



For God so Loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.. John 3:16



A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell.

He painted a sign advertising the 4 pups. And set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eye of a little boy. 'Mister,' he said, 'I want to buy one of your puppies.' 'Well,' said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, 'These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money.'

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. 'I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?' 'Sure,' said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. 'Here, Dolly!' he called. Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up

'I want that one,' the little boy said, pointing to the runt. The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, 'Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would.' With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe.

Looking back up at the farmer, he said, 'You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands.'

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup, Holding it carefully handed it to the little boy. 'How much?' asked the little boy. 'No charge,' answered the farmer, 'There's no charge for love.' The world is full of people who need someone who understands Show your friends how much you care.

The Concert - When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. To her horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.'

At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, 'Don't quit ... keep playing.' Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played, Only the classic, 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.'

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, 'Don't quit .. Keep playing.'

May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather, He equips the called.

Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire. So touch someone by passing this little message along. May God bless you and be with you always!

And remember, 'Don't quit ... Keep playing.'

Worthy Brief - Are you on Rocky Ground?

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

I came across an old legend about three cowboys crossing the desert on horseback by night. Suddenly, as they reached a rocky spot, a voice came from heaven and commanded them: "Friends, pick up some pebbles, put them in your pockets and do not look at them till morning." The men looked at each other in astonishment and began to do as they were told. The voice went on to promise that if they obeyed, they would be both glad and sad. The perplexed men put a few pebbles each in their pockets and went on their way. As the very first sign of dawn arrived, the cowboys pulled out their pebbles. To their amazement, the ordinary pebbles they had picked up the night before, had all been transformed into diamonds, rubies, and other precious gems. At that moment, they realized the significance of the promise that they would be both glad and sad. They were happy to see their beautiful treasure, but sorry -- oh so sorry -- that they had not collected more.

All of us were once ordinary looking pebbles -- shabby, discolored pebbles among many others of the like -- seemingly nothing special. But we were so mercifully picked out of the dust and gently placed for safekeeping into the pocket of the faithful saints who loved us or prayed for us or shared the Gospel with us and took us along on their journey. And God continues to refine us that we would become precious gems when morning comes. Thank God for His great mercy! **(Insert your name here)** It is yet dark -- and the pebbles are many. We still have a little more time to pocket as many as we can. But morning is drawing near! We don't want to regret that we didn't get more! Love, share, pray in faith! There's so much work to be done!!!

Your family in the Lord with much agape love, "Names withheld for their privacy". Baltimore, Maryland

This was shared by Dan & Elmira Love.....

Shared by Linda Thompson - Posted to Facebook

From the book: Calm My anxious Heart, the 23rd Psalm. I've been praying every day. Thought some of you might like it too.

The Lord is my peace. I shall not live in anxiety. He puts me under His wing of comfort and calms my spirit within me. He takes all my anxieties on Himself and helps me to focus in Him. Yes, though I walk through a time of grave uncertainties and fierce anxieties. I will not fret for You are my peace. Your Word and Your presence calm me now. You hold my uncertainties in the palm of Your hand. You soothe my anxious mind. You smooth my wrinkled brow. Surely serenity and trust in You shall fill me all the days of my life. And I shall keep my mind stayed on You forever.

This prayer was posted by Pastor Coates who visits my mother every Sunday in the nursing home. We are not allowed to visit her now. Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for all the wonderful Blessings You give us each and every day. LORD thank You for Your Grace and Mercy and Forgiveness You give to us through Your Son Jesus. LORD we are facing a very bad disease known to us as COVID-19, I know You know all about it. LORD I'm asking you help us to contain and concur this virus and that you give healing to those who have contracted this virus and give protection to those who don't have it. LORD please bring our spirits together even though we can't come together physically. LORD thank You for hearing this and all our prayers. We know we are not worthy but we also know how Loving You are. We know only through You, we can overcome this pandemic. We pray this prayer in the Mighty and Glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

PASTOR'S CORNER

My Dear Clanton Friends,

The crisis that is affecting us all has many worried that things will soon be out of control. While we know that this has indeed happened some places around the world, we are praying that God will step in and do what only He can do. Sometimes it is alright to admit that man can only do so much. At the same time, we should all do all we can. Jesus was tempted to throw himself off the temple because the angels would catch him. He responded to this temptation with the words, "It is written, 'Don't put God to the test.'"

Matthew 4:7 (my own paraphrase)

So we are according to CDC guidelines, suspending church services at Clanton until further notice. We plan to stream from Montgomery without an audience for the time being: MontgomeryfirstSDA.org. There are many others such as Andrews University's Pioneer Memorial Church, that have excellent streaming services. The conference is compiling a list of churches within the conference that have regular streaming. This is not a time to panic but to pull together and help one another. Part of that responsibility comes down to protecting those who would be at risk by remaining open. We know beyond the shadow of a doubt that transmission of the Coronavirus can happen without the infected person experiencing symptoms, so it would be irresponsible to continue act as if this risk were something that we could all see.

