



April 2003

Newsletter of The Mid America Sisterhood of Churches

Vol. 3 No. 2

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### **Meeting Our Sister Churches**

*Home School Music Class* by Julie Shurley p. 2

#### **Foreign Missions**

*Ghana, Africa* p. 4

*Green Pastures School, India* p. 5

#### **Witnessing**

*News from Gary Dalrymple* p. 6

#### **Feature Article**

*A Study on Ordination* by the Delegates of the MASC p.7

#### **Nature Nugget**

*Neotenic Salamanders* by David Arbour p. 10

#### **Sharing Bulletin Board** p. 11

*Note: Motorcycles Needed for Fiji Bible Workers*

#### **Information** p. 14

*Next MASC meeting June 8, 2003*

**MASC CAMPMEETING - August 21-24, 2003**

**The Bugle** is a quarterly publication with the purpose of facilitating communication and cooperation amongst the sisterhood churches. It seeks to uplift, edify and encourage by sharing how God is working in each of our fields of labor.

**Subscription information:** A donation of \$5-\$10 per year is suggested. Send subscription requests to the Bugle editor and the donation to the MASC Secretary (see info on last page).

**The Mid America Sisterhood of Churches** is an organization founded to facilitate the unification and cooperation of the scattered home and independent churches of the Historic Adventist movement. For more information or a membership packet contact the MASC Secretary.

### Appetizer



What a beautiful time of year it is when all the flowers are blooming and we can start planting our gardens again. It reminds us that it is always planting time in God's field. We are to speak a word in season and out of season and the harvest will come.

It seems this issue is especially packed with great reports from missions far and near. As usual, we bring news from Ghana, Africa and the school in India. And Gary Dalrymple from Oklahoma shares his experiences as a Bible worker.

I'm excited about what we have going with our homeschoolers in this area. What started out as a weekly music class with 8 students has grown and expanded into a real ministry for the children. You can read about it and see some snapshots on pgs 2 & 3.

The MASC delegates have been working hard on getting a membership packet together which will be available soon for Historic Adventist Churches who may be interested in being a part of the Sisterhood. One study which will be a part of the packet is included here on page 7

Also, be sure to look at the campmeeting announcement and mark the dates on your calendar. This promises to be a wonderful time of Christian fellowship and inspiration. May God bless and draw you closer to him. -editor

### Home School Music Class by Julie Shurley

Between the Eagle Town church and the Board Camp group we have five homeschooling families with twelve school aged children and six babies and toddlers. We met together last fall to see what could be done to round out the education of the students and provide a time when they could all get together on a regular basis.

What evolved from this was a weekly music class held every Tuesday at the Shurley's home in Board Camp. We have choir practice from 9:00 to 9:30 and then the younger children have a music theory class for the next half hour while the older ones have guitar or piano lessons. Then the older students have their music theory class and the younger ones play some educational games or enjoy playing together outside on a nice day.

The choir is learning six scripture songs and four other songs that are fun to sing and teach important lessons. The children are learning about proper singing posture, good breathing, and dynamics as well as following a director and singing together. A couple of songs have some harmony parts which the older students are learning.

The music theory classes are designed to introduce the different concepts of the musical alphabet, the notes and symbols of music, the grand staff, rhythm and timing. Instead of using lectures and workbooks to teach music theory we are using games that teach the concepts in a fun and interesting way. The children have really enjoyed this method and are learning a lot without it seeming like school work at all. This method of teaching music theory is from Michiko Yurko's book, *Music Mind Games* available on the web at [www.musicmindgames.com](http://www.musicmindgames.com).

The guitar and piano students are discovering that the time spent practicing during the week makes all the difference in the world in how they perform for their lesson! Each student is learning a piece for the recital the end of May. Some are working on duets with other students or teachers.

The distance between our various families has posed a bit of a problem in getting together at other times to perform our choir pieces for church services or other events. Parts of the choir have given special music twice so far; however, my hope is that, as we get the songs we are learning perfected, that we can get together perhaps one Sunday a month and sing at nursing homes or for our neighbors. We did go Christmas caroling one evening before Christmas, and that was so much fun and such a blessing. We went to our neighbors and sang and handed out gift wrapped books.

Just this last week we had an addition to our Tuesday morning curriculum! Christine Lovell, one of the homeschooling mothers, has started an art class right after music class. Christine studied art in college and has worked with acrylic and water color paints. She is starting the students with water color and her first class was a smashing success with the children. Everyone loved it and is looking forward to the next class.

