



2018

It's Spring, I hope you enjoy these thoughts presented and feel a blessing from reading this. I just had to share with everyone.

My Garden

As I look out into my garden I see you, Lord, all around me. In the tall, strong, sturdy stem of the Sunflower, I see your strength, Lord, your unwavering dedication to the will of your Father. In the bright, sunny yellow of the Sunflower, I see your ability to cheer us and give us hope even in the worst of circumstance. In the seed which lies in the heart of the flower I see the seed of your Word which gives us sustenance and is our portion.



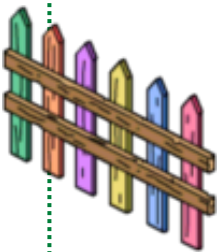
In the honeysuckle vine wrapping around the trellis, I am reminded that you are the vine and we are the branches. Help us to bloom sweetly and bear fruit for you, O Lord. In the roses, I see your beauty, Lord, and your love for us. In the soft petals, we see your gentleness. The thorns remind us of the pain and suffering that you bore for us. The deep red of the flower reminds us of the blood that you so willingly shed for our redemption. The palm branches remind me of your triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a humble King, riding upon a donkey. Our praise to you, our mighty King, may we always be humble as you were. The many beautiful flowers in a variety of hues and intensity remind me of how we are all different, but beautiful in our own way. Help me to love others, even when that unique beauty is not evident to me.

The birds flying freely in and out of the garden remind me of the freedom we find in Jesus and how one day we will fly into your waiting arms for all eternity. The trumpet shaped lilies remind me of that great and glorious day when we will hear the final trump of the Lord sound. The bubbling fountain reminds me of the water of life that you have for us, Lord, that we may never thirst again. As the water bubbles up and falls back into the basin I think of the joy that bubbles up within me, because of your love in my life, Emmanuel (God with us) (God with me). The beautiful Ruby Throated Hummingbird flits tirelessly from flower to flower drinking in the sweet nectar that gives it life. This reminds me of the sweet nectar of your love and your Word, giving us the energy and nourishment we need to work for you, Lord. As I plant seeds in the rich, brown earth, I know that the world around us is like a large garden where we are to plant the seeds of the gospel. And, when we do this, Lord, you will take care of the rest. Some seeds will fall on rocky soil, among thistles, on dry ground, but some will fall on good soil. These will grow, flourish and bloom. Help us to trust fully in you and your Spirit to do what is needed in each situation. Help us to use the special gifts you have given us for your glory. Make us Master Gardeners in the garden of life (Gardeners for the Master).



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The fence and hedges around my garden remind me of your protection over me and my family and that you are my hiding place. The orb of the spider web, sparkling with the morning dew reminds me that even in the beautiful garden, Satan lurks to try to entrap me with the sticky strands of his web if I stray from your ways. Even though the silken strands of his web are strong, they are not too strong for you to break, my Father. Thank you, Lord! As I look into my garden, I pray Lord, that I will always see you and the works of your hands. I am so grateful, Lord, for this beautiful reminder of you in my life. You are my life!! Amen. Written by: Lois Storti - Posted in Good News.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor and Elizabeth together as posted on Face book. March 9 was Emma's birthday, she has grown up and is a beautiful 3 year old. Next month we should be presenting baby sister Zoey Alessandra . She should be arriving any time now.



WALKING ON WATER

Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 14:27

During an especially cold winter, I ventured out to Lake Michigan, the fifth largest lake in the world, to see it frozen over. Bundled up on the beach where I usually enjoy soaking up the sun, the view was breathtaking. The water was actually frozen in waves creating an icy masterpiece. Because the water was frozen solid next to the shore, I had the opportunity to "walk on water." Even with the knowledge that the ice was thick enough to support me, I took the first few steps tentatively. I was fearful the ice wouldn't continue to hold me. As I cautiously explored this unfamiliar terrain, I couldn't help but think of Jesus calling Peter out of the boat onto the Sea of Galilee.

[Dear Lord, thank You for the assurance that You are always with us.](#)

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, their response was also fear. But Jesus responded, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matthew 14:26–27). Peter was able to overcome his fear and step out onto the water because he knew Jesus was present. When his courageous steps faltered because of the wind and waves, Peter cried out to Jesus. Jesus was still there, near enough to simply reach out His hand to rescue him.

[Dear Lord, thank You for the assurance that You are always with us.](#)

When we call out to God, He hears.

