

2017



I pledge allegiance to The Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

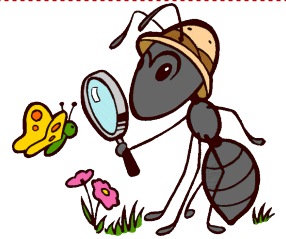
I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands—One Saviour, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe.

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Its word will "I hide in my heart that I might not sin against God."

Dear Friends, the Fourth of July, Independence Day, is a time to remember the freedom we have as a country and as individuals. The freedoms we enjoy today come with a large price that was paid by many who have faced the enemies of our country. Though not perfect—our country is the best we can hope for in this world. In John 8:31-36, Jesus tells us that He is the truth that will set us free. He gave his life to free us from the consequences of sin. Only he has the power to free us from Satan's deceptions. Jesus shows us clearly the way to eternal life. He does not give us freedom to do what we want, but freedom to follow God. As we seek to follow God, His truth sets us free to become what He intended us to be. We know as we live in the last days of this world's history that we will not always have the freedom we enjoy today. We can see now how fear of what might happen—is beginning to take away some of the individuals rights that we have taken for granted for so long. But remember the freedom God gives—no one can destroy. God bless each of you. Pastor Clay Grice taken from July 2006 newsletter. He passed away July of 2015.. Just thought it was a good one to use this month.

God Talks To An Ant

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock. After awhile, she got to a tiny ledge where she could hang on the rope, support herself on one foot and take a breather. As she was hanging there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens. There she was on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above. Of course, she looked and looked; hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Far from home, her sight now blurry, she was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it. When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for her lens, but the lens could not be found.



She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know, exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me." Finally the group walked down the trail to the bottom.

At the bottom there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?" Well that would be startling enough, but do you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it! Brenda's dad is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

At the risk of being philosophical, it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if you want me to carry it, I will." God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. *A true story by Josh and Karen Zarandona - Something to think about with this new year for leadership starting this month. So if you are called to do something, remember God will help you.*

PASTOR'S CORNER

As usual, beautiful pictures of Emma... Glad we can enjoy Facebook, for those of you that don't have Elizabeth as a friend just want to share. As in the study below, Emma looks like her parents and God has given her the best part of each of them to reflect. What a blessing.



We all . . . are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18.

They say we all have one: *Doppelgangers* some call them. Lookalikes. People unrelated to us who look very much like us. Mine happens to be a star in the music field. When I attended one of his concerts, I got a lot of double takes from fellow fans during intermission. But alas, I am no James Taylor when it comes to singing and strumming a guitar. We just happen to look alike. [Lord, transform us into Your image by what we say, how we love others, and how we worship You.](#)

Who do you look like? As you ponder that question, reflect on 2 Corinthians 3:18, where Paul tells us that we “are being transformed into [the Lord’s] image.” As we seek to honor Jesus with our lives, one of our goals is to take on His image. Of course, this doesn’t mean we have to grow a beard and wear sandals—it means that the Holy Spirit helps us demonstrate Christlike characteristics in how we live. For example, in attitude (humility), in character (loving), and in compassion (coming alongside the down and out), we are to look like Jesus and imitate Him. As we “contemplate the Lord’s glory,” by fixing our eyes on Jesus, we can grow more and more like Him. What an amazing thing it would be if people could observe us and say, “I see Jesus in you”! *Lord, help us to gaze on You, to study You, to know You. Transform us into Your image by what we say, how we love others, and how we worship You. May others see Jesus in us.*

Love is the family resemblance the world should see in followers of Christ.

INSIGHT:

After having communed with God for some eighty days and nights (Ex. 24:18; 34:28), Moses’s face shone, reflecting and radiating the holiness and glory of God (34:29–35). When he came down from Mt. Sinai with the law, the people were afraid to come near him. Thereafter, Moses wore a veil over his face, seemingly to protect the Israelites from prolonged exposure to God’s glorious holiness. Thousands of years later, the apostle Paul adds that Moses veiled himself to prevent the Israelites from seeing that this glory was fading away (2 Cor. 3:13). Using Moses’s experience, Paul reminds us of the great privilege Christians have today. Just as Moses was able to enter God’s holy presence without the veil (Ex. 34:34–35), anyone who believes in Jesus also has this privilege (2 Cor. 3:14, 16). The Holy Spirit gives us unencumbered and unrestricted access into God’s holy presence (v. 17) and will enable us to “see and **reflect the glory of the Lord**, [making] us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image” (v. 18 nlt). **In what ways are you like your heavenly Father?**

How is exposure to God’s holiness through His Word changing you to look more like Christ?