I have found this getting together and pooling our resources in teaching our children to be so very rewarding. It provides the children with more association and the mothers as well. We are getting to know each other better and that's wonderful for friendship and support as well as for Christian fellowship.

This is a ministry not only to the children but to their adult family members as well, some of whom are not church members, but who see the dedication of the church family to the education of their children, and who see the fruits of that education. It brings to mind this quote from *Adventist Home* page 32.

"One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached. Such a family gives evidence that the parents have been successful in following God's directions, and that their children will serve Him in the church. Their influence grows; for as they impart, they receive to impart again. The father and mother find helpers in their children, who give to others the instruction received in the home. The neighborhood in which they live is helped, for in it they have become enriched for time and for eternity. The whole family is engaged in the service of the Master; and by their godly example,

## *Home School Music Class*

Julie and Trey  
lead the children  
in practising  
some scripture  
songs. There are  
eleven home  
schoolers in the  
choir.

The  
younger  
kids play a  
music  
theory game  
to learn the  
musical  
alphabet.

Quarter - Quarter - Half-Note - Eighth, Eighth -  
Triplet - Triplet - Half-Note-Dot - Hold-That-  
Whole-Note - Quarter! Whew! We made it!

Uriah, Nicki and  
Meagan work on  
their guitar lesson  
with Trey while  
Jo Graves gives  
Tosha her piano  
lesson.

Jo has three  
other piano  
students as well.

The older kids  
learn a new kind  
of note and  
then line up the  
cards and  
practice  
clapping their  
rhythms.

Trey gives Nicci  
her guitar class.



## News From Ghana

Letter from Pastor Melvin Bankhead of  
Ebenezer Missions  
132 - 4531  
Clarksville, AR 72830  
Phone: 501-754-3927

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Following is a copy of a FAX received last Friday from Bro. Ben Nuako who operates the Independent Adventist school there in Ghana. Yesterday we sent him by wire transfer, \$1,000. I am writing to him to get an update on their total monthly expenses now that fuel prices have doubled. They are operating two buses (one is a large one) transporting over 200 students every school day. Their expenses the last few months have been a little over \$1,000 per month.

Here is a photo which Bro. Ben sent of their Christmastime campmeeting. They had nearly 3,000 attendance. The last campmeeting that I attended (Dec. 99) there were only about 1,500 attendance. Even that was a crowd.



Dear Pastor Bankhead,

### School Report

Sincere Christian greeting to you with the message of Gal. 6:9. We are doing all right by His grace. This is the third week since re-opening and we have enrolled 25 more pupils.

### New Convert

The Lord has helped me convert a 73 year old man in the school area. This man has a PhD degree but is retired. He was baptized at the December Camp Meeting. The Lord has impressed him to come and assist the school's administration. We are bring richly blessed with his long years of experience. He is so dedicated and learning every day.

### 100% Fuel Increase

The government has recently increased fuel [prices] by 100% and it is having serious repercussions on the whole economy. Even though you wrote that you will be helping Kenyan brethren, I would still plead that due to the bad effect of the fuel increase, we will need assistance for some time before things normalize. Everyone sends you greeting. May God bless you.



## Green Pastures Home School and Orphanage India

Dear brethren,

Greetings from across the oceans in the sweet name of our Savior. Recently a question was asked, as to how the SOP writings have been a BLESSING to us. Our little school has been battling between whether to be accredited or not. Many of our students, dropped out of school since they faced a dilemma between our program and the government's call to fall in line with their enactments on this issue. The heartening news is many still continued with us and more heart warming was the fact that some even returned after leaving us for a short while! The ones that remained, and those that returned are resolved to trust in the Lord, and the SOP writings that we ought not to be tied to the world even by a THREAD.

Just a couple of days ago, as I was going through the newspapers (which I do from time to time) I was shocked to read about an occurrence at a particular school. The papers stated, that the children aged between 14-19 years, were all committing suicide. The reason was that they could not cope with the heavy academic pressure at school, high expectations from parents and teachers, and from peer pressure inside and outside of school. What a tragedy! But that is not all, what brought me to the edge of my chair was the remedy to these ills. The school authorities suggested making the study of YOGA mandatory. Yoga, is eastern spiritualism. It is demonic, in one word. Just like Harry Porter craze is to the West, Yoga craze is to the East. MYSTICISM, introduced by force in schools. Will it be all schools? It most certainly will include Christian schools, coming under the Government aided program.

