



NORTHEAST HORIZONS

2022 – The Year in Review

More News

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We are starting a brand-new year here at the El Paso Northeast SDA Church and it behooves us to take a look back to see how we got to where we are today. I am going to blaze through 2020, and 2021 with some interesting information so hang on and enjoy the ride.

The year 2020 was, basically, a lost year. In March Covid hit and we closed the doors for over five months before we had a tentative live worship service again. As a result, when we did reopen, our attendance was very low, averaging 15 to 20 people each Sabbath. Due to Covid, church officers and ministry Directors were asked to extend their tenure through the end of January and the new list did not go into effect until 1 January of 2021. This has now become the beginning of our new calendar as well as fiscal year.

2021 was a year of slow recovery. Attendance was almost at its normal 40 to 50 people by the end of the year and Adventist Giving, available on our church website began to really take off. Over 80% of tithes and offerings were made online in 2021. Ministries began to have live functions as masking requirements were relaxed, and experienced

some very good participation as the year closed. We began to make phenomenal strides in paying down the church mortgage in 2021 and the projection is that we might be able to have it paid off by the end of 2023. Praise God!

2022 was a banner year for God's church in the Northeast. Attendance has increased, we saw multiple baptisms as people gave themselves to the Lord, offerings from our online giving link at the church's website increased by almost 15% over 2021 and, for the first time, we sponsored a one-week-long church trip for 46 people to The Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky.

In 2022 we paid down our mortgage by over \$34,500 and have a good shot at paying it off completely in 2023 as we had projected in 2021.

A new group of Ministry Directors and a new Board were elected in November, and they have hit the ground running.

Moving into **2023** our January services saw the pews filled most of the time, and you could feel the air of God's love pouring out.

Newsletter Undergoes Format Changes

Starting with this issue there will be a few noticeable changes to your newsletter. We are starting with a new name as well as a changed layout. You may contact the editor with comments any Sabbath he is at church or email profhalseth@yahoo.com.

The font size has been increased to allow those of us with glasses easier reading. The number of columns has been changed from 3 narrow columns to 2 wider ones for the same reason and for a little better organization. The Inside inch and one-half of the margins are still left for the same use they had previously.

Some of the regular Departments have been moved from one page to another for a little better continuity and to try to group categories of the same nature together. It may take a little getting used to. Sorry!

The newsletter is being published with MS Word instead of using Publisher so it can be converted to a .PDF file and displayed for reading or download from the church's website. www.epnortheast.org.

The last page has been redesigned to allow for mailing to members who miss the initial distribution on the last Sabbath of the previous quarter. This will also allow us to reach out to those who may have, for one reason or another, not been coming to worship with us for an extended period of time. We need to let them know we still consider them a part of our family and miss them.

Otherwise there have been quite a few minor adjustments and extensive tweaking to make it all flow better. Please let me know what you think of the changes.

Sabbath Begins Friday Sunset Calendar

- January 6 5:17 pm
- January 13 5:22 pm
- January 20 5:29 pm
- January 27 5:35 pm
- February 3 5:42 pm
- February 10 5:48 pm
- February 17 5:54 pm
- February 24 5:59 pm
- March 3 6:05 pm
- March 10 6:11 pm
- Daylight Saving -12 March
- March 17 7:15 pm
- March 24 7:20 pm
- March 31 7:24 pm

Pastor's Corner

When Jesus sent out his disciples for the first time to go spread the message of the kingdom of God, they enter the cities with absolutely nothing. No money or extra clothes. They were called to preach the message of God's good news and rely on those who would accept the message. In doing so, both the preacher and the listener were equally blessed. For one received a message sweeter than honey and to the other, would receive the gift of hospitality so they may continue to preach the Goodnews to others. As those in the past, I too came with nothing. All I had was the message of God's love for each of you and you welcomed me with open arms. You participated in the blessing by giving me funds to buy clothes, you gave me food to eat, and at times you gave me a bed to sleep on. I came with nothing, and I was in desperate need and each of you sustained me. While you sustain me in a way a family can only do, I know that you have heard of the kingdom of God in ways that have challenged your preconceived ideas. Not only did you hear but you listened. I saw how the message changed your hearts and minds. It has brought a sweet spirit not in the building of the church, but in your hearts. I know this because I was preached to by your

Views From the Pews

Every 2 years or so my wife, Cynthia, and I take a long vacation around Thanksgiving and Christmas to visit our Daughters and our lovely grandkids in Georgia. We did it this year and we just returned the end of January. I knew Pastor Quiñones was leaving for Tulsa through text comments I got while we were gone but I was overjoyed to know he would be with us for the 28th of January. I had really thought I would miss my last opportunity to say goodbye to him and Elizabeth.

