



Don't forget Mother's Day this month. Hope you are planning something special for your mother.

The Woman -

When God created woman he was working late on the 6th day. An angel came by and said: "Why spend so much time on that one?" And the Lord answered: "Have you seen all the specifications I have to meet to shape her?" She must be washable, but not made of plastic, have more than 200 moving parts which all must be replaceable and she must function on all kinds of food, she must be able to embrace several kids at the same time, give a hug that can heal anything from a bruised knee to a broken heart and she must do all this with only two hands". The Angel was impressed. "Just two hands Impossible!" And this is the standard model?! "Too much work for one day wait until tomorrow and then complete her". "I will not", said the Lord. "I am so close to completing this creation, which will be the favourite of my heart". "She cures herself when sick and she can work 18 hours a day". The Angel came nearer and touched the woman. "But you have made her so soft, Lord" "She is soft", said the Lord, "But I have also made her strong. You can't imagine what she can endure and overcome." "Can she think?" The angel asked. The Lord answered: "Not only can she think, she can reason and negotiate." The angel touched the woman's cheek "Lord, it seems this creation is leaking; You have put too many burdens on her." "She is not leaking ... It's a tear", The Lord corrected the angel. "What's it for?" Asked the Angel? And the Lord said: "Tears are her way of expressing grief, her doubts, her love, her loneliness, her suffering and her pride." This made a big impression on the Angel: "Lord, you are genius. You thought of everything. The Woman is indeed marvelous!" Indeed she is! Woman has strengths that amaze man. She can handle trouble and carry heavy burdens. She holds happiness, love and opinions. She smiles when feeling like screaming. She sings when she feels like crying, cries when she is happy and laughs when she is afraid. She fights for what she believes in. Stands up against injustice. She

doesn't take "no" for an answer, when she can see a better solution. She gives herself so her family can thrive. She takes her friend to the doctor if she is afraid. Her love is unconditional. she cries when her kids are victorious. She is happy when her friends do well. She is glad when she hears of a birth or a wedding. Her heart is broken when a next of kin or friend dies. But she finds the strength to get on with life. She knows that a kiss and a hug can heal a broken heart. There is only one thing wrong with her; she forgets what she is worth. Pass this on to your lady friends to remind them how fantastic they are ... Pass it on to the males you know. Sometimes they need to be reminded .. ! ! !

Continue On A woman once fretted over the usefulness of her life. She feared she was wasting her potential being a devoted wife and mother. She wondered if the time and energy she invested in her husband and children would make a difference. At times she got discouraged because to much of what she did seemed to go unnoticed and unappreciated. "Is it worth it?" she often wondered. "Is there something better that I could be doing with my time?" It was during one of those moments of questioning that she heard the still small voice of her heavenly Father speak to her heart. "You are a wife and mother because that is what I have called you to be. Much of what you do is hidden from the public eye. But I notice most of what you give is done without remuneration; But I am your reward. Your husband cannot be the man I have called him to be without your support. Your influence upon him is greater than you think and more powerful than you will ever know; I bless him, through your service and honor him through your Love. Your children are precious to me. Even more precious than they are to you. I have entrusted them to your care to raise for me. What you invest in them is an offering to Me. You may never be in the public spotlight. But your obedience shines as a bright light before Me. Continue on, Remember you are my servant. Do all to please Me."

By Roy Lessin.

PASTOR'S CORNER



For those of you that haven't been at church in the last couple weeks, Pastor Michel & Elizabeth Rodriguez are being transferred to Gulfport, Mississippi. This Sabbath the 28th of April will be their last week here. We are truly going to miss them and won't get a chance to get acquainted with Zoey the newest addition to their family as of 3/28/2018 7:41 PM weighing in at 8 lb. and 20 inches long. They have been our Pastor family since January 1, 2014. We will pray for God to be with them as they adjust to a new location and a new church. We will miss them very much.

