



A special tribute to all the musicians that read this. Our church is blessed with more than most churches. Hope you are all blessed and enjoy.

The Touch of the Master's Hand

Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To Waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folk?" he cried.
"Who'll start the bidding for me?
"A dollar -- a dollar" -- then "Two, only two ---
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"
"Three dollars once: three dollars twice:
"Going for three" but No----

From the room far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow.
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
He tightened the sagging strings.
And played a melody, sweet and low,
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars- and who'll make it two?
"Two thousand and who'll make it three?
"Three thousand once, three thousand twice,
"And going and gone!" cried he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand.
"What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply:
"The touch of the master's hand!"

And many a youth with life out of time,
All battered and marred with sin,
Seems past hope to the thoughtless crowd--
Much like the old violin.
He's covered with scars from battles lost,
But still he travels on.
He is "going" once and "going" twice
He's "going" and almost "gone!"

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hands!

The Master comes again: He's here.
And knocks to your sin-scarred soul,
Will you let Him in and be cleansed from sin?
Will you let Him make you whole?
Yes, Lord, come into my sinful heart.
I open its door to Thee.
Thank You for saving my soul from sin,
And giving new life to me.

I heard this as a song yesterday and just wanted to share the wonderful words.

The Inside Job

In a remote Swiss village stood a beautiful church. It was called the Mountain Valley Cathedral. The church was not only beautiful to look at-with its high pillars and magnificent stained glass windows-but it had the most beautiful pipe organ in the region. People came from miles away, even from far-off lands, to hear the lovely tones of this organ.

But one day that all changed. The organ with its pipes was still there. The church windows still dazzled with sunlight. But there was an eerie silence. The mountain valley no longer echoed with glorious organ music. Something had gone wrong with the pipe organ.

Organ builders from across Europe tried to repair it. Every time a different person tried fixing it, the villagers were subjected to sounds of disharmony as awful noises polluted the air.

One day an old man appeared at the church door. He asked the priest if he could try his hand at repairing the organ. The priest was hesitant, but finally relented. For the next two days the old man worked in almost total silence. The priest was getting a bit nervous. Then on the third day, at high noon, the mountain valley once again was filled with glorious music.

Farmers dropped their plows, merchants closed their stores. Everyone in town stopped what they were doing and headed for the church. Even the bushes and trees of the mountaintops seemed to respond to the glorious music that echoed from ridge to ridge. After the old man finished his playing a brave soul asked him how he could have fixed the organ. How could he restore this magnificent instrument when even the world's experts could not?

The old man said, "I built this organ fifty years ago. I created it, and now I have restored it." That's what God is like. He created you; He is the One who can, and will, restore you! *Robert Clements writes from Baltimore, Maryland.*

Just Suppose

Zig Ziglar tells the story about an elderly man playing an organ in a cathedral in Europe. He was playing sad and melancholy music. It was sad because this was his last day as organist of the cathedral. He was being replaced by a younger musician. At dusk, somebody stepped into the cathedral. Seeing the younger man, the organist stopped playing, locked the organ and slipped the key into his pocket. He was approached by the young man, who simply said, "Please. the key."

On receiving the key, the young organist went to the organ and began to play. While the old man had played beautifully and skillfully, the young man played with sheer genius. Incredible music came rolling out of that beautiful old organ. This was the world's introduction to the music of 'Johann Sebastian Bach'. The old man, with tears in his eyes, said, "Suppose-just suppose- I had not given the master the key!" Have you given the Master of Life the key - the key to your heart and to your life?

