



A Love That Will Not Let You Go: AN AMAZING

FACT: After her six little ducklings were swept into a storm drain in the United Kingdom, a mother mallard waddled two miles tracking her baby's chirps from manhole to manhole. Trapped in a dark tunnel in the city's underground sewer system and floating at the mercy of the current, the tiny ducklings' only hope was in their mother. Hearing their distressed chirps emanating from somewhere under the ground, the dedicated mother followed their cries. Her heroic journey led her across a busy intersection, countless roads, a metro train line, a housing estate, and two school playing fields. When her chicks suddenly came to a halt in a housing development, she waddled to a stop over a manhole cover. And there, for the next four hours, the faithful mother remained.

Peter Elliott first noticed the little duck at 6:00 AM when he left his home to go for a run. Surprised that she had not moved when he returned, he went over to see if she was injured. Seeing nothing wrong, he went to breakfast, only to see her still sitting there when he finished. It was only later, when his daughter took his two-year-old grandson to see the mallard, that they heard the ducklings' little voices beneath the manhole cover. Mr. Elliot quickly gathered some tools and, along with a neighbor, managed to remove the heavy cover. Peering down they saw six little ducklings paddling around in the drain. With a small fishing net, they lifted each little duck to safety and then released the reunited family in a nearby lake.

Just like that faithful mother duck, our heavenly Father will never forsake us. Though we might stray, His heart of love goes after us still. He is always there, seeking for every opportunity to be reunited with us. Even when His chosen people had broken His heart by their wayward course, He pleaded, "Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds" (Zechariah 1:4). The sad record is that "they did not hear nor heed." So today, for His sake, "if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 4:7). You are precious in His sight.

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End-time Hope Prophecy Seminar



Jenni, Purity & Wyatt Allen. Ivan & June Lewis, Chuck Daccardi, Sharon Dennis, Julia Wallace, Helen Carter, Hazel Butler, Patti Barnt, who have completed the lessons given out at the meetings with their certificates and Judy Peck - Bible Study Grader/Coordinator.

Thank You! Dear Clanton Church,

It has been such a joy to work with you in furthering the kingdom of God and spreading the Gospel. We want to give a "big thank" you to all of you who helped through your financial contributions, prayers, presence, and hard work! Each of you played a special part in changing lives for eternity! We felt right at home and have loved getting to know each of you. We want to encourage you to continue to stay close to Jesus in personal study of His word and prayer, make witnessing a part of your every day lives, and remember that Jesus is coming soon! Jesus says, "Be thou faithful unto death and I shall give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10 Maranatha!

In His Love,

Wyatt, Jenni, and Purity Allen

PASTOR'S CORNER

Longing to leave her poor Brazilian neighborhood, Christina wanted to see the world. Discontent with a home having only a pallet on the floor, a washbasin, and a wood-burning stove, she dreamed of a better life in the city. One morning she slipped away, breaking her mother's heart. Knowing what life on the streets would be like for her young, attractive daughter, Maria hurriedly packed to go find her. On her way to the bus stop she entered a drugstore to get one last thing—pictures. She sat in the photograph booth, closed the curtain, and spent all she could on pictures of herself. With her purse full of small black and white photos, she boarded the next bus to the big city. Maria knew Christina had no way of earning money. She also knew that her daughter was too stubborn to give up. When pride meets hunger, a human will do things that were before unthinkable. Knowing this, Maria began her search—Bars, hotels, nightclubs, any place with the reputation for street walkers or prostitutes. She went to them all. And at each place she left her picture—taped on a bathroom mirror, tacked to a hotel bulletin board, fastened to a corner phone booth. And on the back of each photo she wrote a note. It wasn't too long before both the money and the pictures ran out, and Maria had to go home. The weary mother wept as the bus began its long journey back to her small village.

It was a few weeks later that young Christina descended the hotel stairs. Her young face was tired. Her brown eyes no longer danced with youth but spoke of pain and fear. Her laughter was broken. Her dream had become a nightmare. A thousand times over she had longed to trade these countless beds for her secure pallet. Yet the little village was, in too many ways, too far away. As she reached the bottom of the stairs, her eyes noticed a familiar face. She looked again, and there on the lobby mirror was a small picture of her mother. Christina's eyes burned and her throat tightened as she walked across the room and removed the small photo. She choked up and began to sob as she read the compelling invitation. "Whatever you have done, whatever you have become, it doesn't matter. Please come home." She did.

Have you ever felt like young Christina? Have you ever done something so bad that you felt hopeless? You felt ashamed? Condemned? Rejected? Utterly lost with no hope of redemption? Perhaps you feel this way today? Perhaps today you are carrying a burden of sin and guilt that weighs you down like a 100-pound ball and chain. You stagger about heaving, pulling, dragging this burden day in and day out. Every day your head droops and your soul faints within you because of the life you have lived or the life you are living. You are not alone. Many people have felt just like you.

