

THE CONNECTION

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY: A PERSONAL JOURNEY OF HEALING

The wounds were deep. Recriminations from a harsh, angry father had cast a pall over the heart and mind of a little girl who loved Jesus. "If you do this, God will be unhappy," the father would continually say.

The scars from a volatile, legalistic Adventist home carried over into adulthood. "Where is Father God?" the young woman continued to wonder. For Marjorie Lewis 'Father God' must be like her earthly father who left her with feelings of worthlessness and the belief that women had little value.

Nine years ago when her father died, Marjorie knew she needed to deal with these issues. "I did a lot of praying, and the Lord led me to a couple of books," says Marjorie. "I realized I needed to find a counselor and a support group. The Lord sent people to help me find both of these."



Marjorie Lewis

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After spending a year in a conventional twelve-step program for codependency, Marjorie made her way to Celebrate Recovery run by Marty and Jo Grove of the Palo Cedro Church. "CODA [*Co-Dependents Anonymous*] was a good start," says Marjorie, but Celebrate Recovery was different in that we talked about the love of Christ a lot." Marjorie still had her life-long relationship with Jesus Christ, but she could not connect with 'Father God.'

"I found a lot of help at Celebrate Recovery," Marjorie says. "I went to the meetings and studied the lessons. Celebrate Recovery was helping me deal with the issues I needed to deal with. I realized we can not deal with things in

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life without help from our heavenly Father.” When Marjorie finished going through the lessons, she thought, “Well, I can do without this now.” She backed off regular attendance. “Then I began to feel that something was missing. I saw that healing is a process. Like the layers of an onion, you start with the stuff at the top first and then deal with things down deep later.”

Five years ago Marjorie spent a year and a half working with her brother in Porterville, California. With the help of a new friend, she started attending a Celebrate Recovery program there. During this time she experienced new revelations about her life’s journey. “I began to see where God had led me in the past and that he had put people in my path, especially men I could trust, like my insurance agent and my financial planner, both Christian men. I realized the blessing my stepfather Les Schufelberger had been to me and my boys. I began to see where God had always been in my life, but I wasn’t aware of it at the time. With Celebrate Recovery I was becoming more and more aware of how the Lord had helped me, and I was spending more and more time with the Lord in study and prayer and devotions. In Celebrate Recovery we encourage setting aside time every day to spend with the Lord.”

But the barrier between Marjorie and ‘Father God’ remained.

Then two and a half years ago Marjorie went on a road trip with a friend and ended up at a singles retreat in Washington state. “I had not been interested in going,” says Marjorie, “but the Lord had other plans for me, for it was there that I developed a relationship with Father God and gained a new understanding of him.” The retreat speaker, who also had a harsh father, talked about the prodigal son’s father and how he came running out to meet his son. “This really resonated with me,” says Marjorie. “God doesn’t wait for us to come to him, he comes running down the road to us.”

The speaker made his point, “You can choose your father,” he told Marjorie and the other attendees. “In other words, you can have this fatherly relationship with God,” says Marjorie who describes what happened next. “He requested those who wanted a relationship with Father God to stand. Then he asked the people around us to put their arms around us so we could feel the love of God. It was like I felt for the first time the true arms of the love of a father. I don’t think this would have happened if I had not attended Celebrate Recovery first. It is through this program that I have learned to trust God. It’s also through Celebrate Recovery that I learned to forgive my earthly father for the abuse that he dealt to all members of the family.”

Reflecting on Celebrate Recovery, Marjorie says, “I know there are a lot of people who are afraid to come to Celebrate Recovery because of what people might think of them. We who attend have learned to let go of that. Celebrate Recovery was designed in a Christian church and is kind of like a hospital for hurting people. It is not just for those with chemical dependencies. It is a Christian recovery program for anyone who has any kind of an issue, chemical or emotional, or abuse issues. We learn to lean on the Lord for help in dealing with our ‘hurts, hang-ups, and habits.’”

“I have not been in chemical or alcohol dependence, even though it runs in my family. There are many kinds of addiction, like food or work. I was addicted to work and busy-ness. I didn’t know how to sit down and relax or play. If I sat down, I had to have something in my lap. One of my boys asked me once if I ever played. Now in my mature years, I finally understand myself better and why I reacted certain ways in the past. ‘I wish I had. . . .’ But ‘should have, could have,’ gets us no place. In Celebrate Recovery we learn to let go of things and turn it over to the Lord. I am so much happier and have so much less stress now that I can do this.”