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, I surrender the key to my heart and life to you. Please make me the man/woman of God you want me to be. Do with my life as you will. Please use me to be a part of what you are doing in the world today. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

PASTOR'S CORNER

I was reading Scripture this morning as I usually do and was in Colossians 4. The part that got my attention was in verses 2-4, "Persevere in prayer, with mind awake and thankful heart; and include a prayer for us, that God may give us an opening for preaching, to tell the secret of Christ; that indeed is why I am now in prison. Pray that I may make the secret plain, as it is my duty to do." Colossians 4:2-4 NEB. This is something we can all do. First of all we are told to persevere in prayer. Just like Paul's counsel to "pray without ceasing" we are to keep at it or persevere. But the other thing mentioned is that it should be done with a thankful heart. How many times do we pray and it is all about our troubles. Here is a person in prison and he is encouraging this group of Christians to pray with a thankful heart. Thankfulness does not come from our circumstances but from a vital connection with God. If we are connected through the Holy Spirit, we can be sure that he is never letting anything happen for which we cannot be thankful. One of my favorite quotes comes from *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 71, "The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and 'all things' that are permitted 'work together for good to them that love God.'" We can be thankful no matter what happens.



But then this man in prison encourages the believers to pray for those who preach. And this is much more than just praying for your pastor. There are always more speakers than just me. And some who prepare the sermon for that week, struggle with what to say and how to say it. Remember we are telling the secret of Christ. And this secret or mystery as it is sometimes called is not always easy to make plain. But that is exactly what Paul asks them to pray for, to "make the secret plain, as it is my duty to do." So remember our speakers, and Sabbath School teachers, both in the adult divisions and in the children's divisions. They are tasked every week with making plain what Paul calls a mystery or secret. Recently a friend sent me this quote, "If the minister's face is not flint, if he has not indomitable faith and courage, if his heart is not made strong by constant communion with God, he will begin to shape his testimony to please the unsanctified ears and hearts of those whom he is addressing. In endeavoring to avoid the criticism to which he is exposed, he separates from God, and loses the sense of the divine favor, and his testimony becomes tame and lifeless. He finds that his courage and faith are gone, and his labors are powerless." *Review and Herald*, April 7, 1885. Pray that those who preach and teach will be "made strong by constant communion with God." Then the messages and the teachings will be what we need for this time. Pastor Dan

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FIGHT for Your Marriage: An Important Message for Christian Wives

Marriage is an important institution created by God. After creating the first man, Adam, God said, *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18)*. God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and He removed one of his ribs. He used the rib to fashion the first woman, Eve. Then He proceeded to conduct the first ever wedding ceremony and proclaimed the following: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24)*. It is still His plan for a man to leave his father and mother, cleave unto his wife, and be one flesh with her. Our heavenly Father wants husbands and wives to enjoy each other’s love and sympathy and be a strong, united front as they train their children for this life and for the life to come in Heaven. With God in the center, husbands and wives can form a *“threefold cord that is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12)*. However, all around us we see the works of an enemy, Satan. We see “cords” that have been broken and marriages in shambles crumbling under the immense weight of troubled finances, infidelity, and addictions. Satan is a thief that comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He seeks to destroy souls and families.

Oftentimes, he attacks the strong heads of our families—the men. *“Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house” (Matthew 12:29)*. Once he gets the strong man, the rest of the family is often left vulnerable, and the strong man’s house can be easily spoiled. Satan is afraid of the powerful impact for good our husbands can make in our homes and communities, so he prepares tailor-made temptations to deceitfully ensnare them and cause them to fall from their noble, upright positions. Some men fall because they fail to see the importance of keeping a steady job, wisely managing their time and money, helping around the house or spending time with their families. These poor choices create additional trouble for the rest of the family. Hence, arguments may arise and further disrupt the peace of the home. Other men fall by the flattering words of another woman. Still others fall as a result of their destructive habits or addictions to gambling, pornography, drugs or alcohol.

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10 If your spouse has fallen and given in to Satan’s temptations, who is the best person to help him up? His wife! Not his mother, his buddy or his pastor. You are the one who vowed before God to be there for him in troublous times like these. Although your husband was more than likely fairly easy to “have and to hold” in better times, now it is time to “have and to hold” him in worse times—times that may well include overwhelming challenges and surmounting difficulties. Jesus is counting on you to make a fresh commitment to your wedding vows and help your spouse get up from his fall. Could Jesus possibly want you to exercise care, concern and compassion for your husband similar to that exhibited by the Good Samaritan towards a complete stranger? Certainly!

