

2017



IF I HAD A SECOND CHANCE

I'd stop looking and start seeing,
And treat everyone as a human being.

I'd stop taking and start giving,
Stop hiding and start living.

I'd do more listening and a lot less talking,
Enjoy the world and do more walking.

I'd take my eyes off my watch
and watch with my eyes,
To notice the trees and the beautiful sky.

I'd stop criticizing and show more love,
Be less forgetful and give thanks up above.

I'd be less angry and swallow my pride,
And share with the world what I have inside.

I'd stop hating and be more kind,
And give a little more of my precious time.

I'd give more encouragement
and a lot more praise,
And do a lot less judging
for I too have lost my way.

I'd get my priorities in order and straight,
Better now than never Lord,
I'm just a bit too late.

I'd stop hopelessly chasing after the wind,
From this point on a new I begin.

I'd find my way back to the Lord's humble
grace,

With a vow never again to lose my place,
I'm changing my life and I've made a stance,
Oh Lord, what I wouldn't give for a second
chance.

It's not the destination that counts in life
it's the journey.

The journey with the people we love is all that
really matters.

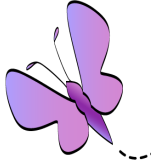
Such a simple truth so easily forgotten.

Submitted by: Jelise

NEVER LOSE HOPE

If you can find beauty in the colors of a small
flower, then you still have hope...

If you can find pleasure in the
movement of a butterfly, then you
still have hope...



If the smile of a child can still warm
your heart, then you still have
hope...

If you can see the good in other people, then
you still have hope...

If the rain breaking on a roof top can still lull
you to sleep, then you still have hope...

If the sight of a rainbow still makes you stop
and stare in wonder, then you still have hope...

If the soft fur of a favored pet still feels pleasant
under your fingertips, then you still have hope...

If you still offer your hand in friendship to oth-
ers that have touched your life, then you still
have hope...

If receiving an unexpected card or letter still
brings a pleasant surprise, then you still have
hope...

If you still watch love stories or want the end-
ings to be happy, then you still have hope...

If you can look to the past and smile, then you
still have hope....

If, when faced with the bad, when told every-
thing is futile, you can still look up and end the
conversation with the phrase...

"yeah....BUT.." Then you still have hope...

Hope is such a marvelous thing. It bends, it
twists, it sometimes hides, but rarely does it
break... It sustains us when nothing else can...
It gives us reason to continue and courage to
move ahead, when we tell ourselves we'd rather
give in...

Hope puts a smile on our face when the heart
cannot manage... Hope puts our feet on the path
when our eyes cannot see it...

Hope moves us to act when our souls are con-
fused of the direction....

Hope is a wonderful thing, something to be
cherished and nurtured, and something that will
refresh us in return...

And it can be found in each of us, and it can
bring light into the darkest of places...

Never Lose Hope

Submitted by: June

In Memory of Douglas R. Higgins

Douglas R. Higgins, 70, of Clanton died Thursday, March 23, 2017.

He was born on Wednesday, July 24, 1946 in Chilton Co., AL, Son of the late Roy F. Higgins and the late Ruth Rollins Higgins.

Surviving are Wife, Felecia Higgins; Son, Camron Higgins; Daughter, Cassie Higgins; Granddaughters, Makaylynn Sanders, Phoenix Sanders; Brothers, James (Dene) Higgins, Byron (Debbie) Higgins, Robert Higgins.

Services were held on Monday, March 27 @ Martin Funeral Home Chapel.

Program started with Faye Pitman beautifully playing the piano, Bob Ernest had the opening prayer, Pastor Tui Pitman played a beautiful rendition of "In the Sweet By & By" on the Saxophone accompanied by his lovely wife.

Ralph Shepherd a friend of Doug's for 27 years had the Eulogy, and included thoughts about how Doug touched lives everywhere all over the area, ones that needed a place to stay, food to eat or anything he could help individuals with. Doug and Ralph had also worked together in the Community Services of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Clanton.

There was a Remembrance time where individuals spoke up about Doug and how he had touched their lives. A lady from DHR spoke up and said that over the 37 years he had been with them, he was a simple man, dressed simply and he touched so many peoples lives.

