

Jan

2016



Hebrews 4:16—"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Sometimes a new year or a new beginning may not arrive with feelings of joy or excitement. But this verse is an important reminder that we can come to God with any need, and we will receive His help. If you're facing a difficult decision or an uncomfortable transition, come boldly to God's throne and receive His grace and love.

Written by a 90 year old - This is something we should all read at least once a week! Make sure you read to the end! Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio. "To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the **45 lessons life taught me**. It is the most requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more: 1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good. 2. When in doubt, just take the next small step. 3. Life is too short – enjoy it. 4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will. 5. Pay off your credit cards every month. 6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself. 7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone. 8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it. 9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck. 10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile. 11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present. 12. It's OK to let your children see you cry. 13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about. 14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it. 15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks. 16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind. 17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways. 18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger. 19. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else. 20. When it comes to going

after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer. 21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special. 22. Over prepare, then go with the flow. 23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple. 24. The most important sex organ is the brain. 25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you. 26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?' 27. Always choose life. 28. Forgive. 29. What other people think of you is none of your business. 30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time. 31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change. 32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does. 33. Believe in miracles. 34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do. 35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now. 36. Growing old beats the alternative of dying young. 37. Your children get only one childhood. 38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved. 39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere. 40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back. 41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you want. 42. The best is yet to come... 43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up. 44. Yield. 45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift." Friends are the family that we choose.

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework or I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Have a GREAT DAY! Unless you have other plans.



The Magic Bank Account

"The original authorship is oft attributed to Marc Levy, still, the message is timeless

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules:

The set of rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game Over!". It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL ...

Shocked ??? YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it. The PRIZE is *TIME*

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is Not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING ...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start "spending"....

DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD...! **SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THE PRIVILEGE!"**

Marriage of Brianna & Dexter

emily klein
photography



With Joyous Hearts Brianna Baker & Dexter Clark were joined in marriage on December 13, 2015 at two o'clock in the afternoon at Helen Jenkins chapel in Thorsby, Al surrounded by their families and loved ones. The wedding had a Winter Wonderland theme with colors of turquoise and silver. Brianna & Dexter and don't forget Olivia, we wish you happiness in your new life together.

Sabbath Rest: According to Nehemiah 13: 15 – 22 Nehemiah saw men in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath, Therefore he warned them against selling food on that day (Nehemiah 13:15).

Nehemiah was concerned by this disregard for the Law. He is trying to correct the difficulties that had caused problems for Israel in the past. So he orders the gates to be closed at sunset on Friday. He requires the Levites to cleanse themselves and to guard the gates so that no one violates the Sabbath.

Should we also keep the Sabbath by refraining from work and travel? As we have seen throughout this book, these regulations imposed upon Israel were what the New Testament calls shadows, pictures of something even more important that God wants observed. You observe the Sabbath when you fulfill what the Sabbath portrays.

At the heart of the Sabbath is the word rest. The Sabbath is intended for people, that they may learn to rest. The Sabbath is God's stress management program! It is how to prevent burnout—how to recover from too much pressure and catch up with yourself. It is how to gather yourself together and become able to handle the work you must do.

There are two reasons given in the Scripture for the Sabbath. The first one is found in Exodus 20:11. There we are told that because God finished creation in six days and then rested on the seventh day, He asked His people to rest after six days of labor. Why did God rest? He accomplished His objective. People too must recognize a limit to their work. There is a need to stop, to allow the body, mind, and spirit to recognize their limitations. The second reason the Sabbath was given is often ignored. God said to Israel, Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day (Deuteronomy 5:15). They were to rest in order to reflect on God's ability to work beyond the labors they had already completed. So there are two aspects of the Sabbath—creation and redemption. There is a rest of cessation; a ceasing from our own works. But then there is the rest of rejoicing in the mighty delivering power of God.

Life Application: Are we at rest because of the work God has done and is doing in us? Are we relying on our own strength rather than understanding His power as the source? (*Sabbath Rest, RayStedman.org*)

The Purpose and Objectives of Sabbath School

Sabbath School time provides the opportunity for Church members to meet and study God's Word and provides a sense of fellowship and community. It promotes: personal spiritual growth... the sharing of thoughts and feelings... aspirations and hopes... gathering of strength... light and encouragement from one another... reclamation... evangelistic and social outreach... this is what Sabbath School is all about!

Sabbath School has four specific objectives:

Study of the Word - Helps members develop a devotional life and teaches them how to interpret and apply the principles of the Scriptures to their lives.

Fellowship - Fosters fellowship among members in the weekly Sabbath School Class. It encourages its members to recruit new members and it also fosters ways to restore inactive members.

Community Outreach - Sabbath School helps members catch a vision of the church's mission in the community, train members for service, and inspires them to witness.

World Mission - Sabbath School presents a clear vision of the global mission of the church. They promote a personal, systematic, and self-denying commitment to the support of world missions and foster in members a desire to help fulfill the gospel commission. (*SDA Sabbath School website- Fiji Mission*)

Presented by Kay Cheser—Sabbath School Superintendent

PASTOR'S CORNER



Emma, happy and all dressed up in her boots, Elizabeth blessing us with a French horn solo for church. I hope you enjoy the pictures as much as I do. Emma & friend Olivia . We as the Clanton church are so blessed to have a wonderful Pastor and beautiful family.

