



A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea! And only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert-like island. The two survivors, not knowing what else to do, agreed that they had no other recourse but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, They agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island.

The first thing the first man prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren. After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land .. On the other side of the island, there was nothing. Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes, more food.

The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing. Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that his wife and he could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island!

The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island. He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings, since none of his prayers had been answered.

As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from Heaven booming, 'Why are you leaving your companion on the island?' 'My blessings are mine alone, Since I was the one who prayed for them,' The first man answered. 'His prayers were all unanswered, and so he does not deserve anything.' 'You are mistaken!'

The voice rebuked him. 'He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings.'

'Tell me,' the first man asked the voice, 'what did he pray for that I should owe him anything?' 'He prayed that all your prayers be answered.'

For all we know, our blessing are not the fruits of Our prayers alone, But those of another praying For us.

When Jesus died on the cross,
He was thinking of you!

Aren't those wonderful thoughts?

What Sort of a Father are You?

What sort of a father are you to your boy?

Do you know if your standing is good?

Do you ever take stock of yourself and check up

Your accounts with your boy as you should?

Do you ever reflect on your conduct with him?

Are you all that a father should be?

Do you send him away when you're anxious to read

Or let him climb up on your knee?

Have you time to bestow on the boy when he comes

With his questions-to tell him the truth?

Or do you neglect him, and leave him alone

To work out the problems of youth?

Do you ever go walking with him hand in hand?

Do you plan little outings for him?

Does he ever look forward to romping with you?

Or are you eternally grim?

Come, father, reflect! Does he know you today?

And do you know him as you should?

Is gold so important to you that you leave

It to chance that your boy will be good?

Take stock of yourself and consider the lad.

Your time and your thought are his due.

How would you answer your God should He ask

What kind of a father are you?

Selected

TWO PRAYERS

Last night my little boy confessed to me

Some childish wrong;

And kneeling at my knee,

He prayed with tears....

"Dear God, make me a man

Like Daddy.... Wise and strong;

I know You can."

Then while he slept

I knelt beside his bed,

Confessed my sins,

And prayed with low-bowed head,

"O God, make me a child

Like my child here....

Pure, guileless,

Trusting Thee with faith sincere"

Andrew Gillies

PASTOR'S CORNER



I think this picture of the Pastor and Elizabeth was taken awhile back but it is good and they are happy.

Emma is happy but she doesn't know it, LOL. What a peaceful sleep, refreshing. Hope we can all sleep assured that God is there when we wake up.



A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Psalm 68:5

The scene belonged on a funny Father's Day card. As a dad muscled a lawn mower ahead of him with one hand, he expertly towed a child's wagon behind him with the other. In the wagon sat his three-year-old daughter, delighted at the noisy tour of their yard. This might not be the safest choice, but who says men can't multitask?

If you had a good dad, a scene like that can invoke fantastic memories. But for many, "Dad" is an incomplete concept. Where are we to turn if our fathers are gone, or if they fail us, or even if they wound us?

Help me live a life that pleases You.

King David certainly had his shortcomings as a father, but he understood the paternal nature of God. "A father to the fatherless," he wrote, "a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families" (Ps. 68:5-6). The apostle Paul expanded on that idea: "The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship." Then, using the Aramaic word for father—a term young children would use for their dad—Paul added, "By him we cry, 'Abba, Father'" (Rom. 8:15). This is the same word Jesus used when He prayed in anguish to His Father the night He was betrayed (Mark 14:36).

What a privilege to come to God using the same intimate term for "father" that Jesus used! Our *Abba* Father welcomes into His family anyone who will turn to Him.

Heavenly Father, I want to be part of Your family. I believe that Your only Son Jesus died for my sins. Please forgive me and help me live a life that pleases You.

Pastor Michel Rodriguez & wife Elizabeth and daughter Emma Isabel —Phone: 817-219-7347

104 Homewood Ct. Millbrook, AL 36054 email: wintermich@icloud.com

Head Elder, Robert (Bob) Ernest— 205-280-1297 Email: RobertE699@aol.com

Assistant Head Elders—Linkous, Gary—256-377-2244

Wiese, Bill—205-646-3150 - Email: Williamwiese147@gmail.com

*Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church
401 North 18th Street
Clanton, AL 35045*

Clanton SDA Kindergarten Graduation—Class of 2017

Because it is almost entirely locally funded, our school in Clanton isn't officially listed by the Union or the Division, but I consider it one of our schools. I have stopped by to visit many times and I attend the board meetings occasionally. But on the 15th of May, 2017 I made it to the graduation for the first time. What a treat! What an event! And I had a front row seat.

The standing room only crowd of parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. was treated to an outstanding program put on by the 14 graduates almost all of which are non-SDA. They recited scripture, sang many songs, performed skits, recited poems -- they did it all and the audience loved it.

The program was a witness to all that these students have been in a spiritually nurturing place this school year. It was crystal clear: this small school operated by the Clanton church in cooperation with the GSC provides a wonderful service to this community by giving them an academic program that prepares them for the next level in a safe, decidedly Christian environment.