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. Luke 10:33, 34

All around us we see the love of many becoming cold, but let it not be the case with us, the children of God. May the Lord instead make us “to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men. . .” (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Helping your husband get up from his fall will serve as a blessing to him, yourself and your children, if you have them. It is especially imperative for those of you with children to help your husband recover himself from the snare of the enemy. When husbands are bound by the enemy, naturally-erect protective barriers set up by God are dissolved, and our children become an easy prey for Satan. They are left more vulnerable and are more easily attacked or “spoiled” by the enemy. What are some possible tactics the enemy uses in his attempts to “spoil” our homes and rob our families?

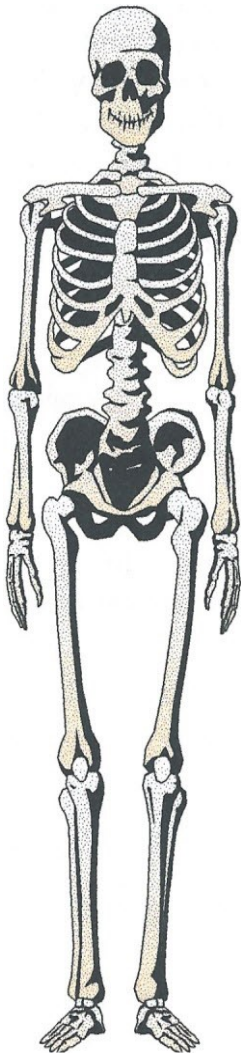
First, when “strong” men are bound by the enemy, marriages often fail. When this happens, mothers who previously stayed at home to take care of their young children may be forced to re-enter the workforce. Out of pure desperation, mothers may go against their maternal instincts and leave their children in less than desirable childcare situations that jeopardize their safety and put them in harm’s way. Satan wants to rob our children of their right to grow up in safe environments.

Second, when “strong” men are bound by the enemy, families often separate and a single-parent is frequently left to raise the children with little to no support. Countless men and women have done an outstanding job training their children in less than desirable circumstances. However, in some cases the absence of a strong, loving male presence in the home may cause young boys to crave inappropriate attention from other males. Thus, a foundation may be laid for later involvement in same-sex relationships. The same may hold true in situations where young girls are left without the nurturing attention of a loving mother. Satan wants to rob our children of natural affections.

Finally, when “strong” men are bound by the enemy, divorce is often the result. After a failed marriage, a woman’s strong desire for companionship may lead her to use poor judgment as she dates in order to find “Mr. Right.” Instead of “Mr. Right” she may go against her better judgment, lower her standards and settle for “Mr. Wrong.” Unfortunately, settling may have a negative impact upon the children. Sadly, many young girls have been violated by their mothers’ boyfriends, husbands or other male friends. Oftentimes, these poor girls are too ashamed or afraid to speak up. At other times, they refrain from telling because they feel like no one will believe them.

Satan wants to rob our children of the innocence associated with childhood and force them to grow up too soon. We must do our part to frustrate the enemy’s plans to rob our families. May the Lord help us rebuild the walls of protection around our family that the enemy has been attempting to break down. *“The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build” (Nehemiah 2:20)*. *Let us not be afraid, but remember we have the great and terrible Lord on our side as we fight for our sons, our daughters, our husbands, and our homes (Nehemiah 4:14)*. May we be able to stand like Nehemiah and say, *“I had builded the wall, and there was no breach left therein” (Nehemiah 6:1)*.

Continued on the back page.....



Your Father appreciates you and all that you do in service to Him and for others. We need to be on guard each day that we do our very best and ask God to help us not become weary in well-doing and thank him for His help.

Which Bone?

"Someone said, 'Membership in every organization is made of four bones. There are WISH bones, who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. Then there are JAW bones, who do all the talking but very little else. Next come KNUCKLE bones, who knock everything everybody else does. And finally, there are BACK bones, who get under the load and do all the work.'"

Which bone are you?

Do what you can, and then pray that God will give you the power to do what you cannot.



"Lord, give us grace and strength to persevere. Give us courage and joy and the quiet mind."