We had been gone for just over two months and when I came in on that Sabbath I was overwhelmed. The house was packed full. There were many faces I didn't know and faces who had been absent for a long time there to greet me. We have grown.

The very first thing I noticed was a feeling of great fellowship and love everywhere. It was just like coming home after a long absence. It struck me that this is exactly what our new Northeast Motto and Logo are all about. "This is Home"

actions. For only goodness comes from God and each of you showed me what Heaven will one day be like by the way you loved me and my family. Each of you showed me that in heaven I will never be in need because everyone was willing to share, that I will never be alone because you made me your family, and I will never be hungry because there will always be food in the fridge (especially at Mrs. Knight's house). I may have come with nothing, but I leave with something far more precious than silver or gold. I leave knowing that God has begun a good work in the Northeast church, and He is just getting started.

So 'til we meet again whether in the home of the Northeast or in our true Home, Heaven, may you never become satisfied 'til He finishes what He has started. May you never grow weary, tired, or worn out. For all who are weary and heavy laden, He invites you to come and you will find rest for your souls.

My Wife shares her love to each of you. And together we pray that God will bless you and keep you, shine his face upon, and give you peace.

Sincerely your brother in Christ, Eliab Quinones.



The sermon today struck a deep chord in me. It was titled "Dry Bones". My hearing is abysmal so when I got home, I watched the video of it so I could catch all the nuances. He is right. Three-and-a-half years ago, when he first arrived, we were like a valley of dry bones. But just like him, after seeing an almost dead church, over the years I have watched our church's bones grow tendons, muscles and flesh. But he is also right in that there is more to be done. The BREATH is not there yet. We are close, but not quite ready yet for the last part of our church's resurrection.

We can get there. All we have to do is begin to be what we preach, true Children of God. It means we each have to take that final step and put God first, invite him into our lives and claim his promises. We CAN do it and I have faith that we will do it.

Harald Halseth, your brother in Christ





New Leaders Take Their Ministries on January 1st.



The El Paso Northeast SDA Church Nominating Committee began meeting in late September 2022, and during a 6-week period developed a comprehensive list of nominees to present to the congregation for approval. Much prayer and discussion led to the list you approved by vote at the Sabbath service in November.

Below is the list of your new leadership for the Jan 2023 through Dec 2024 term.

Several of the ministries have Co-Leadership due to the scope of the position and reach of the ministry. Let's welcome them and give them our full support and we can see God's church in the Northeast reach its full potential.

All the ministry leaders and co-leaders are members of your Board of Directors.

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

First Elder	MariaElena Knight
Elder	Michelle Rosalez
Elder	Adrian Mena
Elder	Gus Ruiz
Co-Head Deacons	Steve Weaver
	Brian Canales
Head Deaconess	Kayla Tryon
Personal Ministry/Bible Study Local Evangelism	Mary Lou Morales
Co-Men's Ministry	Brian Canales
	Joe Drayton
Women's Ministry	Melissa Drayton
Pathfinders/Adventurers	Michelle Rosalez
Children's Ministry	Annalisa Frej-Flores
Co-Health Ministry	Melissa Drayton
	Joe Drayton
Music Ministry	Annalisa Frej-Flores
Sabbath School Superintendent	Ellen Benoit
Community service/Hospitality	Dorothy Scrantom
Co-Social Committee	Vicki Murray
	Louise Grosse

Church Board meetings are normally held on the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. and are usually done via Zoom. If you have something you would like to bring to the Board's attention, please speak to the ministry director of the ministry involved and that director will contact Milo Knight, the Church Clerk to ask him to add you to the agenda for the following Board meeting.

There is, in addition to the Church Board of Directors, the Finance Committee which reviews church finances, budget, funding requests, projects requiring church funding and priorities of spending. The Finance Committee meets once a quarter and makes recommendations to the Board based on their findings. In many cases the Board will approve or disapprove actions but some may be required to be recommended to a full business meeting of the church as a whole for a final decision.

All members of the El Paso Northeast SDA Church are able to vote at Business Meetings and it is strongly encouraged that if you are a member of this church you attend the business meetings. It is desirable that a majority of the church membership makes these decisions, not just a handful. Many times these decisions can have long-term and important effects on the church. You don't want a small number of people making these big decisions. All business meetings will be announced at least two consecutive weeks in advance of the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADER

Clerk/Membership	Milo Knight
Treasurer	Harald Halseth
Technology	Isaac Drayton
Communications	Harald Halseth

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Pastor House (non-voting member), Milo Knight, Michelle Rosalez, Harald Halseth

News From the Treasury

The \$37,200 church budget for FY 2022 was met with a surplus of \$2,994.63. This was based on a monthly budget of \$3,000 for expenses and \$100 to savings each month. A deep thanks to God for his blessings last year to our church is appropriate.

