



I have a prayer request. There's a lady I've know forever. She's very sick. On top of that she's being abused by those she has given everything to. Lies about her abound, and seem to come from all sides. Just breaks my heart. Seems there's nothing I can do alone. But maybe, if we join in and lift her up. She's well over 200 years old, but way too young to die. Her name is "America", and I love her. People we truly do need to pray really hard for our Country... and for each other!

A father said to his daughter: You graduated with honors, here is a car that I acquired many years ago ... it is several years old. But before I give it to you, take it to the used car lot downtown and tell them I want to sell it and see how much they offer you. The daughter went to the used car lot, returned to her father and said, "They offered me \$1,000 because it looks very worn out."

The father said, "Take it to the pawn shop." The daughter went to the pawn shop, returned to her father and said, "The pawn shop offered \$100 because it was a very old car."

The father asked his daughter to go to a car club and show them the car. The daughter took the car to the club, returned and told her father, "Some people in the club offered \$100,000 for it since it is a Nissan Sky-line R34, an iconic car and sought after by many."

The father said to his daughter, "I wanted you to know that the right place values you the right way." If you are not valued, do not be angry, it means you are in the wrong place. Those who know your value are those who appreciate you. Never stay in a place where no one sees your value! What a wonderful lesson!

TOUCHING STORY:

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approaches, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car .. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautiful wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen Him since that graduation day. But before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, *Matt 7:11 "And if ye being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven give to those who ask Him?"*

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealers name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired .. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... **PAID IN FULL.**

MORAL LESSON: How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

A PRAYER FOR YOU! May you never miss God's gift for you just because its not wrapped and packaged as you expect it.

PASTOR'S CORNER

By: Leslie Koh

I will wait for the Lord . . . I will put my trust in him. Isaiah 8:17

Today's Scripture & Insight: **Isaiah 8:16–18**

Lela was dying of cancer, and her husband, Timothy, couldn't understand why a loving God would let his wife suffer. She had served Him faithfully as a Bible teacher and mentor to many. "Why did You let this happen?" he cried. Yet Timothy continued to be faithful in his walk with God.

"So why do you still believe in God?" I asked him frankly. "What keeps you from turning away from Him?"

"Because of what has happened before," Timothy replied. While he couldn't "see" God now, he recalled the times when God had helped and protected him. These were signs that God was still there caring for his family. "I know the God I believe in will come through in His own way," he said.

Timothy's words echo Isaiah's expression of trust in Isaiah 8:17. Even when he couldn't feel God's presence as his people braced for trouble from their enemies, he would "wait for the Lord." He trusted in God because of the signs He'd given of His continuing presence (v. 18).

There are times when we might feel as if God isn't with us in our troubles. That's when we depend on what we can see of His works in our lives, in the past and present. They're the visible reminder of an invisible God—a God who is always with us and will answer in His own time and way.

Reflect & Pray

What signs can you see of God working in your life? How can they remind you that you can still look to Him for hope and comfort?

Father, thank You for always being there for me. Give me the strength to trust in You even when I don't understand what's going on.

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Due to a clerical error during WW2, Corrie Ten Boom was released from Ravensbruck one week before all the women her age were killed. She began traveling and telling the story of her family, and what she and Betsie had learned in the concentration camp. She recounts one story in particular:



It was in a church in Munich that I saw him—a balding heavy-set man in a gray overcoat, a brown felt hat clutched between his hands. People were filing out of the basement room where I had just spoken. It was 1947 and I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives... And that's when I saw him, working his way forward against the others.

One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones. It came back with a rush! The huge room with its harsh overhead lights, the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor, the shame of walking naked past this man.

I could see my sister's frail form ahead of me, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin. Betsie, how thin you were! Betsie and I had been arrested for concealing Jews in our home during the Nazi occupation of Holland; this man had been a guard at Ravensbruck concentration camp where we were sent.

"You mentioned Ravensbruck in your talk," he was saying. "I was a guard in there."

No, he did not remember me.

"But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well."

"Fraulein," his hand came out, "...will you forgive me?"

And I stood there—I whose sins had every day to be forgiven—and could not. Betsie had died in that place—could he erase her slow, terrible death simply for the asking?

It could not have been many seconds that he stood there, hand held out, but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

For I had to do it—I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us.

"If you do not forgive men their trespasses," Jesus says, "neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." ...And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart.

But forgiveness is not an emotion—I knew that, too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

"Jesus, help me!" I prayed silently.

"I can lift my hand, I can do that much. You supply the feeling."

And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

"I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With all my heart!"

For a long moment we grasped each other's hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely as I did then.

I enjoyed the story about Corrie Ten Boom last month and this is a really good one that I wanted to share also.



**Shake
It Off
And
Step
Up**

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' -or-whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened ... and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farm and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back ... a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back ... He should shake it off and step up! This he did, blow after blow. "shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up!" He repeated to encourage himself.

No matter how painful the blows, or how distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "Panic" and just kept right on shaking it off and stepping up! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well! What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him ... all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. That's life! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self pity ... The adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us!

Remember that forgiveness, faith, prayer, praise and hope ... all are excellent ways to "Shake It Off And Step Up" out of the wells in which we find ourselves!

Understood

"I know I do not trust You, Lord, enough. To-morrow, if the pathway grows too rough for my weak feet to travel, I should pause, and murmur that Your face was hid, because I cannot see You in a darkened place; I need the sunshine to behold Your face. I do not trust You, Lord" Then patient, mild, He answered lovingly, "I know it, Child."

"My heart is cold against You," then I cried; "If You to-day were walking by my side, If You and I were walking by the sea, and You should whisper softly, "Follow Me," Those words the centuries have found so sweet, I think that I should rise with lagging feet: My heart would sense such feelings quick and wild." Again He answered, "Yes, I know it, Child."

