

August 2015

John 3:16

A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers. He walked up to a policeman and said, "Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there for tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay."

The policemen looked down at the little boy and said, "you go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say John 3:16 and they will let you in." So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, "John 3:16". The lady said, "Come on in, Son." She took him in and she set him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for awhile and thought to himself: John 3:16... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm.

Later she came back and asked him 'Are you hungry?' He said, "well, just a little, I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food." The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself: John 3:16... Boy, I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a hungry boy full.

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for awhile. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16. I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath in my whole life. The only bath I had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out.

The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself: John 3:16... I don't understand but it sure makes a tired boy rested.

The next morning the lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face. "Do you understand John 3:16?" she asked gently. He replied "No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it."

She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought: John 3:16... don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe. You know, I have to confess I don't understand it either, how God was willing to send His son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they watched Jesus suffer and died. I don't understand the intense love for ME that kept Jesus on the cross till the end. I don't understand it, but it sure makes life worth living.

John 3:16: 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.

VBS—Clanton SDA Church - July 13-17 -

We had a great week with Vacation Bible School the week of July 13. We had 28 children attend, 18 of which were visitors! Our theme was Plug Into Power! We learned about TAG time - Time Alone With God -and how it can give us power in our daily walk with Jesus.



Teen camp Alamisco was a lot of fun. the staff was mostly really good, the teens where amazing. the rules were reasonable I had a TON of fun there. the food was pretty good, the activities where amazing. my favorite thing to do was paintball i got in a cabin with a few friends and made a few new friends too. it was the first time i have ever been away from any real relatives for a week and i gotta say i kinda enjoyed it. once I scraped my leg and the nurses were really nice. the boys director Mr. Steve was fun. but after a week i was hoarse and tired (because we were supposed to go to sleep at like nine but everyone in my cabin wanted to stay up late). the capture the flag was so much fun the last night there (Sabbath night). I really had a good time and i hope i get to go again! - Jimmy Powers (two pictures, the rest VBS pictures)

When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted. — [Hosea 13:6](#)

In his book *The Hidden Brain*, science writer Shankar Vedantam describes the day he went for a leisurely swim. The water was calm and clear, and he felt strong and proud for covering a long distance so easily. He decided to swim out of the bay and into open water. But when he tried to return he couldn't make any progress. He had been deceived by the current. The ease of swimming had not been due to his strength but to the movement of the water.

In our relationship with God something similar can happen. "Going with the flow" can lead us to believe we're stronger than we are. When life is easy, our minds tell us that it's due to our own strength. We become proud and self-confident. But when trouble hits, we realize how little strength we have and how helpless we are.

This happened with the Israelites. God would bless them with military success, peace, and prosperity. But thinking they had achieved it on their own, they would then become proud and self-sufficient (Deut. 8:11-12). Assuming that they no longer needed God, they would go their own way until an enemy attacked and they would realize how powerless they were without God's help.

When life is going well we too need to beware of self-deception. Pride will take us where we do not want to go. Only humility will keep us where we ought to be — grateful to God and dependent on His strength.



Lord, we don't dare trust in our own strength to do our tasks today.

You are the Giver of our talents and opportunities.

Help us use them not for our own advancement, but to help others.

True humility credits God for every success.

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

530 Old Farm Ln. S. Apt. P Prattville, AL 36066 email: wintermich@icloud.com

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

Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church
401 North 18th Street
Clanton, AL 35045

In Memory of Lionel Clay Grice

Sunrise: 11/7/1942 - Sunset: 7/8/2015

Pastor of Clanton SDA Church 1/9/2001 to 3/1/2005 & again 1/1/2006 to 4/3/2008 and on numerous other occasions.



Lionel Clay Grice - Known by Clay to all - was born November 7, 1942 in Panama City, Fl. He died July 8, 2015 in Montgomery, AL, at the age of 72 . He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Galloway Grice, two sons and daughter in-in-laws, Stephen Clay and Tami Grice of Panama City, FL and Jonathan Mark & Sonya Grice of Alabaster, AL; two grand-daughters, Kirsten Grice and Kelsey Grice; two grandson, Dillon Grice and Jacob Grice; and a sister, Betty Strength of Lynn Haven, Fl. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Rutan & Ellen Grice, a brother, Billy and two sisters Francis Snell and Charlotte Yawn.

The Ministry of Clay— Clay served as a minister for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 40 years. Most of that time was spent working as a literature evangelist leader teaching others how to spread the gospel through Christian books and literature. He began his work in Montgomery in 1961 as a student and later a full time literature evangelist; he was then asked to serve as a district director of Publishing for the Gulf States Conference. Other places he served in leadership positions included Missouri, Colorado, Iowa, Pennsylvania and then back to Gulf States where he was the Publisher Director for 15 years before accepting an invitation to be a pastor in the Clanton, Selma and Sylacauga, Alabama district. He retired in 2005 but continued serving as a literature evangelist and a pastor when needed. One of his favorite Bible passages was Romans 10:14-15

Pastor Grice was first and foremost a Literature Evangelist. At his funeral there were many who told what a great leader he was in the literature work. I thought that something should be said about his abilities as a pastor should be at least mentioned. When he pastored the Clanton and Sylacauga Adventist churches it may have been a first for him. I want to say that as the head elder for the Clanton church, I appreciated him as a pastor very much. He was good at visitation (that was what he had always done in the literature work--to knock on doors was second nature to him.) He was always on time for services and his sermons were always easy to understand. Sometimes he had highly interesting stories from his former work that would never lose their appeal. He loved Jesus and that love was easily transmitted to the members of his congregation. He knew how to talk on a level that we all could understand. There was never any question about what he was talking about. The same was true in board meetings and private conversations. Thank you Elder Grice! You were always there for us, the members of the Clanton Seventh-day Adventist church. - A special Thank you from Bill Wiese

I have the greatest respect and appreciation for Pastor Clay Grice. I had just moved back to my hometown of Jemison and was teaching my 1st year at Jemison Elementary (around 2001), when my dad had a heart attack. He was transported to Brookwood Hospital in Birmingham and was in intensive care there for several days. Pastor Grice and Jim Higgins made the long trip up to see us and pray with us. Their kindness and concern was such a comfort to my mother and me.

