

Jan 2019 **My New Address**

I wanted you to be the first to know that I have moved and to give you my new home address: I have moved from Beggars Alley located on Poverty Lane at the corner of Bleak and Busted Circle. As of today, I have a brand new home. My new address is: 123 Living Well Drive in the Abundance Sub-division, located at the corners of Blessings Street and Thankful Peak. You get there by taking the Praising Him Interstate, which runs North, South, East and West.

I no longer have to travel on Begging Peter to payoff Paul Route, because it's located at a dead-end intersection called: I Don't Have, that crosses Borrowers' Junction & Complaining Lane. That road doesn't lead to my new home. I no longer hang out at Failure's Place near Excuses Ave, near the Procrastination Mall. I've moved on to an upscale community called Higher Heights with unlimited potential and opportunities for me to succeed---can't you tell?

Just look at me!! I met the neighbors and I love living next to them. Let me tell you about my new neighbors: The It Family: Mr. Conceive It, Mrs. Believe It and sister Act On It. Then there's Faith and Hope from next door, Ms. Persistent and Mr. Positive across the street, Steve and Eve Achieve from down the street and my favorite neighbors are the family who live in a beautiful high rise on the penthouse floor. The head of the house is God, He's the Father, Jesus, His only Son and Holy Spirit. (Who's hardly ever home because he's always traveling, he's a real people person). It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood! The best thing is that if you're tired of living where you're living; there are tons of homes for sale in my new neighborhood!!

Oh, just one thing I want to warn you about. There's this big dog named Blessings and every single time I leave my house he chases me down and overtakes me!! It's like he's everywhere!! I see Blessings in the city and Blessings in the fields, I see Blessings when I come and when I go!! Since I can't get away from him, I've learned to just expect him and embrace him. Good thing he doesn't bite! !

I am so thankful to be a product of my new environment. All of my clothes are now custom designed by the Master Tailor and made to fit just me. I am dressed in life's finest!! I have a new walk and a new talk all because I CHOSE TO MOVE!! Life is good because: GOD IS GOOD!

Contributed by Charryse Gorden - Cahaha Center Employee - Originally in 2009.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every-day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past , we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10 what happens to me and 90 of how I react to it. And so it is with you you are in charge of your attitudes.
Charles Swindoll

Will You Meet Me in The Kingdom?

"Will you meet me in the kingdom,
When the days of toil are past.
Meet me when the glory kindles
In the Promised land at last:
Where no sorrows ever enter,
And no tempest storms destroy.
Where the joy forever lingers
In love's by and by?

"Will you meet me in the dawning,
Of life's everlasting day.
Where all midnight shadows have vanished,
And the mists have passed away;
When the light that shines eternal
Casts its ladeless glory down.
O'er the home of many mansions,
And the deathless crown?

"Will you meet me when the ransomed
Gather round the throne divine,
Bow in perfect adoration.
By your living Christ and mine;
When the song forever rises.
It its sweet seraphic grace,
And the eyes that once were holden,
See the holy Face?

"Meet me: Ah, Yes! You must meet me.
For eternal joys are there.
And the blossoms that are blowing
Bloom forever bright and fair,
Not a fever haunts the meadow.
Not a cloud-mist crowns the hill,
Shall I meet you? Will you answer;
"By God's grace I will!"

A Rose and a Thorn -

11 Cor. 12:7, ...there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, Isa. 35:1 - ...and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose

My favorite flower is the rose and I couldn't understand why such a beautiful flower would have Prickly thorns. I learned later that the thorns protected the rose from predators.

After supper, my husband who is legally sightless and I would have worship. One evening I decided After we sang, we would have to tell something positive and something negative about our day and I called it our rose and thorn. Each time we had company, they enjoyed the idea of the rose and thorn. Our company would ask "are we going to do the rose and thorn?" It got to be a big thing at the Johnson house.

One day during worship, my husband said for his thorn, "we haven't heard from our daughter Serita, In a while, I hope she's okay." This thorn was said for a couple of days. So, the second day he voiced It, our daughter called us. She said "Hi, just checking in, I'm okay"! That put a big smile on "Daddy's" Face. He'd heard from his "baby girl". He said such a sweet-smelling rose. Days passed and at worship about a week later, my husband's thorn was "We haven't heard from our son in three weeks, I hope. everything is okay with him and the family. This thorn went on for a few days. On the third day, right after our rose and thorn, the phone rang. You guessed, it was our son. I told him how he had been his dad's thorn for almost four days. He laughed and said "Tell dad I'm fine, just working two jobs and taking care of the family". We talked for about 30 mins. When we hung up, I was surprised when my hubby said in amazement, "Sweets, GOD really does answer prayers." It was like the first time was a coincidence, but the second time was an answer to prayer like a sweet-smelling rose.

My rose for you today is don't let Satan's thorn prick your mind. God is our defense mechanism while Satan is our thorn. Choose God and watch how you can blossom.

