



2017

Red Marbles

Can you believe marbles could become priceless? What do you think it would take to makes them valuable? Would they have to be inlaid with gold? Do they have to be owned by royalty, or a major archaeological find? In this story, these marbles were bought at a store, and cost little to make, but to the man, all the money in the world could not replace the value of these red marbles.

He noticed this conversation between the store owner and a poor kid. But never expected this outcome. I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes, but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me. "Hello Barry, how are you today?" "H'lo, Mr. Miller, Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good." "They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?" "Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time." "Good. Anything I can help you with?" "No, Sir, Jus' admirin' them peas." "Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller. "No, Sir. Got nothin' to pay for 'em with." "Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?" "All I got's my prize marble here." "Is that right? Let me see it" said Miller. "Here 'tis. She's a dandy." "I can see that. Hmmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" the store owner asked. "Not zackley but almost." "Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble", Mr. Miller told the boy. "Sure will, Thanks Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile said, "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he send them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles. Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them.

Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts.... All very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes. Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles.... With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket. "Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size... they came to pay their debt." "We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho" With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

Thanks to Donna Ernest for sharing this with us. Hope you enjoy.



PASTOR'S CORNER



“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”. (Ephesians 5:27)

It's August 2017, can you believe it? Many of us thought that Jesus would be here by now, but we are still here. The question is, How much longer? The apostle Peter wrote: **“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).** The Lord is soon to come, Paul tells us in his letter to the Hebrews **“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 10:37,38)**

The Lord is coming to meet his bride, who is the church and we “individually” are his church. **“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”. (Ephesians 5).** Some people think that we should be cleaning the church and to be alert of people that could cause the church to have a spot or wrinkle, but dear reader you as an individual are the church. The Lord is not coming for certain individuals that attend a certain church that believes they are perfect and spotless, but when He comes to take you home, it would not matter which Seventh-day Adventist church you attended but what counts is if you are spotless and without wrinkle. The verse says: **“He might present it to himself ”** Jesus will do the work in you to present you spotless before his father. Our work is not to clean the church but to share the good news of his return. Jesus gave us some things to do as we wait, **“ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...” Matthew 28.** My invitation for you is to:

- 1- Read his word so we stay informed
- 2- Pray so we stay connected
- 3- Preach his word so we do His will

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart (Psalms 27:13). You are always in our prayer have a great month.

Michel Rodriguez

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

104 Homewood Ct. Millbrook, AL 36054 email: wintermich@icloud.com

Head Elder, Robert (Bob) Ernest— 205-280-1297 Email: RobertE699@aol.com

Assistant Head Elder—Linkous, Gary—256-377-2244

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

In Memory of Ellie Harrison



Ella M. Harrison, 79, of Verbena died Friday, July 14, 2017 at 939 County Road 583, Verbena.

She was born on Thursday, February 17, 1938 in Oklahoma City, OK, Daughter of the late George Washington Calloway and the late Gussie Goldie Kinder.

She was a Certified Nurse Practitioner. Martin Funeral Home directing.

Pictures above were of Ellie's Baptism on March 26, 2016.

Monday, April 17, 2017 - An email from Ellie: "There are 2 pastors of the Bradenton church, husband and wife. While listening to the wife talk, she mentioned our "bucket lists". Of course I have had mine and slowly progressing through this long list. Last on the list was to get moved up here to Alabama, then sell the little cargo trailer that I have hauled stuff up from Florida, and buy a small travel trailer and visit some of the National Parks that I had wanted to see years ago, as I drove back and forth across the US. My husband did not have any interest in national parks, only wanting to get to the town we would be staying in and "getting to the bar" So I had promised myself that one day I would go and visit those beautiful parks. But when I prioritize the list now, I would much rather work to get our message to everyone, so that Jesus can come soon.....and that is bucket list #1 now. I'm going to be joining Mrs. Weise and others who realize that we need to prioritize carefully, putting first things FIRST. May Jesus help me in my new course to be steady and true." Quote from a church member on July 14th. "She had the sweetest spirit. and we will miss her tremendously. I look forward to talking with her again, in heaven." We all will miss her for sure, continue praying for the family and their loss. It was such a shock, one week she was leading song service in Sabbath School, the next she was gone.

Awards given out for Family VBS



Cooking Demonstrations



Sis. Treva Radford and Kelaiah



Bro. Ben McGhee and Samuel



Sis. Anika Chrishon with Daniel and Anthony

Crafts



Determination and Most Outstanding Parent Award

Mrs. Jessie Jemison faithfully came out for Family VBS every night with her children and cheerfully participated in all parts of the program.



Rickya Parker receiving award for bringing the most guests to Family VBS



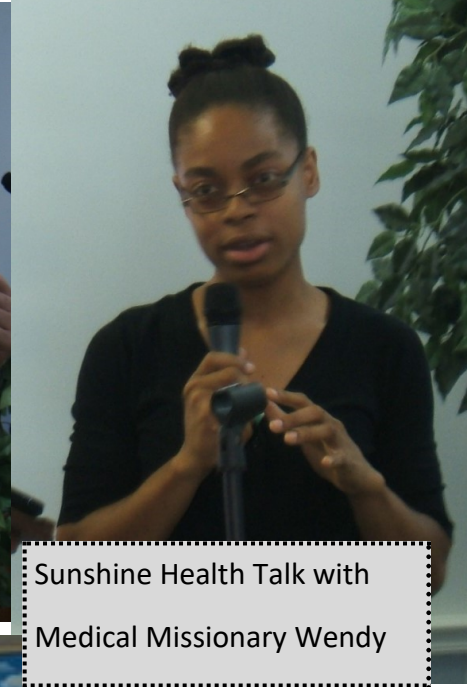
Guest Interviews



Mountain Climber Bob Hill (dressed in ropes and gear)



Forest Ranger Brian Smith (with snakes skins)



Sunshine Health Talk with Medical Missionary Wendy



VOLUNTEERS: Sis. Monica Threatt and her daughter Shaphanie



Mechanic Gary Linkous (with Samuel)



Group picture of children with Ada Ruth Huntley



Health Enthusiast
Ada Ruth Huntley (with sugar)



Body Shop/Exercise



Family VBS Group Picture

August Birthdays

- 1 - Robert Higgins, Daniel Chrishon (2012)
- 17 - Felicia Higgins
- 30 - Bob Ernest, Peter Johnson, Steven Radford
- 31 - Myrtis Kohler

Will be 93.....

