

Seminar finds meaning in the names of God

If you go

What: "Names of God" Seminar

When: Sessions at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Today

Where: 2800 Airline Road

Cost: Free

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[Seminar finds meaning in the names of God](#) By Richard Yeakley ryeakley@news-journal.com Longview News-Journal

The names of God as they appear in the original languages of the Bible reveal his character and his promises to his followers, according to two men teaching a conference in Longview today.

Rob Sheppard and Ernie Pyle will continue their two day "Names of God" seminar from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Longview Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

"God has chosen to introduce himself by names. Each name is a description of his character and a promise of what he will do in the lives of believers," Pyle said.

The seminar, which began at 7 p.m. Friday with an examination of Yahweh Shalom, will walk through four names that the original biblical text uses to refer to God.

These names are Yahweh Shalom, Yahweh Sabaoth, El Shaddai and Yahweh Nissi.

Pyle and Sheppard present conferences on 16 total names of God, and have discussed four names at the Longview Seventh-Day Adventist Church before.

"What they do which is unique is they look back into the original languages of the bible and any time in the Bible you see Lord or God," said Karl Leukert, pastor of Longview Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Leukert said the first seminar led his congregation to want to study more.

"The impact in our congregation was in the fact that people didn't understand as much about the messages God was trying to give through the names he uses for himself. It made people in the congregation want to study more," Leukert said. "One of the nice things they offer is a whole binder of information with many names of God, so people can go and study themselves."

Pyle said the conference arose out of a home church that occurred on Friday nights in connection with Arlington Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The study went so well that Pyle and Sheppard presented the material to the church, and they then began a ministry.

The ministry has now existed for six years and has taken the men across the country to Canada and Europe.

"We pray for every seminar that God will use both of us that people would gain an understand of their self-worth. That if they were the only person God will still demonstrate his love by sending his son to die just for them," Pyle said.

The seminar will include worship during the Saturday morning service and pot luck lunch provided by the congregation.

Leukert said members of the congregation have invited friends, family and neighbors, but leaders at Longview Seventh-Day Adventist Church are unsure how many people will attend the seminar today.

Although the background of both presenters is fixed in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, anyone would feel comfortable attending the lessons, Pyle said.

"We do not preach any particular doctrine, and anybody would feel comfortable. All we teach are his name and his promises," Pyle said. "Thread is this -- God's names, revealing God's character, revealing God's promises and through that the revelation of his love."