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Eight years later, Marjorie's involvement in the program continues to grow. "Initially I got involved in meals and clean up. We encourage members to get involved in service. If you think about others, you aren't thinking about yourself."

At one point Marjorie had the opportunity to teach a lesson at a Celebrate Recovery meeting. "My first time up front, I was very nervous. Now I feel more comfortable doing it. Gradually I saw the need for me to take a leadership position. Because I feel so strongly about this program, I didn't want to see it close down after Marty and Jo Grove moved to Idaho."

"I am amazed at how easy it is for some of the younger people to talk about their issues. When people my age were growing up, we didn't talk about our problems. We did the best we could, but if we had had proper tools we could have done something better."

"One thing we know is that God doesn't waste a hurt. You might be able to use it to help someone else, or you might be able to learn something from it. 'We are to be thankful in all things,'" says Marjorie. "I could have gone through my whole life and never addressed these things. I just have to keep being open to the Lord's leading."

While COVID has shut down the in-person meetings, Celebrate Recovery continues to meet via ZOOM. If you are interested or have questions about the program, please contact Marjorie Lewis at 530-945-4237, or her co-leader, Jody Rowland at 916-295-4206. If you would be more comfortable talking with a man, you can contact Ely Carter at 530-919-0471.

Thank You ! Thank You!

to Everyone Who Donated

to the Wireless Mic Fund

Donations Exceeded the Cost!!

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PAKISTANI HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME OPENS FOR GIRLS

When Sherilyn Greenlaw returned from Pakistan this summer, she brought back stories of a fledgling Christian orphanage for boys. It was struggling to survive in a 98% Islamic country. There was no consistent stream of income to support the home. Money trickled in from small donors in the United States, Great Britain and Poland. There were frequent pleas on Facebook for funds to provide food for the boys, some of whom had literally been picked up off the streets.

Sherilyn reached out to those in her circle of church friends, telling the story and generating interest and donations among a small group of members at Palo Cedro. At the same time there was a group of Christians from Virginia that made available a sum of money to help open a wing for young girls. The girls began coming in during the first week of November. Darlene Flinn from Missouri, a supporter of this ministry and advisor to the pastor who founded the home, says, "Pastor Qaisar, with tears in his eyes, reports that these girls were sleeping in the streets or on floors. For them to have nice beds, fluffy warm covers and pillows and to know they are safe and cared for is truly more excitement than they can contain."

Darlene has visited the orphanage twice over the past two years. She says of the girls home, "This is a BIG step of faith, but we have an even BIGGER God!" We need partners who will help us keep this going. This is a work that is reaping eternal benefits. Come be an active part of what God is doing here. A great LIGHT is shining in the midst of much darkness."



Young Girls Enjoy a Hot Meal at the Orphanage



Small Girls Play in their New Warm Covers

Many of those who live in poverty in Pakistan can only find work in the brick kiln fields where young children toil along with their parents. Those who stay behind during the work day are often subjected to abuse. There is little way out of this life, as wages are low, amounting to twenty two dollars a week for a family. Some families can not afford to feed their children who have been taken in by the orphanage.

One 13-year-old boy and his two younger siblings had been in bond slavery to a brick kiln owner. Their mother had died, and his father had abandoned all three of them. The father had left an outstanding debt of \$3,000 to the owner who was

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Three Siblings Just Freed from Work Bondage

leadership of Darlene Flinn, the ministry now has a goal of finding 200 people to give \$30 a month to the ministry in order to provide financial stability. To date they have reached 15% of this number. Darlene says, “Keep praying and believing God will bless us with the provisions needed to keep this home running every month.”

For those who would like to be more intimately involved with this ministry, you may sponsor a child for \$30 a month. This sum will help pay for their private education and some food and medical needs. The children can not go to the free state-run school because, as Christians, they would be severely persecuted and humiliated. The Christian community receives no assistance from the government under any circumstances. Christians are routinely dismissed by the Islamic culture.

Eight children have already been sponsored by Palo Cedro members. Please contact Sherilyn Greenlaw at sdgreenlaw.ma@gmail.com or 949-5080 for more information on the sponsorships and the ministry. You may also donate directly at www.healinghandspakistan.org. There is a provision here for monthly donations.

now forcing the young children to pay it off by working in the brick kiln fields. Word of their plight touched a Palo Cedro church member who paid the debt, although by the time the money arrived, the owner claimed the debt had risen to \$4,000. The additional \$1,000 was also paid. Darlene Flinn says, “To God be the glory, great things he has done!” Now the two youngest children are living at Pakistani Hope Children’s Home. The older boy is with relatives for the time being.

