



**First Letter from Niece:** Good Morning Clanton SDA Church,

I'm writing to tell you "thank you" for loving my sweet Ant Ellie Harrison in her last few years. She was loved deeply and dearly by every – single – family member in the Callo-way family. She was that crazy cool aunt that every niece and nephew dreams of hav- ing. She fulfilled a great purpose in her walk on this earth.

But I'm writing to tell you what a big part you played in her final years. I grew up coming to my Grandma Gussie and Grandpa George's house in Verbena. I'd be lying if I told you I loved coming to the country from the city (Dallas), cause, truth be told, I'm scared to death of crickets and grasshoppers and Verbena was packed full of the biggest and scar- iest I've ever seen. We city-kids always called them Grandma-Grandpa-in-the-Woods. But my grandma was just short of sainthood in my book to see her, well... I'd risk out- houses and scary crickets any day! My Ant (yes, she spelled it like the bug!) Ellie was my Grandma Gussie made over. Kind...generous...and one of the most loving women I've

ever been blessed to know. She had drifted away from the church over the years of her sometimes difficult life, but when she moved back "home" ...Alabama...she found YOU waiting for her. And I personally would like to thank you for being there for her. I have her Bible... the one she wrote in.. and the one she found the road back to God in. As I left Alabama for the last time the week after she passed away, I drove past the Clanton church I had been in many times as a child with my grandpar- ents. I snapped a couple pictures as a reminder of the love my Ant Ellie received from the kind folks of this church. So thank you...thank you for loving my Ant Ellie... for lifting her up in prayer and being there when she returned home.

We are all blessed to know we will see her once again...minus the crickets and grasshoppers...and hear that amazing laugh of hers she was to famous for! May God bless you all... Liz Calloway-Etheridge – Murphy's Mom Blog.

**Return Letter:** We were thrilled and honored to be part of Ellie's life here in Clanton. She was a blessing to everyone she met, loving outgoing and most of all happy to see everyone as we worshiped together in the Clanton Church. The Sabbath before she died, we had the privilege of her getting up and leading the songs and yes, she had the hand timing part down pat also. These are personal comments from two church members: We still feel the loss of the joy that was part of Ellie and look for- ward to seeing her again in heaven. I have met very few people in my life that made you feel loved and feel joy in their pres- ence as I did in Ellie's presence. I will miss her insights and joyful laughter in our Sabbath School class. I am sure that if I solicit- ed comments from individuals that you would only hear wonderful things from them. We enjoyed reading and hearing your wonderfully written thank you. It brought joy to our hearts and tears to our eyes, the memories are so wonderful but the loss is still fresh. We were just glad we were in the right place at the right time when God returned her to his fold. We were grate- ful to have her as part of our family of God as the song goes. I do pray daily that we can all be the type of person that is living up to what we know and believe and that we will all be ready to meet the Lord in the air and go to heaven together. What a wonderful reunion that will be. Brenda Kohler Davis,

**Second Letter from Niece:** You will never know how much your letter meant to me. And seeing the pictures of Ellie in the newsletter getting baptized (refer to Jan 2017), well.....it made me cry tears of joy. Thank you SO much for sharing that with me! We are having a family reunion (1st one in a zillion years!!!) next year and I will be sharing your thoughts and the baptis- mal pictures with the family when we have her Memorial at that time. Oh, how I loved that lady!! Goodness.....I never knew she could sing!!! Seriously....I thought I knew everything about her....but I didn't know that! I loved that she got up and led song service and I can just see her hand motions "going-to-town" up front leading!!! What an awesome image in my head that is!! And how cool that you knew my grandparents!! I love that! So you know exactly what I was talking about when I men- tioned the grasshoppers! Yikessss.....

There are no accidents or coincidences in my opinion in this life of ours.....God placed her right into ya'lls arms at just the "ripe" moment in her life. I love that she died the way she died (in her sleep), where she died (on the land she loved the most) and at the time she died (before she became disabled or sick). There is such peace in knowing I will see her again one day be- cause her heart was aligned and in love with God. She was "Part of the family of God". How crazy awesome is that!! My heart is full of love for the church family in Clanton and enormously grateful. Until we meet.....Liz

# A Forced Baptism in China

*A Chinese pastor's journey of faith from China to the Philippines and back.*

(By Andrew McChesney) Submitted by: Kay Cheser

An influential Seventh-day Adventist pastor in China was baptized because of his mother. But he only gave his heart to Jesus a decade later while participating in a public evangelistic series in the Philippines.

