

The Rain-Thomas Kinkaide (this was on email and you could actually see the rain but use your imagination and watch the rain anyway.)

Stop at the picture for a second, and watch the Rain... then read on... One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, my daughter, Aspen, spoke up from her relaxed position in her seat. "Dad, I'm thinking of something." This announcement usually meant she had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that her six-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear. "What are you thinking?" I asked. "The rain!" she began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away." After the chill bumps raced up my arms I was able to respond. "That's really good, Aspen." Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little girl take this revelation? So I asked... "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?" Aspen didn't hesitate one moment with her answer: "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us." I will always remember this whenever I turn my wipers on. In order to see the Rainbow, you must first endure some Rain.

Head to toe advice for total beauty care.

- 1. Begin with a good cleanser. Psalm 51:2
- 2. Always have a great foundation. 2 Timothy 2:19
- 3. Moisturize, moisturize, moisturize. John 7:38
- 4. For a beautiful smile speak words of kindness. Psalm 145:21
- 5. For lovely wrinkle free skin, give your worries to the Lord. Matthew 11:28
- 6. For your ears, adorn your ears with the word of God. John 10:27
- 7. For your heart, love freely. Galatians 5:14
- 8. For soft hands, praise the Lord. Psalm 119:48
- 9. For your legs, allow God to guide your every step. Psalm 31:3
- 10. For your feet, allow God to order your steps. Psalm 119:59

Faith & Praver

Heaven's storehouse is Full of God's love and faith is the key that unlocks its doors. While prayer is the vehicle by which these blessings flow, Most of the time the doors are locked. And that's only because of lack of faith and prayer. It's no wonder they're poor and sad, for without faith, You're in a canoe without a paddle. And without prayer You're in a canoe with a wholly bottom. So be it as your prayer, sincere, and do it as your faith permits. By: Steve Burden. This was a poem he shared with us years ago but thought it was worth sharing again. Always good to repeat something to help us in this new year. May we all have that FAITH that we need to pray as we believe.

CHARACTER

Today I want to talk about character. Character has to do with the way you act and the things you say. If a person says or does good things, we say that person has a good character. If a person says or does bad things, we say that person has a bad character. We get our ideas about what a good character looks like by looking at Jesus.

- 1. Jesus is a very loving person. He cares about people and he wants us to live, and enjoy lots of good things that life has to offer. Is that a good thing?
- 2. Jesus provides for our needs. When we ask him for things we want, he gives us many of the things we want if He sees that what we want is good for us. Is that a good thing?
- 3. Jesus was always obedient to his heavenly father and to his earthly parents. Is that important? Yes. That is a VERY important part of His character, and our characters as well.
- 4. Jesus is always kind to people and animals. He would never hurt anybody's feelings. Do we try to be kind like that?
- 5. Jesus is always polite and would never be a bully and try to force people to do what he says. Should we act like Jesus?

So looking at Jesus, we get an understanding about what a good character is like. There is also someone who is an example of what a bad character is like. He had a good character at first, but he made some bad choices that caused him to change. His name was Lucifer, and he was the most important angel in all of heaven. God had been so good to him. God made him beautiful, and smart, and talented. He had beautiful clothes to wear and all the other angels admired and respected him because he had a very important job. You would think he would appreciate all that and would show his appreciation by being very loyal and very obedient to God. But no, It didn't turn out that way. Instead, he started a war in heaven and tried to take over God's throne and all of God's angels. He did get 1/3 of the angels, but God still had 2/3's. So Lucifer and his angels got kicked out of heaven. They know they have already lost the war, but they continue to fight just because they are mad about losing, and they just want to hurt people and make God sad about it all as well. Lucifer's name was changed to Satan. Now when he started that war, I don't think he thought that thing through. For one thing, he was out-gunned. They didn't have guns like we do back then. That is just an expression that means that God had many more fighting angels than Lucifer had. How smart was it to pick a fight with someone who has a much bigger army than you do? Also, Lucifer, or Satan, could not be God because he can't create. He was created himself. If he had won the war, how was he going to replace all the people and things he had destroyed? There could come a time when there would be nothing left, and no way to restore all that was lost. Finally, what did Satan think he was going to do with God? Kill God? God is immortal. He can't die. Put God in jail? There isn't a jail that can hold God. He can walk through walls. No, I don't think Satan thought about any of these things. He probably just thought about how he was going to win, and then he would get to sit in the highest throne, and be praised and worshiped by all the other angels. And boy would that feel good. Sadly, along the way he changed into someone with a very bad character. Let's compare:

