

Remember the Bent Tree!



I was lying in bed this morning thanking God for his healing and then praying for greater healing from some childhood damage I have often struggled to overcome.

I began thinking about how nice it would be if those events had never happened. But as I was praying about it, the thought came to me to “remember the bent tree”.

The “bent tree” story is one I heard as a young boy when an elderly pastor was talking about it to his adult congregation. Being a “young tree” myself at the time, I didn’t then fully understand the story. From my childhood memory, it goes like this:

A large family with several children had just moved to a home in the country. The children were delighted to discover that on the property there was a pond suitable for swimming. On a bank at the side of the pond a young oak tree was growing. The tree was so young that its trunk and branches were thin and quite flexible—not capable of supporting much weight.

The children discovered that with a running start they could make the thin branches swing and arc over the pond enough to drop in with a satisfying splash. They spent many happy summer hours playing in the pond and swinging from the tree. But after a few years they outgrew the pond and the tree was no longer used.

There was damage to the small tree, however. The branches and trunk had been bent and twisted and strained so much they were no longer straight as they had been before. The tree looked like it was crippled forever.

Time passed and 35 years later, the long-since grown children came together for a reunion in the area of their childhood. They asked the new owners of the property if they could explore once more the place they had grown up. And of course, they walked out to the pond.

In their mind’s eye, they expected to see a spindly young oak at the side of the pond. But things had changed.

What they saw was a large mature oak

tree whose trunk and branches had become thick and massive. But through the solid branches they could still see the unnatural bend in the trunk they themselves had created—it had become part of the tree’s character.

I think the story might have ended there as the pastor made the point that “as the twig is bent, so grows the tree”. I think he was teaching that all of us, as parents and neighbors, affect the lives of our children and people around us in ways that can change their lives for good or bad forever.

But this morning, as I remembered the tree, I saw there is more to the story. Yes, the tree had been damaged and bent. But where there had been damage and weakness there was now massive strength and attractive character. The curving trunk and branches arching over the pond could no longer be moved. In fact, the tree now provided stability to the bank on which it grew and extra shade over the pond for comfort to others. A new rope had been hung from the now solid branch for a new generation of children to swing over the water.

It was as if the Lord was telling me that I was praying for the healing He had started long ago. And the healing He often chooses is turning weakness and damage into strength and character that may be used by Him to provide support, comfort and teaching to others. Yet the healing I had been praying for was to “make it as if it never happened.”

Thinking about the bent tree helped me understand a little more what the Lord has told us before—that His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

When I realized that He has been healing me all along, I saw that my prayer for healing needs to change—not so much that He will make it as though some pain in life had never happened, but that His strength will be all the more manifest—because of it.

Submitted by: Jerry S

BIBLE PUZZLE - There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is **a most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **johnboat**. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving; **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. **Some** people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**; **especially** since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truthfully**, **from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or scholar to see some of the **m at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this puzzle. The Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**, there really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless You and Happy Hunting.

1. Amos, 2. Mark, 3. Luke, 4. John, 5. Joel, 6. Judges, 7. Job, 8. Hebrews, 9. Esther, 10. Acts, 11. James, 12. Ruth, 13. Romans, 14. Titus, 15. Matthew, 16. Genesis, 17. Philemon, 18. Chronicles, 19. Daniel, 20. Nahum, 21. Hosea, 22. Lamentations, 23. Revelation, 24. Timothy, 25. Samuel, 26. Numbers, 27. Malachi, 28. Peter, 29. Exodus, 30. Kings. (And no, 1st, 2nd, 3rd of anything doesn't count, LOL, you have to find all 30 books.)

Hi Brenda, here are the answers we found. There was an extra "the" between Truthfully from "the" answers. If you take that out you have Romans. As Larry said we had some help finding the last two. It was lots of fun. I had done this before, but only found 28. Was glad to find the other two. Mavis and Larry Cansler

Thanks to Pastor Cansler, that helped us to find the last of the 30. Matthew was our one that we hadn't found before, my husband found that today. Malachi was the next hardest. Hope each of you enjoyed studying the books of the Bible. Now did you practice saying them forward, I know years ago, I learned them backwards also, it makes it easier when you are doing a "sword drill" for sure. Until next month, Brenda



On February 20, 2016, we at the Clanton church were blessed to have two new members join on Profession of Faith: Linda Mims and her mother Mary Nalley. Also James Oakley Powers, "Jimmy" to us, was baptized. We have watched him grow up from a baby and are thrilled to have him give his life to Jesus. A special welcome to our three new members..

Getting to know Linda Mims & family!