The church's Budget for FY 2023 was increased to \$3,500 per month at the Church

Business Meeting in November. This was to accommodate the \$487 voluntary support offering to the Academy each month.

The church mortgage balance went from a high of \$85,432.90 on January 1st, 2022, to a low of \$50,886.29 at the end of December. That means we **paid off \$34,546.61 in 2022**. Praise God!

In addition to the normal Board members, we have a representative on the Board of El Paso Adventist Academy, Ellen Benoit, who sits with the school Board and then also with the Church Board.

This is a non-voting Church Board position, as is the Chairman's position held by the Church's Pastor.

A Personal Testimonial

Each quarter we will be featuring a testimony from one person in the congregation as to how God and our church have affected their lives. This quarter, Lori Humble has agreed to share hers with you. I pray that as you read it you will think about all the blessings God has showered on you.

IN MY DARKEST DAYS YOU WERE THERE

Sabbath, July 2nd, 2022, dawned bright and sunny. It was a perfectly lovely summer morning. As usual, just as we did every sabbath, Bryan and I woke up, ate breakfast and got ready for the day's activities. In sabbath school, Ellen led out in the lesson study. On this occasion, she asked us to share our favorite bible text and why. As I think back now, I can't recall what anyone else said, my mind goes blank. My verse, I remember, was Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not for I am with thee, be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness". It was my mother's favorite verse. She had claimed it for herself numerous times throughout her life and those words had brought comfort and hope to me as well up until that time. This Sabbath seemed like nothing out of the ordinary. Pastor Eliab blessed the congregation with an inspiring message. After church, Bryan and I enjoyed a picnic lunch at home in the shade of our trees. It was beautiful and peaceful. In just a few short hours my entire world was about to be turned upside down and inside out like never before.

It was 6 O'clock AM, Sunday, July 3rd, 2022, when a loud knock at my door awakened me. A sheriff and three police stood there. They asked me to come outside with them where we could talk. I was exhausted, terrified, confused and angry all at the same time. They asked me a thousand questions and told me they were looking for Bryan. Later that same morning they came back to inform me that my husband was deceased. My world crumbled beneath me in that instant.

To this day, I still don't have any explanations for why it happened. What I do know though, is the terribly dark and frightening place I suddenly found myself in. At that moment, I stood there alone and cried out to God for help! I was in a perpetual state of shock, and I felt terrified facing the fact that my worst nightmare had suddenly become my reality! Joshua 1:9 came to mind. "Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord God will be



(Testimonial continued)

with you wherever you go". Within hours, I was surrounded not only by my grown children and Bryan's parents, but also my closest friends (my church family) at El Paso Northeast SDA Church. I will forever be grateful for all of you!

The days and weeks that followed were not easy. People would ask me what I needed but it was difficult for me to make requests because I was so overwhelmed with everything I had to do. If you've never had this kind of loss, you can't understand the feelings of complete despair. You (my church family) were and still are direct answers to my prayers. You showered my family with your prayers. You wrapped your arms of love us and we all felt the warmth of your Christian love and kindness.

My father-in-law and all three of my children have remarked many times about your genuine acts of love towards us during our time of grief. We received numerous visits from Pastor House & Becky and Pastor Eliab. Pastor Eliab dedicated a church service for the memory of Bryan. You, as my church family, provided and delivered delicious hot meals for us. You took the time to write and send notes filled with many bible verses and words of heartwarming encouragement. I have kept them and read them often. Women's Ministry provided a way for me to attend the Retreat in Albuquerque last October. (Transportation included). It was a beautiful time of friendship and healing. Finally, you saw a need and provided a way for my front deck and ramp to be rebuilt. Pastor Eliab asked the 'right man' to do the job. A man named Steven Weaver. (He's truly my own blessing from God and a whole new chapter in my life).

My Dearest Northeast Church Family, I love you for who you are and for all you have done for my family and me. You have blessed us by your actions, and I am so grateful for every one of you. I will never be able to repay you for all your kindness and love. Perhaps, I will be able to pay it forward someday. You were all there on my darkest days and helped me get back up on my feet. With all my heart I say, thank you!

With deepest appreciation and love,

Lori Humble

Ed: As an aside, Lori and Steve are planning their wedding at the Northeast for April 30th. All the details will be coming soon.



Ongoing Events Schedule

Upcoming Events Schedule



Sabbath Worship Schedule

Sabbath (Saturday)
 Sabbath School 9:30 am
 Worship Service 11:00 am
 1st and 3rd Sabbaths Potluck 1:30 pm ±

Regular Group Bible Study

Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Reflect and Revive

Wednesday 7:00 pm on Facebook

www.facebook.com/elpasonortheast

Home Prayer Meeting

The 1st and 3rd Friday meetings will on ZOOM at 7:00 pm; text Genesis Garcia @ 915-820-8401 for the location and time of the 1st and 3rd Friday meeting or questions.

