



2019

Parable Of The Pencil

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box "There are 5 things you need to know," he told the pencil, "Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be."

"One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand."

"Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil."

"Three: You will have the ability to correct any mistakes you might make."

"Four: The most important part of you will always be what's inside."

"And Five: No matter what the condition, you must continue to write. You must always leave a clear, legible mark no matter how difficult the situation.

The pencil understood and promised to remember, fully understanding it's makers purpose.

Now replacing the place of the pencil with you. Always remember them and never forget them in this way you will become the person God wants you to be.

One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.

Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but you'll need it to become a stronger person.

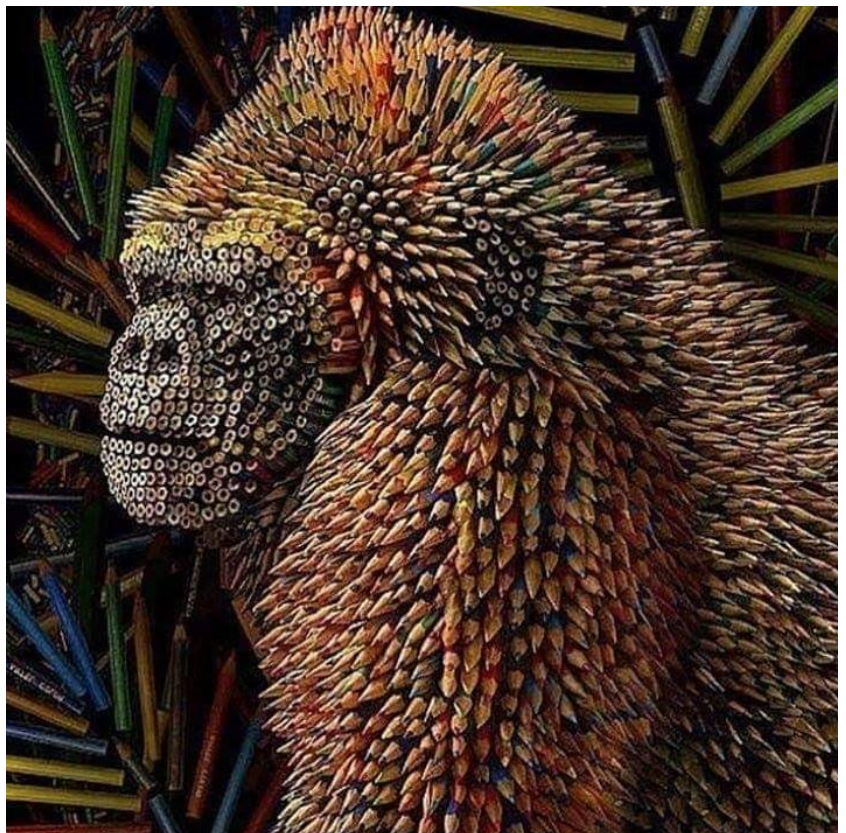
Three: You will be able to correct mistakes you might make or grow through them.

Four: The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside.

And Five: On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to serve God in everything.

Everyone is like a pencil created by the Maker for a unique and special purpose. By understanding and remembering, let us proceed with our life on this earth having a meaningful purpose in our heart and a relationship with God daily. You were made to do great things. The Bible says that God is the potter and we are the clay. He is the master and we are the servants. With God's leading and the still small voice of the Holy Spirit guiding our steps, we can do great things with our life. Allow this parable on the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person and only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot make a change.

The picture of the Ape is made up entirely of pencils. Someone is very inventive or has nothing to do with their time, LOL. Thought it was very unique and wanted to include it with the story of the pencil. I never saw a pencil used that way before and thought you would enjoy the story and this illustration.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Right Here Waiting

It was 1986 and we had just gone to Indonesia, but Linda and I were apart, oceans apart. You see, we had lost a couple of children and they were trying to figure out why. So tests were run, but the best they could say at the time was, "We don't know." And then came the call to go to Indonesia. Maybe we were foolish but we couldn't turn it down because it was what we had been waiting for our whole lives.