"I am not constant, Lord, I am not true: The things I would not are the things I do. I am so weary; there are clouds between; My words are harsher, wilder than I mean. Not over pastures smooth, but rock and stone, I walked to-day, and I have weary grown." More softly, tenderly than angel's call, The Savior answered, "Child, I know it all."

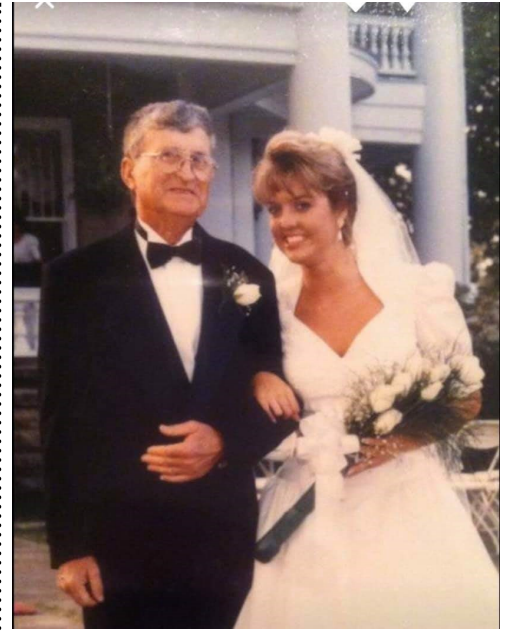
- Bertha Gerneaux Davis

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

J U L Y	5	Regan Gray
	9	Judy Peck
	21	Brenda Davis
	23	Dorothy Wilson
Anniversaries: 1st Peter & Elaine Johnson 6th Steven & Treva Radford		

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: July 4th - Pastor Thompson—Yes, we are back worshipping at the Clanton SDA Church. At this time: temperature is taken, 6 ft distancing for seating and masks are required in the Sanctuary.

Everyone knew that was Charlotte and Brianna from last month, correct? We are blessed to have Facebook to keep track of those that post pictures there of their travels, occurrences, birthdays and other events. For those of you that don't have Facebook, thought I would share another nice picture that was posted on Father's Day... Hope you don't mind me sharing. Your turn next month.



What we see is an important factor in what we do. Especially is this true as we celebrate the founding of our nation. Our forefathers had a vision of a nation with the provisions of certain freedoms. They also embraced biblical principles in the shaping of that vision. Their foresight was an outgrowth of the insight.

A certain family was having an outing at a "natural park." Grandma and Grandpa took their grandchildren to what they thought was an afternoon in nature. However, to their shock, they came to realize that a "natural park" was a nudist colony. As several nudists rode by on their bicycles, one of the youngest grandkids exclaimed, "Look grandma, they are not wearing helmets!" Evidently, his parents had constantly instructed this child on the importance of safety helmets. Had it not been for the instruction, his attention may have been elsewhere.

The children of Israel were instructed by God to pay attention to His direction for this nation. This was not casual instruction, for their very endurance depended on God's blessings. (Deuteronomy 6).

What was so essential then is still essential now. There is a struggle for the very soul of America. Interpretations are rising that attempt to write God out of the flow of our nation's history. Sad to say, the end result is a nation whose focus misses the bare essential. Here is a guaranteed formula for national destruction.

This Fourth of July celebrate the birth of a nation by having a special family time. Help your family focus on God's blessings upon our nation. Renew their insight that God's shaping influence not only established our nation, but is also the essential ingredient for our future.

Happy Fourth! - Taken from an article by Dr. Jerry Henry, pastor of Elkdale Baptist Church that was in the Selma Times about 15 years ago. Just think how appropriate it is for us now....

Points of View



When Elephant saw the rabbit
 He said, "You're very small.
 You're so far down near to the ground
 You're hardly there at all."
 The Elephant saw it his way,
 He had a point of view,
 But it wouldn't seem quite like that to me
 Or quite like that to you.

When the little mouse saw the rabbit
 He said, "You're very tall.
 You're so high up, near to the sky
 Aren't you afraid you'll fall?"
 The little mouse saw it his way,
 He had a point of view,
 But it wouldn't seem quite like that to me
 Or quite like that to you.

If you ever have a quarrel
 And find you can't agree,
 Remember that what you think of things
 Depends on what you see.
 Whenever you see it your way
 You have a point of view,
 But never forget that someone else
 May see it his way, too!

"This was taken from an old third grade book. The students and myself did this every year." Contributed in 2008 by: Myrtis Kohler

VEGEBURGERS

In a saucepan combine:

4 cups water, 1/2 cup Bragg Liquid Aminos, 1/4 vegetable oil,

1/4 cup nutritional yeast flakes, 1/4 cup sesame seeds,

2 tps garlic powder, 1 tsp sage, 1 Tbsp sweet basil,

1 cup finely chopped walnuts, 1 finely chopped onion

and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and add 1 cup finely crumbled tofu and 4 cups regular rolled oats.

Mix everything together and set aside for 1/2 hour.

Using 1/4 cup portions, form patties on oil or nonstick cookie sheet and bake in a 350 degree oven for approximately 25 minutes each side. Very Good.



COUNTRY STYLE GRAVY

In a blender blend:

2 cups hot water, 1/2 cup raw cashews, 2 Tbsp arrowroot powder,

2 Tbsp vegetable oil, 1 Tbsp Braggs Liquid Aminos, 1 Tbsp nutritional yeast flakes,

2 tsp onion powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/4 tsp garlic powder.

Pour into a saucepan and cook over medium high heat, stirring constantly, until thickened.

This recipe goes good with the Burgers.

Both Recipes provided by: Mirtes Schmeling

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! Brenda

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