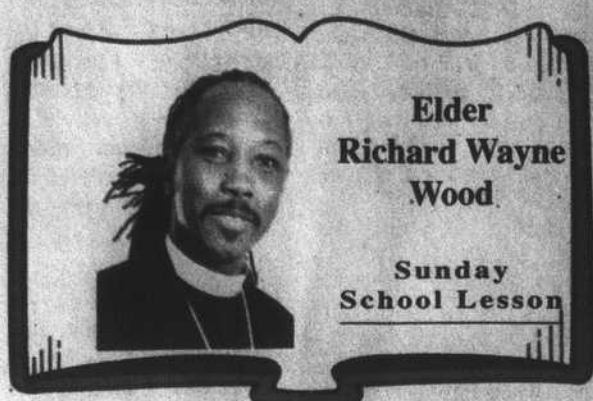


RELIGION



Elder
Richard Wayne
Wood.
Sunday
School Lesson

The Lord Will Provide

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14

By the end of this lesson, we will

- *Explore God's call to radical personal sacrifice.
- *Appreciate the difficulty of following His directives.
- *Emulate those who make extreme personal sacrifices for God.

Background: The time is 2050 B.C. and the places are Beersheba and Moriah. Abraham is known as a man of faith, yet not perfect, as indicated by his several missteps in judgment and behavior. (Read Genesis Chapters 12, 16 and 20). His faith was strong, but inconsistent. Isaac's name means Laughter and he is best known as the "child of promise." Though there are many opinions on his age at the time of this sacrifice, it is safe to say he was a young man, not a child.

Lesson: Our lesson starts with God testing Abraham. He is commanded to offer his only son as a sacrifice (even though human sacrifice is not sanctioned by God). Abraham chose to trust God and go to the mountain that God would name to make the sacrifice as instructed. We might say Abraham was forced to choose between obedience to God's command and his love for his son (verses 1-2). The trip to Moriah took two days and on the third day, Abraham arises and spots the place to build the altar of sacrifice and informed those accompanying him that he and Isaac were going to worship "and we will come back to you" (verse 5). Abraham very deliberately took the items needed for an altar of sacrifice. We conjecture and Paul writes in Hebrews 11:17-19 that Abraham was so confident in the permanence of God's promise that he believed if Isaac were killed, God would bring him back to life so that the promise would be fulfilled. Isaac's inquiry as to "Where is the lamb?" is met with Abraham's faithful response "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering" (verse 8). Preparations all made ... when Abraham was about to slay his son, God stopped the raised knife saying, "Abraham, Abraham ... Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him: for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me" (verse 12). Abraham passed the test. His faith in the God of mercy was well placed. The sacrifice however, had to be completed - and God revealed to Abraham His ram in the bush. The worship completed, Abraham called the place "The-Lord-Will-Provide." Note: The idea of substitutionary atonement is introduced here, pointing to its ultimate fulfillment in the death of Christ. (The MacArthur Study Bible, UMI and the Oxford Bible Commentary)

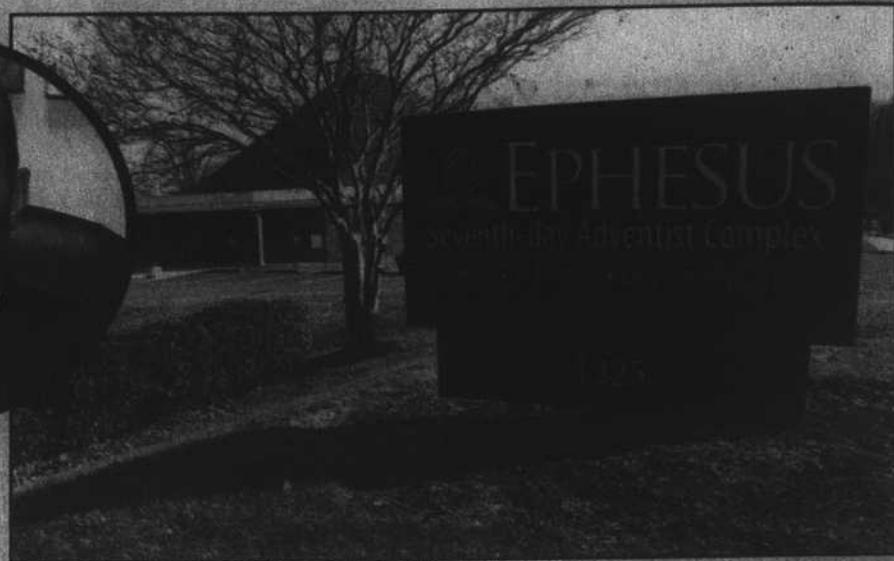
For Your Consideration: Does it take more time for you to obey God's commands when there is a personal sacrifice involved? Is our faith and trust in God reflected in our actions?