My name is Linda Mims. I was born the oldest of 7 and have a close family. I am married to Danny Mims who is the youngest of 7. We have been together for 27 years this month (May 27). I met my husband and it was brief but later the next day got to talk to him and we went out and bless his heart, he has been stuck with me ever since. He works as a maintenance man at Vulcan Materials. He has been there for almost 20 years. We have had ups and downs as does every couple but God has never let us down. He always provides. I have worked in many types of jobs but stay at home mom and teacher/Nana is the best of all. There is never a dull day. Even when I think I am going to have down time and it winds up full of things to do its just the way we are and we love doing things together. We pray together, exercise and we learn together. We have 2 children, a son named Josh who lives in Montevallo and a daughter Tina who lives in Texas. I am raising 2 of my grandchildren. Orin who is 11 years old and Elden who is 10 years old. They are both autistic and we are a home schooling family. We enjoy many things as a family. We stay active and get much socialization. I have twin grandsons that are 6 (April) and are in Texas.

On the weekends we enjoy camping or as my daughter calls is "RV ing" and try to go about once a month on an average. We get to visit other areas and enjoy nature. One of our favorites is Oak Mountain in Pelham. There are many things to do there and they are always adding more things.

Orin loves the color yellow and most times you see him he will be wearing a yellow shirt. He loves to play Golden Eye 007 (he likes to be like an agent and crouch down across the floor) He listens to things more when he is up moving than when he is sitting still. Orin will talk if you want to talk about the things he likes like guns and 007 and games. He reads things and if it interests him he will talk about it off and on for a week. Elden loves the color blue. He also loves to play Pokémon. Elden is our "Bible reader" for our school lessons on many occasions. He will read and then explain to Orin what he got from it. Many times I learn something just from listening. You forget how it was to understand as a child. I discuss things that they don't understand and help with words they don't know. Elden will come and talk to me about something if it is on his mind and later I will hear him explaining it to Orin. Orin gets it.



I believe that you can read the Bible a thousand times and get something different out of what you read every single time. It is refreshing to listen to them talk about it and get a child like view of things. I also enjoy reading from my Bible in the morning. That is my quiet time. I have been teaching the boys that we start every day with a prayer and that Bible is our very first subject because nothing is better than learning about Jesus.

I can't remember sometimes how many hats I wear but I'm sure there are many I don't even think about. I help my parents some (as do my brothers and sisters) I don't feel like I get to do enough many times but am always told that it is plenty. (we know that every mom says that) I try to help any member of my family that needs it if I am capable of because mom and dad raised us that way (hence the close nit family)

You all know my mom and dad. Mary Nalley and Albert or Joe Nalley. (He uses both) There are many times I wouldn't know what to do if I couldn't call them daily. I try to even on vacation or camping. I talk to many of my brothers and sisters daily as well. I try to keep up with what is going on with all of the kids but lets face it....mom does better at that than I do. She not only keeps up with her and dad's things but probably most of the family. We all call with major info when something is going on. We are all loving and helpful when we are needed. We share prayer requests even if the rest of us don't know who it is because prayer helps and never hurts. (unless you count Satan....lol)

I felt the Lord call me and have worshipped Him for many years but I came to the Amazing Facts on TV as mom had told me about it and I listened many times to Doug Bachelor and learned much. I was compelled to go to a Seventh Day Adventist church. Mom was as well. We found that these churches are not nearly as many as others like the Methodist or Baptist for example. We came to a seminar by Wyatt Allen and had previously talked to some of the others from Amazing Facts. We decided to settle in and joined the church. I have felt better about my emotional and spiritual well being since then.

What are the Mission Offerings?

Presented by: Kay Cheser, SS Superintendent

The Adventist Church is built on mission. Our commission comes from Christ, who told us to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” Mark 16:15, NIV. Sharing God’s love around the world is like a vehicle. It needs fuel to propel it. Our mission offerings are the fuel that propels almost every aspect of outreach. Without that fuel, our best efforts are hampered.

The church is united by its call to support mission. But few of us know exactly what the mission offering does, where it comes from, or where it goes. Our offerings support frontline evangelism in unentered countries as well as in teeming cities. They help build and sustain schools, establish churches, and help produce literature for distribution in hundreds of languages. In short, our mission offerings do everything our tithes can’t do.

In addition, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering allows us to give to specific projects that grow the church in tangible ways. One of the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings in 1912 helped develop the River Plate Academy and school of theology in Argentina. Today the River Plate campus houses a university in which 2,500 students are enrolled as well as elementary and secondary schools enrolling 1,000 students. Our offerings have been instrumental in growing institutions such as these around the world.

Opportunities

This quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help to:

- establish a Hope Channel broadcasting and recording studio in New Zealand.
- build a family wellness center in Fiji.
- CHILDREN’S PROJECT: build 28 Children’s Discipleship Centers (“Lamb Shelters”) in Papua New Guinea, Trans-Pacific Union, and New Caledonia



Sara Powers, Kelaiah Radford, Ava Abbott & Carissa Abbott



Women's Ministries - Kay Suddeth

This is the result of the sewing lesson Sunday, April 24. Each girl is holding the pillow she made herself. Charlotte took the picture and it is very expressive of the girls pleasure in their work. They did a good job. Congratulations girls.

For those asking: I am on hold a bit until I have this surgery and rehab from it. Too far to know when but we will have more sewing classes.

Will keep everyone posted for more Women's Ministries activities.

