To pray well is the better half of study."

~ Martin Luther

Heavenly Father
Cradle Me!

Cradle me in Bethlehem’s manger
In its humility and poverty
That I might never be
Its stranger!
Cradle me in Calvary’s sacrifice
In its love and righteousness
That I might forever express
Its ultimate price!

By J. F. Ball

THIS CHRISTMAS ...
Merciful and Loving Father ...
Let thy angels sing again
O'er the hills of Bethlehem
"Peace on earth good will to men"
Let it echo loud, let it echo clear
Filling the heavens with good cheer
With "Glory to God" we've nothing to fear
Cradling our children everywhere
In the stables of angelic care
Secure in the shepherd's staff of prayer
While we follow that Star the wise men awed
Beholding the true nature of our God
Born in humility and humanity shod.

By James F. Ball

Our mission is to be a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled church that demonstrates the power of grace and intentionally shares the good news of Christ’s soon return.

December 17, 2016
The Sabbath Day
The Beauty of Grace

In the beauty of Heaven's grace and holiness
Nestled in the fragrant warmth of Mary's love
Born in a hovel and in human frailness
Lay the greatest Gift ever given from above
A channel of God's glory and celestial light
The Alpha and Omega the incarnate sacred word
But our eyes could not bear His loving insight
And or ears His words of love we rarely heard.

By J.S. Ball
And so he went on with his work of writing, writing, with the light given from the oil which came from the wolf. Ten o’clock came, and he was still writing. Eleven o’clock came, and he hadn’t quite finished. He looked into the dish. Yes, there was plenty of oil. Twelve o’clock came and he looked again. He had finished the tract now and there was still some oil left. But he had the copy for the tract and his letter ready to go. He pinched out the flame and went to bed.

Early in the morning when the men took the fish to Black Hawk and Denver, they took the letter to be mailed to the publishing house, and the copy for the tract. Elder White did not let them down. He had promised and he kept the promise. He found a way to do what needed to be done.

We think that the pioneers did some great things, and they did. But they were prepared to do difficult things because when they were boys and girls, they had learned to do the hard things. We do not find them, when they found some difficult task saying, “I can’t do it, I can’t do it!” Now I know that you boys and girls never say that, but sometimes boys and girls are tempted to, when they are asked in school or at home to do what seems to be some very hard task. Elder and Mrs. White found a way to do what needed to be done.

About a week later, Mr. Walling came. How glad they were to see him! He brought some food with him too. He explained that he had had some trouble at the saw mill and it just wasn’t convenient to come. He hadn’t realized that Brother and Sister White were suffering actual hunger there in the mountains.

But be that as it may, Elder White “stuck to it.” He found a way to do what needed to be done. He didn’t give up.

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

9 After this manner therefore pray ye:

   Our Father which art in heaven,
   Hallowed be Thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come,
   Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
   For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
   Amen.

This story is based on the Ellen G. White diary account and on William C. White’s memories as told to his children.

Next Week Story

The Cow that Got Stuck in the Mud

As told by Arthur L. White
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE:

As a people we hold the Bible in supreme regard as the revealer of God’s truth to guide us to salvation. Our love and devotion is rooted supremely in Christ who we worship as our Savior, Creator, Lord and King.

We believe that forgiveness, healing and eternal life are offered freely to all on the basis of what Jesus has already accomplished for us at the cross, and continues to do as He ministers on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary above. God’s mercy and grace are infinite and are received by faith, to prepare a people for Jesus’ second coming.

The “New Covenant” provides not only forgiveness for sin, but also God’s promise to write His law on our hearts so that our greatest joy will be to do His will. We keep His commandments, not in order to be saved, but because He has already encircled us in His saving arms. His law includes also the fourth commandment Sabbath which invites us to spend a special time of fellowship with God on the seventh day.

We feel compelled as a people to share with a perishing world these messages of God’s love in the context of God’s final judgment-hour message in Revelation 14. Because of our devotion to Christ we joyfully look forward to His soon return in the clouds of heaven when we shall see our Savior face to face.