Zoom Meeting ID : 949 3721 4138

Password : prayer

February and March 2023

The **Social Committee** is proposing the following events:

- 18 Feb – Birthday Luncheon
- 4 Mar – St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
- 18 Mar – Birthday Luncheon

Sabbath School is proposing the following:

- 25 Mar – Mission Focus with El Paso Central

Pathfinders/Adventurers:

- 12 Mar – Joint meeting

Church Board:

- 19 Feb – ZOOM Meeting at 9:00 am

All events at this time are proposed except for the PF/Adv and the Board meeting. Other events are pending approval by the Board of Directors

Friday Sunset Calendar for 2023 – El Paso, Texas

All times are p.m.

January

6 5:18
 13 5:23
 20 5:30
 27 5:36

February

3 5:42
 10 5:49
 17 5:55
 24 6:00

March

3 6:06
 10 6:11

DST Mar 12

17 7:16
 24 7:21

April

7 7:30
 14 7:35
 21 7:40
 28 7:44

May

5 7:49
 12 7:54
 19 7:59
 26 8:04

June

2 8:08
 9 8:11
 16 8:14
 23 8:16
 30 8:16

July

7 8:16
 14 8:14
 21 8:11
 28 8:06

August

4 8:01
 11 7:55
 18 7:47
 25 7:39

September

1 7:31
 8 7:22
 15 7:13
 22 7:04
 29 6:54

October

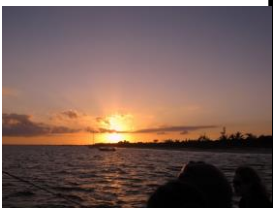
6 6:46
 13 6:37
 20 6:29
 27 6:22

November

3 6:16
 10 5:10
 17 5:06
 24 5:04

December

1 5:03
 8 5:03
 15 5:04
 22 5:07
 29 5:12



There is discussion in Congress and several states concerning converting to Daylight Saving Time year-round. If this comes to pass, then the November 15 end of DST will be nullified, and sunset times will be 1 hour later than shown.

Times shown are derived from the National Meteorological Center website.

Home Bible Study & Fellowship Groups

When it comes to studying the Bible, there are times it seems overwhelming and confusing. As a result multiple small groups have formed to do studies in their homes to share the wealth of knowledge and understanding that is there for everyone to share.

El Paso Northeast SDA Church and El Paso Central SDA Church are launching a large joint effort to make all these groups available and encourage everyone to join one for their faith and fellowship.

On the right is an image showing where some of these groups are with addresses, days and times they meet. Check one out and you will be ever so thankful you did. Please note the **correct address for the NE Church** is **6035** not **6030**.



Lost and Found Dept.

It is inevitable that over a year we will see some of our members leave and we will see other new members arrive. This column is here to say goodbye to our former brothers and sisters in Christ and to welcome those have joined us. 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 1/1/22 – 12/31/22

We wish a fond farewell to:

Donald A. Blystone	At rest
Melinda E. Blystone	Transferred out
Donna Meri	Transferred out
Benjamin S. Walulu	Transferred out

You will all be missed.

We welcome with open arms:

Irma Bowers
Cecilia Cordova
Joseph Drayton
Melissa Drayton

Welcome to your new family. This is HOME!

There are currently pending 10 transfers for people coming into our family.

Anyone who desires to transfer into the El Paso Northeast SDA Church from your current church, or be baptized into our church please see our Church Clerk, Milo Knight to begin the process.

Many thanks to Milo Knight for this information.

Editorial Section

It is real a pleasure to be able to present a regular newsletter again after such a long absence of one. That being said, it is also only as good as its contributors make it. The success of this effort lies with you, the congregation and the leadership of our church.

If the editor reaches out to you for information or a contribution (written of course) for the newsletter, please respond. There are deadlines which need to be adhered to in order to get this publication out on time. We apologize for this issue being a month behind schedule. It was due to the absence of the editor on vacation until the end of January. It won't happen again.

This issue is a 6-page effort. In the future, if there is enough input it can go to 8 pages and if funding is available, it is possible that issues can be mailed to people who desire a copy. We are going to attempt to get this newsletter published to the church website www.epnortheast.org and make it available to everyone there. It is possible it may show up on our Facebook page as well pending feasibility.

Any comments or contributions may be emailed to the editor at any time at profhalseth@yahoo.com. All suggestions to make this a better newsletter are always welcome.

From the desk of the Editor:

Harald Halseth
Communications Coordinator / Treasurer
El Paso Northeast SDA Church