

# THE CONNECTION

THE PALO CEDRO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWSLETTER  
FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## A LETTER TO PALO CEDRO

*By Head Elder Roy Stephens*





To My Church Family,

I have always loved stories, especially those containing a moral. One of my favorite is the story of Chicken Little. For those unfamiliar with the story, a little chicken, hence the name “Chicken Little” is casually walking around in a barn yard when an acorn falls from an Oak tree and hits him on the back. Feeling the sudden pain from an unknown source, he panics and begins screaming to all the other barnyard animals that “The sky is falling!” Unfortunately most of those he warns panic as well and begin to follow him into the woods where the large trees will supposedly protect them from the falling sky. A wise old fox sees the fleeing animals and quietly follows them into the woods. He then sneaks up behind them one by one and enjoys a delicious meal.



**Roy Stephens**

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I share this very old story because the tendency to panic does not age. I see vestiges of it here now at PC. The “old fox” Satan never misses a church service and when he sees the possibility of panic, he begins to salivate. In these stressful times I urge you to follow the dictates of scripture and “*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil, roams about like a roaring Lion (Fox in the Chicken Little story) looking for someone he may devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings 1 Peter 5:8-9.*

Most of you know that I have been head elder at Palo Cedro for roughly three years. During that time I have had the privilege of serving side by side with Pastor

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Kevin. I have been with him on the majority of personal visits he has made and have gotten to know him very well. In the process I have learned to love him for who he is. I have prayed with him and for him often. I have shared personal insights with him, fussed at him at times, and offered encouragement as he struggled with some of the pressures common to all pastors. I consider him a friend. I truly believe God sent him to Palo Cedro for both his benefit and our own. I am sad and disappointed that he is leaving when there is so much left to be accomplished. However, the decision has been made, and we must move forward together.

For those who were caught off guard by Pastor Kevin's remarks on Sabbath January 19 and are tempted to run for the woods, I plead with you to "hold fast." His emotional response did not accurately depict the complex events that led up to his decision to leave. I understand his anger but it is time for cool heads to prevail.

It is true that we have disagreement in this church but there is no major "us against them" battle going on unless you make it so. If you study your Bible you know that Jesus' disciples also argued among themselves until they were brought into "one accord" by the Holy Spirit. Afterwards disagreements returned and continued to plague Christ's followers throughout the Bible. Many of Paul's letters were written to address these occurrences. **However, in spite of disagreements, the church survived and continues to this day to spread the gospel throughout the world. Why? Because disagreeable men and women, with all their human frailties, set aside personal differences through the power of the Holy Spirit and moved forward together.** We are indeed engaged in a battle, but the enemy is Satan, not each other. Ephesians 6:12 "For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age." If we lose our spiritual focus and choose to fight each other we are doing Satan's work for him.

In closing I urge you as a Palo Cedro SDA family member to search your own heart rather than point fingers at each other. We all make mistakes. If you truly believe grace is more than a word written on paper or bandied about during theological discussions, now is the perfect time to prove it. Yes, there are clouds in the sky around Palo Cedro, but the sky is not falling.

*Seek the Lord while He can be found.*

*Call on Him while He is near.*

*Isaiah 55:6*

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Darkness can't drive out darkness;

Only light can do that.

Hate can't drive out hate;

Only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by *Diane Butler*

One of my riding buddies attends another church in Redding. Their services are peppered with many beautiful verses from Scripture, and members fellowship together regularly. This church does many good works and raises much money for those in need.

One day on the trail I said something to my friend about Satan. She quickly said, "Oh, I don't believe in Satan." Really? How do you have a conversation on the Bible with a fellow Christian who doesn't believe in Satan? Well, I took a stab at it. I casually mentioned the Fall. Her immediate response was that you really couldn't trust the Bible because it has been translated by so many people over all these years, that who could say today what was really true. I offered up the Dead Sea Scrolls as a physical testament to the Bible's authenticity, but I could tell I was becoming a source of irritation to her.

I relate this story as a way to remind us how blessed we are as a church to know that the Bible is our foundation and our compass. Not just those chapters and verses that we find without offense. But all of it. We do not cherry pick the Bible. We hold Scripture to be the inerrant Word of God.

Surely I am preaching to the choir. Let me go back to Satan for a moment. We know Satan has one major objective and that is to hurt God. What better way to hurt God than to divide his children? To pit them against one another? To blind them to God's laws of love? To influence them to hold tightly to their own agenda? Wait. Hold on a minute. Could Palo Cedro be vulnerable to this kind of attack?

Palo Cedro is God's church, and we are his children. We are each one loved equally by the Creator. Individually we may see things differently. But we are the body of Christ. So what do we do when differences threaten our sacred fellowship? Ephesians 6 says we must be prepared to fend off Satan and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Can we civilly build a case for what we feel is important? Can we lovingly enter into conversations with those we know to have differing views in an attempt to find common ground? Can we guard our tongues? Can we get on our knees and implore God to create in us a new heart?

