

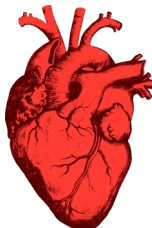
Feb

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Heart Transplant



This editorial is not about getting a new heart as much as it is about relocating the one you already have. The Bible does talk about getting a new heart. A new heart also will I give you... and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26. Jesus says it isn't just how ours hearts are, but also where they are that matters. Then Jesus proceeds to tell us how to put our hearts in the right place. Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



I have thought a lot about this text and wondered if I had been writing it, if I may not have said, where your heart is there will be your treasure. I believe there is some truth to that statement, but Jesus tells us how to get our hearts where they are supposed to be. The act of obedience- putting your treasure- brings the desired effect of having our heart in the right place.

Here is the problem. I am selfish, but I am not the only one. Putting my treasure where God asks is an important part of the process of overcoming my selfishness. What this text says to me is that I don't sit around waiting for the feeling I should put my treasure into the kingdom of God. I put my treasure into the kingdom of God and then the feeling of having done the right thing comes. When I invest in kingdom work, I come to love kingdom work. My heart follows my treasure.

Let me hasten to say, My treasure is more than just my money. It also involves my time and my talents. When I invest my time in building a quality relationship with God, I come to value that relationship more with each passing day. When I invest my time, talents and possessions in soul winning, my love for souls deepens.

In the church we make many calls for offerings. Some are irritated by that. But if giving is a part of God's plan for preparing me for the absolutely unselfish environment of heaven, I should rejoice for giving what I can. I cannot and do not give to every appeal. There are some non-negotiables; tithe, support of the local church where I hold membership, mission and local conference evangelistic endeavors, but there are other calls which I have to pray about and weigh and then make a decision whether this is a cause I can support at the present time.

When I consider what God has given to me in the gift of His Son, I can only respond by giving to Him what is already His. If I want to relocate or transplant my heart from the things of earth to heaven, I just need to send my treasure there. Make sure we put our treasure where we want our hearts to be.



In His Service, Pastor Barry Mahorney

Published in the 2005 District Digest The newsletter that was shared with the Montgomery church. Just seemed appropriate to use again.

PASTOR'S CORNER



PUT DOWN YOUR BURDENS

A man driving his pickup truck on a country track saw a woman carrying a heavy load, so he stopped and offered her a lift. The woman expressed her gratitude and climbed into the back of the truck. A moment later, the man noticed a strange thing: the woman was still holding onto her heavy load despite sitting in the vehicle! Astonished, he pleaded, "Please, Madam, put down your load and take your rest. My truck can carry you and your stuff. Just relax."

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

What do we do with the load of fear, worry, and anxiety we often carry as we go through life's many challenges? Instead of relaxing in the Lord, I sometimes behave like that woman. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28), yet I've caught myself carrying burdens I should offload onto Jesus.

We put down our burdens when we bring them to the Lord in prayer. The apostle Peter says, "Cast all your anxiety on [Jesus] because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Because He cares for us, we can rest and relax as we learn to trust Him. Instead of carrying the burdens that weigh us down and weary us, we can give them to the Lord and let Him carry them.

I'm tired, Lord. I bring You my burdens today. Please keep them and carry them for me.

Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders.

INSIGHT:

A yoke pairs two animals together to pull a load. Often an older, stronger, well-trained animal is paired with a younger animal so that the younger can learn the proper method of pulling. It is the older, stronger animal that does the majority of the pulling while the younger follows along and mimics the actions of the older. As we set aside our burdens and take on Christ's, we are not simply swapping one burden for another. It is *His* yoke. We set aside our lone burdens to pull with Jesus, who is the one responsible for the direction and primary force of moving the burden. Then each of us, as the younger, weaker, less-experienced partner learns from Jesus *how* to pull the burden, following His actions and mimicking His footsteps.

