



July 2003

Newsletter of The Mid America Sisterhood of Churches

Vol. 3 No. 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Meeting Our Sister Churches
Work Bee August 3 by Julie Shurley p. 2

Foreign Missions
Ghana, Africa p. 3
Green Pastures School, India p. 4

Feature Article
Church Organization - Our Conviction A study by the
Delegates of the MASC p. 5

Health Nugget
Experiences in Hawaii by Evelyn Mizner p. 8

Sharing Bulletin Board p. 9
Camp Meeting Reminder - Aug. 20-24

Information p. 10
Next MASC meeting June 8, 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



The Lord has blessed us so much in this part of the country with the continued rain and cool weather! It's been a while since we had such good rainfall in July! It brings to mind the promise in Deut. 11:11 & 12 "But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

This issue has some dates you'll want to put on your calendar. On page 2 is an invitation to join a weekend fellowship and work bee at the Board Camp, AR church Aug. 3.

Then there's the Arkansas Camp Meeting Aug. 20-24. We are so excited about how it is coming together. It should be a wonderful time of fellowship and education. The children and youth also have a full schedule. Terry McComb will be working a lot with them. He does black light chalk drawings to illustrate his points. His presentations are so interesting that the adults may be tempted to join the children's classes!

Check out the bulletin board and the information page for other important dates and announcements.

- editor

MEETING OUR SISTER CHURCHES

Board Camp Home Mission Home Visit Work Bee! August 3, Sunday! You're Invited!

The last home visit, which was at the Mizner's up in Melbourne, AR, was a great success. We were able to get to know the Mizners better through a Sabbath of fellowship, and then help them out with putting new siding on their house. This kind of thing is what really brings us together as the body of Christ.

Phil. 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Gal. 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

It's time for another home visit. The blessings are sure to be great for the need is very great.

One of the families in the Home Mission fellowship, the Eakins, has had a very bad mould problem developing in their house for a number of years, evidently. The house is older, and the slope of the ground allowed water to run under the pier and beam structure, keeping it moist under the house. There was no guttering along the roof either, so the rain all ran off right by the house, and followed the slope underneath.

At one point they had a crew come in and replace rotten floor joists under the living room area, but this was only a

bandaid on the problem. Recently, they put up guttering which would carry the roof runoff away from the house. But the problem persisted, compromising the family's health.

The "straw that broke the camel's back" was one day when grandma sat down on the sofa and one leg fell through the floor! Something had to be done at once.

The men in the church began to help Scott Eakins tear

his house apart on Sunday's! The entire floor down to the dirt in the living room, bath room and one bed room had to be torn out, as well as the entire outside wall along that side of the house.

The bottom sides of the floor boards and joists were coated in a thick layer of mould. Big sections of 2x6 boards were the weight of Styrofoam.

The plumbing has been redone, and the area framed up to pour a cement slab for the floor. This will be the next step. Then will begin the reconstruction of about one third of the house! This is what the work bee is for. You are invited to come fellowship with the Board Camp Home Mission on Sabbath, Aug. 2, and then join the fun at the Eakin's house Sunday! If you will need accommodations, call the Shurley's at 479-394-4014.





News From Ghana

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sincere Christian greetings to you with the message of Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Our thankfulness goes primarily to the Lord and then to you for the financial as well as spiritual guidance that you give us in our bid to do the Lord's work in this part of the world.

With the genesis of the Gulf war and events transpiring in Europe, we have the clearest sign that the end is just upon us. I believe what Daniel predicted concerning Europe is being fulfilled. I see Rev. 13 is also fulfilling.

With these omens, we really have to work for the night shall soon fall when no man can work.

It has been our sincere desire to follow what the Lord says in the work given us. We want to follow the example of Madison school. We prayed much about it and the Lord is really answering our prayers marvelously.

Madison school gave students practical training and we want to do the same. Sister White wrote that "It is essential that there shall be a sanitarium connected with the Madison school. The educational work at the school as the sanitarium can go forward hand in hand..." 11MR 193. Praise God! He has given us a facility to operate a sanitarium in connection with the school. This sanitarium project came about as a result of a donation from a friend who lived at where I went to school at Bakersfield California. When I returned to Ghana, he used to write to me, and in fact, I have been in contact with him for a long time. He has now moved to South Carolina. This family donated money for the project. Then brother Casey also occasionally send us money for it. It was he who helped with the roofing.