As we set about mending the rift in our church, we **will** run up against the subtle persuasions of the prince of darkness. Will we recognize what is happening and boldly defy the enemy? If we expect to prevail against the devil's schemes, we will need to heed the words in Ephesians and put on the whole armor of God. We must rely totally on Him who told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you. My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

### Ephesians 6:13-17 (Living Word)

... Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up.

But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit -- which is the Word of God.



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## AN ANSWER TO PRAYER FOR ALICIA LOGAN

by *Alicia Logan*

I've always dreamed of honoring God in my pain—like Job blessing God's name in his grief. And I've always wanted to celebrate the moment of birth—joining with my Creator in the process of giving life—but my births with Ezra and Levi were over shadowed by overwhelming pain. Could I worship God through the pains of labor...and could I enjoy giving birth?

I shared these desires with the ladies at Iris' baby shower, and all the dread I had of the pain of labor, when one woman shared her testimony of God answering her prayer for a "supernatural birth." She described this as a birth where God was present, peace was abundant, and pain did not rob from the joy of new life.

At first I thought 'I can't ask God for a pain-free labor! That's one of the curses of sin.' But I realized that perhaps every prayer we pray is against the curses of sin. Why did I have the attitude that I had to bear children all on my own and couldn't ask God for help?

This realization allowed me to deepen my relationship with God, encouraged me to pray about all things, and let God's love ebb away at my fears.

On one of the many nights that I was awake most of the night in "false labor," I was exhausted and discouraged and still afraid. God spoke to me and told me that someone in our fellowship was having a dream that very night about Iris' birth—just for my comfort. He told me to text my closest friends that morning and ask which of them received the vision. But I didn't, I guess I didn't have the faith. But God is so gracious that he prompted my friend to contact me that next morning to tell me that he had a vision of Iris' birth and that it was quick and peaceful.

I plastered scripture verses about fear on my bathroom mirror, and was especially blessed by Psalms 34:4 "I prayed to the Lord and He answered me. He freed me from all my fear." This was another big revelation for me. Perhaps it wasn't my circumstances that I needed to be freed from, but fear itself.

God not only freed me from my fears, but he was present with me in labor! I worshiped and prayed through 45 minutes of labor and experienced no pain! It was peaceful and joyful and beautiful—as I imagine God intended birth to be.

Praise God that He comforts us, that His love drives out fear, and that He has already borne the curses of sin!

***Alicia Logan with Iris***

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## WOMENS' MINISTRY ENJOYS BREAKFAST



*(l.to r.) Phyllis Yergensen, Sherry Rincon, Jodi Frenna, Ginny Yost, Barbara Post*



*(l.to r.) Carol Miller, Anne Haddad, Barbara Frazee*



*(l.to r.) Pat Gheen, Sandy Gibb, Kathy Schlatter, Jan Clendenon*



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## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

01 Jodi Frenna	13 Riley Roberts	23 Emma Gruber
01 Jodel Heier	13 Nicole Srp	23 Marlene Marzocchi
01 Carol Ort	13 Javona Tucker	23 Bill Moon
02 Tyleis Davis	14 Adriann Coley	23 Vernon Stainbrook
02 Mark Fisher	14 Max Schalo	24 Jo Grove
02 Charles Witthar	15 Nickolas Hofmann	24 Tanner Roberts
03 Everett Farmer	16 Andrew Boehm	24 Tristen Roberts
03 Bobbi Hunter	17 John Carter	25 Carrie Copithorne
05 Jakey Whiteley	17 Wyatt Gray	25 Rick Gregory
06 Luke Fannin	17 Brock Schalo	25 Betty Stevenson
06 Wally Quirk	17 Caroline Schalo	25 Christy Wilson
06 Margie Van Zant	18 Sheila Brown	26 Rick Ellis
07 Taylor Ballard	18 Danielle Douglas	26 Rodney Ford
07 Tyler Krick	18 Steve Meyer	27 Kiana Garcia
07 Aaron Wolff	19 Christina Greenlaw	27 Muriel Ketelsen
09 Sheila Martin	19 Sherrie Hoodenpyle-Borg	27 Robert LiVolsi
09 Robin Miller	20 Mary Diegel	29 Angela Ovando
09 Richard Post	20 Shelby Ford	29 Makayla Turk
11 Sharlene Ballard	20 Krystal Zasada	30 Judee Adams
12 Brandon Lewis	21 Kathy Baum	31 Logan Baker
12 Karen Sundin	22 Sara Beveridge	31 Sheryl Finch
13 Steve Bautista	22 Renee Isaac	31 Bruce Gregory
13 Barry Lyons		

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(The Way of Jesus)

The Palo Cedro Seventh-day Adventist Church

(530) 547-4777 [www.pcadventist.org](http://www.pcadventist.org)

Pastor: Kevin Kuehmichel Church Secretary: Elizabeth Pruitt

Sabbath School 10:00

Family Service 11:05

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Videos of all Pastor Kevin's  
sermons are now posted

on the church website

[www.pcadventist.org](http://www.pcadventist.org)

Click on "Online Sermons" at the top