Closer to home, the test for the SDA's is HERE. All who pooh-poohed Sister White's writings and disregarded her counsel to remain as Church Schools, must now surely face the test. Two sources have confirmed that the Tamil Nadu Government (our chief minister, surely like Jezebel) has worked out the Public Examination Time Table so that our schools no longer have the Sabbath privilege. Our students (SDA's just a handful) must face the test of writing their Xth and XIIth grade exams on the Sabbath. In order for them to hold exams, our schools have to be opened on Sabbaths too. What a predicament, and how many of our schools will take their stand or compromise we do not know. But we need to pray that "OUR CHURCH" does take a stand now, or else we cannot be called SDA's. They need to oppose the new schedule.

The answer then is very simple. Have we been blessed by following counsel? A thousand times, YES. The Lord be praised. We too, will surely be persecuted for our faith, but the Lord will definitely be on our side, and with Him on our side, we need have no FEAR.

The Lord has been very good to us, He is ever protective over our little school. We need your prayers that we should stay faithful until the very end. THIS IS OUR TESTIMONY.

Love and prayers,

Tim, Anita, Staff and Students of Green Pastures Home School.

## News from Gary Dalrymple

### Bible worker in Oklahoma

The precious soul I would like to introduce to you in this newsletter is Ladonna. I first met her about three months ago while I was still working at New Life Mission. When things were slow at the mission I would go door to door trying to find those that were in need of help or just wanted to study the Bible. Ladonna is a mother of three boys. When I first met her, two of her boys were still living at home. But since that time one of them has joined the army. The youngest one that still lives at home is 16 years old. Ladonna wanted some help in purchasing some school clothes for her son. My wife and I purchased him three sets of clothes, including pants, shirts, socks, and under clothing.

She also started doing the Amazing Facts lessons on her own. I would come by once a week and grade her lesson and answer any questions she might have and leave her the next lesson. She completed the first two lessons and then stalled out on the third. It seemed as if she maybe felt obligated to do the lessons because we had provided her clothing for her son. I am sure the Lord was drawing her as well. I would come and visit once or twice a week encouraging her to complete the third lesson. Some times she would not be at home but one of her sons would be, so I would visit with them. Mostly I would listed to them tell me their different ambitions that each one had concerning their own life. After about a month or month and a half I again asked Ladonna if she wanted to have personal Bible studies together at her home. She had now become very well acquainted with me and I urged her to take out of her busy schedule an hour a week with me to study God's Word. She is like so many that desire a relationship with the Lord but the devil and the world keep them occupied doing other things.

She accepted the invitation and we have now completed about 12 lessons so far. She has become more interested after each lesson. She attended church with us right before Christmas. Her other two sons were home for the holidays, so she has spent her time with them. I hope to encourage her to start coming to church again now that things have settled back down. I don't know what her outcome will be concerning a relationship with the Lord and His church but I have learned to be a little more patient with people and have seen that with visiting with them and becoming their friends breaks down the barriers that hold them back from studying with us in God's Word. Also a little encouragement goes a long way.

Things to remember in prayer for Ladonna.

1. Victory over smoking.
2. Deeper commitment with the Lord.
3. Clear understanding for upcoming lessons.
4. God's Spirit will be able to work with power.

If you would like to contact Gary write:

Gary & Janie Dalrymple  
 HC 64 Box 21  
 Kingfisher, OK 73750

I have some sad news to share. Perry and Lisa have ended their studies with me for right now. She told me the lessons were causing turmoil and uneasiness in their home. I visited with Perry a little later and he told me he agreed that the Sabbath was Saturday but Lisa was very opposed to it. Lisa, as they say, wars the pants in the family and normally Perry follow. Pray that Perry can have moral courage to stand for the truth even in opposition to his wife. Also that God could work a miracle in her heart and that she would submit to the truth.

Things are going well with Saul and Nancy. We are just starting to study together on the Sabbath. We have three lessons on this truth. Pray that God will gain the victory and they will go all the way with Him.

Thanks again for your prayers and support as we work together for the saving of the lost.

## *A Study on ORDINATION*

*By the Delegates of the Mid America Sisterhood of Churches*

*This compilation of texts, Spirit of Prophecy quotes, and Adventist history notes, is designed to give a brief historical overview of the use, goals, and limits of ordination in the church of Christ, beginning with the call to the disciples.*

“And he saith unto them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Matt. 4:19.