David grew up in an affluent family in China. His millionaire parents owned two successful factories and quarreled about money matters continuously. They divorced while David was a university student. David's mother, who didn't believe in God, was downcast until a cousin introduced her to a Sunday church pastor. She began attending worship services regularly and one day asked for a popular Christian book. Instead, the pastor gave her a copy of "The Desire of Ages" by Adventist Church cofounder Ellen G. White. Reading the book, David's mother noticed a strong emphasis on the sacredness of the seventh-day Sabbath and decided to become an Adventist. Her daughter, David's younger sister, also accepted the Sabbath.



David had no interest in his mother's new faith. She gave him "The Desire of Ages," and he only read it out of a sense of obligation. Then his mother began to put pressure on him. "Your mother is a Christian, and your sister is a Christian," she said. "But if you don't believe, we won't be able to meet in heaven." David got baptized, but the ceremony meant little to him. "It was a forced baptism," he said in an interview.

He drank, smoked, and ate pork. He opened a car-parts company with his best friend and worked on Sabbaths. His mother, meanwhile, threw herself into sharing the gospel. She opened an Adventist church and then another. The second church took much of her time, so she asked David to preach in the first church. David didn't even know the Bible, and he retorted, "How can I preach?" "Just read," his mother said. The sermon lasted an hour every Sabbath, so David opened the Bible and read until the time ran out. Then he promptly left.

Around that time, David quit his business amid a devastating court battle and decided that he wanted to learn more about God. He stopped drinking, smoking, and eating unclean meat, and enrolled in the theology program at an Adventist school in the Philippines. Still wondering about his future, he joined an Adventist evangelist for a month-long evangelistic campaign — part of the requirement for his education. At one of the meetings, a schoolteacher told him that she had longed to be baptized for years but feared her non-Christian husband. She said her husband had threatened to kill her if she became a Christian.

David began Bible studies with the woman and watched as her faith grew. Finally, she was baptized. Afterward, David asked her, "Aren't you afraid that your husband will kill you?" "He may kill me," the woman replied. "But I still wanted to be baptized." David was astonished by her faith in the face of death. "I had never seen such faith before," he said. David doesn't know what happened to the woman, but he said her husband didn't kill her. Also at the evangelistic meetings, David befriended a young boy who came every night and longed to be baptized. David went to the boy's house to ask his parents for permission, but the parents, who belonged to a Sunday church, turned him away. "We visited the parents many times, but they would not relent," David said. The evangelistic series ended, and David returned to his studies.

Six months later, an Adventist pastor approached David with a bewildering story. He said a family of four had showed up at his church with a request to be baptized. He had quizzed the parents, son, and daughter about the Bible and found that they understood the church's beliefs. But he couldn't figure out how they knew the Bible so well. No local church members knew the family, and no one had given them Bible studies. Finally, the pastor asked the parents, "What made you decide to join the Adventist Church? How did you hear about the church?"

"An evangelistic series was held in our town six months ago," the father said. "A Chinese man came to our house many times to talk about our son, who wanted to be baptized. We strongly opposed his baptism. But after six months of consideration, our whole family has decided to join the church." David couldn't believe his ears. "I realized that God always has a way, even when everything seems hopeless," he said. Those two experiences and others convinced David that he wanted to become a pastor, and he accepted Jesus in the Philippines. "I learned about Jesus, strengthened my faith, and decided to work for Him," he said.

Today, David is 49 and serves as an influential pastor in China. "My life has been a journey," he said. "From my forced baptism to my studies in the Philippines, I have learned to trust God and to work for Him."

*Adventist Mission is not publishing David's full name or location to protect his work.*

# PASTOR'S CORNER

Ok. I took that picture a couple of days ago. She was determined to do her night reading but fell asleep in the process. Haha - Thanks to Elizabeth for sharing with us.

Pastor all dressed up in his Pathfinder uniform and sash with his honors and badges.

Elizabeth says she will try and get some of herself to share with us next month. I reminded her she is part of the Pastor's family but kind of hard when you are taking the pictures, LOL.



**Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14**

While removing the price tag from an item of winter clothing I had purchased, I smiled at these words on the back: "WARNING: This innovative product will make you want to go outdoors and stay there." When properly clothed for the climate, a person can survive and even thrive in harsh and changing weather conditions. The same principle is true in our spiritual lives. As followers of Jesus, our all-weather spiritual wardrobe has been prescribed by the Lord in His Word, the Bible. "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, *clothe* yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. . . . Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Col. 3:12–13 emphasis added).

**Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Col. 3:13**

These garments that God provides—such as kindness, humility, and gentleness—allow us to meet hostility and criticism with patience, forgiveness, and love. They give us staying power in the storms of life.

When we face adverse conditions at home, school, or work, the "clothing" God tells us to wear protects us and enables us to make a positive difference. "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (v. 14). Dressing according to God's guidelines doesn't change the weather—it equips the wearer.