Ms. Dot Wilson is teaching the kids of kids that she taught years ago and our school is clearly the early childhood school of choice for folk in Clanton and Chilton County. They told me as much. One father said, "My son is convinced that Ms. Dot hung the moon. He has learned so much that I'm quite certain he could teach the kindergarten class over at the local public school." There is some evidence to back this up as several parents shared stories of how their students aced the entrance exams given by the local school their student will attend next fall.

As I had the benediction I thanked these parents for sharing their children with us and encouraged them to continue working with their children to see them develop their God given talents and reach their full potential. -- Stan Hobbs - Vice President for Education for the Gulf States Conference of SDA.

This article was published in the May edition of "In the Know", Gulf States Conference Education Newsletter.



Just a quick comment. We had 125 programs printed and gave out all but 8 of them to adults, that didn't include any of the students or the other children that attended. By the time everyone got there, there was standing room only down the side, in the back and out in the foyer.



Ms. Dot with one of her students.



Down on the Farm



The Raindrops Fall with A Pitter Patter Pitt

The packed house awaits the presentation of diplomas



Only A Boy Named David (If you got the "In the Know" newsletter, click on the link and hear them sing.)



Part 2: Building a Lasting Marriage - Pete and Elaine Johnson look forward to celebrating 50 years of marriage in July.

As Published in the Clanton Advertiser - Religion Section on March 30, 2017

(Interviewed by Chanel Bingham is a freelance writer, blogger and public speaker. She resides in Thorsby with her husband and four children. You can visit Chanel at www.thepolishedcanvas.com or on Facebook at The Polished Canvas.)

Last month, we began a two-part series on how to build a lasting marriage. We spoke with Elaine Johnson who shared practical advice on facing and overcoming marital challenges in her almost 50 years of marriage. Before we begin part-two of Johnson's interview, I want to share some important research regarding lasting marriage.

According to the American Psychological Association, nearly 50 percent of marriages end in divorce. In the age of a "me-centered" society, it's no wonder we see such a high failure rate among marriages. Our perspective has been skewed. God never designed marriage to be "me" focused; rather, God's plan for marriage is based on an "other-centered" union. While this very idea is in direct conflict with our flesh, it is possible to build a successful, fulfilling and holy marriage.

Today, I want to share another statistic with you. Leading a team of family researchers, University of Chicago sociologist Dr. Linda Waite reveals in her longitudinal study that two-thirds of unhappy marriages will become happy within five years if people stay married and do not get divorced. I find that very encouraging, especially considering the fact that many of the participants in the study faced great marital challenges, including alcoholism and infidelity.

So, how do we overcome difficult challenges to build a lasting marriage? In his book, Sacred Marriage, Dr. Gary Thomas shares advice that has proven effective time and time again. He writes, "The image I use in Sacred Marriage is that we need to learn how to 'fall forward.' That is, when we are frustrated or angry, instead of pulling back, we must still pursue our partner under God's mercy and grace."

It is a natural tendency to withdraw when we have been hurt. However, in order to avoid prolonged pain, bitterness and even divorce, we must face the challenges in our marriage instead of withdrawing from them and persist in extending mercy and grace to our partner.

In continuing my interview with Johnson, she shares practical advice on how she and her husband have persisted in pursuing God and one another over the last 50 years through the good, the bad and the ugly.

Chanel Bingham: What is the one thing your husband does to make you feel honored?

Elaine Johnson: He always tells me that he loves me "this much," holding up his forefinger and thumb in a small measurement. He then says, "but if you weigh it, it'll weigh more than the earth."

Bingham: What is one thing your husband does to make you feel secure?

Johnson: He is always looking out for my best interests. He loves to see me happy and gets very upset when I'm sad. He has always and still is very protective.

Bingham: Explain a time when you overcame a difficult challenge in your marriage and how did you grow from that experience?

Johnson: When we first found out that Pete was losing his vision, we were devastated. A lot of our dreams came to a halt. We have drawn closer together as husband and wife and have learned to just trust God. Our faith has been strengthened. I always tell him that he took such great care of me, and now it's my turn to take care of him. I have shared our journey with many people through my writings, and I'm journaling every day.

Bingham: What would you say are the major values or principles that have guided your marriage over the last 50 years?

Johnson: Love, trust, respect and always giving God the glory.

Bingham: What role does faith and prayer have in your marriage?

Johnson: Over the past years, we've crossed a few bridges and hurdles in our marriage, but without faith, I'm sure we wouldn't have shared 50 years together. Yes, our faith has wavered: during deaths, financial crisis, loss of vision, family ups and downs and sickness. But, that's to be expected. In our home, we have worship in the evenings. We share our rose and our thorn for the day, read scripture and have prayer. Most people who come to our home enjoy the experience of the rose and thorn. We also start the day with prayer. Before my husband and I depart from each other, we always recite the Mizpah in Genesis 31:49.

Bingham: What makes love last?

Johnson: Being committed through the good, the bad and the ugly.

