

DO YOU HAVE FAITH ENOUGH?

Jack Harris, Contributing Editor

Do you have faith enough not to have your prayers answered? Not to have things turn out the way you would like them to? Knowing you will not live through this illness, see your children graduate, or get to hold a grandchild?

We have grown up hearing about the invading grasshoppers being stopped miraculously. Reading testimonies of "the hail storm that destroyed the neighbor's crop, sparing my field." A loved one's cancer was healed when all of the church members maintained a prayer vigil for her. But do we have a faith that will let us survive when our prayers are not answered?

When we pray; when we go through our check book confirming that we have been faithful in our tithe and offerings; when we remember going without to send our children to church school, only to see them turn away from God, and even us. What then? Too many have experienced these and similar circumstances. What then?

We love to read Hebrews chapter eleven, especially the "by faiths" of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Samson, David, Samuel and the prophets. They experienced great trials but also joy through faith of seeing victory and salvation. Hebrews 11:1-35

But read on my friend, read about the "still others" verse 36. Those who were mocked and scourged, stoned, imprisoned. Verse 39 says, "All these, having obtained a good testimony

through faith, DID NOT RECEIVE THE PROMISE."

But I love the very next words. I hang on them. I reread them. I take consolation in them. I trust in them. They say, "God having provided something better for us." Hebrews 11: 40 KJ.

To those of you on sick beds of an illness with no assurance on earth of a cure. You who have watched a loved one experience excruciating pain, eventually slipping away, still suffering. You who have heard the sarcasm of a child who has turned his back on God, and other soul wrenching experiences; take comfort in those last words in Hebrews chapter eleven. "God has provided something better."

Rice Christians stay with Him as long as there is rice. Real Christians stay with Him even when the hail falls, the grasshoppers invade, prayers seem to go unanswered, and the child storms off into the unknown. Peter said, "Dear friends, don't be bewildered or surprised when you go through fiery trials, for this is no strange, unusual thing ... these trials will make you partners with Christ in His suffering." 1 Peter 4:12, 13

"Have faith dear friend in God." H.M.S. Richards.

Reflections
A devotional for members of the NAD Retirement Plans of the SDA Church.



NEWS NOTES FROM MORT

Contributing Reporter: Mort Juberg



Pitcairn Island ~ The image of an Adventist population tucked away on an island paradise has been tarnished by recent allegations of sexual abuse. An English police officer visited the island two years ago and reported an alleged rape. Recently some British newspapers have published reports of sexual abuse. However, John and Susan O'Malley who have ministered on Pitcairn since January 2001, say that the accusation of abuse of children is totally incorrect. The culture of the island is no longer Adventist, O'Malley says.



Francistown, Botswana ~ A legal setback hasn't deterred 25 Adventist college students who are seeking exemption from Saturday classes. The students were suspended for staying away from the classes and a lawyer for the students asked a court to allow the students to return to classes. A judge, basing his decision on technicalities, denied the request. The students, their parents and their attorney are going back to the drawing board to follow procedure so the case can be heard.



Bracknell, Berkshire, England ~ Newbold College has developed a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Islamic Studies. The director of the studies, Velda Cox, says, "Currently it is the only accredited degree and certificate program in the Adventist educational system that gives students the opportunity to study Islam in depth from an Adventist perspective. The aim of the course is to train students to communicate and minister among Muslim people.

Budapest, Hungary ~ Longtime religious



freedom campaigner, Dr. Gianfranco Rossi, has received an award for "outstanding achievements" in the field of international rights. The award was presented by Professor Abelfattah Amor, a representative of the United Nations. Rossi, an Adventist for many years, stressed in his acceptance speech leading principles which have guided him in his activities for religious freedom.

Asmara, Eritrea ~ Government officials in the



northern African nation have suspended operation of a number of church organizations. The suspension order applies to all Christian churches that are not Orthodox, Roman Catholic or Lutheran. A number of denominations, including Adventists, have reapplied for legal recognition and are currently awaiting a response.

Silver Spring, Md ~ Adventist church leaders



say recent informal conversations between Adventist church leaders and Roman Catholic theologians have allowed Adventists to speak out on key beliefs such as the church's teaching on the Sabbath. During a series of three meetings presentations have dealt with topics such as the 27 fundamental beliefs of the church.

Source: Adventist News Network

Bulletin Board

If you don't read or keep anything else—read and keep these items!