- 1. Whereas Jesus loves us and wants us to live and enjoy our lives, Satan hates us. He would love to kill us or at least see that we have miserable lives.
- 2. Whereas Jesus provides for our needs and many of our wants, Satan provides nothing. In fact, he likes to see us loose what things we have.
- 3. Whereas Jesus always obeyed his heavenly father and earthly parents, Satan rebelled against God and tries to get us to disobey God and our parents as well.
- 4. Whereas Jesus is kind to people and animals, Satan tries to hurt or kill as many people and animals as possible.
- 5. Whereas Jesus is always polite, and would never be a bully, Satan tries to trick people into doing what he wants. And if that doesn't work, he will force them to obey him by hurting them or threatening to kill them.

Choosing to be like Jesus not only makes us better people, but gives us much better lives as well. If we choose to work on having a good character like Jesus, we can expect Him to do some amazing things in our lives. So who do we want to be like, Jesus, or Satan? (Jesus) That's right. We don't want to be like Satan. He's mean. He hurts people. Now let's pray. Dear Jesus, Please help us to be like you so we can be good people and live good lives. Amen

Note: A story written by Anne Chandler for the Children's story at church awhile back but thought we would all enjoy and benefit from it this new year, so I asked her to share it with us.

True Love Waits

Remembering Audie G. Warren





Audie Warren and Hazel Tillery in 1937 (left) and today

Couple together again after 60-year separation

By Trey Hughes
The Clanton Advertiser

If true love waits, then Audie Warren and Hazel Tillery have definitely paid their dues.

Audie and Hazel married last September, bringing closure to a courtship that first began in Chilton County more than 60 years ago.

Sharecropping was a way of life for families growing up in an area just west of Jemison during the mid-1930s. Although Audie and Hazel had been dating for more than a year, family members still felt Hazel was too young to get married in 1937—when she was only 14.

"Her family said no, we can't get married, so we both went our separate ways," said Audie, who was the ripe old age of 17 at the time. Audie headed for Montgomery, then Chicago, New York and Ohio before settling in Kentucky. Hazel spent time in Birmingham and Mobile before moving back to Jemison 25 years ago. Both had been married and widowed when they finally crossed paths again last August. It was the first time they had seen each other in 60 years.

Audie was in town to visit his sister and other relatives when he decided to drop in on Hazel. After they embraced, "all the chemistry was still there," he said.

The two were married in September and agreed to split time living here in Chilton County and at a lake home in Indiana. They were on their way up north this past week.

"It's first love, last love, I guess," Audie said.

This article was in the Clanton Advertiser, May 1, 1998.

Audie wants to make sure you know the "real story". After going to New York & Ohio he went to San Francisco before settling in Kentucky and retiring.

What has transpired in the last 9 years? They have blessed the Clanton church with their presence & helpfulness in many ways. Audie has been Sabbath School Superintendent, Greeter, and helped make decisions on the School & Church boards. Hazel has been a beautiful addition to the church and helped with greeting & making the Clanton church a more enjoyable place to come every week.

Thanks to you two for letting us have the spotlight on you this month. Hope you enjoy Clanton for many years to come.

Last month when I put
Audie & Hazel's picture in
the reminiscing section, I
had no idea he had died.
I wrote his daughter Alice
Thrasher and gave her
my phone number. She
called me back the next
week with the news that
he had indeed died in
June. They did come up
here to Clanton to bury
him but didn't let anyone
know.

She said he had dementia for the last year of his life and they had moved him into a room in her house. He didn't even know her toward the end.

For those of you that don't remember his "Love Story" thought I would share it again, it was in the March 2007 Church Newsletter.

Many happy thoughts of them being here. Hope this brings good memories back to you also. Brenda

Obituary from Martin Funeral Home: Born: January 18, 1918 Died: June 20, 2016 Audie G. Warren, 98, of Okeechobee died Monday, June 20, 2016 at Raulerson Hospital, Okeechobee. He was born on Friday, January 18, 1918 in Jemison, AL, Son of the late David Anderson Warren and the late Nancy Alice Posey Warren.