*Heavenly Father, help me to put on Your garment of love so that I am prepared for whatever life brings me today.*

**Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life.**

## INSIGHT

What does it take to dress for spiritual success? When writing to followers of Jesus in Colossae, the apostle Paul may have been influenced by the regional clothing industry. The city (in an area of modern-day Turkey) was famous for their beautiful dark-red wool cloth (*colossinum*). What we do know, however, is that Paul's allusion to being **clothed in Christ** is more important than a regional textile industry or global custom. In behalf of Jesus, Paul urged them—and us—to clothe ourselves in the kind of love that does far more than call attention to ourselves. It is a caring that binds all goodness together in the eye-catching unity of Christ.

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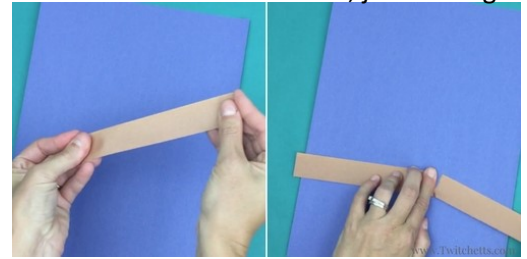
# FALL 3D TREE

I know that Elizabeth Rodriguez was thinking about fun for kids but I think this could be fun for anyone. Hope you all enjoy, we can't just have a newsletter for old people, LOL. We all need to enjoy. Until next month, don't forget to share with your family and friends.

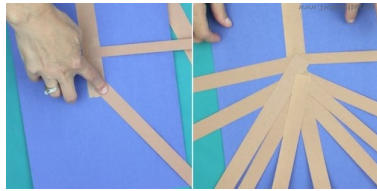
Supplies for your Construction Paper Tree: Construction Paper. Brown and fall colors, Paper Cutter, Scissors, Glue Stick

## How to make your fall paper tree:

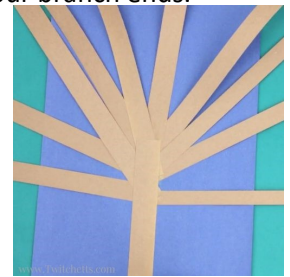
1. Start by cutting your brown paper into a bunch of long strips. You do not need to measure their thickness, just as long as you have one the width you would like to use for your trunk. Take the trunk strip and cut or tear it in half.



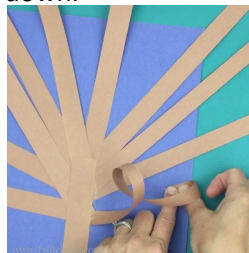
2. Use your glue stick to attach one-half of the trunk to the blue sheet of paper. Set aside the other half of your trunk for later. Now, glue the rest of your strips to the top of your trunk.



3. Once all of the strips are attached glue on the other side of the trunk to hide and secure all of your branch ends.



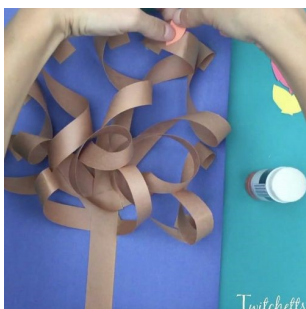
4. Next, start to work your way around the tree branches to attach them to the blue background. Pick up the branch and loop it around twice then attach to the blue paper with glue. Teach your little one to count to 10 while holding the strip down. This way they are nice and secure.



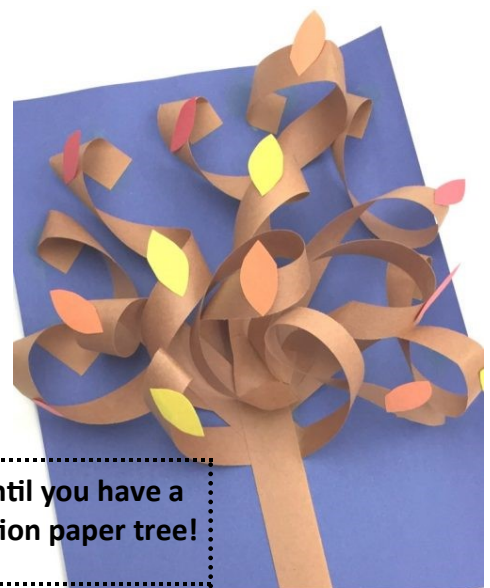
5. Now it's time for some leaves. Just grab some paper scraps of your favorite fall colors and cut out a bunch of simple leaves.



6. Time to start gluing.



It won't take long until you have a fun fall 3D construction paper tree!



