



A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and put them on the stove. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first pot she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil and twenty minutes later she turned off the burners.

She removed the carrots and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. Her mother asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she smelled the aroma and tasted its rich flavour. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity, boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water, making it fragrant and giving it flavour.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?" What about you? When facing a challenge in life are you weakened and feel defeated by the experience? Or do you become hardened and bitter because of the event? Or do you see it as an opportunity to influence those around you, to make a positive difference, to leave the situation better than when you started? It is possible to be the latter, so now's the time to start working towards it.

As you journey through life & its roads and paths ... there may be some steep hills to climb, sometimes when the road seems treacherous and you aren't sure which turn to take, times when you feel like you are on the brink of falling, and there may be many curves in the road. As you make your way through the ups and downs of 2020, May you know God's presence with you through each tunnel, every steep climb, every curve, in the beautiful mountaintop experiences with Him, and through the slippery storms of life; May he walk with you down through the valleys and up the mountains, take your hand and guide you through to the light, put a hedge around you to keep you safe, help you to find joy and excitement in the roller coaster ride, and fill you with amazement at the beauty He provides along the way. Take time to smell the flowers, to admire His handiwork along Life's railway; And may His love flood over you, fill you, and overflow in praise to Him for all He's done, does and will do! Amazing ..... *ISN'T HE!!*

"WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES;  
it takes away today's PEACE."

Isn't God wonderful, he shows his love for us daily, hourly  
and when we least expect it. We just have to trust Him.

## More Than You Know

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

## ***This makes a person do some thinking.***

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.' One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend. He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him. Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying : 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.' This is how the human brain often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

## Life Is a Gift-Today

**Before you say an unkind word - Think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of some- one who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion. Today before you complain about life - Think of someone who too early died. Before you complain about your children - Think of someone who desires children but they're barren. Before you argue about your dirty house someone didn't clean or sweep - Think of the people who are living in the streets. Before whining about the distance you drive, Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job. But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another - Remember that not one of us is without sin. And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face and think: **you're alive and still around.** Thank God every day for giving you another day to be blessed and to love others more. This should be our goal for 2020 and each new day God has blessed us with this year.**

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## How Jesus Gives You Your Marching Orders

I have just been reading about the Apostle Paul. Acts 9 tells us about his coming to Jesus by direct revelation. He was going down the wrong path and Jesus directly intervened in his life. Most of us don't have this experience. At least that is what I thought. Then I read the ending of the chapter in *Acts of the Apostles*. Let me just continue by quoting a little from this chapter. "Many have an idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and experience, independent of His recognized followers on earth. Jesus is the friend of sinners, and His heart is touched with their woe. He has all power, both in heaven and on earth; but He respects the means that He has ordained for the enlightenment and salvation of men; He directs sinners to the church, which He has made a channel of light to the world."



"When, in the midst of his blind error and prejudice, Saul was given a revelation of the Christ whom he was persecuting, he was placed in direct communication with the church, which is the light of the world. In this case Ananias represents Christ, and also represents Christ's ministers upon the earth, who are appointed to act in His stead. In Christ's stead Ananias touches the eyes of Saul, that they may receive sight. In Christ's stead he places his hands upon him, and, as he prays in Christ's name, Saul receives the Holy Ghost. All is done in the name and by the authority of Christ. Christ is the fountain; the church is the channel of communication." AA122

In the end we all have the same experience as Saul of Tarsus. We are brought to Christ through the church. Ananias, the representative of ministers of the gospel today, still reach out to souls today. But it is not just ministers who have charge of this work. Paul himself talks about this in his letter to the Ephesian church. "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds [a] and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ . . ." Eph. 4:11-13

We all have a work of ministry. We all must learn how best to do it. "The Redeemer of the world does not sanction experience and exercise in religious matters independent of his organized and acknowledged church. Many have an idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and experience, independent of his recognized followers on earth." *Sketches From the Life of Paul*, p. 31 So we all have a part to play. And it is through the church that we learn how to do it.

Pastor Dan Thompson

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## The Secret

One day, one friend asked another, "How is it that you are always so happy? You have so much energy, and you never seem to get down."

With her eyes smiling, she said, "I know the Secret!" "What secret is that?" To which she replied, "I'll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the Secret with others."

"The Secret is this: I have learned there is little I can do in my life that will make me truly happy. I must depend on God to make me happy and to meet my needs. When a need arises in my life, I have to trust God to supply according to HIS riches. I have learned most of the time I don't need half of what I think I do. He has never let me down. Since I learned that 'Secret', I am happy."