He was a Automobile Service Rep..

Surviving are Son, David F. (Carol) Warren of Venice, FL; Daughters, Mary Jo (Wayne Sr.) Kiser of Lake Station, IN, Alice F. (Willie) Thrasher of Okeechobee, FL; Stepson, Donald (Cindy) Garrett of Clanton, AL; Stepdaughter, Caroline (Edward) George of Jemison, AL, Dianne (Bill) Fulmer of Clanton, AL, Susan (Freeman) Ellison of Jemison, AL, Terry (Buck) Foshee of Jemison, AL; Brother, Max Lee Warren of Clanton, AL; Sister, Mary Magalene Blackmon of Clanton, AL; 17 Grandchildren & Step Grandchildren, 28 Great-Grandchildren & Step Great-Grandchildren, 16 Great Great-Grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his 1st Wife, Dorothy Warren, 2nd Wife, Hazel Garrett Warren, Son, Robert W. Warren, Brothers, Hubert, Claudie & Buford Warren. Friends will be received from 1:30-3:00, Saturday, June 25, 2016 @ Martin Funeral Home. Services will be held Saturday, June 25, 2016, at 3:00 P.M. at Martin Chapel with Rev. Mark Bolton officiating. Martin Funeral Home directing.



Family on their way to Cuba for the

10 days of evangelism meetings. There were 29 people that went together, preaching in 23 churches and having VBS in 3 of them. All together there were 100 baptisms, 12 in the Pastors church. His church that we were helping received \$2,000 in total. They had just run out of money and were very appreciative of the funds they received.

Emma ready for Christmas. Beautiful picture of a beautiful child!!!

Nice selfie of the family.

As always hope you enjoy.



It is good for me to draw near to God. —Psalm 73:28

Beauty, wealth, power, love, marriage, and pleasure are good things, but they're not the best. The best is loving God and taking in His love—bringing Him glory and making Him our friend for life. That leads to the best possible life because it gives us satisfaction and joy now (John 10:10), and it's what Christians are going to be doing forever.

That's why we should make time for God and rest in His love—the love that made you and me. It is the reason for our existence and the means by which we will make the most of our lives.

I like the way the psalmist put it: "It is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works" (Ps. 73:28). In other words, the good life is drawing close to the One who loves us like no other.

And how can we "draw close" to Him? Here's a practice I began many years ago: Take a few minutes every morning to read some verses from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and note what Jesus said or did. After all, He came to show us what God is like (Heb. 1:1-3). Put yourself in the story—in the place of the leper He healed with His loving touch, for example (Mark 1:40-45). Think about how much He loves you and then thank Him!

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. —Crosby

The wonder of it all—just to think that Jesus loves me!

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Anniversary

No known ones

January Birthdays

7 - Ralph Sheperd

8 - Elaine Johnson

11 - Sara Powers

12 - Treva Radford

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month.

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:

<u>Sabbath School Visitation:</u> 1st Sabbath <u>Nursing Home Visitation:</u> 4th Sabbaths

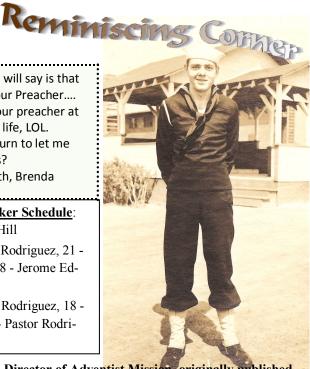
The only thing I will say is that he used to be our Preacher....
Oh, he wasn't our preacher at this point in his life, LOL.
Now it is your turn to let me know who he is?
Until next month, Brenda

Tentative Speaker Schedule:

Dec - 31 - Bob Hill

Jan - 7 - Pastor Rodriguez, 21 - Ted Winslow, 28 - Jerome Edmeade

Feb - 4 - Pastor Rodriguez, 18 - Tui Pitman, 25 - Pastor Rodriguez



"Baby, I Don't Fly" Posted on Jun 09 2016 By Gary Krause, Director of Adventist Mission, originally published in Adventist Review (Mission to the Cities; Presented by Kay Cheser, Sabbath School Superintendent)