INSIGHT

The fact that Jesus Christ walked on water carries with it a powerful message about His deity. In John's gospel Christ refers to Himself as the great "I am" (John 6:35, 48; 8:12, 58; 9:5; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). Biblical theologians see these "I am" statements as clear references to the divine name revealed to Moses at the burning bush. When Moses asked God by what name He should be called, He answered: "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you' " (Exodus 3:14).

When we feel like we are in the storm of an impossible situation, we can take courage that Christ—the Creator of the world—is present with us and in control.

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Yarn Wrapped Carrot

Materials: orange acrylic wool, cardboard, green or natural wood clothespins (if you will be using natural wood ones, you will need to color those too), scissors, white school glue (optional)

1.- Draw a carrot shape on the cardboard and cut it out. If young kids will be working on this project we recommend the adult does all the cutting.



2.- While you cut the carrot shapes, kids can color the clothespins (be mindful that some paints can “glue” the clothespins together). We recommend using pre-colored clothespins or coloring them with markers or even ink pads.



3.- To make this project a bit easier for younger kids, cut into the carrot shape a few times, so that the kids can push the yarn inside – this will make the wrapping process more young kid friendly.



4.- Wrap the yarn around the carrot shape a few times. If you want, you can add a bit of white school glue onto the cardboard (but it can get a bit messy – which too is fun).

5.- Now it's time to wrap the orange yarn all around and around.

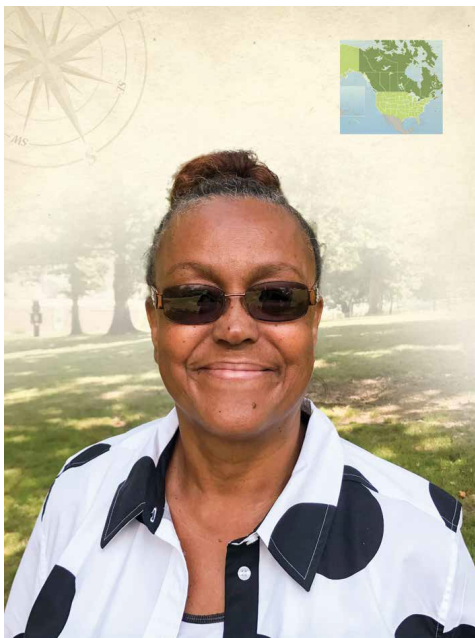


Keep on wrapping until you are happy with how your yarn carrot craft is looking. Tie a knot.

Hope all of you younger children had fun making these. It does look like fun. Thank Elizabeth Rodriguez for including us again this month.

Sabbath School Missions 2nd Quarter, 2018

Submitted by: Kay Cheser (From Leader page Mission Quarterly)



This quarter the North American Division, which oversees the SDA Church's work in the USA, Canada, the French possessions of St. Pierre and Miquelon, the British overseas territory of Bermuda, the US territories of Guam, Wake Island, and Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean, and three nearby states in free associations with the US – Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, will be the focus of the 13 Sabbath offerings and the featured mission stories. This region is home to 691 million people, including 1.2 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for nearly 300 people.

This quarter's 13th Sabbath projects are in the US state of Arizona, in the Canadian province of Alberta, and on the Ebeye Island in the Marshall Islands, and they share one thing: Adventist education.

In Arizona, the funds will help construct a new gym and cafeteria – the New Life Center – at Holbrook SDA Indian School. The school is 72 years old, and the current gym is falling apart, with an uneven floor and insulation sticking out of the ceiling. One of the students there shared that they were worried that the dilapidated building cast his new faith in a poor light among the many Native American families who attend community events there.

In Alberta, the Mamawi Atosketan Native School will receive funds to expand its educational program, particularly among high school students.

On Ebeye Island, the Ebeye SDA School will carry out urgent repairs on its 3-story building. Walls are crumbling after being built with cement mixed with saltwater during serious drought in 1987. The governments of the Marshall Islands and Japan have contributed generously toward the repairs, and the 13th Sabbath Offering will help finish the work.

Special Features (Additional Ideas for sharing Mission Stories for Superintendents and Leaders):

Every week the Mission Facebook page (link: facebook.com/missionquarterlies) will post additional photos to go with each mission story that can be used in a PowerPoint format or on a mobile device to share as the mission story is being told. Or these photos could be printed and placed on the church bulletin board.