How fleeting my life is. Psalm 39:4

Scientists are pretty fussy about time. At the end of 2016, the folks at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland added an extra second to the year. So if you felt that year dragged on a bit longer than normal, you were right. Why did they do that? Because the rotation of the earth slows down over time, the years get just a tiny bit longer. When scientists track manmade objects launched into space, they must have accuracy down to the millisecond. This is “to make sure our collision avoidance programs are accurate,” according to one scientist.

Lord, help us to use our time wisely for Your honor and glory.

For most of us, a second gained or lost doesn't make much difference. Yet according to Scripture, our time and how we use it *is* important. For instance, Paul reminded us in 1 Corinthians 7:29 that “time is short.” The time we have to do God's work is limited, so we must use it wisely. He urged us to “[make] the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16 esv). This doesn't mean we have to count each second as do the scientists, but when we consider the fleeting nature of life (Psalm 39:4), we can be reminded of the importance of using our time wisely.

Lord, thank You for each moment You give us.

May we strive to honor You with this gift by using our time wisely for Your honor and glory.

Don't just spend time—invest it.

INSIGHT: Can you think of a time in your life that served as a wake-up call? David wrote Psalm 39 recalling such a moment. Although he doesn't describe the circumstances that roused him from a sleeplike existence, his song tells us how he came to sense the importance of the moments given to us. At first, he's troubled by those who seem to have no moral conscience. Sensing foolishness and danger in their presence, he decides not to speak—maybe so he won't be like them or so that his words cannot be used against him (39:1–2). But in self-imposed silence, David has a more troubling thought. He too has been living without wisdom. Time is getting away from him. He's lost the joy and wonder of life. Realizing his own inclination to think life is found in the material things we accumulate, he calls out for help (vv. 3–6). Recalling what he has already learned about the Source of joy and hope, he sees how reliant he is on the eternal God to help him see more than the momentary distraction of passing wealth (vv. 7–13).

Could this be a good time to see ourselves in David's song?

Pastor Michel Rodriguez & wife Elizabeth and daughters **Emma Isabel & Zoey Alessandra**

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Spotlight on Madison



The first picture is of Madison holding Samuel, the second is of Madison turning four.



Hi, I'm Madison Chrishon and I'd like to share my testimony with you. It is my prayer that this would give hope to those who are praying for people who are still entangled with the things of this world.

I was born on February 28, 2003, in New Orleans, Louisiana and shortly afterwards, my father and mother were not together anymore. Because of this and other reasons, my Dad felt a strong desire to be a better father to me. As my dad began to seek the Lord with all his heart, he found Him, and re-joined the Seventh-Day Adventist church. In 2005, he was reconciled with Ms. Anika. Shortly after, they moved to their first country home in Elizabeth, Louisiana; which holds many of my childhood memories. Here my first brother, Samuel Chrishon, was born, and I had my first dog named Daisy. Here some of the first seeds were planted in my heart as I started to hear precious Bible stories and learn songs. At three years old, life was as simple as playing with Sam and my nana, and taking Daisy to the lake. But things got a little more complicated by the time I was four. Then I moved to Maryland with my mom, marking the first of many moves I would have to make.

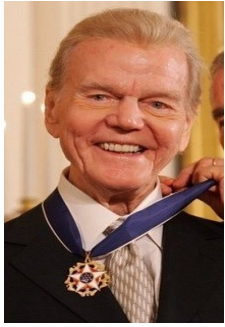
Little did I know, I would have a total of 9 moves by the time I was thirteen, ranging in states from Alabama to Maryland and Louisiana. Most of the time I was with my mother during the school year, and saw my dad during summer break. Even though I was used to lots of TV, video games, and care-free eating, I was happy being with my Dad and Ms. Anika, who were a bit more on the disciplined side. As I got older and was with my mom, I started to think about things I learned with my dad like the Sabbath and healthier eating. I remember trying to not play video games but reading my bible story books instead on some Friday evenings. Even though I was waking up to truth, I put it off because I thought my mom would get upset if I ever made such drastic changes. I figured I would wait until college or sometime after that when I would be on my own.

