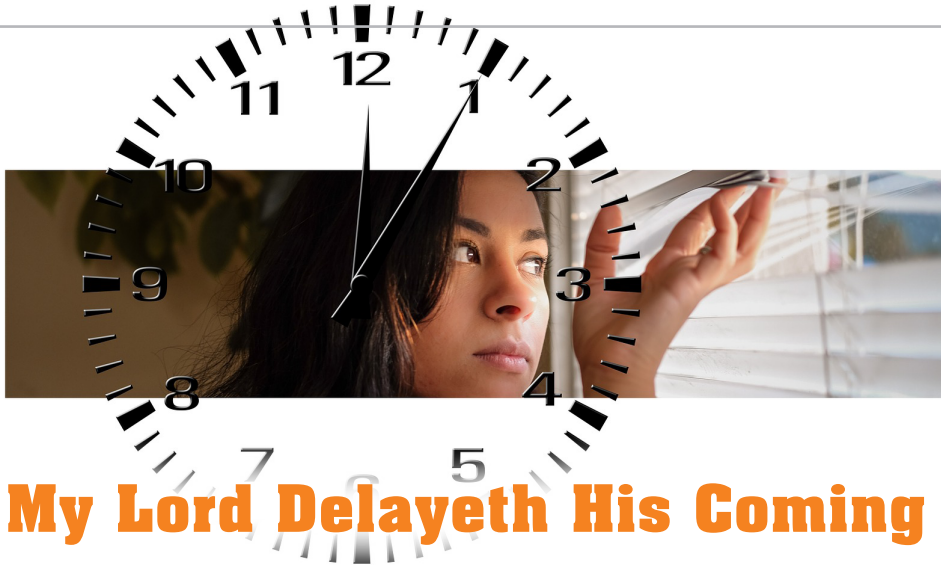




# emphasis

The Uchee Pines Institute health and news letter



## My Lord Delayeth His Coming

Are we in the last days of earth's history? Is Jesus going to return soon? Will He return in the next 5 or 10 years? After describing to His disciples the events that would happen before He returns, Jesus tells them a parable (Matthew 24:45-51) to warn them to keep watch.

Two stewards are given responsibility to care for the Master's household while He is away on a long journey. The first steward expects his Master to return at any moment and is constantly managing the household well. The other steward thinks, "My Lord delayeth His coming," (Matthew 24:48) and with the expectation of his Master's delay, He begins to mismanage the household. When the Master returns, though neither knew when He would return, He finds the first steward prepared and doing exactly as He was instructed while the second steward is unprepared and is caught in his mismanagement.

The current events clearly show us that Jesus is returning soon! And yet we hear so many sermons saying that

the time is not yet, because certain prophecies are still unfulfilled. Through the excuse of unfulfilled prophecy, we take the position of the unfaithful steward, believing that, "My Lord delayeth His coming." Let us not pacify ourselves with the thought that our Lord delays His coming for another 1, 2, or 5 years. All of the remaining prophecies can be fulfilled in the blink of an eye, and we can find ourselves caught off guard by our Lord's return.

I pray that we may expect our Lord to return at any moment, that we may make the heart preparation necessary and be faithful to our calling so that when He does return, Jesus will find us ready, actively accomplishing the work He commissioned us to do. And we will hear the blessing, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:21.



# FAITH & FINANCES

BY MARK SANDOVAL, M.D.  
Medical Director of Uchee Pines Lifestyle Center

Every one of our staff volunteers knows that it takes much faith to come to and stay at Uchee Pines. It isn't easy for many reasons, but I'm going to focus on one of those reasons now—money.

In 2010, my wife and I were serving as missionaries on the island of Trinidad, and through a series of providences, we became interested in the Seventh-day Adventist health message. The more I read, the more convinced I was that I needed to leave my conventional practice and learn how to actually change peoples' lives and help them heal. With almost \$75,000 in school debt and a family of 6 to support, I was led to come to Uchee Pines to learn a new way of practicing the healing arts. But I was very reluctant, because I didn't know how this would work out financially.

I asked the president how much I would be paid if I came to Uchee Pines, and when he emailed me the number, I turned to my wife and said, "I wonder if they pay every week? Because if they pay every other week, I don't see how we could make it financially." I also asked if Uchee Pines could help with paying my medical school debt, but they gave no promise of help. Unsure of how this was all going to work out, we decided to leave it in God's hands and not inquire any more about finances.

