



I know you probably have heard this before but thought we would honor **TEACHERS** this month. Hopefully School will be able to start soon, everyone deserves a chance to learn.

Teddy Stoddard (author unknown)

There is a story many years ago of an elementary teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on her very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slump-ed in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners ... he is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present which was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed

how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life. Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer-the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

PASTOR'S CORNER

Greetings Clanton Church Family,

At the end of Luke 14 Jesus turns to the crowds following Him and says that they may be following for the wrong reasons. He tells them that they need to love Him most of all. The New Living Translation gets it right in our way of thinking today. "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." In other words if we need to make a choice it should always be to honor God rather than realize your own self-actualization or your own way. Culture has so far gone from this idea today that it almost sounds foreign to us. But it has not always been this way.

Notice how Oswald Chambers puts it in *My Utmost for His Highest*— **"I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. —Matthew 5:39**

This verse reveals the humiliation of being a Christian. In the natural realm, if a person does not hit back, it is because he is a coward. But in the spiritual realm, it is the very evidence of the Son of God in him if he does not hit back. When you are insulted, you must not only not resent it, but you must make it an opportunity to exhibit the Son of God in your life. And you cannot imitate the nature of Jesus— it is either in you or it is not. A personal insult becomes an opportunity for a saint to reveal the incredible sweetness of the Lord Jesus.

The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is not, "Do your duty," but is, in effect, "Do what is not your duty." It is not your duty to go the second mile, or to turn the other cheek, but Jesus said that if we are His disciples, we will always do these things. We will not say, "Oh well, I just can't do any more, and I've been so misrepresented and misunderstood." Every time I insist on having my own rights, I hurt the Son of God, while in fact I can prevent Jesus from being hurt if I will take the blow myself. That is the real meaning of filling **"up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ..." (Colossians 1:24)**. A disciple realizes that it is his Lord's honor that is at stake in his life, not his own honor.

Never look for righteousness in the other person, but never cease to be righteous yourself. We are always looking for justice, yet the essence of the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is— Never look for justice, but never cease to give it." *My Utmost for His Highest*, July 14. Always be better because of the life of the Son of God in you.

Pastor Dan Thompson

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A Simple Plan for Intercessory Prayer

Submitted by: Kay Cheser, Women's Ministry Leader

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

Suggestions for a Prayer Plan

DAILY MEALS WITH GOD Begin the day with devotions at breakfast, preparing your heart before God with the first six steps. Then use your meal times for the intercessory steps. At lunch focus on people, and at supper focus on leaders. If you have a family, you could pray around the table, assigning a person to lead in prayer for each of three steps.

HOURLY INTERCESSION Begin the day with devotions and walking through the first six steps of personal preparation. Spend at least 3 minutes on each for 18 minutes of personal preparation. At work, set your watch alarm to go off at the top of each hour. Spend the first 3-5 minutes of each hour in an intercessory step.

MORNING PREPARATION	HOURLY INTERCESSION
Be Still	9 am - Souls
Be Worshipful	10 am - Saints
Be Thankful	11 am - Sick
Confession	1 pm - Ministers
Clothe in Armor	2 pm - Missionaries
Cast Cares	3 pm - Magistrates

WEEKDAY INTERCESSION Every day spend use the first six steps of personal preparation to get your heart prepared for intercession. Then daily use one step of intercession as the focus of your intercession that day.

DAILY PREPARATION	WEEKDAY INTERCESSION
Be Still	Monday - Souls
Be Worshipful	Tuesday - Saints
Be Thankful	Wednesday - Sick
Confession	Thursday - Ministers
Clothe in Armor	Friday - Missionaries
Cast Cares	Saturday - Magistrates

A Guide to Intercessory Prayer

Focus on God	Personal Intimacy 1. Be Still 2. Be Worshipful 3. Be Thankful
Focus on You	Private Inspection 1. Confession 2. Clothe in Armor 3. Cast Your Care
Focus on Others	Intercession for Friends 1. Discouraged 2. Facing challenges 3. Sick
Focus on World	Intercession for Leaders 1. Ministers 2. Missionaries 3. Magistrates

BIBLE PUZZLE - There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving; she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam; especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this puzzle. The Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless You and Happy Hunting.

