

JANUARY

2020

To My Friends and Family,

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.  
May God continue to bless you throughout 2020 and beyond.



We each walk different paths, we all have separate mountains to climb. That's not the difference though, the difference is what we do when we reach the top. Some do it with grace and kindly reach down and help another up. Some become privileged and think they are better than those at the bottom, some never reach the top at all but are always in an infinite struggle. I hope that if I ever reach the top of my mountain, that I have the grace and kindness in my heart to help someone climb their own. In doing so I hope to make their climb a little easier, and keep them from sliding back down.

The sermon at church Sabbath was titled “**Desires**” - The text was taken from KJV 3 John 2 “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as they soul prospereth”. The emphasis was from Christ Object Lessons page 419, “THERE IS NOTHING THAT CHRIST DESIRES SO MUCH AS AGENTS WHO WILL REPRESENT TO THE WORLD HIS SPIRIT AND CHARACTER. THERE IS NOTHING THAT THE WORLD NEEDS SO MUCH AS THE MANIFESTATION THRU HUMANITY OF THE SAVIORS LOVE. ALL HEAVEN IS WAITING FOR CHANNELS THRU WHICH CAN BE POURED THE HOLY OIL, TO BE A JOY AND BLESSING TO HUMAN HEARTS. THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT WILL BE SHOWN BY THE OUTFLOWING OF HEAVENLY LOVE. “ If we make sure our desires this next year are in line with God's desires by praying and listening to him, we will be making God happy and others happy, thereby the results will be that we will be happier. *The last sentence was my take on the sermon and not Ralph Sheperd's words. Then for the closing song Treva Radford sang the song as listed below. Such a blessing we all had, hope to see those that missed church there next week. Yes, this is Brenda reporting again.....*

#### Tears In Heaven

1. I dream't I went to Heaven last night. There were many Mansions up there what a wonderful sight. Then I saw a door with your name and something else written in red. It said this one's empty, he wanted the world instead. **Chorus:** Tears in Heaven; I know that Jesus will wipe them away. When I was crying. In his gentle voice I heard him say. There's a void in my heart I wish you could see, I wanted him right here with me. And now I know why there will be tears in Heaven. 2. There were many searching for family and friends, up and down the streets of gold from end to end. Then I saw the books with your name and all of the secrets you hide and the tears came again as I saw all the times Jesus tried. **Bridge:** I'm so glad that it was only just a dream! It was only a dream. 3. While there's still just a little more time. Use it wisely don't hesitate to make up your mind. Very soon there'll be no more chances and it will be time to destroy and I want to be standing with you crying tears of joy. **Chorus:** Tears in Heaven; I know Jesus will wipe them away and while we're crying in His Gentle voice we'll hear him say I'm so glad that you're here together with me, living forever and free. And now : I know why there will be tears in Heaven. There'll be tears of sorrow and tears of joy in Heaven.

# Spotlight on Camron Higgins



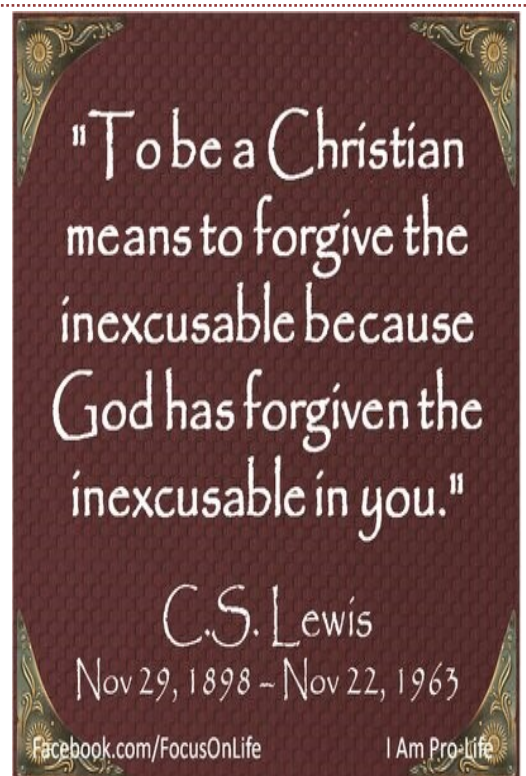
This is Camron Higgins, which a lot of us have know for years since he is the son of Felicia and Doug Higgins. Doug died in March of 2017 and Felicia died in May of 2019. After loosing his mother he started coming back to church and renewed his faith in Jesus and decided to be rebaptized. On November 30, 2019, he was baptized by Pastor Dan Thompson and now we as his family in the Clanton SDA Church are getting to know him again.

Camron was born in February of 1981 and has a sister Cassie who was born in December of 1982.