-Robert Louis Stevenson

Heb:12:1: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Old Age - It's Later Than You Think

It's later than you think— everything is farther away now that it used to be. It's twice as far to the corner - and they added a hill. I notice I've given up running for the bus - it leaves faster than it used to. It seems to be they are making steps steeper than in the old days and have you noticed the smaller print they use in the newspapers? There is no sense asking anyone to read aloud...everyone speaks in such a low voice I can scarcely hear them. Material in dresses is so skimpy especially around the hips. It's all but impossible to reach my shoe laces. Even people are changing - They are much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my age are much older than I. I ran into an old classmate the other day and she had aged so much she didn't remember me. I got to thinking about the poor thing when I was combing my hair this morning and I glanced in the mirror at my reflection and would you believe it, they don't even make mirrors like they used to either.... Donated by Myrtis Kohler back in 1997.



The Sabbath School / Junior/Youth Group's trip to the Ark Encounter. This looks like the complete group except for Charlotte who must have been taking the pictures. Now see below for their comments.

Michael: "I liked all the animals" Kelaiah: "I liked how real everything was" Anthony: "I liked a lot of things...I liked everything"

Samuel: "I liked how Noah had two interviews. On the first one, the people before the flood came to interview Noah, and on the second, a modern magazine journalist interviewed the Noah that built the Ark Encounter."

Ms Treva: "I really enjoyed the detail and the depth that they put into everything. It really took a whole day to soak up everything!"

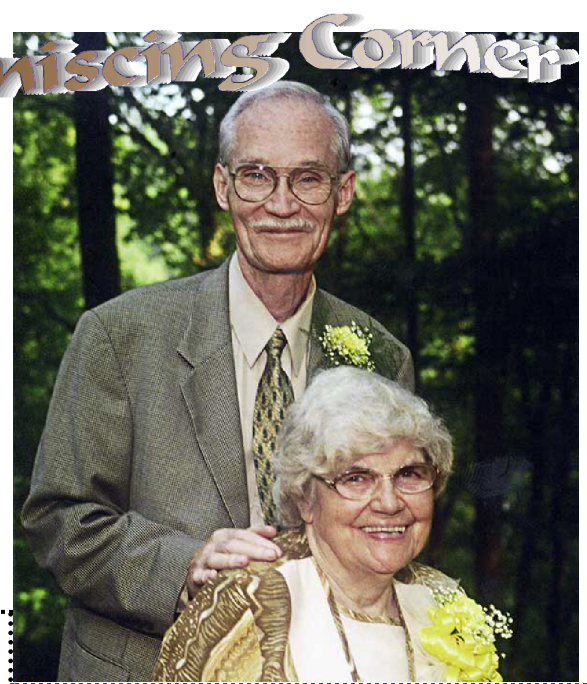
Madison: "My favorite part was how spiritual the whole experience was, and how they really took advantage of the attraction to witness about the coming judgement in comparison to the days of Noah."

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

	5	Regan Gray
J	9	Judy Peck
U	12	Phoenix Sanders (3 yr)
L	21	Brenda Davis
Y	23	Dorothy Wilson

Anniversaries		
1 - Peter & Elaine Johnson		
6 - Steven & Treva Radford		

Speaker Schedule: **June:** 29, Pastor Thompson & Communion. **July:** 6, Brent Chrishon; 13, Pastor Thompson; 20, Brian Halley; 27, Pastor Thompson & Baptism; **August:** 3, Brent Chrishon; 10, Pastor Thompson; 17, Brian Halley; 24, Ted Winslow; 31, Pastor Thompson & Communion



This Picture of Annita & Bill Wiese was taken back in 2006 (at least I got it for the directory we were working on back then). I thought this is a good couple to reminisce about. Think of our Clanton Church BEFORE they came. What a blessing they have been to us, not just the little and big things that Annita has done, how she has initiated projects and made sure that they get done, all of which making sure the church looked nice. But also the privilege of us having the spiritual leading of this wonderful couple. Just wanted to say THANKS to both of you, from all of us here at the Clanton SDA Church. Until next month, please share someone you want to honor or reminisce about. Thanks, Brenda

