

NORTHEAST HORIZONS

MESSIAH'S MANSION COMES TO EL PASO

More News

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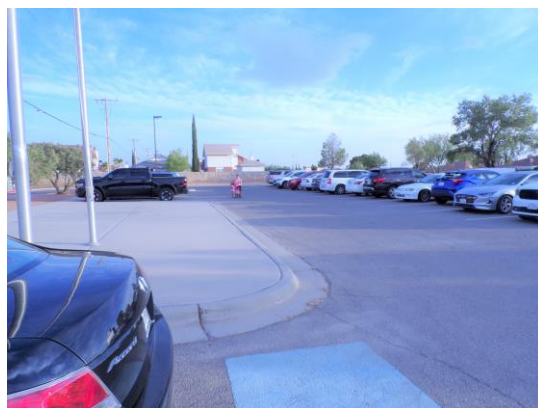
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Over 2,000 people made reservations to see the full-scale reconstruction of the tabernacle built by Moses and used through the time of King David. In El Paso for over a week, this exhibit piqued the interest and imagination of young and old alike.



Setup began on the 15th of June at the El Paso Adventist Academy early and lasted until late. There was an enormous amount of materials and equipment necessary for this exhibit. The team responsible for the travelling show had help from several of the Adventist churches in town to assist in the laborious effort yet they could have used more.

I attended a session with quite a few other Northeasters on the 17th at the 7:30 pm tour time. Michelle Rosales had made a block reservation for the entire group the week prior. Good thing she did as when we arrived at the Academy, the parking lot was full and there was a full tour group ahead of and behind us.



The tour started inside with a lecture about the Tabernacle and the various temples built by the Hebrews over centuries. The guide was knowledgeable and clear in his talk. It was a great introduction to what we were going to see.



We then went outside to view the reconstructed Tabernacle. It was actually smaller than I had expected it to be. The trip outside was not without incident as the gravel and sand caused a serious problem for handicap accessibility. The tour people were on the problem right away and build a movable plywood highway for my wife's powerchair so she could enjoy the entire presentation with the rest of the group.



They indicate they had had this problem at other sites and had the solution worked out in advance.

Inside the Tabernacle courtyard were mockups of all the various priestly items, the Laver, the alter as well as inside the actual Tabernacle were the lampstand, the shewbread, and the incense burner in full

We would like to graciously thank all those volunteers from the Northeast who so selflessly gave of their time and labor to make the Messiah's Mansion visit such a huge success.

Thank You!

MESSIAH'S MANSION COMES TO EL PASO - CONTINUED

view. One side had been completely opened so the full interior of the Holy Place could be seen.



The group had a chance to take photos and hear an in-depth explanation of what all happened in the Holy Place from our tour guide.

After about 15 minutes we moved to the rear (west side) of the Tabernacle to view the interior of the Most Holy Place. Inside there was a model of the Ark of the Covenant displaying the items it held; Aaron's staff, a bowl of mana and the tablets of the Ten Commandments with a



copy of the Torah hung on the outside. Again, an in-depth explanation of the annual sacrifice and how it was conducted was given.

Lastly the group moved back into the building for the final part of the tour. In the room was another Ark so it could be viewed more closely as well as a full-sized mannequin in the dress of the High Priest.



It is obvious that much research and love went into building and touring this magnificent exhibit. El Paso was truly blessed to have been selected for their 2023 tour schedule. If you missed it you missed an exciting chance to see what the ancient Hebrews did in their worship of God. I recommended this attraction with all my heart.



Views From the Pews

WANTED! Men and women who enjoy eating, a clean church and a parking lot free of weeds. Could that be YOU?

Monthly we have the fellowship luncheon. We need people to help setting up, serving and cleaning up afterward. Right now, it is the same 6 to 8 people who seem to do everything every time.

Each week our church needs to be cleaned. We do not have a professional cleaning company to clean the building for a number of reasons, budget being one of them, but not the only reason. The sanctuary and pews get vacuumed, dusted, and polished in preparation for Sabbath. Both restrooms get scrubbed down and sanitized. The Sabbath School rooms get vacuumed, and the tables and chairs get sanitized. All tile floors get mopped, scrubbed if necessary and washed. It is a lot of work and, again, the same two or three people do the cleaning each week.