“He who called the fishermen of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples....The Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. He Invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God.” DA 297.

“The first step was now to be taken in the organization of the church that after Christ’s departure was to be His representative on earth....Jesus had called His disciples that He might send them forth as His witnesses, to declare what they had seen and heard of Him. Their office was the most important to which human beings had ever been called, and was second only to that of Christ Himself. They were to be workers together with God for the saving of the world.... These disciples had been for some time associated with Jesus in active labor.” DA 291,292.

“And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto Him whom He would: and they came unto Him. And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach.” Mark 3: 13,14.

“While Jesus was preparing the disciples for their ordination, one who had not been summoned urged his presence among them. It was Judas Iscariot, a man who professed to be a follower of Christ. He now came forward, soliciting a place in this inner circle of disciples. With great earnestness and apparent sincerity he declared, ‘Master, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest.’ Jesus neither repulsed nor welcomed him, but uttered only the mournful words: ‘The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.’ Matt. 8:19,20. Judas believed Jesus to be the Messiah; and by joining the apostles, he hoped to secure a high position in the new kingdom. This hope Jesus designed to cut off by the statement of His poverty.

“The disciples were anxious that Judas should become one of their number. He was of commanding appearance, a man of keen discernment and executive ability, and they commended him to Jesus as one who would greatly assist Him in His work. They were surprised that Jesus received him so coolly.

“The disciples had been much disappointed that Jesus had not tried to secure the co-operation of the leaders in Israel. They felt that it was a mistake not to strengthen His cause by securing the support of these influential men. If He had repulsed Judas, they would, in their own minds, have questioned the wisdom of their Master. The after history of Judas would show them the danger of allowing any worldly consideration to have weight in deciding the fitness of men for the work of God. The co-operation of such men as the disciples were anxious to secure would have betrayed the work into the hands of its worst enemies.” DA 293,294.

“When Jesus ended His instruction to the disciples, he gathered the little band close about Him, and kneeling in the midst of them, and laying His hands upon their heads, He offered a prayer dedicating them to His sacred work. Thus the Lord’s disciples were ordained to the gospel ministry.” DA 296.

*The previous paragraphs stand as a warning to us to take great care in deciding the fitness of men for the work of God, and, especially, the need of carefulness when individuals attempt to push themselves forward to gain positions of influence and leadership. The following quotes show that ordination is a public, acknowledgment by the church, of an already evident calling. Ordination does not do the qualifying.*

“there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

“And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.” Acts 13:1-3.

“Both Paul and Barnabas had already received their commission from God Himself....God had abundantly blessed the labors of Paul and Barnabas during the year they remained with the believers in Antioch. But neither of them had as yet been formally ordained to the gospel ministry.” AA 160,161.

“Before being sent forth as missionaries to the heathen world, these apostles were solemnly dedicated to God by fasting and prayer and the laying on of hands. Thus they were authorized by the church, not only to teach the truth, but to perform the rite of baptism and to organize churches, being invested with full ecclesiastical authority.

“The Christian church was at this time entering upon an important era. The work of proclaiming the gospel message among the Gentiles was now to be prosecuted with vigor; and as a result the church was to be strengthened by a

great ingathering of souls. The apostles who had been appointed to lead out in this work would be exposed to suspicion, prejudice, and jealousy. Their teachings concerning the breaking down of “the middle wall of partition” (Ephesians 2:14) that had so long separated the Jewish and the Gentile world, would naturally subject them to the charge of heresy, and their authority as ministers of the gospel would be questioned by many zealous, believing Jews. God foresaw the difficulties that His servants would be called to meet, and, in order that their work should be above challenge, He instructed the church by revelation to set them apart publicly to the work of the ministry. Their ordination was a public recognition of their divine appointment to bear to the Gentiles the glad tidings of the gospel.

“Both Paul and Barnabas had already received their commission from God Himself, and the ceremony of the laying on of hands added no new grace or virtual qualification. It was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office and a recognition of one’s authority in that office. By it the seal of the church was set upon the work of God.

“To the Jews this form was a significant one. When a Jewish father blessed his children, he laid his hands reverently upon their heads....And when the ministers of the church of believers in Antioch laid their hands upon Paul and Barnabas, they, by that action, asked God to bestow His blessing upon the chosen apostles ...