Several years later my dad passed away. Pastor Grice was at our side throughout the entire viewing and he conducted the funeral for us the next day. He was always there when we needed him. Truly he was a tremendous blessing to others during his time here on earth. Thank you from Anne Chandler and Sarah Langham her mother.

August Birthdays

- 1- Robert Higgins
- 4 - Walter Kohler
- 17 - Felicia Higgins
- 30 - Bob Ernest,
Peter Johnson,
Steven Radford
- 31 - Myrtis Kohler

Anniversary

19 –Michel & Elizabeth Rodriguez

Last months picture: How many knew that was Freeman & Eleanor Ward? Someone come up with a picture to share.... Until next month. Thanks, Brenda



“She thinks she is smarter than a fifth grader, LOL.” Emma Isabel Rodriguez—They just grow up too fast don’t they... I didn’t have room on the Pastor’s page but couldn’t pass this one up to share. I know I am enjoying watching her on FB...

Calendar of Events

Weekly: Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 7pm

Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail

Monthly: Tennis Shoe Sabbath: 1st Sabbath each month, after lunch. Come help us make Kingdom Friends for God.

Book Group: 2nd Sabbath After Lunch in the Teen Room.

Sabbath School Visitation: 3rd Sabbath each month.

Nursing Home Visitation—4th Sabbaths

Speaker Schedule tentative so far: 8/1 Stan Hobbs - Educational Director for the GS Conference. A special offering will be taken up for the Kindergarten this week. We have been telling you to plan for this day, it will be here this weekend. Do plan on giving to this worthy project, if you need to make monthly payments that will be acceptable. 8/8 & 8/15 Pastor Rodriguez, 8/22 Noel Brooks, 8/29 Steven Radford

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

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

We have a website!! <http://clantonsda.org/>, Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under News to find this publication on line each month. We have all the issues for this year 2015. If you wish to have any back issues, just let me know. I am still receiving choices of which way you want to get your Newsletters. Those that still want it US Mail this is fine.... Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don’t forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter...

Needing You More and More

Jesus, the more I learn of your truth, The more blemishes I find in myself. As I draw near you loving you more, I find myself in need of your help. You are bread to my soul taking my hunger away and replacing it with desire for truth; Your living water makes me thirst for your presence, I would fade like dew in the sun were it not for you. Benita - Another of the poems from Sue Mims.

This is beautiful... At birth we boarded the train and meet our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life. I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, **I thank you** for being one of the passengers on my train.

Given to us to enjoy by Donna Ernest.



Avocado Crème Pie

(Makes 8-10 servings)

Although this recipe may sound bizarre at first, it makes a lot more sense when you remember that avocados are actually fruits! They work just as well as, if not better than, many other fruits nestled into a sweet crust – you wouldn't think twice about a banana crème pie, right? Unlike any other mix of flavors I can think of, this is one that you'll just need to taste and experience for yourself. Since avocados are one of the first things on the market when the calendar announces that spring has arrived, this vividly colored pastry is an excellent dessert to kick off the season.

Graham Cracker Crust:

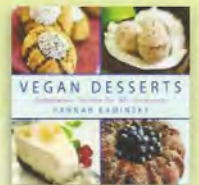
- 1 ½ Cups Graham Cracker Crumbs
- 5 Tablespoons Margarine or Coconut Oil, Melted
- 1 Tablespoon Lemon Juice
- ½ Teaspoon Lemon Zest
- ½ Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- 1 8-Ounce Container Vegan "Cream Cheese"
- 1/3 Cup Brown Rice Syrup
- 2 Tablespoons Coconut Oil, Melted
- ¼ Teaspoon Salt
- ¾ Cup Granulated Sugar
- ¼ Cup Plain Non-Dairy Milk
- 2 Tablespoons Arrowroot

Avocado Filling:

2 Medium Avocados, Peeled and Pitted



- Preheat your oven to 350°F and lightly grease and flour a 9-inch pie tin.
- Combine the graham cracker crumbs and melted margarine thoroughly so that there are no dry patches, and pour all of it into your prepared pan. Bake for about 15 minutes, until set and lightly browned around the edges.
- Set aside and let cool.
- Pull out your blender or food processor, and first puree the avocado with the lemon juice.
- Once completely smooth, add in the zest, vanilla, "cream cheese," rice syrup, coconut oil, and salt, and pulse to combine.
- Place the sugar, nondairy milk, and arrowroot in a medium saucepan over the stove on moderate heat.
- Whisk thoroughly to break up any lumps of starch.
- Cook to a rolling boil, at which point the sugar should be completely dissolved and the liquid significantly thickened.
- Stream this syrupy mixture into your machine while it's running, and blend until the mixture is entirely homogeneous, pausing to scrape down the sides as needed.
- Pour the filling into your crust, and chill in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours before serving, or until firmed up enough to slice cleanly.



From book *Vegan Desserts* by Hannah Kaminsky, coming to amazingheath.com in June 2015 (\$14.95).

Return Address:

Brenda K Davis
187 County Rd 313
Stanton, AL 36790



To: «AddressBlock»