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

Showing Through

A little girl on the way home from church turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me." The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?" The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?" "Yes, that's true," mother replied. "He also said that God lives within us. Is that true, too?" "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through?" I like that little girl's way of putting it. If God lives in us, then there's no way of keeping Him from "showing through". That's the essence of Christian living—living in such a way that people around will see God in our lives. *“ Let your light SO shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father, which is in heaven. /I Matthew 5:16.*

Weathering the storm - Written by and shared with us by: Elaine Johnson

And HE arose and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, "Peace be still" and the wind ceased and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39 KJV
 Have you ever felt that death was knocking at your door but realized GOD had his hand on you? Well, my husband and I shared an experience that allowed us to see God at work.

We moved from a Northern state to a Southern state, happy to get away from all the snow! Once settled in, we began to hear talk of tornadoes and hurricanes. Well, we didn't think much of it, because years had passed and we hadn't seen anything. One day while listening to the news, the reporter was tracking a hurricane, which was headed our way.

We started praying, planning and purchasing a few items. We asked the LORD to spare our lives. God answers prayers because the first hurricane turned into a tropical storm and died. Then the alerts started up for "Ivan". Once again, preparations began. We had never experienced the magnitude of a hurricane. "Ivan" came as predicted. First with a little wind and rain, then the wind became very strong. This made me think about the disciples on the boat. It was storming and they were afraid. Christ was sleeping and they woke him up. HE spoke and the storm ceased.

My husband and I sat together in our home, holding hands. The windows shook, the rain came and then the wind, roaring like a freight train!! All of a sudden, in the other room there was a loud crack and then a bang! We both jumped up to see what had happened. Half of the big oak tree on the side of our home fell onto the carport, knocked it down and it landed on our vehicle. There was another loud crack; tree number two fell across the driveway. Throughout the storm, our constant prayer was "LORD, spare our lives" We heard another crack. This time, another part of the oak tree had fallen and missed hitting the house by a foot. We had three trees to fall.

During the storm, all power was lost! No telephones for 12 days, no electricity for four days. Over half of our food spoiled. Through it all, we never lost the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you Our Forever Friend for "weathering us through the storm!"

(Continued from:) **FIGHT for Your Marriage**

The principles contained in my upcoming book, *FIGHT for Your Marriage*, are indeed contrary to the popular views surrounding us in the 21st century. We are often encouraged to put self first and look upon divorce as a quick and easy solution for broken marriages. However, as Christians we have made a decision to follow Jesus Christ, not the customs of this world. Jesus *"humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* (Philippians 2:8). Following Jesus requires humility, self-denial and taking up our cross (Matthew 16:24). It requires following a narrow path of brotherly kindness, love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19

Almost 20 years ago, my marriage was broken and in shambles. Through God's amazing providence, I met some women who encouraged me to step out in faith and pray for my husband and our broken marriage. Through a miracle of God, my husband, Brent, and I were reconciled, and now we are happily married.

Ten years ago, I prepared a written testimony and eagerly shared it with others. Although countless individuals looked upon my testimony as a miracle and rejoiced with me as to how the Lord worked things out between Brent and me, most failed to look to the Lord for a miracle in their *own* broken marriage. As a result, I felt compelled to write a book that included not only my marriage testimony, but also practical, biblical strategies to help other married couples restore unity in Christ.

F.I.G.H.T. for Your Marriage contains the same strategies I used in my effort to cooperate with Jesus as He worked to bring healing to my broken marriage; but, now the strategies are stated in an easy to remember acronym F.I.G.H.T. --

Fervently pray.

Identify God's promises.

Give thanks.

Have patience.

Take time for testimonies.

I challenge you to forfeit your right to get even or get a divorce. I also challenge you stop fighting with your spouse and start F.I.G.H.T.ing for your marriage.

~Excerpt from church member Anika Chrishon's upcoming book, *FIGHT for Your Marriage*, which is scheduled to be released later in July.

- ◆ 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!! **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. Thanks to those that do, Brenda

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