“At a later date the rite of ordination by the laying on of hands was greatly abused; unwarrantable importance was attached to the act, as if a power came at once upon those who received such ordination, which immediately qualified them for any and all ministerial work. But in the setting apart of these two apostles, there is no record indicating that any virtue was imparted by the mere act of laying on of hands....

“The circumstances connected with the separation of Paul and Barnabas by the Holy Spirit to a definite line of service show clearly that the Lord works through appointed agencies in His organized church....

“God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself. Neither does He give one man a knowledge of His will for the entire church while the church—Christ’s body—is left in darkness. In His providence He places His servants in close connection with His church in order that they may have less confidence in themselves and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work.”AA 160,163.

The following principles should be taken into account regarding ordination:

**1. “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be a partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.” I Tim. 5:22.**

“...those who are about to enter upon the sacred work of teaching Bible truth to the world should be carefully examined by faithful, experienced persons.

“After these have had some experience, there is still another work to be done for them. They should be presented before the Lord in earnest prayer that He would indicate by His Holy Spirit if they are acceptable to Him. The apostle says: ‘Lay hands suddenly on no man.’ In the days of the apostles the ministers of God did not dare to rely upon their own judgment in selecting or accepting men to take the solemn and sacred position of mouthpiece for God. They selected the men whom their judgment would accept, and then they placed them before the Lord to see if He would accept them to go forth as His representatives. No less than this should be done now.

“In many places we meet men who have been hurried into responsible positions as elders of the church when they are not qualified for such a position. They have not proper government over themselves. Their influence is not good. The church is in trouble continually in consequence of the defective character of the leader. Hands have been laid too suddenly upon these men....

“Ministers should be examined especially to see if they have an intelligent understanding of the truth for this time, so that they can give a connected discourse upon the prophecies or upon practical subjects. If they cannot clearly present Bible subjects they need to be hearers and learners still. They should earnestly and prayerfully search the scriptures, and become conversant with them, in order to be teachers of Bible truth to others. All these things should be carefully and prayerfully considered before men are hurried into the field of labor.” 4T. 406,407

“Some young men who enter the field are not successful in teaching the truth to others because they have not been educated themselves. Those who cannot read correctly should learn, and they should become apt to teach before they attempt to stand before the public.” 4T. 406

**2. Qualifications of the candidate should be investigated according to I Timothy 3, Titus 1: 6-9,**

“The family of the one suggested for office should be considered. Are they in subjection? Can the man rule his own house with honor? What character have his children? Will they do honor to the father’s influence? If he has no tact, wisdom, or power of godliness at home in managing his own family, it is safe to conclude that the same defects will be carried into the church, and the same unsanctified management will be seen there. It will be far better to criticize the man before he is put into office than afterward, better to pray and counsel before taking the

decisive step than to labor to correct the consequences of a wrong move.” 5T. 618

**3. Time should be given to determine suitability for the post.**

“Such arrangements should be made for the little companies accepting the truth as shall secure the prosperity of the church. One man may be appointed to lead for a week or a month, then another for a few weeks; and thus different persons may be enlisted in the work, and after a suitable trial someone should be selected by the voice of the church to be the acknowledged leader, never, however, to be chosen for more than one year. Then another may be selected, or the same one may be re-elected, if his service has proved a blessing to the church. The same principle should be followed in selecting men for other responsible positions, as in the offices of the conference. Untried men should not be elected as presidents of conferences. Many fail to exercise proper discernment in these important matters where eternal interests are involved.” 5T 619.

**4. Candidates are to be leaders, not rulers.**

“The man who holds office in the church should stand as a leader, as an adviser, and a counselor and helper in carrying the burdens of the work. He should be a leader in offering thanksgiving to God. But he is not appointed to order and command the Lord’s laborers. The Lord is over His heritage.” LLM 816. John 13:1-20, I Peter 5:1-3

**5. The life should be a testimony to the value of health reform**

“Why do some of our ministering brethren manifest so little interest in health reform? It is because instruction on temperance in all things is opposed to their practice of self-indulgence. In some places this has been the great stumbling block in the way of our bringing the people to investigate and practice and teach health reform. No man should be set apart as a teacher of the people while his own teaching or example contradicts the testimony God has given His servants to bear in regard to diet, for this will bring confusion. disregard of health reform unfits him to stand as the Lord's messenger.