Spouse Allowance disclosure

If your retirement benefits are based on 20 or more years of service credit, you were married to your current spouse at least one year before your retirement benefits began, and that spouse is not receiving an employer-provided retirement benefit or did not receive an employer-provided lump sum retirement payout, your benefits may include an additional benefit called a Spouse Allowance. **Please note that your eligibility for a Spouse Allowance would have already been determined when we processed your retirement application.**

Please know that the Spouse Allowance portion of a retirement benefit is a *conditional* benefit and is subject to reduction or discontinuance under certain circumstances. As long as the marital status* of the retired participant remains the same as it was on the benefit effective date and the spouse does not receive employer-provided retirement benefits of his/her own, the retiree remains eligible to continue receiving the Spouse Allowance. (*A divorce or death of a spouse would constitute a change in the marital status.)

However, should any of these circumstances change *at any time*, it is your responsibility to provide that information to our office as soon as possible to avoid any benefit overpayments that will need to be returned. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to administer plan benefits according to policy.

Payroll Information: Checks mailed/direct deposits released: September 27, 2002

Send comments and suggestions to: Sharon Kuykendall, Editor, *Reflections*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 Email: kuyksh@nad.adventist.org

ARM 1-800-447-5002 Healthcare Assistance Queries

ARM Email address: SLiu@adventistrisk.org

Submit medical claims: ARM, PO Box 4088, Silver Spring, MD 20914

PAID Rx 1-800-473-3455 Verify pharmacy participation with PAID Prescription

Jack Harris 503-255-8565 President, NAD Retirees Association— 15530 NE Knott #48,
Portland, OR 97230 Email: Hjackharris@cs.com