How do I know that? I've been there! I ran in search of the American dream like young Christina. Pastor Chris Newell when he was here in August 2009 he wrote this and I thought it was good to repeat what he wrote. He found that the only way to have peace in your life is to give your life to the Prince of Peace, Jesus. It's time to stop running! It's time to come back to love! It's time to come back to family! It's time to come back to Jesus! Where sin abounds, Grace does much more abound! Don't worry, there's love and mercy at the feet of Jesus! "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see."

The Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church wants to be a refuge for the lonely, the hurting, the wounded. We want to be a house of prayer for all people. We want to be a place where people can meet Jesus and develop a relationship with Him. Come help us be a beacon of grace in the community of Clanton. Come help us help others find love, hope, and peace.



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

109 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
205-755-2270

Sharing is caring!

Do you consciously choose your attitude each day? If you're like most people, probably not. Most of us tend to let our circumstances choose our attitude for us. We're in a good mood as long as we get up on time, the kids cooperate and get to school on time, the car starts without a problem, we don't encounter any traffic jams on the way to work, the boss doesn't yell, our workload is manageable, etc. This system can work fine as long as everything runs smoothly in our lives. But that's not always the case, is it? Situations don't always adhere to our expectations. Accidents happen. Delays happen. Spouses and bosses can be difficult to please. Vehicles break down. Kids may resist our efforts to keep the schedule running smoothly. What happens to our attitude then? If we don't make the effort to consciously choose a positive attitude, we run the risk of developing a negative one at random. How would our lives change if we consciously chose a positive attitude each day? For starters, we'd feel much happier about our lives. We'd feel more motivated about pursuing our dreams because we'd believe in the possibilities for making them a reality. We'd be able to enjoy the time spent with our friends and families more, because we'd want to share our joy with others. We'd feel strong and empowered in our ability to do anything we set our minds to. We'd be able to overcome challenges with ease because we'd have a strong belief in our own skills and abilities. We'd be able to love deeply and completely without fear of rejection or betrayal. We would pause to enjoy the smaller, more precious moments in life, without feeling pressured to do more, be more, or prove our worthiness. Wow, it sounds awesome, doesn't it? Is it really possible to feel that way all the time? Yes, but probably not in the way you're imagining it. Just because we choose a positive attitude doesn't mean that our lives will transform into smoothly-flowing works of art and stay that way forever. Choosing a positive attitude is a

process. We don't just choose it once and expect everything to be perfect from that moment on. We will still experience setbacks, delays, accidents, frustrations, arguments, fatigue, and fear. The secret is how we choose to react to these experiences. Do we want to let them ruin our day, or do we choose to pick ourselves up and look hopefully to the future again? We do have the power to choose. You may be asking what the point of a positive attitude is. If we'll still experience negative circumstances, why bother with choosing a positive attitude? Ah, that's the true beauty of the creative process. What we choose to focus on the most, we create in our lives. By choosing a positive attitude each day, we are actually attracting more positive experiences, and reducing the likelihood of negative experiences. You may have noticed that each experience often determines the quality of the next experience, causing a chain reaction in our lives. If one little thing goes wrong, it can throw off our plans for the rest of the day. In this context, it's easy to see how a positive attitude would be powerful. Rather than allowing one little thing to ruin our day, we would be able to shrug it off and continue on without a hitch. Over time, this resiliency begins to strengthen and empower us, which will show through in our demeanor. We begin attracting people and experiences that more closely match our attitude, and our lives eventually transform into more positive, fulfilling expressions of joy. And it all begins with a little thing called attitude! Again, this is a process, so go easy on yourself if you're trying to adopt a more positive attitude. Simply focus on developing a stronger awareness of your attitude moment to moment in your daily experiences, and begin choosing a more positive one more often. It takes time to realize the full benefits of this type of mindset, but it is time well-spent. Before you know it, you'll be one of those people you used to admire for their tenacity and strength, and your life will transform in amazing ways.

Corozal, Belize Mission Trip 2016



As we arrived in Belize, we were warmly welcomed. We settled down in the town of Corozal. As the evening was winding down, we came together as a team of 24 people to have evening devotionals. Bright and early the next day we had breakfast at 6:30 am and a devotional thought before going out to the job site. Our work started at 7:30 am and we had a lot to get done. First, we unpacked the trailer and got all of our tools ready for the work day. Our work consisted of building, vacation Bible school, and other duties as assigned. There were times where we needed to make a trip to the hardware store or to the gas station to get gas for the generator to pump more water from the well. All in all, the Lord provided the means and the strength for us to get the work done on time and safely.