(I did the font big enough so we can all try to do this YOUNG and OLD. Let me know if you find all 30, (And no, 1st, 2nd, 3rd of anything doesn't count, LOL, you have to find all 30 books.) I will give you the answers next month. My son and I were just talking today about electronic devices, we study our Sabbath School lesson on them, read the Bible on them so don't actually read the actual Bible as much as we used to. I used to be able to repeat the books of the Bible forwards and backwards, now with using electronics it is harder to find actual places in the Bible, I'm sure some of you can relate. Have a good month.

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

A U G	1	Daniel Chrishon (8/1/2012)
	2	Orin Martin – 2004 – Linda Mims Grandson
	30	Bob Ernest, Peter Johnson, Steven Radford
	31	Myrtis Kohler
		Anniversaries: None noted

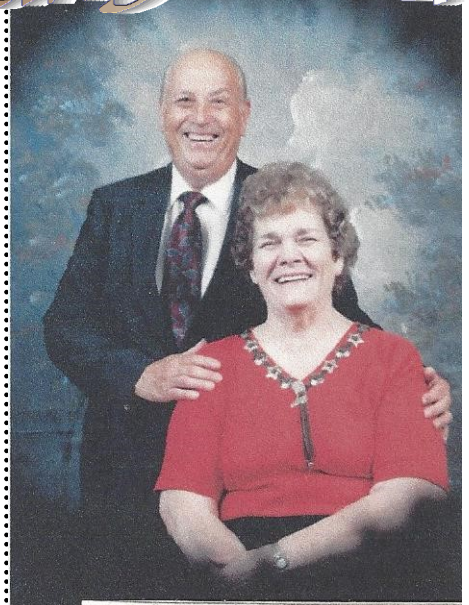
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: Aug 1 Pastor; 8th Brian Halley; 15th Pastor; 22nd Ted Winslow; 29th Pastor; Sept 5 Bob Ernest; 12th Pastor, 19th Shawn Smith; 26th Pastor. **At this time: temperature is taken, 6 ft distancing for seating and masks are required in the Sanctuary.**

A lady went to the Pastor and said ... "I won't be attending Church anymore." He said, "May I ask why??" She said, "I see people on their cell phones during the service, some are gossiping, some just ain't living right, they are all just hypocrites." The Pastor got silent and he said, "Ok... But can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?" She said, "What's that?" He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around inside the Church 2 times and don't let any water fall out of the glass." She said, "Yes I can do that." She came back and said "It's done." He asked her 3 questions:

1. Did you see anybody on their phone?
2. Did you see anybody gossiping?
3. Was anybody living wrong?

She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't fall." He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said 'Follow me.' He did not say follow Christians. Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused YOU are on God."

Since this is supposed to be the month to return to education, not sure now because of the virus, thought we would reminisce on one of the best teachers in so many of our lives. I know she taught here in Clanton for years and then in Palatka Florida when we lived there. For those of you that remember her, Flora Dell Bray and Joe her husband.



SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

ALMOND CHEESE

3/4 c. almonds, 1 c. water, 2 T. sesame seeds or 1 ts. tahini, 1/2 t. salt, 2 t. onion powder, 1/8 t. garlic powder, 1/8 t. dill weed, optional, 1/2 c. pimentos, 2 T. lemon juice. (I always add 2 cloves of garlic).

Blend all ingredients until smooth. May add 2 t. arrowroot powder, then cook until thickened and use for sandwiches.



SIMPLE MAYONNAISE

12-oz box of Mori Nu silken tofu (or 1/2 brick of regular tofu plus 3/4 c water) 1 c. raw cashew nuts (rinsed well) 1/4 c lemon juice, 1 1/2 T honey, 2 t. salt, 1 t. onion powder. Place all ingredients in blender and blend till smooth. Chill to thicken. Preserve in glass jar in fridge and mix well before using. This recipe can stay up to 1 week in fridge. (I use the Vita-Mix Blender) Bon Appetite!

Whoever would be interested to check out this website: www.leaheyfoods.com. Leahey Gardens. All vegan and gluten free foods. We have ordered some and I think it is very good.

Recipes and info supplied 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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