General Conference of SDA 301-680-6000

Payroll 1-888-838-8955 Bulletin Board of **Payroll** Information

Fax 301-680-6190 Retirement Fax Number

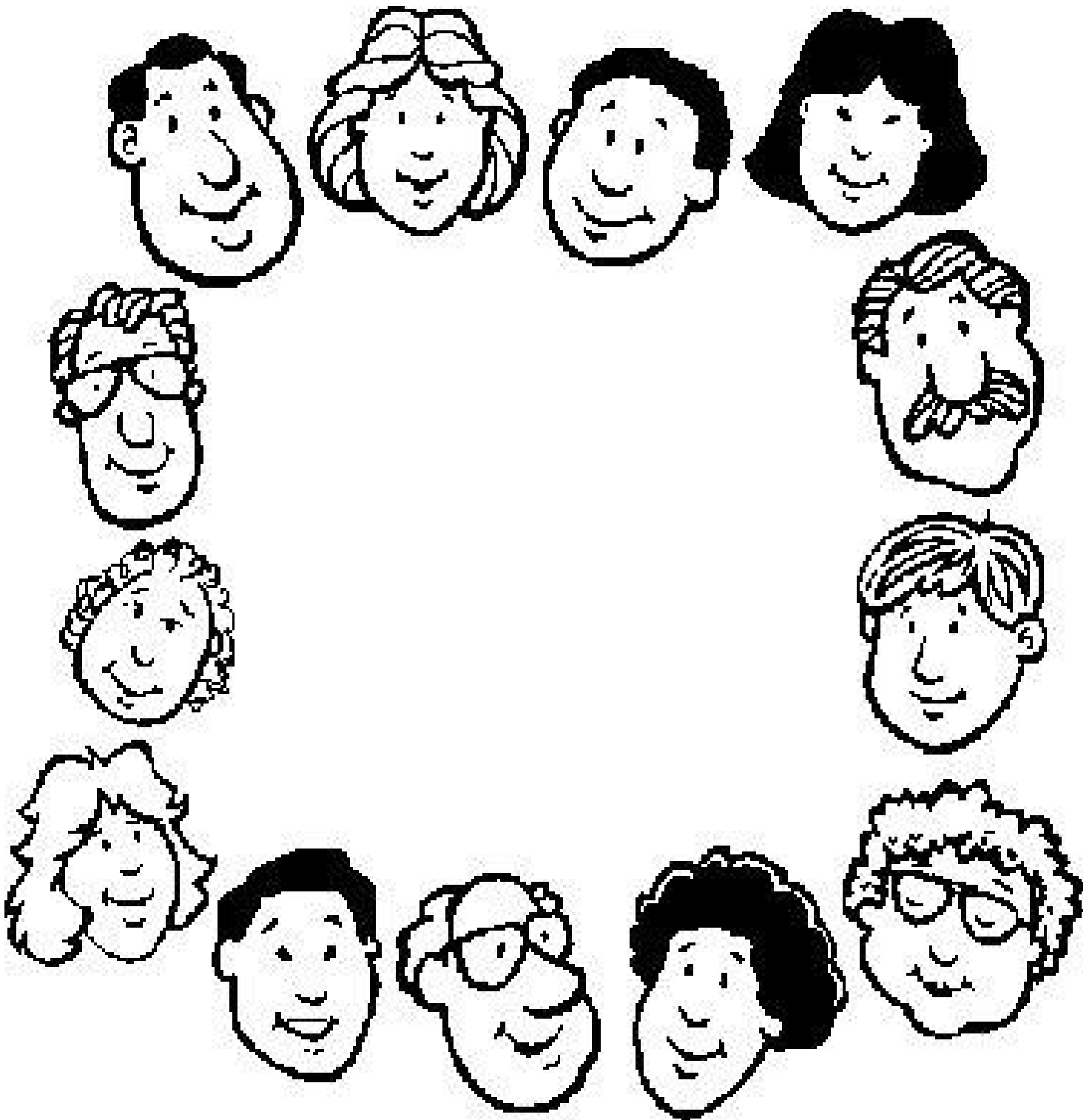
Phone: (301) 680—

Barbara Yowell 6244 Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R, Tax Withholding, Change of Address
PAYROLL Email: Payroll@nad.adventist.org

Dolores Allen 6249 Gen'l Retirement Office Info

Chris Meier 6192 Reporting a Death, Disability Reviews

Sharon Scheuneman 6287 Tuition Assistance for Children



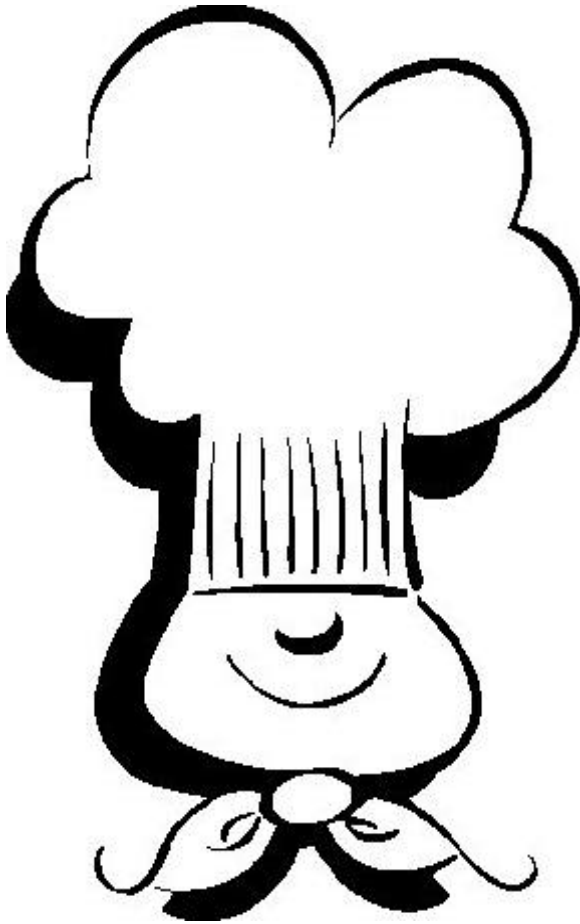
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Name: _____

Current location: _____

(Optional) Mailing address: _____

(Optional) Email address: _____



Walnut-Jack Cheese Patties

Ingredients:

2 C. breadcrumbs

1 C. grated Jack cheese

1 C. chopped walnuts

1 onion, chopped

3-4 eggs

parsley and garlic,

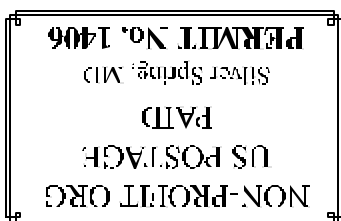
to taste

Saute onion and combine with the rest of the ingredients.

Shape into patties and fry in cooking oil until browned.

Serve with your favorite gravy.

You can also place the cooked patties in a baking dish, place a triangle of jack or cheddar cheese on top of each, cover with a tomato based sauce, and bake until cheese is melted and sauce is heated through.



Retirement Plans Office of SDA
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