And so we went, first to language school, but then came a pregnancy. So they sent Linda back to Chicago. Meanwhile, I had to stay in Indonesia to start getting my Indonesian pilot's license and start flying. The plan was that I would visit once in the middle of that time and then I would come back for the birth of the baby.

Well, you know the saying about the best laid plans

The nine months were almost up and I was still in Indonesia. We had no Skype. We had no Facetime. We had no phone. There were just letters. I would write and Linda would write and we would wait. So we were right there in Chicago or Doyo Baru, Indonesia, right there waiting for each other's letters.

It came time for me to go because the baby was coming. Every day I would go to get my exit/re-entry permit. I was told in no uncertain terms by our office in Jakarta, "Don't leave Indonesia without it." But every day it was the same, "Come back tomorrow, come back tomorrow."

Finally, I had it, and I got a ticket to Chicago and prepared to spend the days to get there. First it would be a day to get to Singapore. Then because it was Friday I would spend Sabbath and catch a flight all the way across the Pacific and welcome a new baby, or so I thought. But remember those best laid plans? I was sitting in the waiting area to board a plane. This was Irian Jaya and I was new there. So some stranger from Mission Aviation Fellowship comes up to me and says, "Are you Dan Thompson?" "Yes." "I was sent to tell you that you have a daughter." Well at least I knew before I left.

Sometimes we talk about God waiting for us, like the father waited for the prodigal son. But there is another group of people that is waiting. And they are waiting for us. Listen to what Ellen White says in *Acts of the Apostles*, page 109.

"All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, *waiting* only to be gathered in."

What are we waiting for?



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Mission Story as presented by Mirtes Schmeling.

On April 7, I left Birmingham to fly to Miami, then to Rio de Janeiro. The plane was supposed to leave Miami at 10 pm but we got on board after 12 am which means I would miss my connection from Rio do Fort (north Brazil) as well as, to go with my sister on the same plane. I had to stay in Galeao, International Airport in Rio for the next flight, leaving at 5:15 pm.

Maybe the Lord had a plan for me because I had an opportunity to witness to a couple that also was waiting for their connection to go south to visit their family. They are from Tampa, Florida, and I have been in contact with Vera, she is interested in natural remedies, healthier foods and tofu. I have sent her a package with good and easy recipes. She told me about a friend that is suffering from Lupus and she is very concerned about her. They know about the SDA Church. I just pray that this contact takes them to know more about Jesus. Please keep them in prayer.

First Sabbath in Brazil I spoke at Sabbath School in a small church where my brother in law (retired pastor) and my sister are very active in taking care of that Church, visiting members that are discouraged, giving Bible Studies, promoting special programs, etc. There I enjoyed the delicious fruits of their farm and had a wonderful visit. From Fortaleza City my sister and I flew to Recife where we met more of the family. The next day we went to see our newly started Academy, about 2 hrs driving, situated on high elevation, excellent climate. They already have the administrative building ready and the girls and boys dorm's in construction. If am not mistaken, part of the 13th Sabbath Offerings of 2 or 3 years ago was given to that project. This school should be open in 2013. They already have a big plantation of avocado, papaya, and more. It is really a beautiful location. Just a small distance, by the road, we found stands of all kinds of fruits you could eat, you name it.

I posted a couple of pictures that I took, on the bulletin board, in the Hallway, so you can see them (they have been included at the bottom for you to see). All churches in Brazil; celebrate the "Passion Week" Easter, or they call it "Calvary Week". At the end, on Sabbath, it culminates with baptism. That little Church was packed with people. Most of them come by bus, but they were there at 9 AM sunshine or raining. Seats were not available for everybody, so they stand on both sides of the walls until the end of the services. I wish that would be like here, no empty pews as we see this morning. Praise God for their commitment to the Lord. I would like to mention that during Easter time many people go to retreats that our Churches provide, to spend time with the Lord. 15 members of this church decided to go to one of these retreats; however, they never made their destination. Their van was hit head on by another car that came in the opposite direction and killed some instantly, others suffered broken bones, etc. Among them were the first Elder of the church and his wife. The wife survived but he didn't. This was a great lost to the Church. He was kept alive in the Hospital for a few days, but didn't make it. The Lord took him to rest. It was a dark note because he was everything for that church. I also knew him, a real man of God.