It is the evidence of the Lord's hand in the work we are doing here. It shows what prayers can do. We have tried to be very economical in the use of every penny that comes to us. We give all the glory to the Lord.

The building had been roofed and, with the Lord's help, shall soon be ready for use. It is not fancy, but can serve well the purpose.

This facility is also going to be useful in the proclamation of the last message. Sister White has written a lot on the role medical work is to play in the third angel's message.

May God richly bless you is our prayer.

Good-bye and greeting,
Ben Nuako

Green Pastures Home School and Orphanage India



The Story of Reuben

Brother Reuben received a Last Generation magazine in the city of Chennai (Madras), and he responded by writing to Timothy and Anita Tharasingh.

Anita writes - "We replied to him and also sent him literature containing 100 facts from the Bible on the Sabbath question. This we send to most of our readers. After a while, Tim writes again asking for feedback and comments on the literature sent to them. To this letter Reuben replied asking if there was any chance for him to be employed in our organization. I replied and asked him to come for an interview.

"Reuben has been working with us for almost a year as a dean, and also helping out in teaching too. He is of a very humble and teachable spirit.

"A couple of months ago, upon our request to procure agricultural workers to come help out in the big property, he had gone to his village. While traveling back to our place the bus that they were traveling in met with a head on collision with a truck. The man who was seated right behind the bus driver died from a concussion of the brain, the woman on learning that her husband was no more, suffered a massive cardiac arrest. The man was only 40 years of age, and the woman 36 years. They are survived by two children, teenagers, a boy and a girl.

"On hearing the news of the accident, the whole village was in an uproar. It happens that the couple is related to Reuben. Reuben himself suffered chest injuries, but they blamed him for the tragedy, and heaped insult to injury that he indeed was responsible for their untimely death.

"Reuben was in a state of shock, he was so shattered and distraught lying in the hospital for almost a week. He himself is an orphan (aged 38 yrs). With nobody to really bring relief to him and not able to contact us, his faith was terribly shaken. The Pentecostals also hinted that all this was happening to him because of his association with us. God's children come under attack.

"When he got back, his head reeling with the last scenes of death etched vividly in his mind, he was tormented with nightmares and felt as though he was being suffocated in the night season. He shared his experiences and we prayed that the Lord would grant him peace of mind and relieve him from his mental, physical and spiritual agony. Yes, the battle raged on, and after a week Reuben was ready to turn in his resignation stating that he was unable to work and discharge his duties due to the evil forces working against him. We assured him of God's love and encouraged him to stay. We reminded him of the great controversy that we are in. He read the book "Great Controversy" in Tamil, and pulled through. God saved him! He is now taking classes in our doctrinal beliefs and will be ready for baptism. We know that the Lord is in control of each of us.

"We hope soon that Eugene and others will be baptized too. The devil is at their heels though, and much prayer is wont on behalf of these souls. Selvaraj (the school vehicle driver) is pressing for baptism too as a law in the state of Tamil Nadu will soon be enforced banning baptisms from Hinduism. We need to pray hard...these laws are just a smokescreen to the final one, the NSL. Let us be faithful and sealed for His kingdom individually first, then as a school. Hope this story will be a blessing to you all."

What does God say about church order?

Those who belong to Christ's army must work with concerted action. They cannot be faithful soldiers unless they obey orders. **United action is essential.** An army in which every part acts without reference to the other parts, has no real strength. In order to add new territory to Christ's kingdom, His soldiers must act in concert. . . . **He calls for a united army**, which moves steadily forward, **not for a company composed of independent atoms.** The strength of His army is to be used for one great purpose. Its efforts are to be concentrated upon one great point--the magnifying of the laws of His kingdom before the world, before angels, and before men (MS 82, 1900). {4BC 1146.4}

My brethren, the Lord has called upon you to do a certain work, but you have not done it; and now in the place where you are, there is discord and contention and strife. But this need not be. **God does not design that his workmen shall stand apart as independent atoms.** All have a great and solemn work to do, and it is to be done under God's supervision. {PH156 12.1}

An army in battle would become confused and weakened unless all worked in concert. If the soldiers should act out their own impulsive ideas, without reference to each other's positions and work, they would be a collection of **independent atoms**; they could not do the work of an organized body. **So the soldiers of Christ must act in harmony....Union is strength. A few converted souls acting in harmony, acting for one grand purpose, under one head, will achieve victories at every encounter.** {SpM 121.1}

What has happened to the SDA organization?