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The Value of One Member

Ten little members standing in a line,

One disliked the preacher, then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late,

One forgot her promise, then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven,

One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix,

They quarreled over programs, and then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive,

One moved away, then there were five.

Five steadfast members wished there were more,

One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagree,

Till one complained about Sabbath School; then there were three.

Three eager members! What do they do?

One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lonely members; our rhyme is nearly done,

One joined another church, then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue,

Met with a neighbor, then there were two.

Two earnest members each brought one more,

Doubling their number, then there were four.

Four determined members just couldn't wait,

Till each won another, and then there were eight!

Eight excited members brought 16 more!

In another 6 verses, there'll be a thousand twenty-four!

Is it in the Trunk?

One rainy day a curious little lassie had been rummaging through her mother's big trunk up in the attic. In the very bottom she found a church letter, which her mother had carelessly neglected to present to the church in the community into which they had moved. All excited, the intrepid little explorer rushed downstairs to her mother shouting, "Oh, mamma, I have found your religion in your trunk"

Sometimes, somewhere, that mother had confessed Christ, and joined the church. But her life had evidently been a repudiation of her profession, or the little one would not have been so surprised when she accidentally came across her religion in her trunk.

There is a pointed lesson in this little story, reader. Do you and I have our religion hidden away in the trunk up among the cobwebs of the attic or among the mold and damp of the basement? He we forgotten our pledge to God? By Charles L. Paddock, Signs of the Times, Sept 13, 1886

It is time to begin planning for the next Evangelism meeting in the fall. I pray that we don't have to get to the one earnest member but proceed forward from where the eight excited members who brought 16 more. Pray that the speaker we have asked feels called to present these meetings. Also don't forget to turn in your offering for these meetings and indeed, don't forget to pray for the pennies you put in and for the individuals that are out there waiting to hear more about God and his way for them. Let's each do our part to make these meetings a success.

Pray for Two Pennies

It was a bright spring evening when little Polly stole softly into her father's room, with shoeless feet, and her golden hair falling lightly over her white nightgown' for it was bedtime, and she had come to say "goodnight."

"Father," said the little one, raising her blue eyes to his kind face, "Father may I say my prayers beside you, for mother is too ill for me to go to her tonight?" "Yes, pet." he answered, tenderly stroking the curly head. And reverently the child knelt down beside him, and repeated her evening prayer, adding at the close with special earnestness, "God bless my two pennies." What can the child mean thought her father in surprise, and when the little white-robed figure was gone, he went and asked her mother if she knew what their little daughter meant. 'O Yes!" said the mother, "Polly has prayed that prayer every night since she put her two pennies in the plate at the last missionary meeting."

Have you ever prayed to God for a blessing on the money you have put into the missionary box? If not, be sure you never forget to do so in the future. Selected, Signs of the Times, Sept 9, 1886

Daniel's Gloves (Part 1)

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the company were both especially good that day. As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying, a well-worn sign that read, 'I will work for food.' My heart sank. I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.



Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: 'Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square.' Then with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

'Looking for the pastor?' I asked. 'Not really,' he replied, 'just resting.' 'Have you eaten today?' 'Oh, I ate something early this morning.' 'Would you like to have lunch with me?' 'Do you have some work I could do for you?' 'No work,' I replied 'I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch.' 'Sure,' he replied with a smile. As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions. 'Where you headed?' 'St. Louis' 'Where you from?' 'Oh, all over; Mostly Florida...' 'How long you been walking?' 'Fourteen years,' came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, 'Jesus is The Never Ending Story.' Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona... He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God. 'Nothing's been the same since,' he said, 'I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now.' 'Ever think of stopping?' I asked. 'Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads.'

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: 'What's it like?' 'What?' 'To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?' 'Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me.' My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused, he turned to me and said, 'Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in.' I felt as if we were on holy ground. 'Could you use another Bible?' I asked. He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite.. 'I've read through it 14 times,' he said. 'I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see' I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

'Where are you headed from here?' I asked. 'Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon.' 'Are you hoping to hire on there for a while?' 'No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next.' He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things. 'Would you sign my autograph book?' he asked... 'I like to keep messages from folks I meet.' I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, 'I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you; Plans to give you a future and a hope.'