Anniversaries

19- Michel & Elizabeth Rodriguez

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. If I don't have yours let me know. Brenda



No, I am not giving you any hints.... Guess who this beautiful lady is?? Will let you know next month who!

Calendar of Events

Weekly: Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

Monthly: Each Sabbath after Fellowship meal:

Sabbath School Visitation: 1st Sabbath

Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

Pray for the **Evangelism meetings** planned for this fall. Don't forget to support this project.

Tentative Speaker Schedule: August: 5 - David Sigamani; 12 - Pastor Rodriguez; 19 - Ted Winslow; 26 - Pastor Rodriguez

This edition had a lot about the wonderful Family VBS, hope you enjoyed all the articles and pictures. I already have things waiting to put in the September edition, until next month.

Our Family Vacation Bible School was held July 17-22. God is the Highest Power was the theme. During our time together, we studied our Bibles together and learned practical lessons from Bible stories that took place on mountains. Each evening we were joined by around 25 children and 30 adults. Families that attended the nightly programs enjoyed exciting Bible studies, nature lessons, great crafts that were used during weekend community outreach programs, delicious food, health talks and healthy food demonstrations, community guest interviews, and indoor/outdoor family games/exercises.

Sabbath morning Family VBS participants received participation awards, shared testimonies about their time at FVBS and sang scripture songs they learned during the week. Special awards were given to Rickya Parker for bringing the most guests and her mom, Jessie Jemison, for her determination and outstanding participation during FVBS. After lunch, the group headed to Cedar Ridge Veterans Facility to sing, meet the veterans and share the pen holders and American flag pens they made during Family VBS. In addition to handmade gifts, several veterans received a copy of Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge, the official authorized story of Desmond Doss.

Sunday afternoon, the FVBS group met at Goose Pond Park for a nature walk. We distributed the inspirational rocks made during FVBS for others to find, had a picnic together, played together (hula hoops, ball toss, etc.) and shared more copies of Desmond Doss' book.

After the outing at the park, the McGhee's headed to the church to clean up. They were pleasantly surprised when they finally made it to the church and found it was already cleaned. Instead of having to clean up, all they had to do was load up their things. They said, "Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus!" They would also like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone that helped with the Family Vacation Bible School in any way. It was truly a blessing!

Not only were families brought together, but during FVBS different churches were brought together, too. In addition to working with Ben and Anita McGhee of Wellness is Now & Simple Church, our church members had the opportunity to work side by side with volunteers from the Hoover, Brent, Hueytown and Birmingham International SDA Churches and Sis. Monica Threatt and her two children who attend a church in Thorsby.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Family Vacation Bible School with your prayers, donations, time, talent and energy. The Lord hath done GREAT things for us; whereof we are glad!

Let's keep praying for the families that attended Family Vacation Bible School. May all the participants and volunteers grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and be saved into His kingdom.

FOOD DEMONSTRATION SPOTLIGHT

We had a great time trying new foods at Family VBS. The week began with Sister Treva Radford and her daughter, Kelaiah (7), showing us how to make delicious dairy-free and egg-free cornbread. The cornbread was accompanied by chili, stew and vegetable soup made by the women of the church. Brother Ben McGhee and his grandson, Samuel (11), made pancakes. Sister Florine Linkous taught us how to make her renowned tofu sandwiches which are always a welcome treat at Sabbath fellowship meals. Health Enthusiast, Ada Ruth Huntley, showed us how to make a nutritious, refreshing green smoothie. We ended the week with Sister Anika Chrishon and her sons, Daniel (4) and Anthony (3) showing everyone how to make a simple nacho cheese sauce out of almonds.

For those of you who missed out, here is one of the recipes that was shared and enjoyed during our Family VBS. This cheese sauce is delicious over nachos, haystacks, homemade pizza or broccoli, or in quesadillas and casseroles.

CAMP CHEESE RECIPE

dairy-free & delicious!

Ingredients:

3 cups water

½ cup raw cashews or almonds

2 tsp salt

3 TBS cornstarch

3 TBS flour (optional)

2 TBS lemon juice

¾ cup nutritional yeast flakes

4 TBS canned pimentos or diced red bell pepper



Jr. Photographers - Samuel (11) and Kelaiah (7). Didn't want to leave out recognizing their talents. Since I had a nice space here will use it. Most of the pictures were taken by them.

Directions: Blend all ingredients together until smooth. Cook over medium high heat. Use a spoon or wire whisk and stir constantly until thickened. Serve immediately.

~adapted from Bountiful Health cookbook by Nancy Crosby

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!! <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 the previous couple years there also. Also a Face Book page has been set up for the Clanton Sda church, log on and find information posted there regularly. Thanks to all of those that have contributed this month. To those that haven't look for something that you would like to share and that you think others would enjoy, whether it be a poem, a saying, a story or a reminiscing picture. Until next month, Brenda

Return Address:

*Brenda K Davis
187 County Rd 313
Stanton, AL 36790*



To: «AddressBlock»