Finally let's look at the outside of the church, the first impression our visitors and guests see when they come to the Northeast for the first time. Last month a blanket request for a "Cleaning Bee" went out on our social media sites, and a long, impassioned plea by our Head Deacon to all members who could be reached. Yet when I drove up, to work inside the church, I saw only **one person** working outside. That same Head Deacon. Church! We know many people work during the week, but not everyone who attends our church works every day.

In management, it is said that the 80/20 rule generally applies. That is that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the workers. That would be a welcome improvement to what our church seems to run...about 90/10. That same 10% of the church does all the work on a consistent basis.. To prevent burn-out Things have got to improve.

Northeast Branches Out

There are many venues taken by people to gather information. The many social media apps continue to take people by storm as news outlets have a reach beyond measure. Our Northeast Church has joined in on the apps that have influence on so many in hopes of reaching them and planting seeds for Christ.

Facebook, YouTube and Instagram have been the cornerstone social media apps for us. We have over 800 Facebook followers,

over 140 members on YouTube and close to 100 on Instagram with the numbers slowly but steadily climbing. Our presence is also felt on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts and many more. Many responses and questions from our followers come through these apps as they provide a quick way, with the touch of a couple of buttons, to communicate with us.

Radio and TV outlets are also in our menu of contacts. The Northeast Navigators were interviewed by KVIA, Channel 7 News, about the annual planting of flags at the Ft Bliss National Cemetery which is done every Memorial Day weekend. While some may have learned about this that evening on TV many others tuned into our social media to get a glimpse of our kids being interviewed.



Reflect and Revive, our online Bible study using Facebook, has reached many from El Paso along with others tuning in from other parts of the country and even overseas. They come with comments and questions based on the study in real time. After the online study, the video is posted to Instagram, YouTube and Spotify where there is instant access to the study.



My point is that we are able to post sermons, live Bible Studies, videos, photos and interviews about the many goings-on of our church using social media. Along with our epnortheast.org website information about VBS, Messiah's Mansion, sermons and events give people up-to-date info on the current happenings at the Northeast SDA Church.

Adrian Mena



Ongoing Events Schedule

Sabbath Worship Schedule

Sabbath (Saturday)
 Sabbath School 9:45 am
 Worship Service 11:00 am
 2nd Sabbaths Potluck Luncheon 1:00 pm ±

Regular Group Bible Study

Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Patriarchs and Prophets

Friday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Amazing Facts Study Series

Reflect and Revive

Wednesday 7:00 pm on Facebook
www.facebook.com/elpasonortheast

Children's Ministry and Sabbath School

Our Children's Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds. We continue to offer three age divisions for our children's Sabbath School with up to 30 children and youth participating each week. The age groupings are:

Beginners/Kindergarten for ages birth to 4

Primary for ages 5 through 9

Junior/Early Teen for ages 10 and above

We meet from 9:45 – 10:45 every Sabbath for instruction in Bible truths, friendship and unity building.

At the El Paso Seventh-day Adventist Church children are included during our 11:00 Sabbath worship service in a Children's Collection and a special Children's Story presented by both adults and youth. Quiet Bags for young children needing activities to keep their little hands and minds engaged during the church service are also available.

VBS 2023 – July 20th – 22nd

We are excited to be bringing "Fiercely Faithful" Vacation Bible School (VBS) to the Northeast this summer. All children ages 3 to those just completing 5th grade will enjoy this action-packed event that includes Bible Story time, crafts, games, prayer, snacks and music! Children will meet Constance the Camel and learn how God is faithful and keeps His promises, no matter what. You won't want to miss our grand finale on Children's Sabbath, July 22nd where all the congregation will get a first-hand piece of the action and will see the children alive in their growing faith. After the 11:00 service that day, please join us for a Children's Sabbath fellowship meal.

Upcoming Events Schedule

July through September 2023

VBS – July 20 – 22

McKelligon Canyon Run – Sep 17

Sponsored by the NE PF/Adv.

Contact Michelle Rosalez to start or join a team. 915 240-8528

Several activities are in the planning stages and are awaiting approval by the Church Board of Directors. The weekly announcements and bulleting will give you the details as they occur.



Lost and Found Dept.

It has been an active quarter for transfers both in and out of the Northeast. Below is a list of those who have become members of our family and those to whom we bid a fond farewell. If there is someone we missed, we sincerely apologize and need you to make sure we recognize them in the next issue of the **Northeast Horizons** newsletter.