Today
Sermon
Elder
Deacon In Charge
Greeters

Picnic in the Basement
Music Program
Todd Rigby
Mike Runyan
Linda Merritt, Don Kirk

Next Week
Sermon
Elder
Deacon In Charge
Greeters

Picnic in the Basement
Pastor Charles Shultz
Sheri Hoie
Don Kirk
Ernie Madden, Teri Knighten, Sonia Mosier

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found an animal in the tray, and leave the carcass there because he had no use for that. And that very afternoon, they had seen the carcass of a freshly-killed wolf. Elder White thought perhaps—perhaps, they could get some fat off the body of that wolf and he could use that fat to make a light. He called his boy, Willie. “Willie, Willie, come here! I have got to have a light,” he said, “to finish this tract tonight. I have promised it and it must go at six o’clock in the morning when the men take the fish to Black Hawk. Do you remember the body of that wolf we saw out there on the trail?”

“Yes,” Willie replied.

“Do you think you could find it?”

“Yes. I am pretty sure I can.”

“All right,” Elder White said, “I want you to take your knife and a pan and go to the body of that wolf, scrape off all the fat that you can. I must have a light.” And as Willie was leaving, James White called after him, “Don’t forget the shotgun.” There were brown bears up in that valley;

So with a double-barreled shotgun over his shoulder, and a pan and the knife, Willie started back over the trail to see if he could find the body of the wolf. He just hoped that a coyote hadn’t gotten it between the time when they saw it and the time when he hoped to find it. But when he came to the spot, there it was. He knelt down by the side of the carcass. He scraped a little yellow fat from here, and he found a little more yellow fat from someplace else, and then he cut the body of the wolf open. He found some fat here and some fat there, especially around the liver. As he told the story to his children many years later, he said that he never saw such a skinny wolf in all his life! When Willie had gotten about all the fat that he could from that wolf, he had just about a cup and a half full. It was getting dark now and he hurriedly walked back to the camp. Elder White took the pan and put it over the fire and the fat turned soft and melted into oil. Then he poured it into a dish, and he tore up some pieces of rag. He put them in the oil and twisted them and dipped them in the oil and twisted them until they took shape. Then he laid them up on the edge of the dish. He lit it. It sputtered a little bit and then it flared up in a nice flame. Elder White had his light;
was printed at our publishing house in Battle Creek. He had promised them that the copy would be ready by a certain time. If Mr. Walling delayed too long, he would not be able to keep his promise, and the much-needed tract would be seriously delayed.

Mr. Walling did not come. Soon the candles were all burned up, so when it got dark, they went to bed, and when it got light, they got up. But the big problem was food. It was going fast and this really troubled them. They asked the fishermen to sell them some of their supplies, but they did not have much to spare. They found that there were wild berries here and there on the mountainsides, and they picked these berries and used them, and some of them they made into pies and traded them to the fishermen for other food. As each day went by, the food was getting more scarce.

Elder White spent some time writing on his tract. As he and Willie came home to their camp after a hike one Tuesday afternoon, Elder White discovered that the men had come for the fish and would be leaving early the next morning for Black Hawk. He decided that he must finish his work on the copy for the tract and send it to the post office by these men. He had given his word that the tract would go out by a certain time, and this was his opportunity to keep his word. So he hurriedly got his Bible and his concordance and continued working on the copy for the tract. He looked occasionally at the sun and he saw that it would soon be going down behind the mountains. When it got dark, he would not be able to write any more because, you remember, they had no candles. What could he do? As he wrote, he thought. He must find a way to get that tract finished.

Elder White was a man who didn’t give up easily. If one way seemed closed, he would try to find another way. He would stick to it until the job was done. As he thought, he remembered that that very afternoon as they were out for their walk, some distance from the camp they had seen the body of a wolf. There was a hunter who had set traps on what they called a trapline. He had a trail and he would set traps here and there in likely places where he might catch the animals. He did this because he wanted the fur. And about every week or ten days, he would come through and if he
Game Night has
Started again

Every Saturday night @ 5:00pm

road and camped for the night. Monday morning, they started out again. Elder and Mrs. White and Willie were riding horses. Soon they were called back, for an axle on one of the wagons had broken. Now they would have to camp a few days here while Mr. Walling went back home to get the axle fixed. It was a week later that Mr. Walling sent one of his hired men with the repaired axle, and to take the Whites on to the lake.