"My job before Merchants was Twin city security", (That was back in June when he sent an email out needing a prayer request: "Need prayers, I have an interview tomorrow afternoon for a good job that's a lot more money, closer to home and won't have to work during Sabbath hours if everyone could say a prayer it goes good.") Then a few days later he sent back an email that he had the job at Merchants. "Everything about Merchants is better, I make in one week what I made in 2 there and don't have to worry about working Sabbath which is what I had prayed for. They're a food distributor warehouse for Sonic, Subway, Firehouse Subs and the majority of schools in Alabama. I like to play video games, the main game I stream is Call of Duty, it's a war type game. Makaylynn is 11 now, her birthday is 9/23/2008, she's finish 5th grade, we decided to homeschool her because of the way public schools are headed with their teaching. Stephanie is doing good, she was finished with the oncologist about a year or so ago, so the chances of her cancer coming back are pretty slim." I asked him about Phoenix and he said that "Phoenix is still with her sisters, haven't seen her since Mom died."

I hope I didn't jump around so that you don't understand this but I was emailing back and forth getting information from Camron. Let's continue praying for Camron because we all know that when we let Satan know we aren't on his side anymore, we are tempted worse than we were before. May God be will you Camron. Your church family will be supporting you with our prayers. Just let us know if you need encouragement. We will be looking forward to continuing to getting to know you and your family.

**Remember This ... God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you helped get where they need to go. God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe. God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors. God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character. God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, but He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in Heaven, and not to the gates of hell. God won't ask how many people you forwarded this to, but He'll ask why you were ashamed to pass it on to your friends ...**



# PASTOR'S CORNER



## The Sign of the Prophet Jonah

Recently as I was studying the book of Jonah, I ran across the following on the Amazing Facts website. There are many who doubt the truth of the story as given in the Bible.

“One story dates back to the late 19th century. The Star of the East, a whaling ship operating off the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic, was in pursuit of a large whale. Its harpoon boats were launched, and the whale was successfully speared. However, in the violence that followed, one of the smaller boats capsized — throwing two crew-members into the sea. One of them was found drowned, but the other, James Bartley, disappeared without a trace. The whale was eventually subdued, and its carcass hoisted onto the ship where the crew began carving it up for blubber. After a couple of days, they worked down to the stomach, where they noticed something large moving around inside. They cut the stomach open—and there lay James Bartley. He was doubled up, unconscious, and even somewhat digested, but he was alive! They doused him with seawater, put him in the captain's cabin to recover—and after a few weeks of bed-rest, he was back on the job.

Some accounts include a detailed description of what Bartley experienced and felt during his whale of a journey. He said that he remembered flying through the air when the whale struck the boat with its tail. Then suddenly, darkness surrounded him as he slipped along a smooth passage of some sort. He then came into a larger area marked by a slimy substance that shrunk from his touch. He soon realized that he was in the whale. He could breathe, but it was also very hot! He said that later he lost consciousness, and the next thing he remembered was the crew caring for him. Other accounts say that Bartley's skin was permanently affected by the gastric juices in the whale, and that he had a bleached-white appearance for the remainder of his life. Other versions describe his skin as having a bluish color after his rescue.” Amazing Facts, The Sign of Jonah.

While we don't know exactly what swallowed Jonah, it doesn't say it was a whale after all, we can see that it would have been a traumatic and lasting experience. In fact if you read his prayer in chapter 2, it is quite clear that he expected to die. He mentions Sheol which we know is the grave and his life being brought up from the pit or again the grave. He talks about forever not because he has in mind what we prove from it, that forever doesn't have to be eternal, but that he fully expected that this would be his end if God did not act.

So it is no wonder that Jesus uses the story to show how His own resurrection was like Jonah's “resurrection” from the fish's belly. In fact, he goes on to show how this would be fulfilled in His life. Talking to the Pharisees He tells them, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Matthew 12:40.

Many have trouble with that but it is clear he is not talking about His time in the grave, but His time of suffering for the sins of the world. That clearly started on Thursday night with the Last Supper and ended on Sunday with His resurrection thus making three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Again from Amazing Facts about the time that Jesus took our sins— “But when exactly were the sins of the world placed upon the Lamb of God? Was it when He died on the cross, or when they laid His body in the grave? The answer is no. These were part of paying the penalty for sin—having died on the cross and placed in the tomb, His suffering had ended. Was it when they drove the nails into His hands? That was certainly part of it, but the starting point was actually before the crucifixion. According to Hebrew law, the sins of the people were placed upon the Passover lamb before it was slain. During the Last Supper, with the bread and grape juice, Jesus sealed His new covenant to be the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

Soon after the establishment of this new covenant at the Last Supper, Jesus began bearing our guilt, shame, and penalty. It's worth mentioning that Jesus died during the Passover festival. During that week, thousands of sheep were sacrificed in the Temple so that a virtual stream of blood was flowing from the Temple down to the Kidron brook and eventually flowing into the Dead Sea. After the Last Supper, Jesus crossed the stream of blood on His way to Gethsemane.