Life's Application: Life is always in God's hands. It comes from and belongs to the Lord. It is merely loaned to both parents and children. God can ask for its return at any time. God is wise in all He does and if we, like Abraham, believe and obey, He will reward our faith with His goodness and righteousness. (The Modern Life Study Bible) "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19)

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Rev. Allen Baldwin has hit the ground running as the new pastor of Ephesus.



Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church on Cleveland Avenue just welcomed a new pastor.

Seventh-day Adventist church welcomes new pastor

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The transition from one pastor to another is not always an easy one. For Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church on Cleveland Avenue the transition has been somewhat easy. They recently wel-

comed their new pastor the Rev. Allen Baldwin.

Baldwin hails from Cleveland, Ohio, but came to Ephesus from his previous assignment in Macon, Georgia. He was installed as pastor here in Winston-Salem on Nov. 11, 2017 and says he has had a great experience thus far.

"I have enjoyed my time thus far in the Triad," said Baldwin. "The time with my congregation has been good and I know it will take some time for them to get used to me and for me to get used to them. It has been a good experi-

See New on B5



Rev. Curtis Friday, The Love Church pastor, stands with a church member following a service.

Church experiences quick growth

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Ten years ago, the Love Church did not exist. In seven short years, the church has grown to one of the best churches that attracts the millennial generation. Now with over 500 members, the Love Church is reaching for even higher feats in the years to come.

According to senior Pastor Curtis Friday, the Love Church was born in his living room with his wife and five friends. He says they held two services there then moved to a hotel and has continued to grow since then.

They have been at their current location of 4198

Cherry St. for the past three years. Friday says they have plans of further growth in the future to include space for more members and other ministries.

"It has been a hard but good ride, and at first I thought we could do something different, but I never thought we would be at the level we are right now," said Friday. "I was not prepared for it because I had the mindset of doing ministry but not the mindset of business."

He attributes their tremendous growth to their methodology.

"One wise man told me people don't care how much

See Growth on B5

CALENDAR

Now-March 4

The North Carolina Area of the Northwestern District of the Holiness Church of God, Inc., Quarterly meeting will convene at Mount Calvary Holiness Church 1615 NE 22nd St., Winston-Salem, through March 4. Senior Overseer Eugene Kirby Jr will preside and the host pastor is Honorary Overseer Wardlow Frasier. The theme for this session is "Teach me to do thy will; for thou are my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." - Psalm 143:10. Weeknight services starts at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday service begins at 4 p.m.

Now-March 21 Lenten services

St. James A.M.E. Church is holding mid-week Lenten Services every Wednesday at 7 p.m. through March 21. Guest Ministers will bring the message each week. St. James is located at 1501 N. Patterson Avenue. The pastor is the Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons. The public

is invited to attend.

March 2 Women's fellowship

Bishop Marvin Cremedy, Pastor Clara Cremedy & Vessels of Honor Church Ministry, 3608 Ogburn Ave., will host "Don't Block My Flow" 2018 Women's Fellowship. The service will be held on Friday, March 2 at 7 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Apostle Gaynell Walters from Holly Hill, South Carolina. For more information and or transportation you may contact, Pastor Clara Cremedy at (336) 624-9351 or email claracremedy@yahoo.com.

March 4 Worship Services

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, 4055 Robinhood Road will have worship services on March 4. The Rev. Lisa Schwartz, speaking at

both the 9 a.m. Awake service and the 11 a.m. traditional worship, will explore the power, glory and pain of the struggle for racial justice in mostly white liberal community. At Explorations, 9:15 a.m., Gus Preschle will discuss "Good Eating." At the Forum, 9:15 a.m., Jessica Turner will present "We the People: ACLU's Fight for Civil Rights." For more information, visit UJFWS.org.

March 10 Grief Care

St. Paul United Methodist Church sponsors "Grief Care", a support group for persons experiencing grief due to the death of someone close to them. The sessions feature biblical teaching on grief and recovery topics. The sessions are designed to give encouragement and support to persons on their journey from "Mourning to Joy". Sessions are free, each is self-contained, meaning one does not have to attend the sessions in sequence. Guilt and Anger is the topic on Saturday, March 10 at 10

See Rel. Cal. on B6