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. **A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.** The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. **The Sabbath** of course, **would be lightly regarded**, as also the God who created it. **Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.** The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, **they would place their dependence on human power**, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {1SM 204.2}

*For a look at how this prophecy is being fulfilled in the General Conference see the booklet, **Issues: No New Organization** by John and Marshall Grosboll*

Are Historic Adventists making a New Organization?

The argument has been made against any type of organization in the Historic Adventist movement that it would be forming a new organization. And inspiration forbids this.

The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now **step off the foundation** that God has established. **We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth.**--MS. 129, 1905.

Notice that she says that apostasy from the truth constitutes the formation of a new organization. The GC structure is step by step entering into a new organization because it is apostatizing from the truth in point after point. Those of us who are upholding the pillars of the faith are maintaining the old organization which Christ established upon Himself and His apostles.

For more on this issue see the booklet mentioned above.

What is true Gospel Order? A Look at the early church.

As an important factor in the spiritual growth of the new converts the apostles were careful to surround them with the safeguards of **gospel order**. **Churches were duly organized** in all places in Lycaonia and Pisidia where there were believers. **Officers were appointed in each church, and proper order and system were established** for the conduct of all the affairs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the believers. {AA 185.2}

This was in harmony with the gospel plan of uniting in one body all believers in Christ, and this plan Paul was careful to follow throughout his ministry. Those who in any place were by his labor led to accept Christ as the Saviour were at the proper time organized into a church. Even when the believers were but few in number, this was done. The Christians were thus taught to help one another, remembering the promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20. {AA 185.3}

The order that was maintained in the early Christian church made it possible for them to move forward solidly as a well-disciplined army clad with the armor of God. The companies of believers, though scattered over a large territory, were all members of one body; all moved in concert and in harmony with one another. **When dissension arose in a local church, as later it did arise in Antioch and elsewhere, and the believers were unable to come to an agreement among themselves, such matters were not permitted to create a division in the church, but were referred to a general council of the entire body of believers, made up of appointed delegates from the various local churches,** with the apostles and elders in positions of leading responsibility. Thus the efforts of Satan to attack the church in isolated places were met by concerted action on the part of all, and the plans of the enemy to disrupt and destroy were thwarted. {AA 95.3}

"God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." I Corinthians 14:33. He requires that order and system be observed in the conduct of church affairs today no less than in the days of old. He desires His work to be carried forward with thoroughness and exactness so that He may place upon it the seal of His approval. **Christian is to be united with Christian, church with church, the human instrumentality co-operating with the divine, every agency subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all combined in giving to the world the good tidings of the grace of God.** {AA 96.1}

In the church at Antioch the consideration of the question of circumcision resulted in much discussion and contention. Finally, the members of the church, fearing that a division among them would be the outcome of continued discussion, decided to send Paul and Barnabas, with some responsible men from the church, to Jerusalem to lay the matter before the apostles and elders. There they were to meet **delegates** from the different churches and those who had come to Jerusalem to attend the approaching festivals. Meanwhile all controversy was to cease until a final decision should be given in general council. This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country. {AA 190.2}

The entire body of Christians was not called to vote upon the question. The "apostles and elders," men of influence and judgment, framed and issued the decree, which was thereupon generally accepted by the Christian churches. Not all, however, were pleased with the decision; there was a faction of ambitious and self-confident brethren who disagreed with it. These men assumed to engage in the work on their own responsibility. They indulged in much murmuring and faultfinding, proposing new plans and seeking to pull down the work of the men whom God had ordained to teach the gospel message. From the first the church has had such obstacles to meet and ever will have till the close of time. {AA 196.2}