The dream of a home for girls has come true, but the difficulty of funding persists. Under the



***Darlene Flinn (right)
with Pastor Qaisar (rear left)***

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PROFILES OF FOUR PAKISTANI BOYS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP



HAROON is 9 years old. He likes to read and write and sing. He doesn't like to dance. He really likes fish and meat. One day he wants to become a pastor. He already reads the Bible and looks forward to being baptized.



ISRAR is 13 years old. He started school here when he came in 2017. He had been making bricks in the brick fields with his father. He likes to read and wants to become a doctor. He has been baptized. "There was rough, mean language where I was. Now I am blessed."



ASAD is 14 years old. He likes to read and play. His friends are important to him. One day he wants to be a doctor. He likes eating chicken and rice. Asad is a Christian and likes to pray.



SHAROON is 4 years old. His was abandoned by his mother. He just started school and loves picture books. He likes to read and dance. He especially likes cauliflower and potatoes. He wants to be a policeman one day.

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THOUGHTS ON THANKFULNESS

by Pastor Glenn Gibson

PASTOR'S
CORNER

What's your favorite season of the year? I love Fall. There is the feeling in the air of transition and change. There are the smells of harvest and of fresh cut grass and then there is the color of the leaves; all the reds, oranges, yellows and browns. There are the crisp mornings when you are leaving the house and you can see your breath.

But there are other things about the fall that I enjoy. There are the long evenings and the anticipation of the holiday season. The first holiday to come is Thanksgiving and the reminder of being thankful.

Let's be honest, 2020 has not been the best of years. I'd like to close the chapter to 2020 and begin again. But despite the year not going according to plan, there are lots of things to be thankful for. I'm thankful that God opened the door for me to come and serve you as your pastor. I'm thankful that you have opened your hearts to my family and me. I'm thankful that I get to work with Pastor Catrina. I'm thankful to be surrounded by beautiful mountains and to be able to see Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen. I'm also thankful for, wait for it . . . Jesus. Because of Him I can be thankful in spite of 2020.

And I'm also thankful for Jesus' gift of salvation. Because of that gift I have hope.



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Levi Logan in Training for Worship Team
with Dad Christopher

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Sabbath School Boxes for November - - Thanks Again Shana and Kaitlin!!



Helping Hands Ministry Splits Firewood for a Church Member

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HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Rick Dunbar | 09 Charity Vicente | 21 Wayne Gungl |
| 01 Pete Giacomelli | 11 Dee Golles | 21 Sophia Jewkes |
| 01 Jody Rowland | 11 Lars Jorteg | 21 Karie Williams |
| 01 Scott Schalo | 11 Alex Moon | 22 Becky Abeloe |
| 03 Crystal Milne | 12 Ronnie Alido | 22 Brandon Dahlin |
| 03 Darren Smith | 12 Rachel Chinn | 23 Jane Ulloth |
| 04 Candy Joretteg | 13 Scott White | 25 Michael Abeloe |
| 04 Matthew Nelson | 14 Dawn Howe | 25 Dustin Alexander |
| 05 Duane Dederer | 16 Rob Adams | 25 Linda Fowler |
| 05 Charley DeWalt | 16 Doris Fannin | 26 Barbara Frazee |
| 05 Kim Ochoa | 16 Ron Reece | 27 Carson Dunbar |
| 05 Jordan Rice | 17 Brad Bird | 27 Amy Reeder |
| 05 Leonard Soloniuk | 17 Floyd Brown | 28 Larry Graack |
| 05 Kim White-Hays | 17 Jeremy Quigley | 28 Cassondra Reeder |
| 06 Anne Haddad | 18 Kelly Dunbar | 29 Anne Marie Barrow |
| 06 Michael Hageman | 19 Pepper Stockton | 29 Brad Coulter |
| 07 Janet Edgren | 20 Parker Hanks | 29 Larry Lenz |
| 08 Sharon Dunbar | 21 Kimberly Golles | 30 Eric Smitheram |
| 09 Bob Newsome | | |

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Our Vision: To Transform All People into Completely
Committed Followers of Jesus Christ

The Palo Cedro Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Church Secretary: Linda Koenig

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Videos of all Palo Cedro sermons
are now posted

on the church website

www.pcadventist.org

Click on "Online Sermons" at the top