For the period 4/1/23 – 6/30/23

Transfers In –

Christopher Tryon	May 6
Marshall Dean	June 3
Teresa Dean	June 3
Joshua Torres	June 24

Transfers Out –

Claudia Chaffin	Apr 22 – Temple, TX
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Baptisms –

NONE

Profession of Faith –

NONE

If you are interested in volunteering in our Children's Ministry department contact Annalisa Frej-Flores at 915 541-5858. All volunteers ages 18 and older are provided with FREE Training and undergo a FREE background check.



TWO NORTHEAST MEMBERS TIE THE KNOT



Whoever said that love cannot be found later in life was very misinformed. Two of our long-time members just proved that love can be found at any time in life and sometimes in the most unexpected ways.

On April 30th Pastor House presided over Steve Weaver and Lori Humble's marriage in the Northeast SDA Church. I will quote from something that Steve shared with me, "You know, neither she nor I pursued each other. Our relationship and unexpectedly falling in love was a direct result of fellowship and involvement in our church. It simply happened and we suddenly became aware of it. It was overpowering to the point that we knew, within a day or two, that we would marry. Some things in life seem too good to be true. This is/has been the STANDOUT EXAMPLE of those things, in my life, aside from accepting Jesus when I was 20 years old."



The new Mrs. Weaver was given away by her two sons, Austyn and Westin Humble who came from New York City for the wedding. Her Daughter Lorissa Humble, a local resident of El Paso, was her Maid-of-Honor. Steve imported Jim Wright, a native of Kingman, AZ but who is a very frequent attendee at the Northeast as his Best-Man.



The wedding was very well attended. Don't tell anyone, but we exceed the number of people allowed in the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall for the reception. Praise God.

Lori and Steve both just shined all during the ceremony and Pastor House did a fabulous job of joining these fine people together. It was obvious from the rehearsal through the reception that these two were deeply in love and the atmosphere they exuded carried over to everyone in attendance. It was truly a joyous occasion and memorable day. We need to do this more often in the Northeast.



The reception was hosted by the church members with love and great attention to detail and making it a grand affair. Steve and Lori occupied the head table and the table for the wedding party was full. The reception lasted three hours and a grand time was had by all.



Lori and Steve have both been members of the Northeast for many years and are both very involved in church activities. Steve is on his second term as a Head Deacon and Lori is also one of our Deaconesses. Their many contributions are very much appreciated and noticed by all. We, as a congregation, wish them well and a long and prosperous life together filled with faith, love, and joy.



A Personal Testimony

All In God's Time

In 1993 I was still on active duty with the U.S. Air Force at March Air Force Base in California. My husband and I were expecting our baby to be born in March of 1994. My husband had just changed jobs at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group as a building engineer.

I planned to retire in June of 1994. My retirement physical was scheduled for May. Bryan arrived in March, right on schedule. I cared for my baby and prepared for life outside the Air Force.

I noticed a lump...the dreaded lump. Reporting this to three separate doctors at the military hospital, and getting dismissed as an overly anxious mother, not an NCO with 20 years of military service and an instructor at the NCO Academy or the local base Chief of Protocol, I went home without ever being examined.

My husband told me I should go to Kaiser and get a 2nd opinion. I managed to get the Friday 5:00 pm appointment, not with a doctor but with his assistant. He took one look at me and said "This lump", now the size of an egg, "has nothing to do with feeding your baby."

By Tuesday the next week I had had a biopsy, ultrasound and an oncologist assigned to me. The result came back as non-cancerous, however by then it was the size of an orange, the oncologist said it had to be removed. He wanted to do the surgery on July 6th. I said no. Why, he inquired curiously, did I not want it removed? My oldest son's birthday is July 6th. If anything happened to me, I did not want his birthday to be a bad day for him, so the surgery was scheduled for July 7th instead. By this time the tumor was the size of a Coke can. It was stage 4. I faced a future of chemotherapy followed by radiation therapy.

When I met the radiation oncologist he read my file, looked up at me, then continued reading. He said, "I don't know how to tell you this, but you shouldn't be here." I knew he didn't mean physically in the wrong clinic, but, rather, alive. The Holy Spirit filled my heart and mind for me to respond to the doctor, "That is because there is a greater physician in charge of my life. He isn't done with me yet, and you shouldn't be either." One doctor said the cancer had gone dormant for at least five years.