The Vacation Bible School was a great event for the children. They enjoyed having us there and many were happy to see us. As we shared time together, the children grew close to us and wanted us to spend even more time with them. We played soccer at recesses. Both the boys and the girls go out to play soccer. It was a great time spent together enjoying the fresh air and the sunshine before having to go back to class for the evening lectures.

Our building crew continued to work through the day, making sure that we were on schedule and on time. Our goal was to pour concrete on Thursday. We knew that time was not on our side. Yet, we continued to move forward and to work hard. Praying for good weather and for God to hold back the rain. God performed a miracle as we didn't have any rain on Thursday when we needed to pour the concrete roof on the second floor to finish off the building.

I know that as the school grows, and more students enroll as a result of the expansion, that God's love will be shared with the new students that will be attending that school. The Lord is doing a big work in Belize, and will continue to do as we play our part in serving the people and witnessing to them of a soon returning Savior, Jesus Christ.

I thank the Clanton SDA Church for the prayers and financial support to make this trip possible. Many lives will be impacted for the kingdom of God as children will be gathering at the school to learn the love of God and to be equipped for the life ahead.

God Bless and Tell everyone a Big hello from me :) Miss you all ... Ostap

Ostap Dzyndra
(916) 316-8972 cell
www.buildandrestore.org

I asked Ostap questions so I could visualize this project. **His response:** yes, that's correct. The walls were up. We came in to put the final touches on the building and put the frame together for the roof to be poured. Now the roof is done. The doors are also installed. Just need to do the stucco, plumbing, electrical, and floors for the second level to be completed. Much fundraising is still needed to finish that work. We intend to send a group back there again in Feb. 2017.



So who knew last months reminiscing picture was Holly & Donald Boggus and Hannah their daughter. Time frame is that Hannah just got married a few months ago. This month we are changing the picture venue. We are going to get to know our newest member to our church family, Rachel Christann Ernest born December 27 and enjoying the snow with her parents Gary & Laurie Ernest, grandparents Donna & Bob Ernest and I would guess cousins and etc. Hopefully they didn't start her out skiing yet, LOL. Until next month, give me your reminiscing picture, Brenda

March Birthdays

5 - Pat Gill

9 - Emma Isabel Rodriguez

13 - Cleo Smith & Keiona Lucas

15 - Chris Newell

20 - David Mahan

Happy Birthday to

each of you that has a

birthday. May God be with you this new year and

give you many blessings as you follow him each day.

Happy anniversary to Shawn & Natalie

Anniversaries

March 4 - Shawn &
Natalie Smith

Calendar of Events

Weekly: Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM - prayer meeting will be from 6 to 6:30 and then "It is Written Bible Studies" until 7:30.

Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail

Monthly: Each Sabbath after Fellowship meal:

Sabbath School Visitation: 1st Sabbath

Health Seminars: 2nd & 3rd Sabbaths

Nursing Home Visitation: 4th Sabbaths

Tentative Speaker Schedule:

Feb 27 - Pastor Tui Pitman, Mar 5 - Tony Harriman,
March 12 - Noel Brooks, March 19 - Shawn Smith,
March 26 Pastor Rodriguez

April 2nd - Martin Fancher, 9th - Gary Linkous, 16th -
James Mangum, 23rd & 30th - Pastor Rodriguez

Olan Suddeth will be working on taking pictures for our Church Directory that we should be able to access online with a password. Those that need to have a printed copy, we are hoping to be able to do that also. So SMILE when Olan comes to take your family picture...

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten—If we want this valuable part of our church outreach to continue, we need to come up with ideas of how to get more children enrolled this year and next year. The County starting last year has a grant for free Pre-K ages 3,4,&5 in the public school and this has diminished our enrollment. We as a church need to get behind this if we want it to continue, including donations to the Worthy Student fund. Any ideas see Dot Wilson - Teacher/Director or Robert Ernest - School Board Chairman



Kay 3's Vegan Recipes



Chili:

- 1 pkg frozen crumbles of your choice
- 1 medium onion Chopped
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 Tbl safflower Oil

Beans: I use three, varieties of Bush's beans, a large can of red chili beans, a can of northern chili beans, and a can of vegetarian baked beans.

- 1 can of Hunt's petite cut tomatoes
- a can of tomato sauce or a small can of tomato juice
- 1 package of French's Texas style Chile seasonings.

Heat oil in skillet over medium heat. Add onion and garlic salt an sauté until it is tender. Add defrosted crumbles and mix . Pour into large Dutch oven type pan. Add all ingredients and stir to combine well. Heat over medium to low heat for 30 to 45 minutes. You have to watch and stir carefully since it tends to stick if you don't.

If the newsletter gets to you before Sunday the 28th, Beginner Sewing Classes starts at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship room at the church. This is particularly for those who have always thought it would be nice to learn to sew but have never tried, or not tried successfully.

Websites that Bill Weise has set up for everyone & 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 News to find this publication on line each month. 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.

Return Address:

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



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