**FALL 3D TREE**  
A Construction Paper Craft for Kids  
[www.Twitchetts.com](http://www.Twitchetts.com)

## November Birthdays

- 1- Joyce Campbell
- 6 - Brianna Clark
- 14 - Noah Clark (2016)
- 15 - La'dene Higgins
- 22 - Shawn Smith
- 25 - Jeanne Bates

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

No Known Anniversaries



I would suppose that most of you knew that was Elaine Johnson, her smile betrayed her, LOL. Who remembers this wonderful couple that moved away a few years ago, they were in Avon Park Florida? Share your pictures with me so we can guess and enjoy what we used to look like. Until then month, Brenda

**Tentative Speaker Schedule:** **October:** 28 - Ted Winslow-  
**November** 4 - Pastor, 11th - Tui Pitman; 18th - Shawn Smith;  
25th - Pastor and **December** 2nd - Pastor.



## Thanksgiving

I thank Thee, Lord, for house and home  
And lands— possessions sweet;  
I thank Thee more for friends, who,  
Loving, pause to greet  
Me, as we, moving onward, meet.

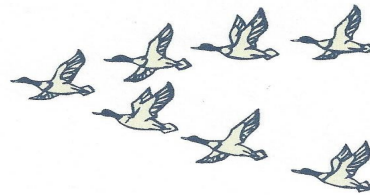
I thank Thee, Lord, for little children, and  
The touch of tiny, helpless hands  
Which cling to mine in tender truthfulness; the  
Sound of childish voices in the land;

I thank Thee, Lord, for work, for  
Toil and labor, sweat of brow, and  
Well-earned rest; for sleep and wake-  
Fullness again to here and now:  
For Hope of Future Life and—Thou.

But more than all I thank Thee, Lord, for  
Love, and power to laugh and weep  
With them who on their way rejoicing go, or  
Pause beside the way to vigil keep  
A moment by their dead who sleep.

For house and home and friends and  
Work— Gifts from above-  
I thank Thee, Lord; but more than all,  
Yea, more than all, I thank Thee,  
Lord, that I can love.

By DELLA THOMPSON LUTES



## THE GOOSE STORY

**N**ext fall, when you see geese heading South for the winter, flying along in a V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way:

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are.

When the lead goose gets tired it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies the point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying South. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally.... And this is important... When a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshots, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation, to catch up with their group. If we have the sense of a goose we will stand by each other like that.

## A Special Tribute to Ellie Harrison—conclusion

### Pinch Me, Ant Ellie....Pinch Me – from “Murphys Mom Blog”

My sweet Ant Ellie died in her sleep a week ago. She hadn't been sick a day in her life, had just moved from Florida to the one place on this earth she loved and always longed to return to, the piney woods and redclay of Alabama. She loved this place with every inch of her robust body. And this was the place she wanted to die...someday...but not last Friday (7/14/2017). Ellie never had children of her own, so she borrowed her siblings' kids. She was the kind of aunt every niece dreams of...the FUN aunt...the one that will squeeze-her-3x-sized-rear-into-

the-roller-coaster-seat-next-to-you kind of aunt. Who at 79 was about to purchase her first 4-wheeler to cruise around her 60 acres of land she lived on...alone. And she and God met up in these Alabama woods. As she sat drinking coffee on her front porch last year in this place she loved so, God sat with her. Quietly and expectantly...He waited. He would soon be calling her Home, but she didn't know that. And then she heard Him. Like a wind whispering to her, she heard His Spirit speaking to her heart. And she picked up that old dusty Bible sitting in her bookshelf and opened it for the first time in years. His love leaped off the pages and straight into her heart. And she made the decision to be baptized this year at the mighty-but-not-too-late age of 79. “And we know we are going to get what's coming to us-an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him!” Romans 8:25 (MSG) And we blow her a kiss and say “goodbye for now, sweet Ant Ellie. And warm up the 4-wheeler..we expect a tour of Heaven soon.” <https://youtu.be/mmG91ftvHOg> Just an addendum added by Brenda. (Ellie said giving up the coffee was one of the hardest things she had ever done, she even tried Postum but that didn't float her boat either, LOL. God wants us to live by the 8 Laws of Health and gives the strength to do what we can't do by ourselves if only we put our trust in Him and ask Him.)



- ◆ Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.  
[www.steppingupward.org](http://www.steppingupward.org) [www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://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 Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so the previous couple years there also. To register to get your family pictures for the Church Directory: go to “about us”/ then “contact us”/ and then “click to schedule your session for Nov 13,14,or 15th”. Call Brenda if you don't have access to internet. **The minimum number of families needed is 15 or we won't get an updated directory.** It has been 30 years since we have done an official picture directory at the Clanton church, for those of you that would like to see the previous one, I will have it each week at church, it's fun to see what “we” looked like back when, LOL.
- ◆ Thanks to all of those that have contributed this month. If I missed a momentous occasion, please send it to me and we will post next month. If I email you and US mail the newsletter, let me know that I can not US Mail to you, I know several want the “hard copy”. Until next month, Brenda

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**To:** «AddressBlock»