



## Sunshine for the Soul

Like the sun that comes to shine on our days, beaming its light through any clouds, so are the thoughts of people who are special to us. We may be at work or play, but with one thought—one memory—our hearts float away to those happy places, those golden moments we've shared together, and we are blessed by them all over again. Just thinking of that special person warms our hearts and puts wind in our sails. It's an easy, breezy way to brighten the day. May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace. 2 Peter 1:2 NLT

God answers prayers but not always the way you expect.

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication for her daughter. When returning to her car she found that she had locked her keys in the car. She was in a hurry to get home to her sick daughter, she didn't know what to do, so she called her home and told the baby sitter what had happened and that she did not know what to do.

The baby sitter told her that her daughter was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door". The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this."

So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "Great God. This is what you sent to help me?????" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful. The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help. She said "Yes, my daughter is very sick.....I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car, I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car." He said, "SURE". He walked over to the car, and in less than one minute the car was opened.

She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "THANK YOU SO MUCH..... You are a very nice man." The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud....."THANK YOU, GOD, FOR SENDING ME A PROFESSIONAL"

### Thank you God quotes:

Lord I want to thank you each hour of the day for giving me the strength I need to see me on my way. Tim 1:3 ... I thank God for you – the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

"Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive without forgetting. Thank you God for all the blessings and abundance in my life!"

"I thank God for my handicaps for, through them, I have found myself: my work, and my God." Helen Keller

Thank God for everything we have had. Life is a gift. Stay live this life to do the best. God will show his greatness and his power to his servants who always be patient and do not know despair. Do not give up!

TODAY, LET US THANK GOD TOGETHER! Thank you God for giving me another day, another chance to become a better individual, another chance to give and experience love. Thank you God for giving me health, for the food you provide, for the awareness you have awoken in me...Thank you for the energy that feeds my soul, the sun that warms our bodies and the air that fills our lungs... Because of you I believe in the good without the bad and the ugly, because of you I am learning to love and accept myself, because of you I believe in believing. My source, stay connected to me today and always, for I need you in order to fulfill my spiritual tasks...God, show me how to love myself, to be able to love others. Help me become the type of person that I would like to befriend, help me forgive myself and forgive others... God, make me a channel of your energy and help me understand. I thank you God for giving me another day, another unused opportunity to do it right. Keep us all close to you and listen to our prayers. Amen.

## THE FLAT TIRE—

My tire had a staple in it. Of all times for this to happen — a flat tire. But when is a good time for a flat tire? Not when you are wearing a suit and you have been traveling for nearly five hours and, adding to this bleak picture, nightfall is approaching.

Wait; did I mention that I was on a country road? Okay, now you have the picture. There was only one thing to do: call AAA. Yeah, right. The cell phone I bought for security and protection in moments like this isn't in range to call anyone. "No Service" it says. No kidding!

I sat for a few minutes moaning and complaining. It's a male thing. Then I began emptying my trunk so that I could get at the tire and tools needed to get the job done. I carry a large plastic container filled with what I call "just-in-case-stuff." When I am training or speaking, I love to have props with me. I hate leaving anything home so I bring everything ...just in case.

Cars buzz by me. A few beep sarcastically. I hear the horn saying "ha ha!" I say, "You'll get yours!" Darkness begins to settle in. It's becoming a bit difficult to see. The tire is on the passenger side, thank God, away from all the traffic, but making it difficult to benefit from the headlights of passing cars.

Suddenly a car pulls off the road behind me. In the blinding light I see a male figure approaching me. "Hey, do you need any help?" "Well, it certainly isn't easy doing this with a white dress shirt and suit on," I said. Then he steps into the light. I literally was frightened.

This young guy was dressed in black. Nearly everything imaginable was pierced and tattooed. His hair was cropped and poorly cut. He had leather bracelets with spikes on each wrist. "How about I give you a hand?" he said. "Well, I don't know . . . I think I can . . ." "Come on, it will only take me a few minutes." He took right over. While watching him I happened to look back at his car and noticed for the first time someone sitting in the passenger seat. That concerned me.