SDA's in the South America Division do not set small goals. This year an annual evangelism outreach touched the lives of multiple millions of people on Sabbath, April 16, in the territory that covers Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, the Falkland Islands, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Brazil. From North to South in Brazil, the Friends of Hope project has made a difference. At the Central Adventist Church in Parana, Rodonia State, an evangelical pastor was one of the guests who attended a breakfast at 8 AM on the day of Friends of Hope. In the city of Natal, Rio Grande do Norte State, more than 50 homes were open on Saturday and more than 200 friends attended the Adventist Church. More than 50 people are receiving Bible Studies. In Sau Paulo several methods were part of the Friends of Hope project. The Guarulhos Center Adventist Church received more than 60 visitors. Also in Prudent Sau Paulo, more than 300 friends attended worship services, then Adventist members provided lunch in their homes. Would be nice if we could also start such programs even in Clanton Church. Another thing, more than 800 teachers and nearly 700 students became messengers of hope using the Internet. They had more than one million contacts using the book "There Is Still Hope", sent as an e-mail attachment. All this was done in a One-Day effort. I just say "praise the Lord" for His marvelous blessings.

This was a first hand Mission report given to us at Sabbath School here in Clanton on June 11, 2011. Since there wasn't a big crowd that day thought the rest of you would enjoy the story from Mirtes Schmeling. It is nice when we have different individuals participate in Sabbath school. Hope you can make it next time & enjoy worshipping with us. Thank you Mirtes.

Thought since I didn't have a mission story this month that we would enjoy this story repeated. Remember to share with others things, stories and articles that bless you so we can all get a blessing. Thanks, Brenda



Brazilian Fruit Nuts - Pinha



Fruits & Vegetables from Brazil—



GRANNY'S VEGETABLE SOUP-by Mary Louise Kitsen, Plantsville, Connecticut

When I was a little girl, my Granny Lyman made vegetable soup every single Wednesday. Granny was a widow who supported herself as a dressmaker. She lived with us and did most of the cooking, since it was the time of the Great Depression and both Mom and Dad worked long hours in our little florist business to make ends come even closer to meeting. Granny's vegetable soup, however, was not for her family. She made that soup to give away. Each Wednesday Granny carefully poured her vegetable soup into large glass jars, and as soon as I arrived home from school, she and I would go out to deliver it. Some of the kids I went to school with laughed about my Wednesday activity. I didn't care one bit. The people we visited were an important part of my childhood.

For example, there was the woman I'll call Charlotte. I had never seen hair like hers before. It was a kind of startling pink. And Charlotte wore so much makeup that she looked like a wooden doll. Her two-room apartment was always messy and dirty. Charlotte would take the soup into her kitchen and then come back into the little sitting-bedroom with the jar from the week before. Granny and I would sit down and listen to Charlotte. She would talk about what might have been if only she'd had some luck. She thought she was as good a dancer as Ginger Rogers and said she would have been a movie star, too, if only she'd been able to get to Hollywood. Most people laughed at Charlotte behind her back. Not my granny. Granny always heard Charlotte out and then would tell her that she could still make something good of her life. The visit always ended the same way. Granny would invite Charlotte to join us at church the next Sunday. Charlotte would say she was a sinner and unwelcome in a church. "God loves you, Charlotte," Granny would say. "You can be forgiven and start new."

One Sunday after the service had just started, Charlotte entered the church. Granny got right up and brought her to sit with us. I could hardly believe it was Charlotte. She didn't have any makeup and her hair was covered by a scarf. It was the start of a new life. Charlotte took a waitress job in a family cafe, and she soon was making a good living; Granny said that her life-style had changed greatly for the better.