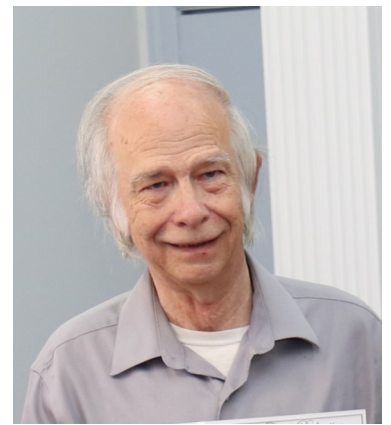
Pastor Tui Pitman spoke about family reunions and how they can be bitter sweet when you leave the reunion. He told about how Felicia met Doug in a cow pasture at a bonfire 43 years ago and hadn't been separated all this time. He worked in the same County in Clanton for years and if they needed help he would be there to help, a friend to everyone he met. We realize that nothing in life is certain, we need to make a decision for the Lord every day.

John 14:1-3 was quoted, and that we are looking forward to the ultimate family reunion. What a reunion that will be, Heaven will be a wonderful place. We will all be reunited with our families, no one can describe what Heaven will be like, have you stopped and thought about what it will be like. Look up 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 which ends with "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words".

Pastor Pitman also quoted from Ecclesiastes 9:5 "For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything." Won't it be wonderful when Doug wakes up from his sleep and the next thing he knows will be the reunion with his Lord and his family. Each of us needs to live our lives so on that reunion day we can all be there.

All of the approximated 75 individuals in attendance sang for closing, "Because He Lives".

Interment followed in Thorsby Memorial Cemetery, Thorsby, Alabama.



PASTOR'S CORNER



What a beautiful child Emma is, glad we are getting to watch her grow up. She seems to be totally engrossed in her coloring.

Now, do we have a movie star here, sunglasses and glam flip-flops? The wall looks decorated with fun graphics, that would make anyone happy.

Hope you enjoy, until next month when hopefully we can share again.



My friend entrusted me with the privilege of holding her precious, four-day-old daughter. Not long after I took the baby into my arms, she started to fuss. I hugged her closer, my cheek pressed against her head, and began to sway and hum in a gentle rhythm to soothe her. Despite these earnest attempts, and my decade and a half of parenting experience, I couldn't pacify her. She became increasingly upset until I placed her back into the crook of her mother's eager arm. Peace washed over her almost instantaneously; her cries subsided and her newborn frame relaxed into the safety she already trusted. My friend knew precisely how to hold and pat her daughter to alleviate her distress.

God extends comfort to His children like a mother: tender, trustworthy, and diligent in her efforts to calm her child. When we are weary or upset, He carries us affectionately in His arms. As our Father and Creator, He knows us intimately. He "will keep in perfect peace all who trust in [him], all whose thoughts are fixed on [him]" (Isa. 26:3 nlt).

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. Isaiah 66:13

When the troubles of this world weigh heavy on our hearts, we can find comfort in the knowledge that He protects and fights for us, His children, as a loving parent.

Lord, help me to look to You for my comfort in times of distress.

For help in finding God's comfort, read The Lord Is My Shepherd: Rest and Renewal from Psalm 23

God's comfort soothes us perfectly.

Pastor Michel Rodriguez & wife Elizabeth and daughter Emma Isabel —Phone: 817-219-7347

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Head Elder, Robert (Bob) Ernest— 205-280-1297 Email: RobertE699@aol.com

Assistant Head Elders—Linkous, Gary—256-377-2244

Wiese, Bill—205-646-3150 - Email: Williamwiese147@gmail.com

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Hi Brenda,

I wanted to share with you our most recent mission trip to Cambodia. It was a great blessing to be able to serve the people of Cambodia. We are excited about the soon opening of a new Adventist school in Cambodia.

Say hello to everyone from me. I miss everyone!

The Lord opened the way for Build and Restore International to serve in the country of Cambodia this year. As we planned for this trip, it was our goal to help build a new Christian SDA School. As we arrived in Cambodia January 23rd, we saw a great need. Day by day the volunteers worked hard and the team of 36 volunteers was eager to begin building. The building efforts consisted of making blocks for the walls, moving block that has already been made, as well as beginning to layout the footing for the walls. Each volunteer played a critical role in the building progress of this new school in Cambodia.

We are grateful for each and every one of you who purposed in your heart to pray for our mission in Cambodia. It is by the grace of God and your support that we have been able to make a great impact in the lives of so many children today and in the years to come. It is because of your generosity that many children will have a new school building to call their very own. For the very first time, they will have their very own classroom with windows and doors.

(Picture) This little girl in the picture is one of the students that is at school on time and is eager to learn. She is able to get a hot meal and a Christian education for the 1st time in her family.

Education for many children in Cambodia is not available by large, and many grow up working from an early age in the field to help the family. We believe that providing a Christian education will provide a much brighter future for these children and their families.