Bingham: What do you appreciate about your husband now that you didn't when you first got married?

Johnson: I appreciate the fact that he loves me for who I am.

Bingham: If you could rewind your life, is there anything you would change?

Johnson: Yes, I probably wouldn't have let one and a half years pass before I decided to make that call to renew our relationship. We had talked about things we wanted to do, especially travel, and I feel that was time wasted because other things took preference.

Elaine and her husband Pete will celebrate 50 years of marriage on July 1. They have four children, eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Mark 10:6-9



May Birthdays

- 1- Renee Lucas
- 8 - Anika Chrishon
- 19- Linda Mims
- 20 - Annita Wiese
- 21 - Kay Houston
- 30 - Edward Higgins

Anniversaries

30 - Gary & Florine Linkous

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

Tentative Speaker Schedule: June: 3 - Ted Winslow; 10 - Ralph Sheperd; 17 - Pastor Rodriguez; 24 - Shawn Smith

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

Today: Special Prayer Time: After the worship service

- ◆ Church Board meeting Tues, June 20, 4:30 PM
- ◆ Pray for **Evangelism meetings** planned for this fall.

Highlights from the Church board meeting 5/16/2017

1. **Church Business meeting will be held, Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 8:30 AM. Breakfast will be served first and then a business meeting with an agenda to follow. Basically to "inform and recruit" for the Evangelism Meetings. All church members are URGED to come!**
2. **The board voted to purchased an AED: Defibrillator for the church. This could be a lifesaver for us as we are getting "elderly" but yes, it works on young people too, LOL. The total cost is \$1200 so please turn in donations to cover the cost of purchasing this needed item for our church.**
3. **Personal Ministries: There will be projects in the future for everyone to participate in. These will be ongoing and also will be leading up to the meeting in October. You will hear more about them soon.**



I am sure you all recognized Doug, Felicia, Cameron & Cassie Higgins from last month. Now this beautiful lady, still beautiful for sure, who knows who this is? Don't forget to turn your picture in so we can all enjoy. Until next month, Brenda

Our theme for Family Vacation Bible School:

God is the Highest Power!

Monday July 17th - Friday July 21th

5:30 Registration program starts 5:45pm - 8:00pm

Closing program Sabbath July 22nd 11am

Group Outreach after lunch.

We will focus on God's amazing power as we go to the top and stay connected to his power. Amazing events on mountains will be our focus. Our desire is for the youth to lead out in this program with us stepping in as needed but everyone's help is needed. We will also need items donated or made. More details coming soon.

Family vacation Bible School is like regular vacation Bible School but it's so much more!

Including: Bible lessons

Animal and mountain spotlights

Health talks

Kitchen spotlights

Body Shop

Craft Shop

Outreach and lots of fun, fun, fun!!!

We are encouraging Families to

come to pray, study, eat, create and play together!

Volunteers are needed for:

Prayer Coordinator

Registration leader

Gift coordinator

Advertising

Outreach Coordinator

Animal or mountain spotlight person

Craft Shop

Body Shop(exercise)

Kitchen Shop(snacks)

Team leaders



Jimmy and Sara dressed in 50's costumes for their homeschool cooperative feast in May, groovy!

A follow-up on Powers home schooling and Jimmy's musical accomplishments and what she also has time to do. If you want more information regarding what essential oils can do for you call Charlotte @ 205-913-5960.



Jimmy competed in the Alabama Music Teacher's Association State District Audition April 7, 2017, in Florence, Alabama. He played three advanced classical pieces from memory and was tested in theory. He received two Outstanding marks, which qualified him for the state Audition on May 13, 2017. He also competed in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for the state competition for which he received an Excellent Rating.

What Are Essential Oils? They are the most powerful part of the plant. They are distilled from shrubs, flowers, trees, roots, bushes, fruit, rinds, resins, and herbs. Oils consist of over 100 different natural, organic compounds. They provide support for every system of the body: your skeletal system, muscular system, circulatory system, endocrine system and your hormones, respiratory system and immune system. They support brain health and a healthy weight. They are used extensively for emotional support. An oil in a diffuser can calm a child after a tough day at school and provide a calming effect when you've had a stressful day at work. Oils can be used as an alternative to toxic cleaning chemicals in the home.

There are three ways to get oils in your system. 1. Topically - rub them on the skin. 2. Internally - put them in your water or cook with them. (Only use oils that are labeled for internal use.) 3. Diffuse and inhale them.

Essential oils were used in the Bible. They are mentioned 1,100 times directly or indirectly in the Scriptures. They were used as incense in the Sanctuary. Frankincense was given to Mary and Joseph after Jesus was born. Frankincense has over 10,000 uses. It is still being used today.

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!! <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. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter... let's share each month. Thanks to those that do regularly. **Let me know if you don't want to get one anymore, via email or US Mail.** Also need to know if you moved or any other reason to not be sending the newsletters. Thanks Brenda

Return Address:

**Brenda K Davis
187 County Rd 313
Stanton, AL 36790**



To: «AddressBlock»