NOTE: Part of the article has been edited out due to space. Please prayerfully read this article. I believe that our church can learn methods that we can use to develop approaches that will be successful in reaching our small city of Clanton for Christ. .-kc When it comes to cities, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a challenge. Think about these numbers: Most of the world's people now live in cities, and urban migration continues like a flood. Today more than 500 cities have popula-

tions of more than 1 million people, and these cities are social and economic powerhouses, generating more than 80 percent of global gross domestic product. Now consider the Adventist populations in these cities. On average, there's one Seventh-day Adventist congregation for every 89,000 people. Forty-five of these cities have fewer than 10 Adventists; 43 have no Adventist congregations.

There's little doubt that cities are our biggest and most challenging mission field. But it's a mission field that defies easy answers or quick fixes. Occasional evangelistic Band-Aids won't work. And many urbanites just don't respond to traditional outreach approaches. What can we do? To start, we need to reclaim our call to long-term, on-the-ground, wholistic ministry to the cities. And in doing so, we must follow the method and example of Jesus in bringing hope to city streets.

Effective Seventh-day Adventist urban mission must see a city as people who are most in need of help see it. Details of urban mission can't be produced or planned by remote control in distant church administrative committees or university classrooms. Eternal principles must guide, but particular methods and approaches emerge from local streets and neighborhoods. Ellen White talks about how many costly outreach efforts have failed because they do not "meet the wants of the time or the place."...

Effective urban mission follows Christ's footsteps by walking city streets. It sees what people are doing and not doing. It observes what they're "worshipping." It witnesses what's causing people joy and what's causing pain. It feels the social, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in a community...

Ellen White summarizes Christ's method of ministry: mingling with people, showing sympathy to them, ministering to their needs, winning their confidence, and bidding them to follow Him. This must be the blueprint for urban mission. It means connecting with people at the local and personal level. Christ's method can be implemented in myriad ways, but Ellen White championed an urban model that she called centers of influence: small platforms for launching Christ's method of ministry and connecting to city communities. She talked about such things as health centers, treatment rooms, and vegetarian restaurants. Today urban centers of influence take various forms in dozens of countries: refugee assimilation centers, juice bars, secondhand stores, vegetarian restaurants, health clinics, music centers, recreational facilities, health food stores, massage centers—the list just goes on. They may look different, but all urban Centers of Influence should have the same goal to minister to people's physical and spiritual needs, lead people to Jesus, and plant new groups of believers...

Wholistic urban ministry involves words and action. It can't be done from a religious enclave, by remote control, from a distance. It can't be short-term, with only passing contact. It involves rubbing shoulders, touching hands, looking into eyes with Jesus' compassion. It is not just about *telling* people about the truth of God's Word, but *demonstrating* the truth of that Word.

Today's digital age could tempt us to see technology as the answer to the challenge of urban mission. But technology can only convey information, which is only part of Christ's method of ministry. We must use digital media, but it can only support, not replace, personal involvement. More than 100 years ago Ellen White told us, "It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world." She also said that this work can't be done "by proxy" and that it requires "personal labor." She adds: "Sermons will not do it." 13

As we share the truth we hold dear, we must do more than print out a Google map and draw a target on a neighborhood. We must do more than just bring a preset cookie-cutter agenda of solutions. Our calling in the cities is to listen, learn, and love. Sharing hope in the streets with people who don't fly.

I'm too blessed to be stressed;

Too anointed to be disappointed!

I refuse to be discouraged, to be sad or to cry.

I refuse to be downhearted and here's the reason why:

I have a God who is almighty; who is sovereign and supreme:

I have a God who loves me, and I am on his team.

He is all wise and powerful; Jesus is His name;

Though everything else is changeable, My God remains the same.

I refuse to be defeated

My eyes are on my God

He has promised to be with me, as through this life I trod.

I am looking past my circumstances, to heaven's throne above.

My prayers have reached the heart of God

I am resting in his love.

I give thanks to him in everything

My eyes are on his face.

The battle is his; the victory is mine.

He will help me win the race.

Repeat: I'M TOO BLESSED TO BE STRESSED!!

Given for the Newsletter but don't have who shared with us....

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

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

Return Address:

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To: «AddressBlock»