(see back page for Part 2)

February Birthdays

- 1 - Anne Chandler & Holly Boggus
- 5 - Terry Cheser
- 7 - Kelaiah Radford
- 10 - Tony Plier
- 12 - Carol Cortuna
- 15 - Gary Ernest
- 17- Ellie Harrison
- 19 - Laurie Ernest
- 25 - Cameron Higgins
- 26 - Jimmy Powers, Jim Higgins

Anniversaries

- 1 - Gary & Laurie Ernest
- 9 - Todd & Melissa Abbott
- 15 - Donald and Holly Boggus

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. Don't forget if you have a birthday that hasn't been turned in to me, please do so and we promise to try and send you a birthday card on your special day.

So did anyone recognize Pastor Clyde Smith from last months picture?

Now who was here when these three women were friends?

Until next month, Brenda



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

Speaker Schedule: Feb: 4th - Pastor Rodriguez- Pre-nominating Committee Voting, 11th - Ben McGhee, 18th - Tui Pitman - Deacon Ordination, Church Social/Keep the evening open, 25th - Pastor Rodriguez - Communion

The first Camp Meeting/ Convocation will be coming to **Camp Alamisco on April 7th & 8th 2017.**

Our guest speaker will be Pastor Mike Tucker from the Quiet Hour. Pastor Tucker lost his wife in 2016 , together they have done some of the best marriage and counseling events to date. He is a Christ filled man who has lots to share with us. We also have coming to Alamisco Steven Mosley who will present to us a dramatic presentation called the "Chosen Garments". We have a great team coming down to share with our children and young adults in that of Destiny Works Productions. Please make plans to attend. You'll find a registration form in the last issue of GSC Today.

Then on **May 24-27th we will be worshipping at BASS Memorial Academy** for the second portion of our Camp Meeting. Beginning on that Wednesday and Thursday evening we will have Elder Jim Gilley who has served his Lord in many positions, but we will probably remember him best for his time as president of 3ABN. Our main speaker over the weekend will be Dr. Joseph Kidder from Andrews Seminary. Destiny Works will be taking over again for the youth, and we will also have the same team of Sabbath School teachers coming for the entire camp meeting. Please think of these Camp Meeting events as a time for recommitting ourselves to Jesus and to the work he has entrusted us with. For some of us that means taking back what we might have lost, and for others it means finding the Savior for the first time. Again the registration form is in the latest issue of GSC Today or call the office to ask for more information.

With Nominating Committee time coming up, I hope and pray that this won't be our case here at the Clanton SDA Church. Pray that EVERYBODY will say YES, I would love to do that.

THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.** There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Daniel's Gloves (Part 2)

'Thanks, man,' he said. 'I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you.' 'I know,' I said, 'I love you, too.' 'The Lord is good!' 'Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?' I asked. A long time,' he replied. And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, 'See you in the New Jerusalem.' 'I'll be there!' was my reply.



He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, 'When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?' 'You bet,' I shouted back, 'God bless.' 'God bless.' And that was the last I saw of him. Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them... a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them. Then I remembered his words: 'If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?'

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. 'See you in the New Jerusalem,' he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will...

'I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.' My instructions were to send this to four people that I wanted God to bless and I picked you. Please pass this to four people you want to be blessed. This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached. Please do not break this pattern. Prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards. Let's continue to pray for one another. God bless and have a nice day! 'Father, I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and e-mail buddies reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask you to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace, In Jesus' precious name Amen.'

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

[Www.steppingupward.org](http://www.steppingupward.org) www.egwhiteclassicquotes.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. **Let me know if you don't want to get one anymore, via email or US Mail.** Also need to know if you moved or any other reason to not be sending the newsletters. Thanks Brenda

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