

## Mark Your Calendars

Come join us for Study & Worship Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and for the following.

Aug 19 Sat 4:00 PM Healthy Resolutions Group Hike: Cougar Crest Trail, Big Bear Lake

Aug 25 Fri 6:30 PM Bible Study

Aug 26 Sat 1:00 PM All-Church Potluck: hosted by Prayer & Greeters Committees

Sep 1 Fri 6:30 PM Bible Study

Sep 2 Sat 2:30 PM Helping Hands Project (at ministry warehouse)

Sep 8 Fri 6:30 PM Bible Study

Sep 9 Sat 11:00 AM/1:00 PM International Sabbath / International Potluck (Fellowship Potluck- Special)

Sep 10 Sun 8:00 AM Church Work Bee (Deacons and all church family)

Sep 10 Sun 9:00 AM Yard Sale (coordinated by Comm. Svcs)

Sep 15 Fri 6:30 PM Bible Study

Sep 20 Wed 8:00 PM Church Board Meeting

Sep 22 Fri 6:30 PM Bible Study

Sep 23 Sat 1:00 PM All-Church Potluck: hosted by Deacons and Men's Ministry

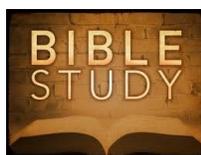
Sep 29 Fri 6:30 PM Bible Study

June 2017

## Coming Up!



Here's your opportunity to stretch your legs and enjoy beautiful scenery with great company. Gather up your hiking shoes, and day packs (filled with water, snacks and light jacket) and meet Jerry Johnson at the trailhead for **Healthy Resolutions Group Hike**: Cougar Crest Trail, Big Bear Lake Sabbath afternoon August 19 at 4:00 p.m.



The next **Friday Night Bible Study** will be every Friday from August 25th - November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. If you didn't attend the first one you are not left behind! Attend when you can and you are sure to find a blessing! If you are wondering about this event contact Kristi or Rob Cruise.



Wait is it my line? I thought it was your line? **Whoz Line is it Any Wayz?** It is improvisation time again, on August 26th at 8:00 p.m.!

Any one who has attending this event in the past knows that it is difficult to describe. However, it is without a doubt funny. If you have someone in your that hasn't wanted to come to church yet, invite them to this event, it is a casual and fun atmosphere in order to meet the people of our church. Then perhaps they will be willing to meet the God of our church too. Questions? Find Leanne Galvan.



Our church has volunteers visiting the **Helping Hands Pantry** warehouse on the first Sabbath of every month. September 2<sup>nd</sup> is the next opportunity to serve our neighbors. Meet our church and other helpers there at 2:30



Our local church and our world church is composed of people of many nations. On Sabbath, September 9th we will celebrate this cultural diversity as well as celebrate our unity in Jesus. Come and enjoy **International Sabbath!**

Wear your native attire and bring the best culinary delights from your country of origin for the potluck.



Bring your hard hat and a willing heart to the next **Work Bee** on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Maintaining our facility is an act of worship!



Calling all board members! **Board Meetings** will be on Thursday, September 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14

## Our Relationship to the Law Changes?

The other day on my way down the pass between Cherry Valley and Redlands, I saw a car parked along the freeway with a police car parked behind it. I thought, "They got caught!" But then I realized that this was not a traffic violation. Instead the car had a flat tire and the policeman was there to assist. Several hours later I was driving back up the pass and saw a police car pulling over an obviously speeding vehicle. It made me think of our relationship to the law and how it changes depending on our situation.

For example, there once was a man who during the night worked as a night watchman for a warehouse complex. During the day however he would break into homes and steal whatever he found of value! During the night he protected and followed the law but during the day he broke the law. Depending on the time he was either law keeper and protector or a law breaker. It all depended on his situation. This same man one day was out stealing from others. Only to return to his apartment to discover that he had been robbed. He was very upset and immediately called the police! (These are true stories told by Doug Bachelor about himself. Go to [www.amazingfacts.org](http://www.amazingfacts.org) and you can hear multiple sermons and testimonies where he tells these stories.)

I personally have had times where I was both happy and afraid of the law! I have seen speeding cars and wished the police would give them a ticket and when they do get a ticket I am happy. But if I see flashing lights in the rear mirror I am always hoping it is not for me! We want the protection of the law but we don't always want to follow it. We take on the idea that a law is only important if the specific law is important to us.

As we have been studying Galatians this quarter in Adult Sabbath School we have wrestled with the relationship a Christian should have with God's law. What parts of the Levitical law are no longer necessary for a Christian to follow? Does Paul say we should throw out all the law, or perhaps all the Old Testament?!

There is no doubt that our relationship to the law has changed since Jesus died on the cross. But how? It is like Pastor Bachelor? Is it that during the "night" of the Old Testament the law was to be kept, but now in the light following the cross we can be law breakers? NO. Paul is emphatic about

righteousness by faith, there is not doubt of that. (Galatians 3) He however is also adamant about keeping the law. *"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—"*(Romans 6:1-6) How can we reconcile these seeming extremes?

It is important to understand the back story of anything written in the epistles. We must remember that these are letters written to specific places and people at a specific time. Therefore these letters are then written for specific problems and questions as well. Galatians was written to answer theological questions in the church of Galatia. We do not have a letter to Paul expressing these questions we only have the answers. Thus we must deduce the questions based on the answers. By Paul's answers we can tell that a major question was, "Does the law save?" Meaning, "If we keep the law will the law bring us salvation?" Paul says, "NO!" So then the natural question is then, "Why bother keeping it at all?"