Meanwhile, I started think less about God and more about the things of the world. In 2015, life really hit hard when my mom finally moved back to Louisiana due to some job issues. Relationships that I had built up in Maryland once again were smothered when I moved. I started to listen to negative music and became overly absorbed in online games. I became more and more unhappy with my life, and unfortunately, I thought the way to be happy was to have the things the world has to offer. I was so lost that instead of seeking God, I strove for the world even harder. However, God sought me even as I was going astray. Through his diligent efforts to bring me back to the fold, I can see the love He has for His lost sheep.

Just as I was in the middle of making plans with my friends for the summer of 2016, my mom told me I would be leaving early to spend the summer with my dad— that very weekend. I was upset at first, but adjusted quickly. During my visit, my dad received a video about a Christian reuniting event called "Together 2016". After we had watched it, my dad pointed out that this is something that could quickly bring us to the end of time, as most of the Christians that will be there will have one thing in common— Sunday worship. I was quite familiar with end time events from reading the my Bible Story books when I was with my mom, and now, everything I had read seemed to be becoming a reality. I knew in my heart that the time to serve God was now or never, for I would not be ready if Jesus really was to come in a matter of months. Looking back, I see that incident as something God used to get my attention and to help me make a decision. One night I told my dad I wanted to spend this school year with him so I could learn more about God. He was glad and told me I was welcome. With much prayer, I then moved on to ask my mom if I could stay with my dad. Through God's grace, she was supportive, though teary at first.

During that year, God answered my prayer for a closer relationship with Him and an amazing transformation took place. In a matter of months, I got off of social media, started paying more attention during family worship, and began to dress more modestly. I started to enjoy spending time with God in prayer and studying my Bible. The Lord continued to lead me in new light, and as I grew, time flew. Before I knew it, my year with my dad was coming to a close, and I needed to let my mom know what I was going to do. Once again looking at my spiritual needs, I wanted to stay with my dad full time so that I could continue to grow and not put my mom under pressure with my new lifestyle changes. God prepared the way for me and moved upon my mom's heart to let me stay. From this point forward, I submitted myself fully to Jesus, and he's been changing me to be more like Him ever since. After about a year and a half of getting to personally know Jesus, I was baptized on September 4th, 2017. I am so happy He had a divine plan for my life even before I was a child, because now I can experience the joy of serving the Lord from youth. I am so happy he helped me listen to Him when He said that the time is now. I hope that everyone else would listen too, so that they can find out what it means to truly be happy.

Someone You Should Know



On September 25, 1997, Paul Harvey, the popular radio personality, announced on his nationally syndicated program: *“Women have been honored on American postage stamps for more than 100 years, starting with one woman who was not an American, Queen Isabella, in 1893. Since then, 86 women have been honored, ranging from Martha Washington to Marilyn Monroe. Also many women authors like Louisa May Alcott, Emily Dickenson, Willa Cather, and Rachel Carson. But I can name an American woman author who has never been honored thus, though her writings have been translated into 148 languages. More than Marx or Tolstoy, more than Agatha Christie, more than William Shakespeare. Only now is the world coming to appreciate her recommended prescription for optimum spiritual and physical health.”*

During these few minutes, millions of Americans who had never before heard of Ellen White had been introduced to the historic author and speaker. Paul Harvey concluded, "Ellen White: You don't know her? Get to know her!" The purpose of this website is to help you do just that — to introduce you to the life, ministry, and writings of Ellen White, a remarkable woman whom too few people have even heard about. We believe that when you've finished your journey, you'll be thrilled that you finally met this special woman you should “get to know.” This was found in the material that Charlie Jones gave me that Irene had kept for years. I looked it up online today and found the same article with pictures. If you want to get more information on Ellen G. White and can't find it online, contact me or the Head Elder listed on the Pastor's page.