The questioner's first thought was, "That's too simple!" But upon reflecting over his own life he recalled how he thought a bigger house would make him happy, but it didn't! He thought a better paying job would make him happy, but it hadn't. When did he realize his greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with his grandchildren, playing games, eating pizza or reading a story, a simple gift from God.

Now you know it too! We can't depend on people to make us happy. Only GOD in His infinite wisdom can do that. Trust HIM! And now I pass the Secret on to you! So once you get it, what will you do?

YOU have to tell someone the Secret, too! That GOD in His wisdom will take care of YOU! But it's not really a secret... We just have to believe it and do it...

Really trust God!

Author of message unknown



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

<b>M A R</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Pat Gill</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>Cleo Smith, Keiona Lucas</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>David Mahan</b>

**Anniversaries**

Shawn & Natalie Smith 3/4/2007

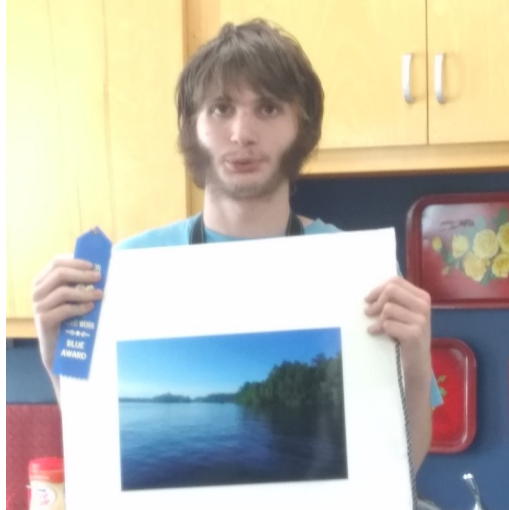
**Tentative SPEAKER SCHEDULE: Feb 29** Tui Pitman, **Mar.** 7 Pastor; 14 Ted Winslow; 21 Pastor; 28 Ted Winslow; **Apr.** 4 Gary Linkous; 11 Pastor; 18 Ricky Woodruff; 25 Pastor; **May** 2 Steven Radford; 9 Pastor; 16 Shawn Smith; 23 Ted Winslow; 30 Pastor; **Jun** 6 Ted Winslow; 13 Pastor; 20 Ricky Woodruff; 27 Pastor/Communion

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



A beautiful picture of a wonderful couple. This was at their 62nd wedding anniversary. We miss you already. Love to you both from all of us.

Don't forget to give me something for next month's reminiscing.  
 Thanks, Brenda



Orin Martin entered this photo and was awarded the blue ribbon in our 4 H group and will be invited to county. He had to do an interview and service project that goes with the photo. The interview was about why he likes this picture and where it was taken and why he thought his service project was important. We picked up trash along a beach area where apparently folks had been partying and left clothes and beer cans/bottles trash. This was his service project. To keep trash out of the water and away from wildlife. By Linda Mims our church member, his teacher, grandmother and now guardian/mother also.

**Meet and Greet Real-Life Overcomers!**

*And They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;  
 Revelation 12:11*

This special event for women will be a time to get away for intercessory prayer, Bible study, inspiring testimonies, and fellowship.

Abra Barnes/Holly Cannon/Lynette Freeman/Anita McGhee/Cassandra Woods  
 \*Renee Beavers/\*Rachelle Hall/\*Yolanda Pugh \*Recorded Messages.

Natural products and books will be available for purchase.

Light refreshments will be served.

Date: Sunday, March 8, 2020 - Time: 3:00 PM, Location: Brent & Anika  
 Chrishon's Home in Marbury, AL , Call or text Anika 334-380-1120 to RSVP and get her address.

On the lighter side, contributed by Pat Gill several years ago for our enjoyment .

**Out of the Mouth of Babes**

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up. "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, Sweetheart" he answered, "God made me a long time ago," "Oh" she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed. "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

# Layered Enchilada Casserole

- 1 can Loma Linda burger
- ½ chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon Cayenne pepper
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- 1 can (4 oz) chopped ripe olives
- 1 can (8 oz) tomato sauce
- 1 can (4 oz) chopped chili peppers
- 6 flour tortillas
- 8 oz. grated Vegie Cheese
- ½ cup water



Put burger In a large skillet and cook a little. Stir in salt, pepper, cumin, olives, tomato sauce, and chili peppers.

Bring to a boil.

In a greased 2 ½ quart round casserole, place alternate layers of tortillas and burger mixture and shredded cheese lightly buttered, ending with cheese sprinkled over top.

Add water and cover with lid or foil. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes.

Garnish with ripe olives, chopped green onions and fresh chopped tomatoes.

Recipe presented for you 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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**To:**      «AddressBlock»