As we welcome 2016, it is my prayer that we could all be focused on our greatest event of the year: Our Evangelistic Meetings in Clanton Church. We have all prayed so we can have 50 visitors the opening night, and that 25 souls could give their lives to Jesus at the end of the meetings. I pray that we all make plans to bring a friend or family members on January 8th.

I often think what would be like, being on the other side of the world, where many Christians are being killed for their faith in Jesus. Are we willing to die for Jesus? If yes, I pray that we live for Him as he has chosen us to be here where many people still need to be saved. The story of Jonah has a great teaching for us. In chapter 1 we see a prophet that did not want to preach. Instead, he choose to go and hide from God and go on with life, but God had a plan. He loved those people in Nineveh and Jonah was the tool that God could use to reach them. We are the modern Jonah, we might have plenty of reasons on why not to do the work of the Lord, but we are the tools God is counting on. Chapter 3 says that The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, he got up went and preached and as the result the entire city heard the message, accepted it and repented. God is calling you as he called Jonah and Isaiah "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "**Here I am! Send me.**" (Isaiah 6:8) I would like to challenge all of us with a question; If we don't say "Here I am send me" who do we expect in this generation to go instead of us?

So those who are the partakers of the grace of Christ will be ready to make any sacrifice, that others for whom He died may share the heavenly gift. They will do all they can to make the world better for their stay in it. This spirit is the sure outgrowth of a soul truly converted. No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. If we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good we shall have something to tell. Like Philip when he found the Saviour, we shall invite others into His presence. We shall seek to present to them the attractions of Christ and the unseen realities of the world to come. There will be an intensity of desire to follow in the path that Jesus trod. There will be an earnest longing that those around us may "behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. (SC79)

I love you all. Pr. Michel Rodriguez

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

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*Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church
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January Birthdays

- 7— Ralph Sheperd
- 8 - Elaine Johnson
- 11 - Sara Powers
- 12 - Treva Radford
- 16 - Audie Warren

No Anniversaries known

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.

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.

- ◆ No Church & School board meeting in January
- ◆ If you haven't given already for the Seniors Meal Boxes please do so. We want everyone that got them to receive them this year also.
- ◆ Church Pantry - Everything is needed including canned veggies, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, ramen noodles, boxes of macaroni and cheese. We are helping people every week and really do need food to do this.
- ◆ Elijah Radio has immediate openings for volunteers to screen sermons at the studio in Irondale or share Jesus' love in the listening area. Call Luke at 433-WSJL. Thanks and God bless, Luke.

Speaker Schedule: 1/2/2106 Pastor Rodriguez - ***This Sabbath is to be a Fasting and Prayer Sabbath to prepare each of us for the meetings that will be starting the next week. We will be praying that everyone will have the right relationship with God and with each other. If you can't attend this week, pray from wherever you are for the meetings. No fellowship meal this week, each person knows what their bodies need to fast. There will be a special afternoon meeting also.***

1/9 Wyatt Allen, 1/16 Wyatt Allen, 1/23 Wyatt Allen, 2/6 Pastor Rodriguez



Wyatt Allen - Author, Speaker, Amazing Facts

He has dedicated his life to making prophetic truth relevant to people of all faiths and backgrounds. During these meetings, you will find Wyatt's presentations clear, interesting, and honest. You will also find prophecy exciting and easy to understand.

Every message comes straight from the Bible and will open before you a bright and hopeful future. You will learn more in a few nights than you have in your entire life! This is a seminar you certainly don't want to miss!

I make you these sincere promises: 1) The Bible alone will be your textbook; 2) We will not beg you for your money; and 3) you will be blessed, challenged, and encouraged as you attend nightly." - Wyatt Allen

End Time Hope Prophecy Seminar starting Friday night, January 8 at 6:30 at the Clanton SDA Church 401 18th Street N. Clanton, AL

Bring a friend and let us see how many can get a blessing the first night.

You can pre-register or find out more online at ProphecySeminars.com or call (706)936-1795. Pre-registration not required. Walk-ins welcome!

Topics will Include:

- The Metal Man of Daniel 2,
- ETA for Doomsday (It's nearer than you think),
- God on Trial
- Left Behind: Revelation's Rapture
- God's Number revealed in Revelation
- US in Bible Prophecy
- Recognizing False Prophets
- The Two Witnesses
- Who is the Antichrist
- The meaning of 666
- What is the Mark of the Beast
- Israel in Prophecy
- How to be part of the 144,000
- And So much More



I took a squash casserole to lunch for one of my dishes yesterday, and was asked to put the recipe in the newsletter, so here goes...

Squash Casserole

3 cups cooked squash

1/2 cup Veganaise

1 medium onion, finely chopped

1/2 cup grated vegan cheese

Salt and a bit of cayenne pepper to taste

1/4 package tofu, mashed very well (replaces egg in original recipe, and adds a bit of nutrition)

Fried onions for garnish (optional)

Directions: Cook squash until tender in water. Drain well. Combine all ingredients, mixing well. Spoon into casserole sprayed with cook spray or greased with a bit of oil. Top with fried onions if desired. (could crush corn flakes with melted margarine and use for topping).

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until well set. When bringing to fellowship meal, I cook the casserole that long covered in foil then put in oven here at to heat up and cook a tad more.

Women's Ministry will not meet again until after the conclusion of the meetings. I plan to begin a learning to sew class very soon after the meetings have concluded.



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. 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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