I Still Know Who She Is!

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry, as he had an appointment at 9:00. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On examining it, I saw it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors and got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound. While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health and he told me she had been there for a while, as she is a victim of Alzheimer's disease. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. I was surprised and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?' He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is.' I had to hold back tears! As he left, I had goose bumps on my arm and thought, 'That is the kind of love I want in my life. True love is neither physical nor romantic'. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be.

May Birthdays

1 - Brent Chrishon
3 - Maxine Plier
4 - Sarah Langham
8 - Elijah Graves
11 - Donna Ernest
14 - Pamela Jackson
25 - Marcus Christensen
29 - Natalie Smith
31 - Tom Bates & Samuel Chrishon

Anniversaries
None Known

Happy, Happy Birthday to everyone this month. If I don't have your special day, let me know. We want to celebrate with you. Brenda

Last months reminiscing: Flora Dell & Joe Bray, I would think about the time they got married. The one this month, was a wonderful loving Christian woman. She died 7/1/2004. How many of you remember her?

Until next month, Brenda



Church Organ Fund: We are now ready to purchase a newer organ. The current organ is old and we can't get rid of the growls, please help with this endeavor. Donna has found a \$21K, nice used Allen Organ, we still need \$8,500. Every little bit will help. Please help us to continue enjoying music at church.

APRIL 30, 2018 - Mobile Pantry at the church. **Please let everyone know so they can help and participate.** **Ralph Sheperd just confirmed to be there by 8:00 AM. See you there.**

One Sabbath morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The Deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate margarine." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord I ain't too crazy about plain flour either. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits." "Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, That we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen.

Presented for us by Elaine Johnson

At My Mother's Knee

"I have worshipped in churches and chapels,
I've prayed in the busy street,
I have sought my God and have found Him
Where the waves of the ocean beat,
I have knelt in the silent forest
In the shade of some ancient tree,
But the dearest Of all my altars
Was raised at my mother's knee."

"I have listened to God in His temple,
I've caught His voice in the crowd,
I have heard Him speak when the breakers
Were booming long and loud;
Where the winds play soft in the tree tops
My Father has talked to me,
But I never have heard Him clearer
Than I did at my mother's knee."

"God make me the woman/man of her vision
And purge me of selfishness!
God Keep me true to her standards
And help me to live to bless!
God hallow the holy impress
Of the days that used to be,
And keep me a pilgrim forever
To the shrine at my mother's knee." Selected
Poem taken from Irene Jones' archives.

THE BIBLE LOVING CAR DEALER

By Samuel Chrishon

I went to Tennessee for a canvassing trip several weeks ago with students from Harbert Hills Academy. We sold magabooks and gave away GLOW tracts. I was blessed with many nice memories. Here's one of my favorite encounters.

I was walking toward a Chevy dealership with my partner, Gabby from Indonesia. We prayed before we went in, and asked God to give us a special blessing. We went to the front counter and canvassed the man standing there. He was not interested in our books, but told us there was a man named Austin in the used car section that loved his Bible and God.

When we got to the used car section, we found three men standing at a desk. Instead of asking for Austin and getting books to only one person, the Holy Spirit led Gabby and I to canvass all three men at once, and all of them purchased books. One man liked history, so he was happy to purchase a copy of *The Great Controversy*. The second man liked food, and purchased *Fighting Disease with Food*. Austin enjoys reading his Bible, and he purchased three Bible books from us.

The Lord did great things for us during our canvassing trip, and we are glad.



A Special Need—Sometimes you need someone who'll listen, sometimes you need someone who'll smile, Sometimes you need someone who cares about you to just be around for awhile. Sometimes you need someone who'll help you, sometimes you need someone who'll share. And those are the times when you can depend on a mother to always be there.

- ◆ Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.
www.stepsupward.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. Remember if you don't want to get the Newsletter, Let me know. Thanks, Brenda

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