



2023

## THE IMPACT OF OVERALLS:

*A Story of Support and Generosity*

On a beautiful spring Sabbath morning, Pen

Braister-Sturgis, the Arden Street Ministry leader, entered the foyer of the Arden Adventist Church and was surprised to see two men from her Sabbath School class wearing overalls. Upon asking them about it, she found out that Paul M. recently had surgery and had to wear loose-fitting clothes, so he purchased brand new overalls to attend church. When Richard H. heard about Paul's situation, he wanted to show his support by wearing similar clothes so Paul wouldn't stand out in the congregation.

As the Sabbath School began, another friend, Mike H, entered the room and asked about the overalls. Once Paul explained the medical reason for wearing them, and Richard's show of solidarity Mike sat down, but seemed to have something more to say about the subject. "I think it's a cool idea." Pen said to Mike. It's not every day that you see conservative men wear overalls to church." Mike then challenged Pen to persuade Pastor Eric to wear overalls for the entire church service, include the sermon, and promised to donate \$100 to the Arden Street Ministry.

Richard H. added to the challenge, offering to donate \$200 to the ministry if Pen could get Pastor Eric to wear overalls for the entire church service. Three hundred dollars would buy a lot of food for the homeless, so Pen approached Pastor to Eric and explained the situation. To her surprise, Pastor Eric agreed to wear overalls if more money was raised and spoke about the overalls challenge in the church announcements, encouraging the men in the church to participate and raise funds for the Arden Street Ministry. Over the next few weeks, Pastor Eric continued to bring up the overalls challenge in his announcements, reminding the congregation of the increasing food prices and the challenges faced by the ministry. On Fa-



ther's Day, the overalls Sabbath, Pen was shocked to see the number of church members who participated, including Pastor Eric himself. During the announcements, Pastor Eric revealed that the challenge had raised more than \$7,400 for the Arden Street Ministry. Pen was thankful for a God who used a surgery and a pair of overalls to raise funds for a homeless ministry and for a church family that was supportive of those in need. She found herself wishing that the overalls challenge could become a yearly event at the Arden Adventist Church. — Pen Braister-Sturgis -

**Addendum by Brenda Davis:** My husband liked and could relate to this Facebook post from an old school chum of mine from back in Avon Park, Florida when I was 16ish. It's nice keeping in touch with our friends that we have had in the past and knowing a little about their likes and dislikes. I wouldn't say Roy's choice for wearing overalls was a medical reason, more of a safety reason. He was carrying shingles up on the roof one day. Can you imagine trying to hold on to the shingles and your britches falling and being on a ladder? Therefore to this day, he wears overalls, LOL. At least we do save the newer pairs to wear to church.

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April is a time to commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus, Easter also celebrates the defeat of death and the hope of salvation. Christian tradition holds that the sins of humanity were paid for by the death of Jesus and that his Resurrection represents the anticipation believers can have in their own resurrection at the Second Coming of Jesus, which will mean eternal life to all who believe in Him. I pray that we will all be ready and waiting for his Second Coming so we can be together as a family including those in the Family of God. Have a good month and look forward to you sharing something with us in the next edition. Thanks to those that have regularly!



“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health , even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 1:2

Here I find myself just with a short time to do this piece before this edition goes to press, so to speak. There are many of you who know of the upcoming event at our church, but I assume many of you do not know that toward the end of this month, April, we have planned to host a health fair at two different locations on successive dates.

The first Health Fair will take place at our church location, 401 North 18<sup>th</sup> St, Clanton, AL on April 23, 2023 from 2 to 5 PM. The second location will be at Police Station on 100

Thompson Ave. Clanton, AL on April 30, 2023 from 2 to 5PM.