“The light that the Lord has given on this subject in His word is plain, and men will be tested and tried in many ways to see if they will heed it. Every church, every family, needs to be instructed in regard to Christian temperance. All should know how to eat and drink in order to preserve health. We are amid the closing scenes of this world's history, and there should be harmonious action in the ranks of Sabbathkeepers. Those who stand aloof from the great work of instructing the people upon this question do not follow where the Great Physician leads the way. If any man will come after Me,” Christ said, “let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” Matthew 16:24.

“The Lord has presented before me that many, many will be rescued from physical, mental, and moral degeneracy through the practical influence of health reform.” 6T 378

**6. Paul and Barnabas were ordained as missionaries by the church that they ministered in, not by the council at Jerusalem. In like manner, Paul ordained men in the churches as he set them up, and he instructed Titus to do likewise.**

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

“And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.” Acts 13:1-3.

“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:” Titus 1:5

“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.” Acts 14:23

NOTE: “...(In 1855) J.B. Frisbie, a pioneer minister in Michigan, wrote, in a two-part article under the same title (Church Order), of (1) the elders who had the spiritual oversight of all the churches—the “traveling elders”—and, (2) the “local elders” who had the pastoral care of one church. These he distinguished from the deacons, who were to look after the temporal affairs of the church.” (Review and Herald 6:155, Jan 9, 1855) In the Jan. 23 issue 9, p.164, in answer to a question by John Byington as to whether elders and deacons were to be appointed in every church, James White urged that the New Testament church order be adopted and that in ‘every Church where the numbers, and talents, and graces of individuals are sufficient,’ the officers of the church should be appointed...as late as 1896 the following question and answer appeared in the Review and Herald: ‘If a local elder moves to another church, and is there chosen elder, does he need to be reordained?’ ‘Yes; we think he should be ordained again, because his ordinations are local’ Review and Herald, 73:121, Feb. 25, 1896.” Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, pp. 299,300.

*Based on these previous statements, we find it prudent that the elders in a congregation be chosen by their local church, and ordained by men who are intelligent regarding the candidate’s character and abilities, either at their church or, by prior arrangement, at a wider meeting of the area churches such as a campmeeting. Traveling elders*

The world's largest terrestrial (land dwelling) salamander, the Tiger Salamander, is found throughout most of North America from high mountains to low desert areas. It lives in moist areas near water and underground in the burrows of small mammals. They lay their eggs in calm waters such as ponds and lakes. The young, called larvae, resemble tadpoles but grow legs soon after hatching and have large feathery gills on the sides of their neck.

There are several races across North America and the western races often exhibit a condition called neoteny where the larvae do not transform into the adult land form but remain in the water reaching reproductive maturity while in the larval form. This condition is caused by the salamanders environment where the land areas around their pond or lake are inhospitable for a salamander to live in, such as deserts and cold high altitude areas.

There is a lesson in this for us who are striving for transformation from sinful characters to a character like Christ's. Just as the neotenic salamander's environment influenced it not to become a terrestrial adult, so our environment can prevent us from attaining spiritual perception. The place we live, where we work, and who we associate with constitute our environment and strongly influences our Christian experience.

Ellen White wrote, "We should choose the society most favorable to our spiritual advancement, and avail ourselves of every help within our reach; for Satan will impose many hindrances to make our progress toward heaven as difficult as possible. We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surroundings what they would; but we should not voluntarily expose ourselves to influences that are unfavorable to the formation of Christian character. When duty calls us to do this, we should be doubly watchful and prayerful, that, through the grace of Christ, we may stand uncorrupted." (The Adventist Home, page 131)

Let us therefore strive to place ourselves in the best environment possible so we can more

*should be known for responsible service in their local church capacity, and ordained to their work by the larger body of churches, at an open forum with the widest possible representation of churches, such as at a campmeeting.*

## 7. Unordained men are also laborers for Christ.

"Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him, And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great. And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us." Luke 9:46-50

"There are many who are laborers together with God whom we do not discern. The hands of ministers have never been laid upon them in ordination for the work; but nevertheless they are wearing the yoke of Christ, and exert a saving influence in working in different lines to win souls to Christ. The success of our work depends upon our love to God and our love to our fellowmen. When there is harmonious action among the individual members of the church, when there is love and confidence manifested by brother to brother, there will be proportionate force and power in our work for the salvation of men. Oh, how greatly we need a moral renovation! Without the faith that works by love, you can do nothing. May the Lord give you hearts to receive this testimony." Testimonies to ministers and Gospel Workers pg. 188

*It is our recommendation, that those ordained to serve the church be evaluated according to the Scriptural and Spirit of Prophecy counsels presented above in order to guard the integrity and influence of an elder's office.*

"God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself. Neither does He give one man a knowledge of His will for the entire church while the church—Christ's body—is left in darkness. In His providence He places His servants in close connection with His church in order that they may have less confidence in themselves and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work." AA 160,163.

