

Feb

2016

Happy Valentine's Day

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, Plans to give you hope and a future.... You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11,13

I've heard the saying, "The best gift parents can ever give to their children is to love each other."

I've had the pleasure of witnessing the truth of this statement for over 40 years. From as far back as I can remember my Mom and Dad were a team. A great partnership. They were more than just a partnership. It was as if they were one person.

Sure, they argued, but there was never any doubt in our minds that any disagreements would be worked through and resolved. Mom and Dad began their married life poor, but they worked hard and, over the years, built a very successful business. They each had their strengths and weaknesses, but the way they worked together, you never saw the weaknesses, just the strengths.

Dad was the outgoing, more public person with whom people met and fell in love with right away. Everyone knew Dad! Then, when they got to meet Mom, they felt the exact same way about her as well. Mom, although not at all shy, was more comfortable being the person behind the scenes. More detail oriented, she ran the books and, according to Dad, was the one who really made the business work.

The biggest lesson about love and marriage that my mom and dad taught us kids was how to talk "about" your spouse. Have you ever heard husbands and wives, when speaking to others, make unkind remarks about their spouses? It's one of those things people just seem to do. Sure, they're "only kidding," or maybe they are not. But words matter. And words teach, whether positively or negatively.

You would never hear such a thing from my mom and dad. Dad always speaks of Mom in the most complimentary, glowing terms. As does she of him.

This lesson made such an impression on me. I still remember when I was age 12 and we were getting carpet installed in our home. The crew boss was one of those stereotypical beer guzzling, hard-living guys, who would have probably belonged to Ralph Kramden's Raccoon Lodge from the old Honey-mooner's TV show. For lunch, my folks bought pizza

for the crew. Dad went to talk with the boss about the job. I was around the corner listening. The boss said, "This is an expensive job. Women will really spend your money, won't they?" Dad responded, "Well, I'll tell you, when they were right there with you before you had any money, it's a pleasure to do anything for them you possibly can."

This wasn't the answer the carpet installer expected to hear. He was looking for negative banter about wives which, to him, was natural. He tried again: "But, they'll really play off that and spend all they can, won't they?" Dad replied, as I knew he would, "Hey, when they're the reason you're successful, you want them to do the things they enjoy. There's no greater pleasure." Strike two.

The crew boss tried one more time, "And they'll take that as far as they can, huh?" Dad responded, "She's the best thing that ever happened to me. I'd do anything to make her happy." I was trying not to laugh. I knew he wanted Dad to give in just a little bit and say, "Yeah, I guess that's true." But it wouldn't happen... not in a million years!

Finally, the installer gave up and went back to work, probably shaking his head in bewilderment. Witnessing my dad in that moment taught me more about loving and respecting your wife than anything he could ever have told me about the subject.

Mom and Dad are now retired and enjoying their life together, just hanging out, reading, and visiting their children and grandchildren. They recently celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary.

They still hold hands, and they are more in love than ever. Throughout the years, whenever Mom would remind me that I should be looking to get married, I'd say, "Ma, I have plenty of time." She'd jokingly reply that I don't have "that" much time. My Dad would then look at me in that wisdom-filled, city streets bred way of his and say, "Hey, you take all the time you need. If you marry someone just half the woman your mother is, you'll have a great life."

I should only be so lucky. Submitted by: Thomas

BEFORE



Spanish Lincoln SDA Church Project

God in His wisdom and perfect timing, had been working in a small church community in Lincoln, CA. The church members had been praying. God was leading and the time for us to go yet on another mission trip was soon approaching. Our youth group was getting anxious about going on this mission trip. You see, we had been planning for months and our anticipation was building up with each day. Our youth group of 18 volunteers jumped in their cars Sunday morning and headed out to the Spanish Lincoln SDA Church which was a 50 minute drive.

AFTER



Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the head elder and the deacon of the Spanish Lincoln SDA Church. Quickly they opened the doors of the church and we began to organize the various projects inside and outside that needed to be completed. Little did we know, but God was sending 60 volunteers that day to help us complete the work that was much needed. Our team began demolition and removal of old broken windows. As the work continued, many volunteers came from other SDA Churches in the area to contribute and help. By the time lunch was served, we had 10 of the old windows removed, old siding removed, first coat of primer on the walls, prepared the floor for tile installation, sheetrock installation upstairs in the Sabbath school rooms and materials purchased for the next day of work.