I now fast-forward to March of 1996. It was time for my reconstructive surgery. I went to see the Chief of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Norman Sogroka at Kaiser Fontana. I walked into his office and sat down. To my right was a huge oil painting by Nathan Greene. It had an active operating room

and a very focused surgeon in the center. Standing next to the surgeon was Jesus guiding and comforting the O.R. staff. I mentioned the painting to him and Dr. Sogroka said, "Oh, a patient friend of mine gave it to me." NICE!

We were deciding for when to schedule surgery and Dr. Sogroka kept turning the pages in his calendar. I asked what the problem was with the dates? Without missing a beat he said, "This is a 16-hour surgery and is only done on Tuesdays. I am only allowed to miss Pathfinders once a month. My wife's the Director and won't let me miss more than once."

Oh! At a for-profit, non-religious hospital, thirty miles from Loma Linda, I get the Chief of Plastic Surgery who is also a Seventh-day Adventist. When it was time for me to go to the O.R. Dr. Sogroka looked at me, took my foot in his hand and bowed his head. He prayed. I mean, really prayed, for the O.R. staff, for my family and for me. Not one word for himself. A true humble man.

Anyone who believes in evolution has greater faith that those of us who believe in the Creator God. To think all these events happened by accident requires more faith in chance than to believe in a loving God who wrote the story from the beginning.

From my husband changing jobs, to a cancer reemerging after years of being dormant, to a surgeon who was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in a secular hospital illustrates that God has a plan for all of us.

None of my care cost a dime, not one penny. That in itself is a miracle. But open the book on this story and you will see the Great Writer's hand guiding the story all the way. My story.

So July of 2023 I celebrate 29 years cancer free. Please join me in praising God's grace, mercy, and miraculous healing hands.

From the Editor – This testimonial was given to me by Vicki Murray after asking her a couple of times if she would be willing to submit one for the newsletter. I don't know about you, but it is a perfect illustration of how God has plans for us all. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see that in our times of trial and trouble, but faith is the key. If we believe and know, in our hearts, that all things happen within God's plan, then we can learn to accept anything the world throws at us. I know I have had several instances when I questioned that wisdom, but have come to accept that God's will is all that really matters in this life.
- ed





Personal Ministry's Mission Grows by Leaps and Bounds

When I began my leadership role in Personal Ministry/Local Evangelism in January of 2023, I wasn't sure what all my responsibilities included but quickly realized that our NESDA Church was already heavily committed to the most important aspect of Personal Ministry and that is fervent prayer and Bible Study both individually and as a church. Our Tuesday and Friday night Bible Studies are a prime example of how the Lord blesses us individually and as a congregation when we humbly seek Him in prayer and in His Word. **Refer to 2 Chr 7:14**

Since April our church has received at least 17 new visitors, and these are not people visiting from another SDA church. Each visitor or family receives a Welcome Bag generously created by Kayla Tryon and Genesis Garcia. It is a coordinated effort of our Personal Ministry, our greeters, and the other ministries to actively seek out, obtain contact information and invite our visitors to our Prayer and Bible Study Groups as well as Sabbath School. We keep in contact and pray for them. Very often they do come and we get to know each other better.

Our Tuesday night Bible Study began in 2021 with a handful of people but, through the grace of God, has blossomed into a thriving group of 18+ attendees regularly. Tuesday night is currently studying E.G White's book, **Patriarchs and Prophets** referencing back to the Bible with every chapter to assure us we are understanding God's message. At least four baptisms in 2022 and 2023 were a direct result of our Tuesday night Bible Study program. After study we remember birthdays and celebrate with vegan

friendly snacks often prepared by our dear Louise Gross and others in the group.

night Vespers/Bible Study studying the latest in the Amazing Facts study guide series. It provides us with two special blessings, we get to welcome in the Sabbath and delve deeper into God's Word. We currently have 15+ attended on Friday nights. Although some people come faithfully to both night's study sessions, we usually have new and different attendees each night.

Louise Grosse describes Tuesday night Bible Study as the "highlight of my week, not only for the study but for the fellowship." Monica Melendez has stated that, "it is an opportunity to connect with God and learn more about Jesus." Moses Sosa referred to Ephesians 4:11-16 to describe the Bible Study. Edith Bermudez described it as "navigating and rediscovering scripture truth." Steve Weaver calls our studies, "mid-week spiritual vitamins." Undeniably you are exhausted at the end of a busy day from work or stress, but I guarantee you will leave refreshed and re-energized in Christ.