Then there was Sarah. Sarah was a black lady, and she didn't need to be saved. She was a God-fearing woman who was active in a small church a few blocks from ours. The thing was, Sarah and her husband had six children, and the salary her husband made as a janitor in one of the schools didn't go far enough. He had to take on a lot of odd jobs. They never complained. Never asked for charity. But Sarah did accept Wednesdays! Two large jars of vegetable soup meant that she could have a good meal without cooking for one night each week. She accepted the soup and she accepted Granny's offer to look after her children while Sarah went for her weekly walk! Sarah loved her children, but they were a lot of work. She was always knee-deep in noise. For 30 or so minutes, Sarah could go out walking alone. She could enjoy whatever season it was. She could think, Or pray, Wave to her friends. She came back refreshed and ready for another week. What a little thing. But not to Sarah. Not to Sarah!

Then there was Moses, the junkman. What a mess his place was! But he had just about anything anyone could want. He had been a widower for many years, and he was bent with age. Everyone said Moses was "tight with a dollar." He lived like a pauper, but they said he had a huge bank account. His sons were lawyers and lived far away from the father and the junkyard that had given them their education. "Bring my soup, Mrs. Lyman?" Moses would ask. Granny would give him his jar of soup. He took it, and I cannot recall his ever saying thank you, even though my mom said it was probably the best meal he'd had each week. However, he did always offer Granny her choice of anything in his junkyard. "Thank you, Moses, but I don't need a thing," Granny would say. "Give it to someone in need." One day Moses didn't open his door. A neighbor checked the room in the back where he stayed and found Moses had died peacefully in his sleep. Imagine the surprise of everyone (except my granny) when it was discovered that Moses, the Jewish junkman, had left a large sum of money to a Christian children's home. Granny said that that was his "thank-you" for the soup.

Our final stop was always at the home of Mrs. Anderson. Mrs. Anderson was a member of our church. She was in her 90s and no longer able to go to church services. Her niece lived with her and took loving care of her. Pastor came to see her each week, and she enjoyed that. But of all the good things in her last years, Mrs. Anderson most enjoyed Granny's visits. The soup and visit meant the niece could-like Sarah-just get away for a little while. And Mrs. Anderson could catch up on the church "gossip." "The paint in the church nursery is peeling. Can't understand it, because it was only painted last spring." "Mrs. Paul's boy is home from the Army, and I'm proud to say he has remained a fine Christian young man." "Karen Miller is going with the Mason boy. I think it's serious, and I'm sure their parents are so pleased." This was the kind of news Mrs. Anderson missed! Granny made her part of the everyday happenings of the church. Then when her niece came home, Granny and I would say good-bye to Mrs. Anderson and head for home. Another Wednesday was over.

In time Granny became ill with cancer and her Wednesday trips came to an end. I was 18 and in college when Granny died. I felt the loss terribly, but I knew she was with God and that pain could no longer touch her. When we returned from the cemetery, my mother handed me an envelope with my name written on it in Granny's hand. Inside was a small piece of paper, folded in two. I opened it and found it was Granny's recipe for vegetable soup. But, of course, it was much, much more than that. It was a recipe for living life as a Christian, a legacy left to me by a grandmother who understood people and loved God both very well indeed!

(contributed for the Newsletter back in 2009- by Annita & Bill Wiese.) **I read it today and wanted to share again.**

March Birthdays

- 5 - Pat Gill
- 9 - Emma Isabel Rodriguez - Can't believe it was 4 years ago
- 13 - Cleo Smith and Keiona Lucas
- 20 - David Mahan

Anniversaries

4th Shawn & Natalie Smith

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

Brenda

Speaker Schedule: **March:** 2, Ricky Woodruff; 9, Rosenberg - Streaming from Montgomery; 16, Ted Winslow; 23, Lary Petty; 30, Pastor--Communion **April:** 6, Ted Winslow; 13, Pastor Thompson; 20, Gary Linkous; 27, Pastor Thompson Streaming from Montgomery

Last months picture: Elder Reed Frey & great granddaughter Kaylee who is 18 now.