The next 2 days we moved quickly to prepare interior and exterior walls for painting. We needed to prime and texture the ceilings and walls. Patch any holes in the walls, install tile flooring downstairs, remodel the bathrooms, change out old plumbing and install new water pipes. As the days were quickly passing, we still had a lot of work cut out for us. New carpeting was ordered for the sanctuary and the Sabbath school classrooms. We saw how the Lord blessed our efforts and increased our strength to get the work done.

The church head elder and some of the church members who came to help us, told us that they were blessed beyond measure to have gotten this much needed help. The church building was in much need of repairs. A once in a lifetime make-over in 4 days, just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving. The following Sabbath Church service, members of the Lincoln Spanish SDA Church were amazed at the miraculous transformation. God blessed our efforts in more ways than we could have ever imagined. We had enough funds to cover new paint for exterior and interior, 10 brand new windows, tile flooring for Sabbath school rooms, and new carpeting in the Sanctuary, new insulation, sheetrock, and paint upstairs for the youth room and children's area, and new carpeting for the stage.

Our initial budget for renovations was estimated to be about \$5,000. Yet the Lord sent more donors to help with an additional \$3,000 that was much needed to cover the expense of new carpeting in the sanctuary, and upstairs in the Sabbath school classrooms. Total project budget of about \$8,000. Earlier in the year, the Spanish Lincoln SDA Church had asked an organization to come and give them an estimate to remodel the church building. They were told that it would be about \$50,000 to fix up the church building. Yet, the church members continued in prayer with prayers of faithfulness. This made it possible for us to come and remodel their church for a fraction of the cost. We saw how God truly blessed and stretch our dollars to make this project a success and a blessing for the Spanish community in Lincoln.

As I look back on this project, I see how God was taking care of all the small details that I didn't see coming. I see how God moved on the hearts of the people to give generously and support our work. To God be the Glory for what He is doing in our lives today, and will faithfully continue to do in the future. Maranatha!

Here is a write up of my last trip that I went on before going to Thailand. Date: (November 22nd till November 25th, 2015),

Presented for us by: Ostap Dzyndra - Volunteer (For those of you that haven't gotten to meet him, he has been here working with and helping out Wyatt and Jenni Allen from Amazing Facts with the meetings. We have been having in the Clanton SDA Church)

Effective Immediately: please be aware that there are changes **YOU** need to make in **YOUR** life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. **Please, follow these 10 guidelines**



1. **QUIT WORRYING:** Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. **PUT IT ON THE LIST:** Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.



3. **TRUST ME:** Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it on My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. **LEAVE IT ALONE:** Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.



5. **TALK TO ME:** I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me – OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. **HAVE FAITH:** I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. **SHARE:** You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.



8. **BE PATIENT:** I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

9. **BE KIND:** Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

10. **LOVE YOURSELF:** As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only — to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love Me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes My heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget that!

With all my heart I love you,

GOD



Submitted by:

February Birthdays

1— Anne Chandler & Holly Boggus

5 - Terry Cheser

Anniversaries

7 - Kelaiah Radford Feb 9 - Todd & Melissa Abbott

10 - Tony Plier Feb 15 - Donald and Holly Boggus

25 - Cameron Higgins

26 - Jimmy Powers & Jim Higgins

Happy Birthday to each of you that has a birthday. May God be with you this new year and give you many blessings as you follow him each day. For those of you that are having anniversaries, you are blessed....

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

Health Seminars: 2nd & 3rd Sabbaths

Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

Today: Special Prayer Time: After the worship service in Pastors study.

Tentative Speaker Schedule:

January 30, 2016 - Wyatt Allen

Feb 6 - Pastor Rodriguez, Feb 13 - Pastor Martin Fancher, Feb 20 - Pastor Rodriguez, Feb 27 - Pastor Tui Pitman,

Mar 5 - James Mangum on Religious Liberty - make sure you turn in your pledge by then. Our goal is \$600 for the year so the Chilton County officials can get the magazine. March 12 - Pastor Rodriguez, March 19 - Conference President Elder Livermore, March 26 Pastor Rodriguez

April 2 - Bryan Danese.

The Four Blessed Looks: 1. Look back and Thank God. 2. Look forward and Trust God. 3. Look around and Serve God. 4. Look within and Find God!

I asked God, "How do I get the best out of life?" God said, "Face your past without regrets. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear!"