When we arrived at Uchee Pines and went through orientation, we found out that Uchee paid stipends every month! Now, I was sure we couldn't make it financially. I made more money working part time in a health food store when I was in high school! Someone suggested that I work part time in the ER to make the additional money I would need to support

my family of 6 and to pay off my medical school debt (In the ER, I would make in 1 shift what I would make at Uchee in over a month). I was about to do this, but something stopped me.

I was studying about the Exodus at the time, and it struck me that, just as God called His children out of Egypt into the Promised Land and supported them along the way, so God was calling me out of my Egypt into my Promised Land, and I was contemplating going back to Egypt to support myself in the Promised Land. When I realized what was going on, I made my decision. I would not go back to my old practice to support myself. I would trust in God to provide for what was needed. And God has been faithful.

At times, when finances were very tight and we weren't sure how we would purchase food for the rest of the month, an anonymous letter would show up in our mailbox with cash in it. Another time, we were short on funds, but another family needed help, so we got them what they needed, and again, an anonymous letter showed up in our mailbox with the exact amount of money we had used to help the other family!

Eight years after coming to Uchee Pines, we now have a household of 9 persons, and I am the only full-time staff volunteer in the home. We have never gone hungry. We have purchased 3 used vehicles (at different times and for miraculous prices—stories for another time). I travel all over the world. I have a job/ministry that is absolutely fulfilling. And my medical school debt is paid off! I am debt free! And some of my classmates who are making lots of money are still in debt. God is so good!

All of our staff volunteers have similar stories. Every one of us could make so much more money if we were not at Uchee Pines. But we are here for a purpose. We have a mission that God has called us to. And we will carry that mission forward until we are unable to do so. And it is the purpose of our lives to serve you and yours in whatever way that we can. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve.



## Institute Finances

Many people are not aware of how Uchee Pines Institute operates financially. We are a 501(c)3, not-for-profit, charitable corporation chartered in the State of Alabama for the promotion of health and spirituality through education, media, product development, and health services.

Our two main sources of income are our Lifestyle Center and our Country Life restaurant and store. We also have an herb shop and online store which produces a small income. We have our education programs, but they produce very little income, as the vast majority of our trainees are in the work-study program. And finally, we accept donations, totaling between \$40,000 and \$100,000 each year. Other similar organizations receive \$1,000,000 or more each year to support their function.

We spend over \$600,000 each year on food and supplies for our kitchens and store, over \$50,000 on vehicle maintenance and insurance, about \$35,000 on bank charges, about \$170,000 on electricity & gas, \$45,000 for laboratory expenses, about \$150,000 on maintenance & supplies, about \$35,000 on telephones, and over \$550,000 in stipends, in addition to many other expenses. On top of this, we give away about \$140,000 in scholarships to our trainees and worthy guests at our lifestyle center.

Our total annual income ranges between 1.6M and 1.9M. We try to keep our expenses below our income, but many years we have more expenses than income. But the Lord blesses, and we are happy to serve. Each staff volunteer sacrifices in many ways, including financially, to minister to you and yours at Uchee Pines. Everyone receives a stipend well below the poverty level, but we are so blessed to be here and serve.

We know that our institute will not be around forever. The movements in this world reveal to us that time is short. But as long as we are able to do so, we will continue ministering to others and sharing the message of the Gospel to the world. Thank you for your prayers and your financial support.



# COMING EVENTS

**Next Lifestyle Sessions**  
at the Lifestyle Center  
begin **October 25,**  
**November 15, & De-**  
**cember 6**

**Virtual Wellness Confer-**  
**ence** – 6 days of packed  
information on health  
and wellness. **Nov 1**

## Staff Home Building Project

From construction site to a finished home, staff member Jin and family are thrilled to finally have adequate space for their growing family. Housing on campus has become a great need. This is the first of several homes that to be built. Please help us in this endeavor by donating to our Staff Accommodations Replacement Project.



MAY WE SEND "EMPHASIS" TO YOU BY E-MAIL INSTEAD? RESPOND TO [EYH@UCHEEPINES.ORG](mailto:EYH@UCHEEPINES.ORG) | VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [UCHEEPINES.ORG](http://UCHEEPINES.ORG) | 877-UCHEEPINES  
**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED UCHEE PINES IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANNING?**

  
**emphasis**  
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