Future plans for the church's Personal Ministry, in coordination with the other ministries, include follow-up with missing members and contacting those who went to the Messiah's Mansion and indicated an interest in Bible Studies, mental health and smoking cessation. With the help of David Grabe, we will begin a Bible course to help us remember, understand and then share God's Word with others. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Mary Lou Morales, Personal Ministries Director



Sabbath Sunsets El Paso, Texas

Sabbath Sundowns All times are p.m.

July

Fri/Sat 30/1 8:15 / 8:15
 Fri/Sat 7/8 8:14 / 8:14
 Fri/Sat 14/15 8:12 / 8:12
 Fri/Sat 21/22 8:09 / 8:09
 Fri/Sat 28/29 8:05 / 8:04

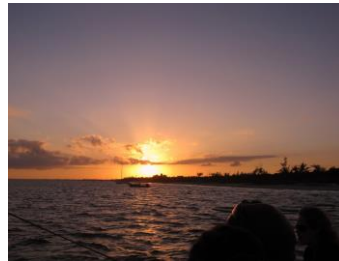
August

Fri/Sat 4/5 8:00 / 7:59
 Fri/Sat 11/12 7:53 / 7:52
 Fri/Sat 18/19 7:46 / 7:45
 Fri/Sat 25/26 7:38 / 7:37

September

Fri/Sat 1/2 7:29 / 7:28
 Fri/Sat 8/9 7:21 / 7:19
 Fri/Sat 15/16 7:11 / 7:10
 Fri/Sat 22/23 7:02 / 7:01
 Fri/Sat 29/30 6:53 / 6:52

All times shown above are derived from the National Meteorological Center website.



News From the Treasury

Our Church mortgage continues to shrink at a prodigious pace. The end of June balance is under \$16,000. About \$4,000 each month has been sent in additional principle and it may be as early as October that we can hold our mortgage burning ceremony.

We currently have a 3-month reserve in church expense funds after all the current month has been paid. Our goal is to build up a 6-month reserve and we are well on the way to reaching this goal.

The church's Board of Directors will be creating a standing Building Committee which will be tasked with taking a long-term view of needed improvements and expansions for the Northeast as we continue to grow. They will also identify where the resources for projects as they arise and are approved by the Board will come from.

We are growing past our capacity to serve our congregation. The Fellowship Hall is full to capacity or overflowing on most every luncheon held now. The Sanctuary is full on many Sabbaths and growth there is limited. Plans will have to be developed to handle this growth. Storage is also critical. The Building Committee will certainly have their hands full as they take us forward.

Pastor's Corner

Unfortunately, this issue's Pastor's Corner will be delayed until October. Pastor House has been absolutely swamped with activities at both Central and the Northeast for the past month and with his heavy involvement, along with Pastor Tarbox, with the Messiah's Mansion visit, spending nearly every open hour there during its entire visit, we will look for him to return in October.

Editorial Section

Dear readers. This will be the last edition of the Northeast Horizons newsletter I will be editing. If there are future editions, which I pray there will be, they will be handled by another whom God' chooses to carry on the work.

I am stepping down from the position Northeast SDA Church Communications Coordinator to be effective 15 July. I am stepping back because the workload just got to be too much for me to comfortably handle in addition to being your Treasurer. I will, in the future be able to put my full attention into seeing that the money that you provide in your tithes and offerings is used the way it is supposed to be to further God's work in our wonderful church.

I cannot adequately express the love I feel for all of you as members, visitors, and frequent attendees at the Northeast and how much you feel like family to me. We are all God's children, and members of God's family.

I thank you all for the trust and faith you had in giving me the chance to be your Communications guy and I know that God will provide someone who is willing, capable, and ready to continue God's work in seeing that the Word is spread, and our outreach to our community grows like our church has.

We are a vibrant, dynamic congregation and I see great things happening. We have, in place, the finest, most dedicated group of leaders we have ever had and there is no place to go but up. Our Bible studies, our Sabbath School, the children's ministry grow and grow. This is a very good sign that we are making a difference in people's lives.

I pray that God will bless you all, that God will continue to pour out his blessings on the Northeast and that we reach our full potential as followers and servants of Jesus. Thank you.

Sincerely with love, Harald Halseth, Editor