Grand Lake is quite a big lake, but in those days, no one lived there. During the summer months, two fishermen stayed there in a cabin and caught fish for the market. When they got to the lake, they chose a good site for the camp and the hired man helped the Whites pitch their tents. With his horses, he hauled in dry logs which could be used for firewood. Soon they were all nicely settled, but already their supplies were running low. After spending Sabbath with them, the hired man said goodbye and drove up over the pass and back to the saw mill, promising to send supplies soon or to have Mr. Walling come and get them and take them back to the cabin.

How the Whites did enjoy this beautiful place! It was so quiet and the lake was so beautiful. They went boating and they went hiking. They rested and Elder and Mrs. White did quite a lot of writing. Mrs. White was just at this time writing on the early part of the life of Jesus. Willie especially enjoyed watching the otters in their play. They would slide down into the lake. The Whites became acquainted with the two fishermen. Their little cabin was right by the lake. They would catch their fish in nets and keep the fish alive until a man came up from Black Hawk with horses and saddlebags, and then that evening they would take the fish out of the water, clean them, leave them out in the frost and the next morning they put them in the saddlebags and took them to the market in Central City and Black Hawk.

Brother and Sister White expected that Mr. Walling would soon come and get them. But for some reason, he was delayed. It seems that Mr. Walling was a man who couldn’t always be depended upon. Elder White was working on the revision of a tract which
**Children’s Story**

**James White Finds a Way—A Dead Wolf Helps**

As told by Arthur L. White

This is a “stick-to-it” story. Do you like “stick-to-it” stories? This is a vacation story. Everyone likes vacations. This story is about a time when the White family were taking a vacation in the Rocky Mountains. There were Elder James White and Sister Ellen G. White and Willie who was eighteen years of age, and a close friend of the Whites, Mrs. Hall. Brother and Sister White had been working very hard, going from place to place attending meetings and speaking and helping the people for years, and they needed a change. Both Elder and Mrs. White had a great deal of writing they wanted to do and they could not get to it at home in Battle Creek or when they were traveling, so they decided to spend the summer of 1873 in Colorado, resting and writing.

Sister White had a niece who lived in Colorado. The husband of this niece was Mr. Walling and he ran a sawmill. The Wallings had a cabin that could be fixed up and Elder and Mrs. White could stay there. Part of the time they would write and part of the time they would relax. And so the Whites went to the Walling home and got settled in the cabin and then had a wonderful time. They enjoyed climbing the mountains and watching the rushing streams. They gazed at huge granite rocks and they watched the beautiful sunsets. They enjoyed picking wild berries that they found here and there.

One day, late in the summer, Mr. Walling asked Elder and Mrs. White if they would like to go up to Grand Lake in Middle Park for a couple of weeks and camp by the lake. Of course they would like to go! So they got their clothes ready. They got their food ready. They took some candles for light. They planned that they would be camping by the lake for about two weeks.

At eleven o’clock Sunday morning everything was loaded into two wagons, and they started driving way up into the mountains, past the timberline where no trees grow because it is so high. They got through the pass and started down the narrow winding road.

**What are the Mission Offerings?**

Learn more about how your money is used.

The Adventist Church is built on mission. Our commission comes from Christ, who told us to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” Mark 16:15, NIV. Sharing God’s love around the world is like a vehicle. It needs fuel to propel it. Our mission offerings are the fuel that propels almost every aspect of outreach. Without that fuel, our best efforts are hampered.

The church is united by its call to support mission. But few of us know exactly what the mission offering does, where it comes from, or where it goes. Our offerings support frontline evangelism in unentered countries as well as in teeming cities. They help build and sustain schools, establish churches, and help produce literature for distribution in hundreds of languages. In short, our mission offerings do everything our tithes can’t do.

In addition, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering allows us to give to specific projects that grow the church in tangible ways. One of the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings in 1912 helped develop the River Plate Academy and school of theology in Argentina. Today the River Plate campus houses a university in which 2,500 students are enrolled as well as elementary and secondary schools enrolling 1,000 students. Our offerings have been instrumental in growing institutions such as these around the world.

**MAN’S NEED TO CONQUER  Psalm 14:1**

*Man’s need to conquer  With power to rule  More often than not  Creat’d greed’s blind fool*  

*By j.f. ball*
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

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John 3:16 (NKJV)