## SHARING BULLETIN BOARD

**SABBATH SCHOOL  
QUARTERLIES** For Senior  
Classes and **Junior classes**  
available from **Seeds Of  
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Eagletown, OK 74734  
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Clarksville, AR 72830  
Phone: 479-754-3927

Support for the **school in  
India** may be sent to:  
SALUTE Ministries  
P.O. Box 337  
Bismarck, AR 71929-

### Marching Orders

**“Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. ‘This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ Matthew 24:14.” (The Acts of the Apostles, page 111)**

### Motorcycles for Fiji Bible Workers

You may have seen some reports in Land Marks and the STL newsletter about the Three Angels Missionary College (TAMC). This is really an exciting story that continues to unfold as time goes on. Please join with us in prayer that the Lord will continue to both guide and protect those involved with the work in the South Pacific and the TAMC. My wife and I were really blessed when we went for a visit last Dec. Rarely have I ever seen such dedicated people with a vision of a finished work. Currently work on the dormitories and other facilities is taking place and they hope to have it completed in time for the next session starting in the summer. What's even more exciting is the story about the work going on in the interior of the island where an ex-druglord is now a worker for the Lord! While there I experienced first-hand some of the worst roads I've ever been on and thought that they would do well to have some motorcycles as they would be a great help to them in accessing the hard-to-reach areas. As motorcycles are quite expensive in Fiji, the best thing to do is find some good late-model bikes here in the USA and ship them over. We are looking to raise enough funds to purchase 2 or 3 motorcycles for about \$8000.00. These would be 2001-2002 dual-purpose models with very low mileage on them.

If you would like to join us in this project, please mark your donation for **Fiji Motorcycles** and send it to Steps to Life, P.O. Box 782828, Wichita, KS 67278.

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions.

Christopher Peppel

Phone: 316-789-0300



**2003**

**Mid America Sisterhood  
CAMPMEETING**

**When?**

Mark your calendars for  
**August 20 through 24th**

**Where?**

**Pincrest Camp**  
north of Clarksville, Arkansas

**Who?**

**Speakers will include:**

- Ann & Craig Meeker - Kansas
- Donna Nicholas - Bible Memorization
- Elsa & Joe Willis - Maranatha Medical Ministry in Honduras
- Berry Mellor - Tennessee
- and others

**Stay tune for further details  
in the next newsletter**



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***The Bugle***  
**MASC Newsletter**  
176 Polk 61  
Mena, Arkansas 71953  
479-394-4014

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Please fold in thirds so that the above address is facing out, and tape. Please stamp and mail. Thank you.

## **The Bugle Reader Survey**

**Please fill out this survey so that we can know how to better serve you.**

**Please circle the appropriate answer.**

I read the Information page of the Bugle	always	usually	sometimes	never.
I read the Bulletin Board information	always	usually	sometimes	never.
I read the Mission updates	always	usually	sometimes	never.
I read the Nature Nugget	always	usually	sometimes	never.
I read the "Appetizer" on the front page	always	usually	sometimes	never.

**I most enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Meeting Our Sister Churches      b) the theological articles      c) Personal Testimonies  
d) Witnessing/Outreach      e) other — please name

What article did you most enjoy in the last year?

What topics would you like to see covered in the future?

What suggestions would you give for improving The Bugle?

Thank you for your input.  
-Julie

***The Bugle***  
**MASC Newsletter**  
176 Polk 61  
Mena, Arkansas 71953  
479-394-4014

**INFORMATION**

**DATES**

**Next Sisterhood Meeting -  
June 8, 2003**

Bismarck Church

Sunday only starting at 9:00 AM  
call Molly Collins for accommodations.

**Important Note:**

Each church must inform the MASC  
Secretary who will be attending as their  
elected delegates, no later than **May 25**

**Deadline for next Newsletter entries:**  
June 30, 2003

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