So why do we keep it? Why as Seventh-day Adventist do we still keep Sabbath? Or the requirements of Leviticus regarding what we should eat? These are big theological questions! No just for our church but for all of Christendom. It was the reason Martin Luther took a hammer, a nail and a pile of papers and posted them on a church door 500 years ago. I will not attempt to show all the arguments about righteousness by faith and sanctification. Let's focus more personally.

I choose to keep the law for a few overall reasons. I am convinced that God made the 10 commandments for all people for all time. I am convinced that God knows what is best for me to eat because He is my creator. But above all else, I love Him. Because I love Him and admire Him I want to be like Him. He has told me that His law reflects His character. Therefore if I want to be like Him I must take on His character

which will the naturally cause me to express the law. He said He will give me a change of heart so that I may have the law of God written in my heart. Not just known it in my head but have it be so much a part of me that breaking the law will be against my hearts desire. In some ways this change of heart has happened fast but in too many ways it is happening slowly. I can sometimes be discouraged by the just how slow I am to change. I begin to fear I am not good enough, that my salvation is lost because I just can't get it together. Paul himself stated, *"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."*

*So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?"* (Romans 7: 15-24) But just like Paul and Martin Luther I need not despair! Paul goes on to say, *"Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (Romans 7:25a) My works can not save me. I can not earn my way to salvation. My works are an expression of my life in contact with the Life Giver! My salvation comes from Jesus. When I fail I can turn to Jesus and ask forgiveness and I ALWAYS RECEIVE IT! ALWAYS! Never does Jesus turn away a truly repentant person. Never. The Christian walk is not "all or nothing." It is not all grace, although it is mostly grace. It is not all law keeping, although the law is important. It is a combination of these that brings us closer and closer and closer to Jesus as we experiment with and experience both. Praise God that He forgives our past sins, gives us the power to live changed lives and has already paid for our entrance into heaven. It is not about what I do but what He did and continues to do in my life.

*Kristi Cruise*



## Dr. Clausen

Sabbath morning and afternoon Dr. Clausen explored the implications of creation for Bible believing Christians. He emphasized that God is much bigger and much stronger than we really understand. For example we know the Bible says that God has numbered the hairs on our heads. Amazing! More amazing is the Bible says God has a name for every star in the heavens. Scientists have yet to know how many stars exist, and they have not even attempted to

name all the ones they have found, but God knows each one and has a special name for each. Amazing!

During the afternoon session he explored where the Bible story fits into what scientist have learned about the world. There are multiple theories creationists have proposed, some of them ridiculous and some that have merit. As believing Christians we need to be cautious about our own theories. Instead

we need to have more research to discover more about how creation points to God. By careful scientific study we can then witness to the scientific community in a more meaningful way. He truly believes this is possible and has even been a part of it happening. May our community of believers continue to research and probe the mysteries of nature without fear, God will be revealed.

*Kristi Cruise*

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## My Father's Amazing World - Venom Part 5

Do you think that only fish and reptiles are venomous? Well think again! Today we will discuss a mammal which packs venom. At least scientist have decided it is a mammal, but it took a lot of time and debate to come to that conclusion. As a matter of fact scientist who first viewed a stuffed specimen thought it was a hoax! The platypus breaths air, but lives primarily in water. It lays eggs but nurses its babies with out nipples. It has a bill (leathery) like a duck, a tail like a beaver, and three layers fur like an otter. It's feet are webbed but the webbing can be retracted when on land to demonstrate claws which allow it to run on land and dig its waterside den. With out a doubt they are made for a water faring life. With webbed feet and a rudder like tail they are able to swim like a torpedo. Their eyes, ears and nostrils close with watertight flaps of skin while hunting underwater. "What?" you say, "How can they hunt without sight, hearing or smell!" They "see" their prey by the electrical signals their prey emits then they are able to fully pinpoint them by feel! That's right, inside the platypus bill are electrical sensors which receive the electrical signals present in living animals and their bill is so sensitive it can tell the difference between a worm and the mud surrounding the worm.

So where does the venom come in? Only males have the venomous spur on their heels. The venom is not used for hunting its prey and the platypus has few predators. This has thus baffled scientists as to why the platypus has venom at all. The best guess, at this point, is that the venom is used between males at breeding time. However it appears this hypothesis has never been witnessed for confirmation.

Researchers are now studying how the venom affects people. The venom has never killed a human (a dog was not so lucky.) Unfortunately however, if a person is stung by a platypus no current pain medications will relieve the pain. Researchers hope that by finding the pain pathway caused by this venom, they will be able to produce new medications for pain.

The platypus also has baffled evolutionists as well. So much so that the platypus has already had its genome mapped. Ironically it seems this data only created more questions for the evolutionists to figure out. It is easy for creationists to figure out. God has a sense of humor and the creative power to make anything work!

*Kristi Cruise*

(Sources: [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com); <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>; [kidyber.com.au](http://kidyber.com.au); <http://animals.howstuffworks.com>); [www.zoo.org.au](http://www.zoo.org.au);) )



Females lay eggs like a snake's, but  
feed the young milk

tail like a beaver's

fur like a beaver or otter



males have venom spur

webbed feet have claws

bill and webbed feet  
like a duck's

**The platypus puzzle**

## Distribution Dates

The Newsletter will be published on the dates below.

September 30

October 28

November 18

December 30

If you would like to contribute please submit at least 5 days in advance of distribution date. Please send via e-mail at [jrklijcruise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrklijcruise@sbcglobal.net).