Even though it is my first time ever participating in a health fair, not to mention organizing it, I am very encouraged by the level of interest and support I received from my church family. Truth being said we, as church family, are very blessed in so many areas and in turn is our privilege to share these blessings with those around us. Not only we have a good number of health professionals, but we do have a great health message to share. God has revealed to His people living in these last days of world history, a wealth of knowledge in regard to health, starting with His revealed design for the human body and God given physicians in His word. We did talk about some of them in the previous newsletters. Then in a special and more detailed way through the Spirit of Prophecy. We are indeed blessed and we are called to share these blessings with others. This is the main reason to have this health fair.

Probably more than any other time in the world history the number of life style diseases, chronic diseases have increased to an alarming rate. There is pain and suffering at every turn. So many people need to hear the good news of the freedom that comes from following God’s way. What we plan to do may not be fancy or sophisticated. Regardless we plan to share what we have, a piece of ourselves with the community here in the beautiful Clanton area. The plan will include a number of stations. To start will have the registration where we offer the opportunity to our welcomed community members, to get to know us a little and get a ticket for the experience. We plan to have stations where health professionals will be able to check the blood pressure, blood sugar, and to offer nurse and basic health advice. We also like to include a station to address the spiritual need for the community members in need of prayer. Stations will be available with free health literature. We will also be blessed with the presence of a literature evangelist offering his services. We will also like to involve some other local vendors that will provide more services to the community – it is still a work in progress in this area.

Pretty soon the flyers and marketing material will be available. However in the mean time will like to solicit that you will keep us in your prayers as we get ready, for the event, and especially for our precious guests that will visit our stations.

Personally I am very excited, if you did not realize it yet. I do know God has great plans not only with our lives, but especially with the lives of the people we are about to encounter at these events. I know God can use us if we are willing. In addition we ourselves will be blessed by this experience, of this I am very sure. So all that is needed is a willful heart and a joyful spirit of a person that will allow themselves to be used by God.

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, want to volunteer, or to do whatever God had placed on your heart, you can get in touch with Pastor, Ralph, Brenda, or myself.

I am looking forward to seeing you there. God bless you until then. Gabriela

## AGAINST ALL ODDS!

2 Samuel 22:3 NKJV– The God of my strength is whom I will trust.

After looking over my sightless husband's chart, the doctor entered the room. He looked at Him closely, introduced himself, then with a puzzled look he said " You don't look like a person Who's ready for hospice." That shocked me. He proceeded to ask him a series of questions. Then he said he would like to take a few CT Scans of his brain to see if there was something He could do.

You see, my husband was rushed by ambulance to Surgery ICU. After looking at his X-rays the neurosurgeon on duty came into his room and said there was no way he could operate, because of his age and other medical issues. He showed no empathy. I left the room crying, wondering what are we going to do. I said to my son, "He can't live this way!" My son comforting me said, "It'll be okey, we just have to trust God." My husband stayed in SICU 3 days, then was transferred to the Neuro floor. I was anxious, tired and confused. All along God had a plan.

Then came the this Angel into our midst. He said "I just can't leave your husband like this, when I believe I can help him. After he looked at the CT scans, he showed them to me on his cellphone, explain what he saw and what he could do. I asked if he would explain it to our children. He talked to our boys. They understood and agreed to the surgery. As the surgeon started preparation for the surgery, he kept telling me "you got to have faith". Who is this man? Where did he come from? The surgeon and I shared several scriptures and talked about the love of God. He was constantly encouraging my faith. The surgery went well. The neurosurgeon was pleased with his recovery. Before coming home, he spent 2 weeks in rehab. We spent a total of 25 days in the hospital. When we left the hospital , we had an assortment of medical equipment which was only used for several days.

With a thankful heart, I'm looking at my husband of 53 years smiling, basking in his remarkable recovery knowing that against all odds God has been our rock, our healer and doctor. God knows what we need, when we need it, even before we ask or think it. Elaine J Johnson, [Infantrm1@hotmail.com](mailto:Infantrm1@hotmail.com) Elaine enjoys giving testimonies about the goodness of God. She has been blessed to be married for 53 years to her best friend. She enjoys reading, writing and has been published in several of these Women's devotionals. She is retired after working 35 years with children.