"Life is short, so forgive quickly, believe slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably. Never regret anything that makes you happy. And have a wonderful Journey!!!"



I know some of you will know immediately who this is, but for the rest, I will tell you next month.

Because you are my love,
I know the joy that comes from
feeling closer to someone
than I've ever felt before.

Because you are my love,
I know the passion of wanting
to share everything I have,
every time I am with you

and only you.

Because you are my friend,
I know that I can count on you
to hold my hand

through the rough times
and to be there
to share the good times, too.

Because you are my friend,

I'll always have someone
to make me smile;

just when I need it most,
to encourage me when I'm feeling

confused or doubtful.

And I know that I must be
one of the luckiest people
in the world

to have someone like you...

the perfect love,
the perfect friend.

Submitted by: Hailey

Shouldn't we be able to say this about Jesus our best friend if we are communicating with him every day, through prayer of course.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Everyone touched by a piece of music hears it differently. The composer hears it in the chamber of his imagination. The audience hears it with their senses and emotions. The members of the orchestra hear most clearly the sound of the instruments closest to them.

In a sense, we are the members of God's orchestra. Often we hear only the music closest to us. Because we don't hear a balanced work, we are like Job who cried as he suffered: "Now those young men mock me in song; I have become a byword among them" (Job 30:9).

Job recalled how princes and officials had respected him. His life was "awash in cream, and the rocks gushed

olive oil for me" (29:6 NLT). But now, he had become the target of mockers. "My harp plays sad music," he lamented (30:31 NLT). Yet there was much, much more to the symphony. Job simply couldn't hear the whole song. Maybe today you can hear only the sad notes of your own violin. Don't lose heart. Every detail in your life is part of God's composition. Or perhaps you are listening to a cheerful flute. Praise God for it and share your joy with someone else.

God's masterpiece of redemption is the symphony we are playing, and ultimately everything will work together for His good purposes. God is the composer of our lives. His song is perfect, and we can trust Him.

INSIGHT: Job's world had been turned upside down, having lost his wealth (1:14-17), his family (1:18-19), and his health (2:7). Even as he reached an impasse with his three friends while trying to unravel the real reasons for his suffering and pain (chs. 3-31), Job was trying to come to terms with the consequences of his physical and financial losses. Spiritually, he felt that God had abandoned him (29:1-5); emotionally, he was deprived of happiness and enjoyment (29:5-6); and socially, he had lost his standing, power, respect, and honor (30:1-9). Despite his many questions, Job proclaimed his trust in the sovereign God (42:1-6).

A special Thank You for those that have come out night after night supporting the Revelation's End Time Hope Bible Prophecy Seminar meetings that Wyatt Allen with Jenni Allen's help have presented. So many have been blessed by these presentations and only God will know the final results. Continue praying daily for each and everyone that has been touched so far and for the Holy Spirit to keep working with each and everyone of us so that we can be a family united together when Jesus comes.



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Come to a H.A.L.T. Psalm 51

How many people have lamented, If I had it to do over again, I'd do it differently? "It" refers to decisions, actions, and conversations we'd like to take back. As King David mourned the sinful choices that made him an adulterer and a murderer, he probably thought about the righteous alternatives. Like David, we tend to make wrong decisions when we are ruled by our appetites rather than godly discernment (2 Sam. 11:4)

Foolishness of some kind often results when people give in to stress placed on body and mind. These "earthly vessels" are more vulnerable than we think. That's why Christians shouldn't make snap judgments when feeling hungry, angry, lonely, or tired (H.A.L.T.) In those states, we are particularly at risk of making bad decisions with no lasting gain.

Craving immediate gratification makes for poor decision making. WE need time to weight a situation's merits and drawbacks. And we must consider potential long-term outcomes, particularly if there might be an eternal impact. Sometimes that process takes a few minutes, but in other cases, we might have to deliberate and seek God's guidance for weeks or months.

Satan is always on the lookout for a gap in the Christians soldier's spiritual armor, but physical, mental, and emotional vulnerability prove handy for his cause as well. Do not give the Evil One a toehold! Keep your self fed, rational, in good company, and rested. Then you are prepared to make godly judgments on the spot rather than thinking of them in retrospect.

Presented by Bill & Karen Gay & printed with permission.

(This was given to me back in 2009 for the February newsletter)

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

www.stepsupward.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. 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.

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