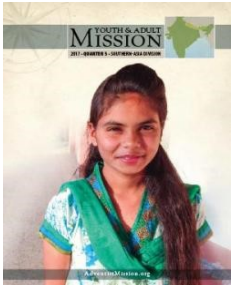
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Submitted by: Kay Cheser, Sabbath School Superintendent

Mission - 2017 • QUARTER 3

• SOUTHERN-ASIA DIVISION

Taken from: *AdventistMission.org*

This quarter features the Southern Asia Division, which includes the countries of Bhutan, India, and Nepal, plus the islands of the Maldives. The mission reports featured in this quarter come from India.

The Challenges

With a population of more than 1.3 billion people, and almost 1.6 million Seventh-day Adventists, the Southern Asia Division has one Adventist for every 870 people. Most of this growth has occurred in the past 20 years. In 1995, the division had a membership of fewer than 200,000.

The foundation for this tremendous growth was laid over the past 100-plus years as Adventist schools were established throughout the region. Thousands of non-Christian students enrolled in Adventist schools, where they could study in English, one of the primary languages of India. They learned far more than just English, however. Bible classes and daily and weekly worship were part of every curriculum. Many of these children were baptized while studying in Adventist schools. Many more thousands who were not baptized were influenced by new Christian values.

Today, Adventist schools continue to have a reputation for academic excellence and a caring and safe environment for children. Student applications continue to exceed enrollment capacities. Enlarging four schools in India will help more children receive excellent educations while they learn how much Jesus loves them.

As the church in Southern Asia continues to grow, the need for a centralized division wide training center with conference facilities has become urgent. The training center already under construction in Ibrahimpatnam [EE-brah-heem-PAHT-nahm], a large city in the heart of India, will serve that need. The facility will enable pastors, Global Mission Pioneers, and lay workers to receive the training they need to make a major difference in the lives of those to whom they minister. The training center will include dormitory rooms and a cafeteria, which will cut down the costs of holding such training sessions throughout the year. The facilities will also be used as a centralized conference center for church leaders throughout the year.

[Your Offering at Work In 2014](#) part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build a meeting hall for Bhutanese people. The new training center, located in northeastern India near the border of Bhutan, is now training lay workers to serve among the Bhutanese people who cross the border into India. It also houses a worship center and children's Sabbath School class for new believers. Thank you for giving so that the work among the Bhutanese people can move forward.

Find SDA Mission: Visit Facebook and like us at [Facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to help provide:

- ◆ A training center for division-wide church meetings and training programs in Telangana state in central India;
- ◆ A girls' dormitory in Nagaland state in northeastern India;
- ◆ A girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School in Tamil Nadu state in southeastern India;
- ◆ A classroom block for Vellarada Adventist High School in Kerala state in southern India; and
- ◆ A classroom block for Alate Adventist High School in Maharashtra state in western India.



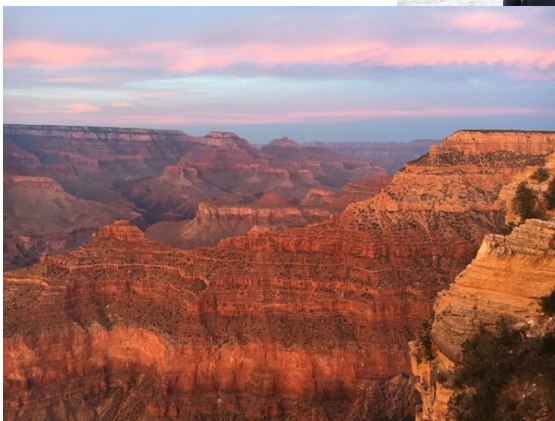
In Memory of Dorothy D. Houston

April 1, 1929 - June 11, 2017-

Obituary from *Ridout's website*

Mrs. Dorothy D. Houston, of Clanton, AL, died Sunday, June 11, 2017 in Alabaster, AL at the age of 88. Mrs. Houston was preceded in death by her husband, James T. Houston. Mrs. Houston is survived by her daughter Kay Houston of Clanton, Ala.; her son, Jud (and wife, Dawn) of Alabaster, Ala. Mrs. Houston is also survived by grandchildren, Haley Houston Roebuck (and husband, Adam) of Alabaster, Ala.; Judson (and wife, Kaitlyn) of Helena, Ala.; and Mallory of Alabaster, Ala. Her legacy continues with great-grandchildren: Ridge Houston Roebuck, and James III. Mrs. Houston is the sister of Steve Downs, Roswell, GA. Mrs. Houston was born on April 1, 1929 in Clanton, Ala., the daughter of the late Joe Ben and Florence Downs. Most of all, Mrs. Houston loved her family and her church. She always considered her roles as a wife and mother to be her most important life work.

These pictures are from the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Mesa Verda (cliff dwellings) in Colorado, and Arches National Park in Utah. These are from Arches National Park in Utah and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. The Continental Divide is the point where the water drains to the Atlantic Ocean on one side and to the Pacific Ocean on the other. We went from summer in desert-like conditions in Utah to winter in the upper elevations in Colorado. God is an amazing creator to make such beauty. Glad that Jeff, Charlotte, Jimmy and Sara are having a wonderful experience, something they will remember for sure. Pictures sent by Charlotte Powers.... Thanks for sharing!