I know most of you remember this couple. She is still living with her daughter but he died 15 years ago, doesn't seem that long ago but I am sure to her it does. Memories are good to hold on to. Don't forget to give me a picture that you want to share next month. Have a good month. 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

- **Mobile Food Bank** - Monday, March 25 @ 7:30 am for those needed to get ready for the crowd that will be coming.
- **Campmeeting** - April 5 & 6, at Camp Alamisco - Join John Bradshaw of It is Written, as we learn how hope heals even the greatest of hurts. Learn more and register at www.gscsda.org/campmeeting.
- **Church Business Meeting** - Sunday morning, April 7 @ 8:30 am breakfast and the meeting at 9:30 am. All church members please mark this on your calendar and come so you can be aware of the business of your church.
- **Steps to Christ** - April 13, Sabbath afternoon, reserve that afternoon to give out Steps to Christ - Yes, you are needed!!!

There is No Greater LOVE than the deep, deep love of Jesus Christ!

No Depreciation in Value

By: David Wolfe on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 6:26pm

A speaker at a seminar held up a hundred dollar bill. He asked everyone in the room, "Who would like this hundred dollar bill?" Hands went up all over the room. He then proceeded to crumple the bill up in his hand. Again he asked, "Does anyone still want it?" Still hands went up in the air. "Well", he said, "what if I do this?" He dropped it onto the ground, onto a dirty spot on the floor, and began to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up and asked again, "Who still wants it?" Again, hands went up into the air all over the room.

The speaker said, "You have just learned a very important lesson. No matter what I did to it, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It's still worth a hundred dollars."

Many of us in our lives have been dropped, hurt, wounded, crumpled, and ground into the dirt--by other people, by circumstances of life, by wrong decisions we've made.

The devil tries to make us feel that we are worthless. But no matter what has happened in your past you will never lose your value. You are of great, great value. You are of infinite, inestimable value and worth. God loves you so much, He considers you of such great value and worth, that He gave the most precious, the most valuable thing He had, His only Son, in order that He might have you.

He says to you this day, "Come unto Me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am humble and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11 :28-30)



Special Music Sabbath the 16th of February by Gracie Plier & Madison Chrishon. A beautiful rendition of "I Surrender All". "All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live; I surrender all, I surrender all; All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all". May that be our prayer each and every day.... Amen



Colombian Black Bean Stew [Vegan]

20 minutes or so

Ingredients:

- 2 13 1/2-ounce cans black beans
- A dash of olive oil, rice bran oil, or water (for frying)
- Scant 1/2 cup water
- 5 garlic cloves
- 1 14-ounce can chopped tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 vegetable broth cube or vegetable broth
- 2 small onions
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 heaped teaspoon of dried oregano
- 2-4 teaspoons of sugar
- A pinch of ground black pepper

Note from Kay #3:

I did not add ginger or oregano. I added the cumin and some curry paste, then a bit of the usual red pepper, and a couple shakes of cayenne pepper. I also added only about a 1/4 tsp sugar and I added a 1/2 tsp Thai red chili paste. It was excellent over brown rice...we both enjoyed it.

They suggested garnishing with avocado, which adds goodness to everything in my opinion...they also suggested tomatoes and the typical "suspects".

Preparation:

Drain (and rinse) the black beans and set aside.

Peel and chop the onions and garlic finely.

Over a medium heat, warm the oil in a large frying pan and sweat the onions until translucent, about 5-10 minutes. Add the garlic and pan fry everything for about 2 minutes. Next, add the chopped tomatoes, stir, and add the water.

Next, add the beans and stir until nicely combined. At this point lower the heat to a simmer, add the vegetable broth cube and let it dissolve completely. Add the cumin, ground ginger, sugar, and dried oregano. Let it simmer to intensify the flavors. Taste and see if it needs a tiny bit more sugar.

Let the liquid reduce a little more — this shouldn't take very long. When done, remove from the heat, sprinkle some ground black pepper, and serve warm.

- ◆ 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!! **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. Thanks, Brenda

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