I suddenly felt outnumbered. Thoughts of car-jackings and robberies flashed through my mind. I really just wanted to get this over and survive it. Then, without warning, it began to pour. The night sky had hidden the approaching clouds. It hit like a waterfall and made it impossible to finish the tire change. "Look, my friend, just stop what you're doing. I appreciate all your help. You better get going. I'll finish after the rain stops," I said.

"Let me help you put your stuff back in the trunk. It will get ruined," he insisted. "Then get in my car. We'll wait with you," he insisted. "No, really. I'll take care of everything," I said.

"You can't get in your car with the jack up like that. It will fall. Come on. Get in," he said as he grabbed my arm and pulled me toward the car.

Crack! Boom! Lightning and thunder roared like a freight train. I literally jumped in his car. "Oh, God, protect me!" I thought to myself.

Wet and tired I settled into the back seat.

Suddenly a small frail voice came from the front seat of the car. "Are you all right?" she said as she turned around to face me. "Yes, I am," I replied with much relief seeing the old woman there. It must be his Mom.

"My name is Beatrice and this is my neighbor Jeff," she said. "He insisted on stopping when he saw you struggling with the tire." "I am grateful for his help," I said. "Me, too!" she said with a laugh. "Jeff takes me to visit my husband. We had to place him in a nursing home and it's about 30 minutes away from where we live. So, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we have a date." She laughed and shook her head.

"We're the remake of the Odd Couple," Jeff said as he joined in laughing. "Jeff, that's incredible what you do for her. I would never have guessed, well, ah, you know I . . ." I stumbled with the words.

"I know. People who look like me don't do nice things," he said. Silence. I really felt uncomfortable. I never believed that I judged people by the way they dressed. I was angry with myself for being so stupid.

"Jeff is a great kid. I'm not the only one he helps. He's a volunteer at our church. He also works with the kids in the learning center at the low income housing unit in our town," said Beatrice.

"I'm a tutor" Jeff said quietly as he stared at my car. Silence again played a part now in a moment of reflection rather than the uncomfortable feeling that I had insulted someone. He was right. What he wore on the outside was a reflection of the world as he saw it. What he wore on the inside was the spirit of giving, caring and loving the world he wanted to see.

The rain stopped and Jeff and I changed the tire. I tried to offer him money and of course he refused it. As we shook hands I began to apologize for my stupidity.

He said, "I experience that same reaction often. I actually thought about changing the way I look. But then I saw this as an opportunity to make a point. So I'll leave you with the same question I ask everyone who takes time to know me. If Jesus returned tomorrow and walked among us again, would you recognize Him by what He wore or by what He did?"

1 Samuel 16:7 "But the LORD said to Samuel, **'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'**"



# PASTOR'S CORNER



Beautiful Emma, looks like she will try anything once. I saw the video where she was trying the salsa, don't know but the first time wasn't pleasant to her for sure.

Since this month is the anniversary for Pastor Michel and Elizabeth, thought it would be nice to reminisce with a picture from their wedding. I hope they don't mind but Facebook is for all of their friends, correct. Hope those of you that don't have Facebook enjoy.



Let no one who waits on You be ashamed. Psalm 25:3 nkjv

The military command, "Mark Time, March" means to march in place without moving forward. It is an active pause in forward motion while remaining mentally prepared and expectantly waiting the next command.

In everyday language, the term *marking time* has come to mean "motion without progress, not getting anywhere, not doing anything important while you wait." It conveys a feeling of idle, meaningless waiting. Waiting on God is active trust in Him. In contrast, the word *wait* in the Bible often means "to look eagerly for, to hope, and to expect." The psalmist, when facing great difficulties, wrote: "O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed" (Ps. 25:2-3 nkjv).

We often have no choice about the things we must wait for—a medical diagnosis, a job interview result, the return of a loved one—but we can decide *how* we wait. Rather than giving in to fear or apathy, we can continue to "march in place," actively seeking God's strength and direction each day. "Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day" (vv. 4-5 nkjv).

*Lord, give me grace to embrace the pauses in my life, and to be prepared to follow Your next command.*

**Waiting on God is active trust in Him.**

*INSIGHT:*

The book of Psalms is actually a collection of 150 songs/poems written for and used in Hebrew worship. These songs were composed over the span of approximately 1,000 years, stretching from the time of Moses to Israel's post-exilic period. Psalm 25 is designated as an individual lament and is attributed to David.