Elaine J. Johnson



Frances Jane Crosby

Fanny Jane Crosby (Mrs. Van Alstyne), is the most prolific and perhaps the most popular writer of Sunday school hymns that America has ever produced. She was born at South East, Putnam County, N. Y., March 24, 1820. When only six weeks old she lost her eyesight. Her first poem was written when she was only eight years old. At the age of fifteen she entered the Institution for the Blind in New York City, where she spent seven years as a pupil and eleven years (1847-58) as a teacher. In 1844 she published a volume entitled *The Blind Girl and Other Poems*, and in 1849 *Monterey and Other Poems*. In 1851 she was happily converted, and united with the Old John Street Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1858 she was married to Mr. Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also, like herself, blind, had been a teacher in the Institution, and was possessed of rare musical talent, and thus eminently fitted to be a congenial and helpful life companion. As a hymn writer, however, she has continued since her marriage to bear her maiden name. A third volume of her poems was issued the year of her marriage: *A Wreath of Columbia's Flowers*, 1858. She was in the employ of Mr. William B. Bradbury for the last four years before he died, and she was for some years regularly employed by Biglow and Main to write "three hymns a week the year round." She has written about six thousand hymns, considerably less than half of which number have been published. In 1898 she published *Bells at Evening and Other Poems*, and in 1906, *Memories of Eighty Years*. Revered, honored, and loved by millions, she resides at Bridgeport, Conn., being at this writing (1911) ninety-one years of age. Fanny Crosby's hymns and the tunes to which they are sung have a peculiar charm for the young and for the masses of the people. There are thousands of religious homes where her sweet and simple songs are sung daily, and are scarcely less familiar than the words of Scripture. In sunshine and darkness alike and in all lands her songs are sung "with a glad heart and free." Few women that have ever lived can claim a higher honor than belongs to Fanny Crosby in being permitted to witness the world-wide popularity of so many of her hymns. When she died, her tombstone carried the words, "Aunt Fanny" and "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine." Crosby was very well known during her time and often met with presidents, generals, and other dignitaries. She played the hymn "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" at President Grant's funeral in 1885. In her later years, she also became a popular public speaker. A lifelong Methodist, she was one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing over 8,000 despite being blind since infancy. Also known for her preaching and speaking, during her lifetime Fanny Crosby was one of the best known women in the United States.

Some of her Hymns: —Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine —Pass me not, O gentle Saviour —Rescue the perishing
—Saviour, more than life to me —Thou, my everlasting portion Shared by Elaine Johnson for us to enjoy.

PASTOR'S CORNER

God's Impossible Task

Jeremiah writes in chapters 43-45 about his people after Jerusalem falls. Basically the story is the same as before the fall of Jerusalem. The people keep asking God and God sends them a message through the prophet. But instead of listening they just do as they please. First, they ask Jeremiah if they should go to Egypt. He says no, but they reply that they don't believe Jeremiah's message is from God but from Ba-ruch. Then after they get there, Jeremiah tells them their problems are due to burning incense to other gods. In a classic case of blindness they reply, "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine."

The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"

So God simply says in effect, "Have at it!"

Mark Twain once said, "I am not one of those who in expressing opinions confine themselves to facts." We think this phenomenon of people making up their minds and sticking to it, fake news, and bull-headed stubbornness to be a modern problem. It is not. Rebellion is almost incurable. At least that is what Ellen White once said. And it is often a gradual and slippery slope. Listen to what she says—

"It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction." 4T 211

While this has always been around, I have seen it becoming worse and worse as time goes by. So what do we do about it? Is there any hope? Absolutely, but it is by submitting to God's leading of the church through the Word of God. It is when I am sure that I cannot be corrected that I am in the most danger. Recently I heard one person say, "I don't even believe everything I have said before." My admiration went up tenfold for that person because I recognized that they were still listening to God and still willing to be led. My prayer is that we will all let the Holy Spirit speak to us and always yield to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

Pastor Dan Thompson



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*Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church
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In Special Memory of:



Violet Beatrice Anderton Hill, of Lawley, AL, died December 11th, 2018, at the age of 70. She is preceded in death by her parents Robert E Lee and Mae Janette Young Anderton. She is survived by her husband of 49 years Robert A. Hill, Sr, son Robert A. Hill, II (Tara) and grandson Robert A. Hill, III (Sarah) of Chattanooga TN and her sisters Rhonda Faye Clark (Frank) of Trenton GA and Nancy Lynn Anderton of Higdon AL. She was born on October 22 1948 at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga TN and was raised in Dade County, Georgia. She was an active member of the Birmingham 1st Seventh-Day Adventist Church located in Hoover Alabama. She was a graduate of Northeast Alabama State College and then continued her lifelong educational pursuits through Southern Adventist University in Collegedale TN. She retired from the Seventh - day

Adventist educational school system where she taught various grades from 1st through 9th over her long educational carrier. In addition to teaching she also served as school Principle for Gulf Coast Adventist Elementary in St Petersburg FL, Bright Star Adventist Elementary in Douglasville AL, Pell City Adventist Elementary in Brompton AL and College Drive Elementary in Pearl MS. She served on local church and school boards, was a founding member of the Gulf States Conference Pathfinder Counsel, served as the Gulf States Conference Adventurer Director, and was a member of multiple North American Division youth program committees over her 45 year career. Through her years of service she developed and authored much of the original content, curriculum, and requirements for many of these youth programs as well as developing training guides, teaching instructions and award requirements. She was an author, a mentor, and a consummate educator. She often traveled as a guest speaker and lecturer across the breadth of North America freely sharing her training materials, her stories, and her experience to other teachers and educators. Her passion was focused on early childhood development and assuring each generation had a firm foundation in Christ.