The organization of the church at Jerusalem was to serve as a model for the organization of churches in every other place where messengers of truth should win converts to the gospel. Those to whom was given the responsibility of the general oversight of the church were not to lord it over God's heritage, but, as wise shepherds, were to "feed the flock of God, . . . being ensamples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:2, 3); and the deacons were to be "men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom." These men were to take their position unitedly on the side of right and to maintain it with firmness and decision. Thus they would have a uniting influence upon the entire flock. {AA 91.1}

Later in the history of the early church, when in various parts of the world many groups of believers had been formed into churches, the **organization of the church was further perfected, so that order and harmonious action might be maintained.** Every member was exhorted to act well his part. Each was to make a wise use of the talents entrusted to him. Some were endowed by the Holy Spirit with special gifts --"first apostles,

secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28. But all these classes of workers were to labor in harmony. {AA 91.2}

Is our being organized under true Gospel Order a preference or a conviction?

"God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." I Corinthians 14:33. **He requires that order and system be observed in the conduct of church affairs today no less than in the days of old.** He desires His work to be carried forward with thoroughness and exactness so that He may place upon it the seal of His approval. Christian is to be united with Christian, church with church, the human instrumentality co-operating with the divine, every agency subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all combined in giving to the world the good tidings of the grace of God. {AA 96.1}

The Lord has shown that gospel order has been too much feared and neglected. [THE ADVENTISTS WERE OF ALL CHURCHES, AND AT FIRST THEY HAD NO IDEA OF FORMING ANOTHER CHURCH. AFTER 1844 THERE WAS GREAT CONFUSION, AND THE MAJORITY WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY ORGANIZATION, HOLDING THAT IT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PERFECT LIBERTY OF THE GOSPEL. THE TESTIMONY AND LABORS OF MRS WHITE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OPPOSED TO FANATICISM, AND IN THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN THROUGH HER, ORGANIZATION IN SOME FORM WAS EARLY INSISTED UPON, AS NECESSARY TO PREVENT CONFUSION.] Formality should be shunned; but, in so doing, order should not be neglected. There is order in heaven. There was order in the church when Christ was upon the earth, and after His departure order was strictly observed among His apostles. **And now in these last days**, while God is bringing His children into the unity of the faith, **there is more real need of order than ever before**; for, as God unites His children, Satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity and to destroy it. {EW 97.1}

As our numbers increased, it was evident that without some form of organization there would be great confusion, and the work would not be carried forward successfully. To provide for the support of the ministry, for carrying the work in new fields, for protecting both the churches and the ministry from unworthy members, for holding church property, for the publication of the truth through the press, and for many other objects, **organization was indispensable.** {CET 195.2}

Yet there was strong feeling against it among our people. The First-day Adventists were opposed to organization, and most of the Seventh-day Adventists entertained the same ideas. We sought the Lord with earnest prayer that we might understand His will, and light was given by His Spirit, that **there must be order** and thorough discipline in the church,--**that organization was essential.** System and order are manifest in all the works of God throughout the universe. **Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God's people on the earth.** {CET 195.3}

I saw that this door at which the enemy comes in to perplex and trouble the flock can be shut. I inquired of the angel how it could be closed. He said, "The church must flee to God's Word and become established upon gospel order, which has been overlooked and neglected." This is **indispensably necessary** in order to bring the church into the unity of the faith. {EW 100.2}

By the influence of the Spirit, the most discordant may be brought into harmony. Unselfishness is to bind God's people together with firm, tender bonds. There is a vast power in the church when the energies of the members are under the control of the Spirit, gathering good from every source, educating, training, and disciplining self. Thus is presented to God a powerful organization, through which He can work for the conversion of sinners. Thus heaven and earth are connected, and all divine agencies cooperate with human instrumentalities. {ML 39.5}

Conclusion

*It is the **conviction** of the Mid America Sisterhood of Churches that we **must maintain Gospel Order and the pattern established by the early Christian church, and uphold the pillars of the faith.***

Health Nugget

Experiences in Hawaii

by Evelyn Mizner

In November, 2002, I traveled to Hawaii along with my Mom, who is nearly 80 years old, and Brother Calvin Dence, who is a few years younger. We spent one week on the island of Oahu staying at Kanehoe where we rented a suite from a lovely Adventist lady. The second week we spent on the big island of Hawaii where friends of ours live who have a dream of building a lifestyle center.