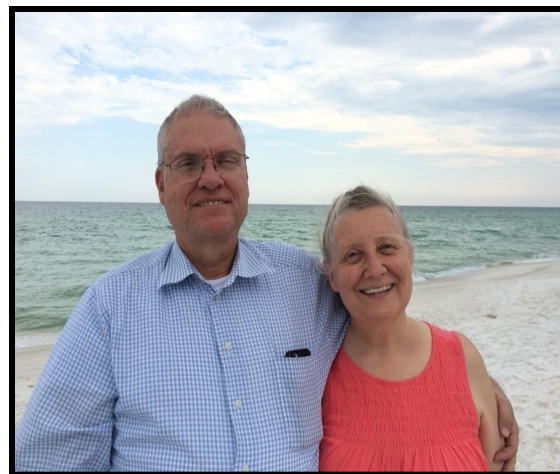
I know that some may misunderstand and want to second guess this decision but we must do the best we can with the situation as it is. I believe that it is a test that we all face and that the church has faced before. In the second and third centuries two epidemics hit the Roman empire and each time killed about 30 percent of the population. The pagans all fled, but Christians ministered to their neighbors. Christians as a whole responded well because they believed that Jesus had spoken directly to these issues by asking them to love their neighbor as themselves, care for the sick and the lame, act as the Good Samaritan acted. So while we don't want to be foolish. (Don't rush in with a kiss when you see the guys in hazmat suits taking your neighbor to the hospital.) At the same time trust God and help people as best as you can.

Share Jesus and His hope wherever you can, Pastor Dan Thompson

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A Call for Women to be Involved in Ministry – Be a Light to Others (Presented by: Kay Cheser, Women’s Ministry Leader)

“For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1, 2, NKJV). Here are 21 practical suggestions for building a stronger spiritual life.

1. Be a river, not a swamp: The Bible says: “Rivers of living water will flow from the heart of those who believe in me” (John 7:38, margin, NLT). Remember, it is the mountain stream that carries fresh, life-giving water because it flows out, but the swamp is stagnant and life-devouring, because it collects and retains water that comes its way. Let blessings flow through us .

2. Identify blessings: Too often we go through life oblivious to the good that comes flowing into our lives. Try this for one week: At the end each day identify a blessing that came to you: 1st day: from a family member. 2nd day: from a neighbor. 3rd day: from a friend. 4th day: from a work colleague. 5th day: from a stranger. 6th day: from a child. 7th day :from an “enemy.”

3. Be like Moses—speak words of blessing: May the Lord bless you and protect you; May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.; May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace; Numbers 6:24-26, NLT Be creative & speak words that will uplift, encourage, hearten, & bless other people. As you build them up, your own spirit will get stronger.

4. Nurture a shared prayer life: Increase the amount of time you spend in prayer by sharing in prayer with others. Some ways to do this include letting friends know you are always available for prayer; attending regularly held prayer groups; participating in a prayer chain.

5. Take a step of faith: Rather than trying to get everything in place before you start something important, why not follow God’s leading and allow the plan to evolve? Trust God to provide what may be needed for success.

6. Restore someone’s faith: Today, take time to heal a wounded heart, to extend kindness to someone who really needs a friend, or to help gather up pieces of a broken dream. Today, do whatever you can to radiate God’s unconditional love.

7. Be a grateful person: Start every day with a morning prayer of gratitude to God for the gift of a new day, even if the day ahead appears ominous. Conclude every day with an evening prayer of gratitude to God for the gift of the preceding hours, even the day was very tough.

8. Share the journey: Hook up with one other person who is seeking to grow spiritually. Agree to meet once a week for a period of time to study and reflect on spiritual matters. Notice the spiritual growth taking place in your life.

9. Serve: Look for ways to serve the community, especially tasks that promise no reward, such as picking up litter on the streets. Read and reflect on the action of Jesus in John 13:1-5.

10. Cultivate a little solitude: In quietness we turn our minds away from the problems of life and fix our thoughts on the mind of God. Spend some time away from the crowd and the noise of life. Set aside a few minutes to be alone—just you and God.

11. Fast and pray: Prayer linked with fasting was often done by people in the Bible. Ezra 8:23 reports: “So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer” (NLT). When asked to pray urgently for someone in difficulty, consider combining your praying with some fasting.

12. Turn worries over to God: This is a clear teaching of Scripture: “Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you” (Psalm 55:22, NLT). Do this each time a worry crops up.

13. Spread love wherever you go: Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting.”

14. Keep your priorities straight: Know what is important and what is not. Make spending time with others a priority..

15. Strive for excellence: The Bible tells us: “Whatever you do, do well” (Ecclesiastes 9:10, NLT). Be the best that you can be at whatever station in life God has placed you.

