

February 15, 2019

Hello Church Family,

A Loving, All-Powerful God and the Existence of Evil, pt. 2

While living in Brazil, Melissa and I owned a German Shepherd (Duke) and Golden Retriever (Rufus). They were so much fun! We had a lovely place just outside of Rio de Janeiro up in the mountains of Duque de Caxias. Our home wasn't fenced, and our closest neighbors were about a mile away. Our dogs were free to roam and explore the tropical rainforest. We also owned a beautiful grey cat (Whiskers), but he wasn't as much fun. He slept, ate, hunted mice, and licked himself. We loved Whiskers, but our fondest memories are of Duke and Rufus. We loved walking to the waterfalls near our home to watch them swim, splash, and play in the water.

What made these dogs so much fun was their intelligence. You could see the keenness and awareness in their eyes. They interacted and communicated with us on a level that amazed me. And did I mention they were obedient? Well, not really. Duke and Rufus became notorious for running away and spending consecutive days away from home (they knew they were not supposed to). I can't tell you how many times Melissa and I cried thinking we lost them. Then, out of nowhere they would appear after wondering who knows where. What heartache and stress they caused us! Was it worth it? Whiskers did not cause us half as much trouble, but to the same degree he did not provide as much joy.

Today we have two little bundles of joy. Abigail is four and Caleb is two. How are they going to turn out when they are adults? Are they going to become good people? Are they going to bring us joy or grief? Will they make a decision to follow Jesus? Only God knows. But one thing is certain--**just as my children have greater potential for making us happy, to that same degree is the potential for heartache, worry, and pain.** The point is this: ***As moral potential increases, the power to promote good or bad increases.***

Is there a way of minimizing the risk? Sure. Have no children. Get a pet cow, goat, or cat. They're fun too. I have many friends who love their animals and find great fulfillment in them. In fact, some even post on Facebook or have signs that say, "*I love my dog more than people*". And who can blame them? Will a dog betray or steal from another human being? Will a cat torture or molest innocent children? Of course not.

God created intelligent, free moral agents capable of a tremendous amount of good. In fact, the Bible teaches that people were created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). He could have programmed them to be incapable of rebelling. Why didn't He? While humans are capable of far worse than a bad horse or cow, they can also do far more good than an animal. A good person can feed the hungry, love and cherish a spouse, give money

sacrificially for the good of others, work against injustice, show hospitality, etc. But how bad can a bad person be? Just look at the world around you. Think of the Holocaust!

C.S. Lewis once wrote: “When we have understood about free will, we shall see how silly it is to ask, as somebody once asked me: ‘Why did God make a creature of such rotten stuff that it went wrong?’ The better stuff a creature is made of—the cleverer and stronger and freer it is—then the better it will be if it goes right, but also the worse it will be if it goes wrong” (*Mere Christianity*, p. 53). Profound! So true. Is God all-loving? Yes. Is He all-powerful? Yes. Is there evil and suffering in the world? Yes. Why? Because of freedom. Stay tuned as we continue to explore this profound topic.

Pastor Diego

For those who didn't see today's bulletin, a copy is attached. This week's calendar of events and one special announcement follow.

THIS WEEK

SABBATH, February 16

Pastor Mike & Sherl on vacation – through Monday
MAA Basketball at UC Tournament – through Sunday
Winter Break at MAA – through Sunday
9:30 a.m. – Sabbath School
10:45 a.m. – Worship Service
12:30 to 3:00 p.m. – Health & Garden Club Meeting
3:00 p.m. – Choir practice
6:00 to 10:00 p.m. – Activity Center reserved

SUNDAY, February 17

Pastor Mike & Sherl on vacation – through Monday
MAA Basketball returns from UC Tournament
Winter Break at MAA – through Sunday
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – Artz Baby Shower

MONDAY, February 18

Pastor Mike & Sherl on vacation – through Monday

TUESDAY, February 19

MAA 5th-8th Graders to Kauffmann Center
10:00 a.m. – Bulletin Information due to Melody
3:00 to 6:00 p.m. – Marketplace at New Haven open
7:30 p.m. – Studies in Revelation

WEDNESDAY, February 20

6:30 to 7:00 a.m. – Prayer Group Teleconference Call
MAA K-2nd Graders to Kauffmann Center
4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – Food Pantry open at West Lenexa

5:00 p.m. – Music info due to A/V team
6:30 p.m. – Midweek HOPE Meeting

THURSDAY, February 21

3:00 to 6:00 p.m. – Marketplace at New Haven open

FRIDAY, February 22

6:05 p.m. – *Sabbath begins!*
6:30 p.m. – Youth Vespers at Charles Humphrey home

SABBATH, February 23

MAA Choir and Diversity ministry at New Life
9:30 a.m. – Sabbath School
10:45 a.m. – Worship Service
12:30 p.m. – Pathfinder Lock In begins at New Haven

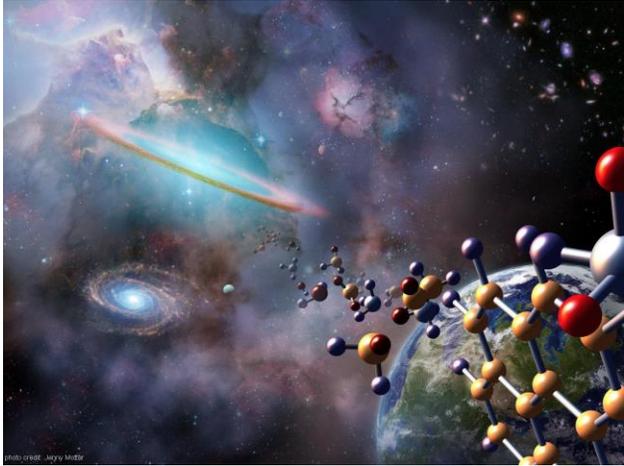


Please plan on joining us for a special weekend *and invite your friends!* Dr. Sean Pitman, a graduate of Loma Linda University and City of Hope National Medical Center, is an anatomic and clinical pathologist with a subspecialty in hematopathology. Dr. Pitman has long been interested in the topics of evolution

and creation and is personally involved with trying to address the problem of a Seventh-day Adventist school, La Sierra University in particular, promoting theistic/mainstream evolutionary theories as the true story of origins in science classrooms – directly undermining the “fundamental” position of the SDA Church on a literal six-day creation week. He has twice been invited to speak at LSU to address the conflict between Creation and Evolution and has been very active in the current controversy with LSU over this issue. See Pastor Mike for more information. www.DetectingDesign.com

Chapel Oaks is happy to present Dr. Pitman in March with these presentations:

Wonders of Design..... March 1, 6:45 p.m.
The Science of Miracles March 2, 10:45 a.m.
Overview of Fossils, Geology, and the Age of Life on Earth March 2, 2:00 p.m.



Need More Information?

Bulletin attached

Visit the Chapel Oaks website at: chapelooks.org