SDA Mission 2023 - Quarter 2—Inter-European Division—Presented by Kay Cheser - Sabbath School Superintendent

This quarter we feature the Inter-European Division, which oversees the SDA Church's work in 20 countries & territories: Andorra, Austria, Belgium Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and Vatican City. This quarter's 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering will go toward 5 mission projects in four countries.

### The Opportunities are:



- *Elementary School in Setubal, Portugal*
- *Hope Life Center, Lyon, France*
- *Youth camp and training center, Gland Switzerland*
- *Elementary school, Moisei, Romania*
- *After-school center, Galati, Romania*

Also, we are planning to have a 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath celebration. We'll take our 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering during Sabbath School, but after the Worship hour, we plan to have fellowship meal featuring recipes from Romania from our expert, Gabriella. Robert & Gabriella will be our guest representatives from Romania, and might possibly wear traditional garments. After the meal we will meet back upstairs for our children to have a part in the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath program and a very special presentation presented by one of our members. You won't want to miss this! Please pray that this 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath will help inspire us not only to give to 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offerings, but to inspire us to being committed to mission here, as well.



# PASTOR'S CORNER

## Permission to Rest

*God had finished the work . . . so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Genesis 2:2*

We sat atop some beach boulders, my friend Soozie and I, watching the foam send up sea spray in arched curls. Looking at the incoming waves crashing one after another against the rocks, Soozie announced, “I love the ocean. It keeps moving so I don’t have to!”



Isn't it interesting how some of us feel we need “permission” to pause from our work to rest? Well, that’s just what our good God offers us! For six days, God spun the earth into existence, creating light, land, vegetation, animals, and humans. Then on the seventh day, He rested (Genesis 1:31–2:2). In the Ten Commandments, God listed His rules for healthy living to honor Him (Exodus 20:3–17), including the command to remember the Sabbath as a day of rest (vv. 8–11). In the New Testament, we see Jesus healing all the sick of the town (Mark 1:29–34) and then early the next morning retreating to a solitary place to pray (v. 35). Purposefully, our God both worked and rested.

The rhythm of God’s provision in work and His invitation to rest reverberates around us. Spring’s planting yields growth in summer, harvest in autumn, and rest in winter. Morning, noon, afternoon, evening, night. God orders our lives for both work and rest, offering us permission to do both.

By: **Elisa Morgan**

### Reflect & Pray

**How would you assess the balance in your life between work and rest? When and how might you pause each day to reflect on God’s example of rhythm and rest?** *Dear God, thank You that You made me to follow after Your heart, to both work and rest for Your glory and my good.*

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“A rattlesnake bit one of my sheep in the face about a week ago. Deadliest snake that lives around here. The sheep’s face swelled up and hurt her terribly. But the old rattlesnake didn't know the kind of blood that flows through the sheep. Anti-venom is most often made from sheep's blood. The sheep swelled for about 2 days but the blood of the lamb destroyed the venom of the serpent. I was worried but the sheep didn't care. She kept on eating, kept on drinking and kept on climbing because she knew she was alright.

Often the serpents of this life will reach out and bite us. They inject their poison into us but they cannot overcome the Blood of the Lamb of God that washes away the sin of the world and the sting of death. Don't worry about the serpent or his bite, just make sure that the Lamb's Blood is flowing through your veins.” Author Unknown

Information shared by Brenda - Pastor Robson approved of the Permission to Rest article taken from Our Daily Bread readings. I also had room so added the second one to share with you because I thought we all needed that admonition.

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A	15	Diane Fulmer	Birthdays
P	22	Charlotte Powers	
R	30	Kathy Lide	
		<b>Anniversary:</b>	
		7th - Terry & Kay Cheser 1985	

## Communion - April 8, 2023

**Health Fair: April 23 & 30** - see info on back

**Campmeeting** at Camp Alamisco this April 1st weekend. For the very first time we will be able to enjoy Campmeeting telecasted in our church this Sabbath. Will you join us for this special occasion. Looking forward to your presence.