16. Use it or lose it: God has generously endowed each of us with unique gifts and talents. Make use of them or you will run the risk of losing them.

17. Meditate on Scripture: The Bible is loaded with verses of comfort, encouragement, and wisdom. Make it a habit to read and study your Bible in a regular, disciplined way. Highlight verses that speak to you. Meditate on those words. Memorize some of the passages so you can recall them from memory at a future time.

18. Be reliable: Do what you say you will do—whether it’s convenient or not. Follow through on all of your commitments, large and small. By your actions, show others you are a person who can be trusted and counted upon.

19. Ask God to make you a blessing today: A great way to grow in wonder and amazement is by asking God to turn your life into a blessing. Do this each morning before resuming your daily activities. Then pay close attention to every person you encounter during the day, as God will honor your prayer, sometimes in surprising ways.

20. Spend time in nature: This was something done by the psalm writers, and they gleaned spiritual lessons from their time in nature. “The heavens tell of the glory of God... (Psalm 19:1, NLT). “When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have set in place—what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us?” (Psalm 8:3,4, NLT).

21. Exercise your power of choice: No matter what happens to you, you always have the freedom to choose. You can select joy over despair. You can select love over hate. You can select forgiveness over revenge.

Happy, Birthday. We pray that you are blessed with many more. If I don't have your special day, let me know. Brenda

A P R	15	Diane Fulmer	Anniversaries Kay & Terry Cheser 4/7/1985
	22	Charlotte Powers	
	30	Kathy Lide	

I didn't get a reminiscing picture so decided this was very appropriate to include in this edition. The question that we need to ask is? Is it well with my soul? So we can also say "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL". Love you all and remember to trust in God, He is our refuge and strength. Until next month. May God be with you and your family, Brenda

Tentative SPEAKER SCHEDULE: Sorry services have been postponed UNTIL..... See Pastor's Corner for updated info: Mar 28 Ted Winslow; Apr.4 Gary Linkous; 11 Pastor; 18 Ricky Woodruff; 25 Pastor; May 2 Steven Radford; 9 Pastor; 16 Shawn Smith; 23 Ted Winslow; 30 Pastor; Jun 6 Ted Winslow; 13 Pastor; 20 Ricky Woodruff; 27 Pastor/ Communion

For those members of the Clanton SDA church we have a phone line for Sabbath School @ 9:30 and Prayer meetings on Weds @ 6:30...

Fast Forward to two weeks from today. You wake up with a deep cough, a fever, and full body aches. You go to the doctor and you're diagnosed with coronavirus. For the last two weeks, you were unaware that you were infected. For the last two weeks, you've continued on with life as normal - work, spin class, restaurants, gym to exercise — refusing to even entertain the idea of "social distancing" because "I don't feel sick." You spend a few days on the couch feel pretty crummy and then you're well again. Because you're young and healthy and invincible. Your 82 year old grandfather who you visited last week, the one who wears oxygen and has a long history of COPD and heart failure? Not so lucky. #Social Distancing: It's not about you.

A Family in 'Lockdown' Noah's Ark



40 days, 40 nights in the Ark, Noah's family was confined in a boat. There were no windows, no balconies, no terraces, no internet, no phone, no TV, no Youtube, Facebook or Netflix. They only heard the rain. They spend their time praying, loving each other and caring for the animals. God the father took care of them as Noah was a man of faith and obeyed His word. Remember even though there is out there an ocean of viruses and life seems like a stormy ride, Our God is watching over us! Do not be Afraid! Be faithful to Him and wait patiently. The rain will stop one day. A rainbow will shine and all be well again.

"It is well with my soul" by Horatio Spafford

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, O the joy of this glorious thought, My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll: The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first two were the death of his four-year-old son and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the SS Ville du Havre. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died. Bliss called his tune Ville du Havre, from the name of the stricken vessel.

Blueberry Dream Desert

Topping

- 2 Cups Quick rolled oats
- ½ Cup unbleached flour
- 1 Cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ¾ Cup melted Earth Balance Margarine
- Your choice of Nuts optional

Filling

- 3 Cups Blueberries
- 2 Tablespoon flour
- ½ Cup Turbonado sugar
- 2 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/8 Teaspoon salt
- ¾ Cups water or juice from blueberries



Mix oats, flour, brown sugar and melted margarine well using fork. Line bottom Of 8" square pan with oatmeal mixture. Reserve about ¾ cup for the topping. Combine remaining ingredients in saucepan and simmer for about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and pour into oatmeal crust. Sprinkle with remaining crumbs And bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes

Recipe presented for you by Mirtes Schmeling

We have a website!! **UPDATED - Church Website:** <https://www.clantonsda.com/> 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 the previous couple years are there also. If you get an online version and want a hard copy or if you don't want to get the Newsletter, Let me know. Don't forget without you sharing with others, we wouldn't have a newsletter. Also turn in articles, poems and pictures that you want to share. Thanks to those that do, Until next month! Brenda

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