort where can I enter and be safe."

In the story the teacher asked the students, "How can the Lord be a fort?" Matthew, a boy in that classroom, told about when he had lost his mother and asked the Lord to keep him safe and help find his mom. He said, "God was my fort and kept me safe while I was looking for my Mom."

So, a fort is built to keep people safe inside. Just as:  
"The Lord is my fort where can I enter and be safe."

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