Thank you each one again for being faithful and supporting the Lord's work. We are very excited to see the soon opening of this new school that will be able to provide hot meals and a great Christian education to hundreds of children.

For more information about future projects, please visit our website at www.buildandrestore.org . To see project video updates, please visit our Facebook page, Build and Restore International

Blessings, [Ostap Dzyndra](#),

President Build and Restore International, (916) 316-8972 cell, www.buildandrestore.org

Reminiscing Corner

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April Birthdays

- 1- Dot Houston
- 4 - Hanna Boggus Hudleston
- 12 - Ava Abbott
- 22 - Charlotte Powers
- 30 - Kathy Lide

Anniversaries
7 - Terry & Kay Cheser

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. Don't forget if you have a birthday that hasn't been turned in to me, please do so and we promise to try and send you a birthday card on your special day.

Tentative Speaker Schedule: April: 1st - Lary Petty, 8th - Robert Ernest, 19th - Pastor Rodriguez, 22nd - Gary Linkous, 29th - Pastor Rodriguez

OK, this was back in 1985. That is the only hint you get this month. Don't forget to turn in your pictures for our reminiscing page.
Brenda



Calendar of Events

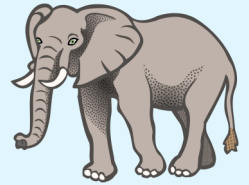
- Weekly:** Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM -
Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail
- Monthly: Each Sabbath after Fellowship meal:**
Sabbath School Visitation: 1st Sabbath
Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

The first Camp Meeting/ Convocation will be coming to Camp Alamisco on April 7th & 8th 2017.

Our guest speaker will be Pastor Mike Tucker from the Quiet Hour. Pastor Tucker lost his wife in 2016, together they have done some of the best marriage and counseling events to date. He is a Christ filled man who has lots to share with us. We also have coming to Alamisco Steven Mosley who will present to us a dramatic presentation called the "Chosen Garments". We have a great team coming down to share with our children and young adults in that of Destiny Works Productions. Please make plans to attend. You'll find a registration form in the last issue of GSC Today.

Then on **May 24-27th we will be worshipping at BASS Memorial Academy** for the second portion of our Camp Meeting. Beginning on that Wednesday and Thursday evening we will have Elder Jim Gilley who has served his Lord in many positions, but we will probably remember him best for his time as president of 3ABN. Our main speaker over the weekend will be Dr. Joseph Kidder from Andrews Seminary. Destiny Works will be taking over again for the youth, and we will also have the same team of Sabbath School teachers coming for the entire camp meeting. Please think of these Camp Meeting events as a time for recommitting ourselves to Jesus and to the work he has entrusted us with. For some of us that means taking back what we might have lost, and for others it means finding the Savior for the first time. Again the registration form is in the latest issue of GSC Today or call the office to ask for more information.

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at anytime, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.



He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before? Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in life. Remember God is strong enough if we pray and have faith to break any chain or bond that is holding us.



Spring is the perfect time of the year to do bug crafts.

Shared with us by Elizabeth Rodriguez

Materials: a printer if you decide to use our caterpillar craft template (we will get to it in a little while), red or yellow paper for the head, green paper for the body, glue, scissors, optional (black marker and wiggle eye stickers if you decide to make this little creature freehand).



1. Print out caterpillar craft templates. Place a sheet of red and a sheet of green paper in the printer and print the file. This is naturally optional. This craft is amazingly cute if you just free hand it.



2. Cut the square shape out of green paper. Fold along the line (the small rectangle – if you look at the image below, the line is on the far right). Now cut along all the dashed lines. Cut, cut, cut.



3. Once all the strips are cut, fold them (along the non-dashed line). Make a crease and unfold all.

4. It's time to make the loops. You can start on either of the sides and glue strip by strip, making loop by loop. Allow the glue to set.



5 & Final Step: Cut the head shapes out of red (or yellow, or well any color really) paper. Cut antennae out of scrap green paper. Glue the head shapes on both sides of the “looped tunnel”. Glue them together on the top. Your adorable little caterpillar craft is ready to wiggle on it's way! (see picture top left)

How many enjoyed making the Zebra last month with your little ones?

Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.

www.steppingupward.org www.egwhiteclassicquotes.org <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>

We have a website!! <http://clantonsda.org/>, Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so all the previous couple years area there also. Also a Face Book page has been set up for the Clanton Sda church, log on and find information posted there regularly. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter... let's share each month. Thanks to those that do regularly. **Let me know if you don't want to get one anymore, via email or US Mail.** Also need to know if you moved or any other reason to not be sending the newsletters. Thanks Brenda

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