The Inspiring Story of The Broken Pot

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?" "That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them." "For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

So, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

Author Unknown



PASTOR'S CORNER



Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it. Genesis 4:7

A Venus flytrap can digest an insect in about 10 days. The process begins when an unsuspecting bug smells nectar on the leaves that form the trap. When the insect investigates, it crawls into the jaws of the plant. The leaves clamp shut within half a second and digestive juices dissolve the bug.

This meat-eating plant reminds me of the way sin can devour us if we are lured into it. Sin is hungry for us. Genesis 4:7 says, "If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you." God spoke these words to Cain just before he killed his brother Abel.

Relying on God's Spirit supplies the power to live for Him and others.

Sin may try to entice us by tempting us with a new experience, convincing us that living right doesn't matter, or appealing to our physical senses. However, there is a way for us to rule over sin instead of letting it consume our lives. The Bible says, "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). When we face temptation, we don't face it alone. We have supernatural assistance. Relying on God's Spirit supplies the power to live for Him and others.

Dear God, at times I let down my guard and indulge in sin. Please help me to listen to Your warnings and obey Your Word. Protect me from my own impulses and conform me to Your image. Thank You for Your work in me.

We fall into temptation when we don't flee from it.

INSIGHT:

There has been much theological debate as to why God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected Cain's (Gen. 4:4-5). One popular theory is that Abel's sacrifice mirrored God's act in the garden of Eden that provided covering for Adam and Eve—by means of an animal's death—after they disobeyed God (Gen. 3:21). Another view is that Cain's offering of what he had grown by his own efforts pictured works, but Abel's offering of a lamb pictured God's ultimate sacrifice of grace. It seems that these brothers must have been given some idea of what was—and was not—considered an acceptable offering.

Bill Crowder—from Our Daily Bread

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

May Birthdays

- 3 - Maxine Plier
 - 4 - Sarah Langham
 - 11 - Donna Ernest
 - 22 - Marilyn Vaught
 - 25- Marcus Christensen - **Does anyone know where he is?**
 - 26 - Carissa Abbott
 - 31 - Tom Bates
- Happy, Happy Birthday to each of you this month.

No Anniversaries
Known



OK, last month, did you figure out that was the “Higgins brother’s quartet”. LOL, yes that was several years ago.

This month, there are several to reminisce about.... The baby was the one that I was finding the picture of, hope you enjoy remembering. Until next month.

Have you had to SMILE for Olan Suddeth yet? Help us work on getting a 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. .

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: April 30 - Pastor Rodriguez, May 7 - Pastor Rodriguez, May 14 - Ted Winslow, May 21- Lary Petty, May 28-pending.

For those of you that are getting the Newsletter each month via US Mail and also have access to the internet/email, let me know if I can stop sending you the printed copy.

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten – As of this moment we are making plans to continue the Kindergarten next year.... We have some remodeling to do to the area and a safety plan and study to complete, then Stan Hobbs Education Director says we can have a 2016-17 School year. Word of mouth advertising has been found to be the best. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.



April 2: Asking for prayer since Jimmy caught his finger in a grinder and the competition was coming up the following week. **April 7:** Jimmy’s finger is healing nicely and he is able to play tomorrow. Thank you for your prayers and concern. **April 8:** Competition **April 14:** So excited! Found out yesterday that Jimmy received two outstanding marks in his audition last Friday. He will be competing at the state level in May at the University of Alabama. **Praise the Lord!!** **P.S.** It is wonderful to have Facebook, for those of you that don’t, now you are up to date. For all of us Jimmy, don’t forget to let us know how May’s competition goes.

An Impressive Story

It was an impressive story that was told by R.Lee Sharpe of Georgia. "I was just a boy," related Mr. Sharpe. "One spring day, father called me to go with him to old man Russell's blacksmith shop. He had left a rake and a hoe to be repaired. And there they were ready, fixed like new. Father handed over a silver dollar for the repairing. But Mr. Russell refused to take it. "No," he said. "there's no charge for that little job." But father insisted that he take the pay. "If I live a thousand years," said Mr. Sharpe, "I'll never forget that great blacksmith's reply: "Sid," he said to my father, "Can't you let a man do something now and then—just to stretch his soul?" It is the old law. The giver becomes the receiver. Bread cast upon the waters comes back. One who "Stretches his soul" into deeds of love and kindness, unfailingly reaps a just reward.

YMCA Broadcaster.

Prayer Without Words

Sometimes I do not pray in words. I take my heart in my two hands
And hold it up before the Lord. I am so glad He understands.
Sometimes I do not pray in words. My spirit bows before His feet,
And with His hand upon my head We hold communion, silent, sweet.
Sometimes I do not pray in words, For I am tired and long for rest.
My weary heart finds all it needs Upon the Saviour's gentle breast.

Martha Snell Nicholson. - Presented to use by Pat Gill

Sweet Memories



Websites that Bill Weise has set up for everyone & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.

www.stepsupward.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. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter... Work on a Spotlight so we can all get to know each other better.

Return Address:

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



To: «AddressBlock»