The stories that you will hear this quarter are just a sample of the latest mission stories from the North American Division. More stories can be found at bit.ly/nad-archive.

Opportunities:

The 13th Sabbath Offering this quarter will assist:

Holbrook SDA Indian School, Arizona, USA\

Mamawi Atosketan Native School, Alberta, Canada

Ebeye SDA School, Ebeye Island, Marshall Islands

Reminiscing Corner

April Birthdays

4 - Hannah Boggus
15 - Diane Fulmer
22 - Charlotte Powers
30 - Kathy Lide

Anniversaries

7 - Terry & Kay Cheser

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. If I don't have your special day, let me know. We want to celebrate with you. Brenda

Tentative Speaker Schedule: Mar: 31st Shane Hostetler

Apr: 7th - Gary Linkous, 14th - Pastor, 21st - Ted Winslow,
28th - Pastor Rodriguez

Church Organ Fund: We are now in the process of starting to get funds for a newer organ. The organ is old and we can't get rid of the growls, please help with this endeavor..

APRIL 30, 2018 - **Mobile Pantry** at the church. **Please let everyone know so they can help and participate.**

Evangelism Meetings: We would like to aim for October this year. The Pastor would like to be our speaker this time. Sabbath, **April 14, at 1:30 PM** we would like to have an **Evangelism Planning Meeting**. We will have an agenda but in the meantime, please be thinking about how to help. This is the time that we would like Suggestions: to help improve these meetings coming up, how to increase attendance with visitors and church members, about the days of the week for the services, getting a Bible worker out much earlier and etc., the Pastor will be promoting the "small group concept" to us.

The **Hispanics** are planning an **evangelism meeting before then** and they need our help. The conference is giving them some money based on their budget but they need **\$1,000 more from us at the Clanton SDA Church**, remember they are part of our membership. We only have \$1800 in that fund so please help give toward this amount needed and to replenish this amount before October.

Safety Issues: We need a first Aid kit in a conspicuous place so when someone falls down and needs a band aide, if it could be on the wall or clearly marked, we need one upstairs & downstairs. **As a Safety Committee we discussed problems regarding safety for our children.** With the basement door being accessible for anyone to walk in: **Parents and caretakers PLEASE accompany children under thirteen when going to the bathrooms.** All the individuals that work with children will have to take a Child safety video online training called **Verified Volunteers**, this is required by the Conference. Also all the church board members. Please see Brenda if you don't already have the information sent to you. The Conference is requiring us to have a Safety drill, **so next week the 31st we will have a FIRE DRILL.** We will have the evacuation chart as a bulletin insert. One for upstairs and downstairs will be posted on the bulletin board and posted both upstairs & downstairs. Next week we will be organized, and will let you know how to systematically evacuate the church in case of a "fire in a specific location". Of course if the real fire later is somewhere else and we are in another part of the church we would need to be aware of what to do also.



Last months reminiscing: Tom & Jeanne Bates.

Some of them knew Jeanne but wondered who the man was, LOL. The second picture: Bill Wiese, Desmond Doss (who died March 23, 2006 in Piedmont, AL) and Brenda Wiese Palmer. OK, think back, this picture is BEFORE we even knew the couple. I know they were in several places besides Clanton that I lived over the years. Until next month, Brenda

GIVING TO OTHERS: By: Jim Burns

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:16-18

A little boy was told by his doctor that he could actually save his sister’s life by giving her some blood. The six-year-old girl was near death, a victim of disease from which the boy had made a marvelous recovery two years earlier. Her only chance for restoration was a blood transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the illness. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

“Johnny, would you like to give your blood for Mary?” the doctor asked. The boy hesitated, his lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said, “Sure, Doc. I’ll give my blood for my sister.”

Soon the two children were wheeled into the operating room—Mary pale and thin; Johnny, robust and the picture of health. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned. As his blood siphoned into Mary’s veins, one could almost see a new life come into her tired body. The ordeal was almost over when Johnny’s brave little voice broke the silence, “Say, Doc, when do I die?”

It was only then that the doctor realized what the moment of hesitation, the trembling of the lip, had meant earlier. Little Johnny actually thought that in giving his blood to his sister he was giving up his life! And in that brief moment, he had made his great decision!

- ◆ Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.
www.steppingupward.org www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>
- ◆ 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. Remember if you don’t want to get the Newsletter, Let me know.
Thanks, Brenda

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