Brenda K Davis—Editor and Information gatherer
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July Birthdays

- 5— Regan Gray
- 7 - Pastor Michael
- 9— Judy Peck
- 12 - Phoenix Sanders
- 21 - Brenda Davis
- 23 - Dorothy Wilson

Anniversaries

- 1 - Peter & Elaine Johnson
- 6 - Steven & Treva Radford
- 9 - Tom & Jeanne Bates

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. If I don't have yours let me know. Brenda

Calendar of Events

Weekly: Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

Monthly: Each Sabbath after Fellowship meal:

Sabbath School Visitation: 1st Sabbath

Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

- ◆ **FAMILY VBS - July 17-22, see more below**
- ◆ Church Board meeting Tues, July 25, 4:30 PM
- ◆ Pray for the **Evangelism meetings** planned for this fall. Don't forget to support this project.
- ◆ Remember to save your Religious Liberty monies for 2018 until January to turn in again.

Tentative Speaker Schedule: **July:** 1 - Pastor Rodriguez and **COMMUNION**; 8 - Brian Halley; 15 - Martin Fancher; 22 - Ben McGhee with VBS closing program; 29 - Ted Winslow **August:** 5 - David Sigamani; 12 - Steven Radford; 19 - Ted Winslow; 26 - Pastor Rodriguez

The Highest Power
FAMILY V.B.S.



JULY 17-21 5:30-8:00PM

CLANTON SDA CHURCH
MORE INFO: 755-8934



So how many of you knew the beautiful young woman last month was Jeannie Bates? Since this month is the Anniversary of the Johnson's, thought I would share an updated picture of the family. We wish Elaine & Peter a wonderful 50th this month. Don't forget to turn your picture in so we can all enjoy and share with you. For all of those that sent cards, email and thank you letters for appreciating the newsletter, Thank you very much. Have a good month, Until next time. Brenda

It's time to go to the mountain top!

Family Vacation Bible School starts July 17th at 5:30pm. here at the church. It hard to believe that it's already July! Please share flyers wherever you go since all ages are invited and welcomed. Don't forget to bring your family.

The team has some great crafts, food, games, natural remedies, health tips, gifts, fun, friendships, community outreach and God's word to help all of us make it to the top.

We look forward to seeing you at Family Vacation Bible July 17-21 with closing program Sabbath July 22 at 11am.

After fellowship lunch we will take gifts that we made during Vacation Bible School to seniors at the nursing home. On Sunday July 23rd we will meet at 1pm for our grand finale Mountain Top Hike.

Remember that the family that plays and prays together stays together. We are excited and hope that you are too!



Becky Grice and her mode of traveling

At church a week ago we were reminiscing about all the men in our life we had lost over the last how many years. And the Precious Memories of them. Pastor Clay Grice was one of them remembered. On Facebook today I saw a wonderful story Becky had written about her father and thought it was worth sharing. Hope you enjoy.

A Tribute to My Dad

I had a wonderful father who taught me many things, such as to love the Lord; to love and help others: and to never give up. I'm including a story I wrote about my Dad and me as a tribute to him on Father's Day. "Hi sir," the crippled man sitting on the sidewalk, greeted my father, as we left the store, "I'll sell you two pencils for only a quarter." My father hesitated, then dug into his pocket, and slowly handed the man the money as he said, "I'm really not in need of any pencils today, but I'm going to give you this because somebody might come by who needs a pencil mighty bad and doesn't have a quarter. Then you can help him if you are so inclined."

A smile spread across the man's face as he took the money. I held my Dad's hand and we crossed the street. Sometimes we stopped at the Dime Store and Daddy would get me a treat, as I looked up at him, he shook his head. "Rebecca, don't tell your mother, but that was all the money I had until payday." Before I could ask why, he explained, "It is always better to give than to get." We walked in silence for a while and then I skipped ahead. Suddenly my foot struck a pile of debris on the sidewalk, I looked down at a shiny coin which had been dislodged from the pile. I quickly handed it to my Dad. Amazed, he exclaimed. "It's a half-dollar, I knew it, you can never out give the Lord." "Thank you, Jesus," he said, as he picked me up and gave me a big hug. By Rebecca Grice

Websites Bill Weise has set up & 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 Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so the previous couple years there also. Also a Face Book page has been set up for the Clanton Sda church, log on and find information posted there regularly.
Communication: Continuing again this year, I am the communication leader for our church. That means if I don't communicate with you and you don't communicate back with me. WE will not have any communication. WE need stories, articles, poems, spotlights and etc. This is definitely not a job for one person. Let's work together to see that the Clanton SDA Church is communicating with God first, each other second and with our fellow man not the least important but if the other two elements aren't there then the third is impossible. Thanks in advance for your time and cooperation this year. Thanks Brenda

Return Address:
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Stanton, AL 36790



To: «AddressBlock»