My Mom brought along her wheelchair but little used it because her condition improved as we applied potato poultices on her knee, used oregano oil topically and massaged her feet daily. Dr. Dence also gave her some adjustments.

We thrilled to be at the very place where Sister White once stood and said as she overlooked the island and sea, that this spot was the closest in appearance to the heavenly land that she saw in vision. We stood amazed at the lushness of the land and the majestic mountain ranges.

We were quite busy with health classes and speaking engagements, though we did manage to get a bit of tourist activity in also. The people were eager to hear stories of medical missionary work and God's blessings on the simple remedies used with faith in God's ways.

While looking for shells on the beach Brother Calvin fell onto a hard lava rock, cracking three ribs and bruising himself badly. He was in a good bit of pain. I kept him hydrated and got him as comfortable as possible as he was in considerable pain. I was mentally making a list of what herbs would be useful when I was walking outside of the home we were staying at and found lovely comfrey growing. I quickly picked some and made a tea and used the leaves also for poultices. This gave some relief to our friend. I bound him up tightly with ace bandages and tape and he took the herbal combination called BF&C by Dr. Christopher. We continued doing the comfrey poultices and he drank the tea. Now poor Doc had to take it easy, not a pleasant thing for such an active person as he is. I marveled at God's goodness in placing us in a home that had growing there just what we needed.

How rewarding it is to be used of God wherever He calls because we know that He will always provide.

SHARING BULLETIN BOARD

**SABBATH SCHOOL
QUARTERLIES** For Senior
Classes and **Junior** classes
available from **Seeds Of
Wisdom Ministries**
HC 76 Box 394
Eagletown, OK 74734
(580)835-2676
sowministries@hotmail.com

**Don't Forget
ARKANSAS CAMP MEETING
2003
at Pinecrest Camp, Ozone,
AR
August 20 - 24th**

Support for Africa
may be sent to:
Ebenezer Mission
132-4531
Clarksville, AR 72830
Phone: 479-754-3927

Get your registration in

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

**Hartland will be having
an evangelistic camp meeting hosted by the Bismarck
church at the Fountain Lake Assembly of God Campsite the
weekend of Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. For more information call
Molly at 501-865-3974.**



Why I Am Not A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Glen Mizner received this little pamphlet from a Baptist friend. So what do Baptists think of Seventh-day Adventists? The following was on the back cover of this booklet:

"So what happened to this zealous bunch of fanatics between 1900 and 1990? Their original position was that a Christian had to keep all of the decalogue to be saved. They no longer teach that. The original position was the Mark of the Beast was going to church on Sunday instead of Saturday. They no longer teach that.

"The Adventists are the world's greatest backslider. They number among the most cowardly professing Christians who ever showed up on this earth." by Dr. Peter S.

Sundaykeeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. {FLB 286.6}

In many of our organized churches the banner of truth is trailing in the dust because the members are not doing service to God, but are serving their own pleasure... By precept and example, in self-indulgence, in their worldly habits of dress, in their words and actions, they testify against the truth.... They are cold spiritually, and far separated from Christ. {19MR

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

INFORMATION

DATES

**Next Sisterhood Meeting -
September 28, 2003**

Bismarck Church

Sunday only starting at 9:00 AM

For accommodations call 501-865-3974.

Important Note:

Each church must inform the MASC Secretary who will be attending as their elected delegates, no later than **Sept. 15**

Deadline for next Newsletter entries:

Sept. 30, 2003

ADDRESSES

Newsletter Editor

Julie Shurley

176 Polk 61, Mena, AR 71953

479-394-4014

julieshurley@juno.com

Secretary and Assist. Treasurer

Everett & Marsha Chadwick

Route 2 Box 329AA

Mena, AR 71953

918-651-3281

Treasurer

Joan Swope

114 Polk 406

Cove, AR 71953

870-387-5053

Assistant Secretary

Evelyn Mizner

P.O. Box 392

Melbourne, AR 72556

Next MASC meeting Chairman

Glen Mizner

P.O. Box 392

Melbourne, AR 72556

870-368-4268