She attended Davis High School where she graduated in 1966. While in attendance she was a member of Future Homemakers of America (FHA), 4-H, Drill Squad, Paper Club, and Program Chairman of the Beta Club. She was very active in family, farming, and her friends. Later in life she was an active member in the Autauga County District Masters Gardeners Association (MGA) where she, as a Master Gardener, was a frequent instructor and also a regular volunteer on the MGA Help-Line. Each year she personally provided over a hundred potted plants for the annual MGA fund raiser each one grown individually with love and care.

Beatrice's fulfilling journey of 70 years was made possible through the support of many friends, family, and associations. She is remembered for her love and support of her family, her dedication to youth, and her love for her former students and young people with whom she interacted and lives whom she touched.

Funeral services WERE held at the Birmingham First SDA Church 3520 Lorna Rd Birmingham, AL 35216 on Sunday Dec 16th at 2PM with Pastor Steve Severance officiating. There WAS visitation and remembrance with the family starting at 12:30 PM at the Church. A graveside memorial service and interment will be held at the Floral Crest SDA Cemetery in Bryant AL at a time and date yet to be determined. In addition Family received friends at the home of Robert Hill, II on Saturday 1PM until 6PM.



January Birthdays

7 - Ralph Sheperd

8 - Elaine Johnson

11 - Sara Powers

12- Treva Radford

14- Titus Graves—Holly Cannon's Son

No Know Anniversaries this
Month.

Happy, Happy Birthday and Pray that you are blessed with many more. If I don't have your special day, let me know. Brenda

Tentative Speaker Schedule: December : 29 - Pastor Thompson; **January:** 5, Ted Winslow; 12, Pastor; 19, Tui Pitman; 26, Pastor Streaming; **February:** 2, Tui Pitman; 9, Pastor; 16, Stan Hobbs; 23, Pastor Streaming; March 2, Pastor; March 9, Tedd Casey; March 16, Ted Winslow; March 23, Lary Petty; March 30, Pastor--Communion

Church service every **Sabbath at 11:00** at the Maplesville Train Depot. Please feel welcome to come & join us.
Shawn Smith - Pastor for the Selma/Sylacauga Churches

Reminiscing Corner



Who knew our picture from last month was the Higgins Brothers. How many of you were here when this man was. I guess I had known him most of my life. Looks like from my records that he died 6:30/2007. Have a good month and looking forward to hearing from each of you with something to contribute. Thanks, Brenda

THE Healthy Choice

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Includes cooking demonstrations, samples to taste, recipes to take home in a binder, and door prizes.

pre-register by calling 205.217.2267 or 205.280.1297.
Please leave a message including a name and phone #.

Glowing at the Veteran's Day Program



On November 12, 2018, a Veteran's Day program was held at the Riverwalk Stadium in Montgomery, Alabama. With God's help, Samuel and I were able to pass out over 800 pieces of literature *in only one hour*. *How is this possible?* I'm sure you're wondering. Well stay tuned, and I'll show you how we did this in three simple steps!

Step one, we chose an event with a steady flow of moving people. As veterans and guests walked to and from the cafeteria it was easy to slip into their hands. They did all the walking, and all we had to do was stay put and give out tracts! This method is almost as fast as putting them in the doors of cars in a parking lot.

Step two, we selected attractive literature. Using innovative "tract-packs", we were able to give out five glow tracts in one water-proof packet. Each packet has a tract from each of the following categories: health, peace, hope, the Sabbath, and prophecy. We put little American flags in the packets to go with the theme, and most people thought it was part of the event. We also gave out small booklets called *The Faith of Desmond Doss*, which was very appropriate for a Veteran's Day program. Thanks be to God, not one person in the whole event rejected our literature.

Step three, and by all means the most important, we prayed for the Spirit of God—and He gave it to us! He worked in the hearts of many to be happy to receive the literature, and He worked in our hearts to be happy to give it! A smile and Godly boldness will assure most people in a matter of seconds that they are *supposed to have* what you are giving them. And guess what? The more smiling faces there are to help give out literature, the more literature can be distributed! The 800 seeds of truth that were passed out this day were distributed by only two Christian soldiers. So much more could've been done in that hour if we had more help! If you want to help spread truth like the "leaves of autumn", young and old, please join G.F.I.A in our outreach events! For more information, please email us at gfia.soldiers@gmail.com or speak to Madison Chrishon at church.



- ◆ 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!! **UPDATED - Church Website:** <https://www.clantonsda.com/> 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 are there also. If you get an online version and want a hard copy or if you don't want to get the Newsletter, Let me know. Thanks, Brenda

Return Address:

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To: «AddressBlock»