‘When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered’ (John 18:1). Jesus went through the Jordan when He began his ministry, and He crossed the bloody Kidron when he began his sufferings.” Amazing Facts, The Sign of Jonah

Praise God, Jesus took our sins. Praise God, He rose again. And because He did we can have hope today. Pastor Dan

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# Keeper of the Light

## A Scrapbook Story of Ellen G. White

### Submitted by Kay Cheser, Women's Ministry Leader



Mary's father was the keeper of a lighthouse on the coast of England. The light of these lamps shines at night to guide ships on their way and to keep them from dangerous rocks and shoals. The lighthouse seems to say: "Take care, sailors, for rocks and sands are here. Keep a good lookout and mind how you sail, or you will be lost."

One afternoon Mary was in the lighthouse alone. Mary's father had trimmed the lamps, and they were ready for lighting when evening came. As he needed to buy some food, he crossed the causeway which led to the land. This causeway was a path over the rocks and sands, which could be used only two or three hours in the day; at other times, the waters rose and covered it. The father intended to hasten home before the tide flowed over this path. Night was coming on, and a storm was rising on the sea. Waves dashed against the rocks, and the wind moaned around the tower.

Mary's mother was dead, and although she was alone, her father had told the girl not to be afraid, for he would soon return. Now there were some rough-looking men behind a rock, who were watching Mary's father. They watched him go to the land. Who were they? They were "wreckers" who lurked about the coast. If a vessel was driven on the rocks by a storm, they rushed down-not to help the sailors, but to rob them, and to plunder the ship. The wicked men knew that a little girl was left alone in the lighthouse. They planned to keep her father on the shore all night. Ships filled with rich goods were expected to pass the point before the morning and these men knew if the light did not shine, the vessels would run upon the rocks and be wrecked. How cruel and wicked they were to seek the death of the ships' crews!

Mary's father had filled his basket and prepared to return to the lighthouse. As he drew near the road leading to the causeway, the wreckers rushed from their hiding place and threw him on the ground. They quickly bound his hands and feet with ropes and carried him into a shed, where he had to lie until morning. It was in vain that he shouted for them to set him free; they only mocked his distress. They then left him in the charge of two men, while they ran back to the shore.

"Oh, Mary, what will you do?" cried the father as he lay in the shed. "There will be no one to light the lamps. Ships may be wrecked, and sailors may be lost."

Mary looked from a narrow window toward the shore, thinking it was time for her father to return. When the clock in the little room struck six, she knew that the water would soon be over the causeway. An hour passed. The clock struck seven, and Mary still looked toward the beach; but her father was not to be seen. By the time it was eight, the tide was nearly over the causeway; only bits of rock here and there were above the water. "O father, hurry," cried Mary, as though her father could hear her. "Have you forgotten your little girl?" But the only answer was the noise of the waters as they rose higher and higher, and the roar of the wind as it gave notice of the coming storm. Surely there would be no lights that night.

Mary thought of what her mother used to say: "We should pray in every time of need." Quickly she knelt and prayed for help: "O Lord, show me what to do, and bless my father, and bring him home safe."

The water was now over the causeway. The sun had set more than an hour ago, and, as the moon rose, black storm clouds covered it from sight. The wreckers walked along the shore, looking for some ship to strike on the coast. They hoped that the sailors, not seeing the lights, would think they were far at sea. At this moment Mary decided she would try to light the lamps. But what could a little girl do? The lamps were far above her reach. She got matches and carried a small stepladder to the spot. After much labor she found that the lamps were still above her head. Then she got a small table and put the stepladder on it. But when she climbed to the top the lights were still beyond her reach. "If I had a stick," she said, "I would tie a match to it, and then I could set a light to the wicks." But no stick was to be found. The storm was raging with almost hurricane force. The sailors at sea looked along the coast for the light. Where could it be? Had they sailed in the wrong direction? They were lost and knew not which way to steer. All this time Mary's father was praying that God would take care of his child in the dark and lonely lighthouse.

Mary, frightened and lonely, was about to sit down again, when she thought of the old Bible in the room below. But how could she step on that Book? It was God's Holy Word that her mother had loved to read. "Yet, it is to save life," said she; "and if mother were here, would she not allow me to take it?" In a minute the large book was brought and placed under the steps, and up she climbed once more. Yes, she was high enough! She touched one wick, then another, and another, until the rays of the lamps shone brightly far above the dark waters. The father saw the light as he lay in the shed, and thanked God for sending help in the hour of danger. The sailors saw the light, and steered their ships away from the rocks. The wreckers, too, saw the light, and were angry to see that their evil plot had failed. All that stormy night the lamps cast their rays over the foaming sea; and when the morning came, the father escaped from the shed. Soon he reached the lighthouse and found out how his little girl had stood faithful to duty in the dark hours of the storm.