## Tentative Speakers Schedule:

**April:** 1st - Shawn Smith, 8th - Pastor Robson including Communion, 15th - Shawn Smith, 22nd Pastor Robson, 29th Shawn Smith.

I was studying my lesson today and when I read the E. G. White notes that accompanies the day's study I was struck by how it answers the question so clearly of what our message to the world is. It must be given with its full force. I love it! How thankful I am for Truth, God's Truth! I am so grateful for the writings of E. G. White that guide us in understanding when we need it so very much! The source is Testimonies for the Church Volume 6, p. 61. All of us must be fortifying our minds daily with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy so we know this Truth completely!

Here's the quote: "Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth. Our message is a life-and-death message, and we must let it appear as it is, the great power of God. We are to present it in all its telling force. Then the Lord will make it effectual. It is our privilege to expect large things, even the demonstration of the Spirit of God. This is the power that will convict and convert the soul. 6T 61.2-6T 61.3

Shared with us by Laurie Ernest



Sabbath March 4th was a great day for the Smith (possum) family. We celebrated our 16th wedding anniversary in Destin Florida with a Picnic lunch upon the beautiful sands of Miramar Beach. Afterwards we sat there and watched the most amazing sunset as the waves came crashing upon the shore from the gulf. Even though I am not a beach person, I was truly amazed by the lessons learned on that Sabbath Day. I would like to share with you a few of them as I reminisce.

\* **Written in Sand-** "16 years" that was written in sand, didn't last very long, the wave washed it away. Same with marriage, enjoy it while it lasts. Never know when myself or Ms possum will be taken from this world.

\* **0 ft-** Yes, I was totally at ground zero at sea level, I found out that beauty is at the low places as well as at the summit of mountains. Same with marriage, there will be beauty in the low moments on your path you chose to be together on. You may go so low that the only direction is up. Stay the course with each other. Beauty is in the history of how you navigated those places on your path.

\* **Only a moment-** Yes, the sunset was heavenly, though only lasting a moment. Same with ourselves, our youthfulness may be eliminated by our aging body, but our hearts stay young forever. Our heart says "I can" and each morning our body claims "no you can't" So who are you going to listen to? Guys, if we were smart we better listen to our wife. So the laugh is over. I better stop before this becomes a sermon instead of a Reminiscing page.

Shawn

Ps: If I come up missing, blame Ms Possum. She has no idea that this is in the newsletter, (I can't be perfect all the time) 😊😊😊😊

## Zucchini-Carrot Casserole:

2 lbs. squash (zucchini) - Cook in salted water 5 min., drain well.

1/2 cup chopped onion, 1 can of celery soup or cashews gravy, 1 cup soy vegenaise or sour cream (Tofutti), 1 cup shredded carrots.

Combine above ingredients and add to zucchini: 2 tbs melted margarine, 1 8oz pkg. stuffing mix (or 3 cups wheat bread crumbs plus 1 tsp. sage and 1/2 tsp. basil).

Put 1/2 stuffing mix in the bottom of the casserole. Add all the zucchini mixture, cover with the rest of the stuffing mix. Bake for 30 min at 350 degrees. (If you like yellow squash better, it will work very well, too. Enjoy! Bom Apetite!

Mirtes Schmeling



**HEALTH FAIR**  
Clanton SDA Church

**Free!**

Blood Pressure Check  
Blood Sugar Check

Nurse Health Advice  
and more...

April 23, 2-5pm  
401 18th Street N  
Clanton, Alabama

April 30, 2-5pm  
100 Thompson Ave  
Clanton, Alabama



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 also added a link at the bottom of every page for Adventistgiving. Thanks to those that do contribute, Until next month! ... Brenda

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