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**Church Social—July 16 @ 6:30 PM.** So did you find yourself in one of the pictures? If not maybe you need to make an effort to join in the fun that it looks like they are having. I know I was missing, will try and make it next time. Thanks to Kathy Lide and Donna Ernest and I am sure there were a lot working with them to make this happen. Thanks to Olan for sending me pictures this morning.

I never did get pictures of the VBS—wanted to report on them but thanks to Dollene Smith, Charlotte Powers and everyone that helped on July 18-22. I understand they had 24 children attending, and that it was a great success.....



## August Birthdays

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

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month.

## Anniversaries

19 - Michel & Elizabeth Rodriguez

## Calendar of Events

**Weekly:** Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM -  
Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail

**Monthly:** Each Sabbath after Fellowship meal:

Sabbath School Visitation: 1st Sabbath

Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

**Tentative Speaker Schedule:** July: 30 - Robert Ernest  
August: 6 - Pastor, 13 - Elder Ford, Union Leader, 20 - Ted Winslow, 27 - Carl Brown

For those of you that are getting the Newsletter each month via US Mail and also have access to the internet/email, let me know if I can stop sending you the printed copy.



Last months picture: Of course you knew that was Tom & Jeanne Bates didn't you? Now, I really went way back, but there are several of us that have been here long enough to know this couple. Until next month. Don't forget to give me your picture of you or someone to reminisce about, Your favorite good story with a good point. Your favorite poem. Remember this is OUR Newsletter. Brenda

**NEEDED/DONATIONS:** This week, the gutters are going to be replaced, the area down in front of the fellowship room will be dug up and a new drainage system including a sump pump put in. We have been having leaking problems for years in the basement and we basically had the choice of either building a new church (which would cost a lot) or getting the leak fixed, putting in new carpet, which the church board hopes & prays with your help can be finished paying for soon with everyone's help. Thanks so much for your help in advance so we can be back debt free ASAP.

## SOME VERY GOOD & SOME VERY BAD THINGS

The most destructive habit.....Worry  
The greatest Joy.....Giving  
The greatest loss....Loss of self-respect  
The most satisfying work.....Helping others  
The ugliest personality trait... ..Selfishness  
The most endangered species..... Dedicated leaders  
Our greatest natural resource...Our youth  
The greatest "shot in the arm"...Encouragement  
The greatest problem to overcome.....Fear  
The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind  
The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses  
The most powerful force in life.....Love

The most dangerous pariah.....A gossiper  
The world's most incredible computer...The brain  
The worst thing to be without..... Hope  
The deadliest weapon.....The tongue  
The two most power-filled words....."I Can"  
The greatest asset.....Faith  
The most worthless emotion.....Self-pity  
The most beautiful attire.....SMILE!  
The most prized possession.....Integrity  
The most powerful channel of  
Communication .....Prayer  
The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm  
The most important thing in life.....GOD





## Kay 3's Vegan Recipes

Sara's blueberry muffins she made from scratch and vegan, too. Taken from Big Mama's recipe:

### Sara Power's Blueberry Muffins

- 1 1/2 c. unbleached white flour
- 1 c. blueberries
- 2 tsp. aluminum-free baking powder
- 1/2 c. evaporated cane juice or raw sugar
- 1 mashed banana
- 1/2 c. soy milk
- 1/4 c. soy or regular margarine
- 1/3 c. orange juice
- 1 tsp. salt.

1. in a bowl, combine sifted flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt.
2. Add blueberries gently until coated.
3. Combine liquid ingredients and stir into dry ingredients. Mix well.
4. Pour batter into greased muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 20-25 minutes. YIELD: 12 muffins



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

[www.stepsingupward.org](http://www.stepsingupward.org) [www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://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 Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so all the 2015 ones are together and all the 2016 editions are together. Also a Face Book page has been set up for the Clanton Sda church, log on and find information posted there regularly. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter... let's share each month. Thanks to those that do regularly. Brenda

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