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

J A N	7	Ralph Sheperd
	8	Elaine Johnson & Raelene Covrig
	11	Sara Powers
	12	Treva Radford
		Anniversaries None that I know of

## Reminiscing Corner



OK, Did you guess the person depicted in the pictures from last month? Thanks to Florine Linkous for sharing her pictures.

I will leave you guessing who this is...

Don't forget to give me something for next month. Thanks, Brenda

**Speaker Schedule:** Dec 28 Ted Winslow; Jan. 4 Steve Radford; 11 Pastor; 18 Ricky Woodruff; 25 Pastor; Feb. 1 Ted Winslow; 8 Pastor; 15 Steve Radford; 22 Pastor; 29 Tui Pitman; Mar. 7 Pastor; 14 Gary Linkous; 21 Pastor; 28 Ted Winslow

**Church Business Meeting: Sunday, Jan 19, Breakfast 8:30, Meeting 9:30 am - All church members are welcomed and urged to attend this breakfast and business meeting. See you there.**

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

A special Hello to all and that he misses us from **Matt Stewart**. He sent a picture of his live in caretake Rosemary and a picture of his 8 year old Lucy his service dog for seizures and diabetic up/down bad readings. He was in and out of the hospital this last Oct, he had a heart attack and 2 more stients, then just last week got another one, making 11 total. He would love to hear from everyone. I was IM with him on Facebook, the problem is he has four different FB pages. His new address is: 100 15th St, Apt C206, Baycity, MI 48708

### The Carpenter

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence. One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore." The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day - measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge .. A bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in middle, taking each others hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

Are we going to build creeks or bridges this coming year??? A good question.

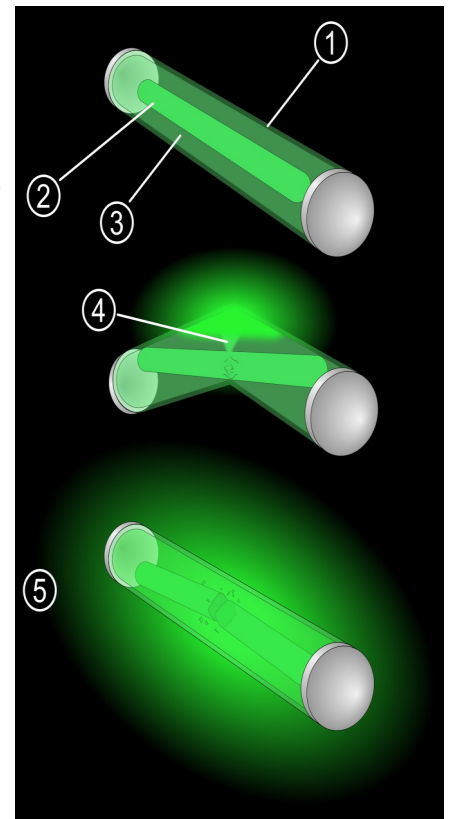
## Gracefully Broken!

I was in Dollar Tree last night and there was a lady and two kids behind me in the LONG line. One was a big kid, one was a toddler. The bigger one had a pack of glow sticks and the baby was screaming for them so the Mom opened the pack and gave him one; which stopped his tears. He walked around with it smiling, but then the bigger boy took it and the baby started screaming again. Just as the Mom was about to fuss at the older child, he bent the glow sticks and handed it back to the baby. As we walked outside at the same time, the baby noticed that the stick was now glowing and his brother said: "I had to break it so you could get the full effect from it." I almost ran because I could hear God saying to me, "I had to break you to show you why I created you. You had to go through it so you could fulfill your purpose."

That little baby was happy just swinging that "unbroken" glow stick around in the air because he didn't understand what it was created to do which was "glow".

There are some people who will be content just "being" but some of us that God has chosen, we have to be "broken" so that we may "glow". Some will have to endure getting sick, some will make bad choices and end up in jail, prison or other institutions. Some will have to lose their job, go through a divorce, bury a spouse,

parents, best friend, or our child because, in those moments of desperation, God is breaking us to make us better, to help us be a light or glow for others and when the breaking process is complete, then we will be able to see the reason for which we were created! So when you see us glowing just know that we have been broken but healed by his Grace and Mercy!!!



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. Don't forget without you sharing with others, we wouldn't have a newsletter. Also turn in articles, poems and pictures that you want to share. Thanks to those that do, Until next month! Happy New Year and may you only make New Years resolutions that you can keep with God's help..... Brenda

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