

The Tree

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

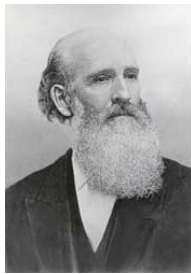
'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children... So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.'

'Funny thing is,' he smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'

A people that loses its heritage loses its mission right along with it.

Heritage Sabbath this month.

(Oct 22, 1844) The date that Jesus was thought to have come the second time... Called the "Great Disappointment". This year marks 100 years since Ellen G White died (in July of 1915). Her messages that she was given under inspiration over 100 years ago are even more timely now than they were when given. Just do a search for Ellen G White and you can find many of her books to read on-line, or get for yourself.



Elder James Springer White and Ellen Gould Harmon White had four sons. One died in infancy. The three others are pictured here. The oldest and youngest look like their father. The middle son, James Edson White, was a troubled but talented man who built a paddle-wheel, sailed it to the South, and started a series of schools for blacks, a personal mission that nearly got him killed, and had almost no support except for his mother and the string of contacts she arranged to make it successful.

Read Dr. Ronald Graybill's book "Mission to Black America" about James Edson White's work in the South, post civil-war, whence Oakwood University and several other schools.

In 1859 the 32-year-old Ellen White was already coming to prominence as a gatherer of former "Millerites" into a developing sect. She was already writing extensively, and speaking about her many (often public) visions. She in her autobiography "Life Sketches of Ellen White" tells about her life experiences.

John Preston Kellogg, the father of brooms, invited the Whites to settle in the "west" at Battle Creek, in Michigan. There Father White would establish America's largest religious press, and the sect would build a huge orphanage and the notable Battle Creek Sanitarium, as well as schools from K - college. In time they would also move from New England to Colorado, Texas and California, where branches of the press & new schools would be opened. Just some tidbits from Facebook that I saw today.

In brief, Ellen G White was a woman of remarkable spiritual gifts who lived most of her life during the nineteenth century (1827-1915), yet through her writings she is still making a revolutionary impact on millions of people around the world. During her lifetime she wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books; but today, including compilations from her 50,000 pages of manuscript, more than 100 titles are available in English. She is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender. Her writings cover a broad range of subjects, including religion, education, social relationships, evangelism, prophecy, publishing, nutrition, and management. Her life-changing masterpiece on successful Christian living, *Steps to Christ*, has been published in more than 140 languages.

To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test . (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 136).



Though still young, the photographer has already staged her as a writer. It is an unusual pose for a woman at that time.





By the time you receive this, we will have just completed two quarters of mission stories from the Asia-Pacific Division. I found a true story from Amazing Facts website written by Pastor Doug Batchelor. Although it was written to Amazing Fact supporters, I thought that it was such a wonderful story that decided to share it with our *Newsletter* friends. Some of the Bible workers he encountered may have been at least partially supported by our mission offerings. (Please note that the picture on the left is not the actual picture of Mr. Wu).

“Not long ago, Karen called me from a wedding she was attending at the church and said,

“There is a man here who just flew in from China to meet you, and he wants to be baptized!”

His name is Mr. Wu, a humble but enthusiastic soul who became impressed by the teachings of Christ just two years ago. After the former Buddhist began reading the Bible and accepted Jesus, he studied the prophecies and became frustrated in his search for truth.

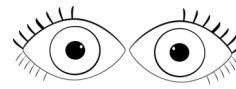
Sensing the nearness of Jesus’ return, Mr. Wu sold his construction business, hired a driver, and traveled all over China to study with various Christian churches, praying God would show him the Bible truth. And God answered this faithful man’s prayer! When I was preaching in China last year, one of our Bible workers gave Mr. Wu an Amazing Facts DVD translated into Mandarin-Chinese. At first, he struggled with the new truths learned, but as he persisted watching, he recognized they were rooted in Scripture. He next obtained our Chinese-language Bible Study Guides and studied them day and night!

The Holy Spirit moved powerfully on his heart, and he became convinced, convicted, and excited about these precious new truths. Mr. Wu felt it was urgent he share them with everyone. But he knew he still needed to be baptized.

That’s when he bought a plane ticket from Shanghai to San Francisco. When we met, he gave me a bear hug and said he was not leaving till I baptized him. Over the next few days, we arranged for some Chinese-speaking believers to study carefully with him. I am thrilled to report I had the privilege of personally baptizing Mr. Wu on a beautiful Sabbath day a few weeks ago.

You are a vital part of the evangelism cycle that made reaching Mr. Wu possible. The Holy Spirit used your loving, compassionate support to bring the truth within Mr. Wu’s reach and give him a sense of urgency. Now he even wants to work fulltime to reach his own people for Jesus—it is so refreshing to see his raw enthusiasm for his faith! Believing the days are very short, he forsook everything to follow Jesus. Thank you for doing your part in Mr. Wu’s new life!

That’s a beautiful story of salvation, isn’t it? Well, the good news is that this very same impact is being felt in many other locations around the world.”



It Was In Your Eyes.....

It was a bitter, cold evening in northern Virginia many years ago. The old man's beard was glazed by winter's frost while he waited for a ride across the river. The wait seemed endless. His body became numb and stiff from the frigid north wind. He heard the faint, steady rhythm of approaching hooves galloping along the frozen path. Anxiously, he watched as several horsemen rounded the bend. He let the first one pass by without an effort to get his attention. Then another passed by, and another. Finally, the last rider neared the spot where the old man sat like a snow statue. As this one drew near, the old man caught the rider's eye and said, "Sir, would you mind giving an old man a ride to the other side? There doesn't appear to be a passageway by foot." Reining his horse, the rider replied, "Sure thing. Hop aboard." Seeing the old man was unable to lift his half-frozen body from the ground, the horseman dismounted and helped the old man onto the horse. The horseman took the old man not just across the river, but to his destination, which was just a few miles away.

As they neared the tiny but cozy cottage, the horseman's curiosity caused him to inquire, "Sir, I notice that you let several other riders pass by without making an effort to secure a ride. Then I came up and you immediately asked me for a ride. I'm curious why, on such a bitter winter night, you would wait and ask the last rider. What if I had refused and left you there?"

The old man lowered himself slowly down from the horse, looked the rider straight in the eyes, and replied, "I've been around these here parts for some time. I reckon I know people pretty good." The old-timer continued, "I looked into the eyes of the other riders and immediately saw there was no concern for my situation. It would have been useless even to ask them for a ride. But when I looked into your eyes, kindness and compassion were evident. I knew, then and there, that your gentle spirit would welcome the opportunity to give me assistance in my time of need." Those heartwarming comments touched the horseman deeply. "I'm most grateful for what you have said," he told the old man. "May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion."

With that, Thomas Jefferson turned his horse around and made his way back to the White House. With this October being our Seventh-Day Adventist Heritage month, I thought something on our American history was in order also. What do people see when they look in your eyes?.....



From one pumpkin to another!!!!!! A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin." God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

Being there:

My Father, I said, I long to spend more time with you, But there seems to be so much to do;
I just learned that a friend has taken ill, My aunt lives alone - how lonely she feels,
I was with my co-worker who cried on my shoulder, And I gave a ride to a homecoming soldier,
I had to help my supervisor with a task. Have I neglected worshipping you, Father, I ask?
No, my child, you were where I needed you - Just your being there speaks my truth....
Benita (Another of the poems that Sue Mims is sharing with us.)

PASTOR'S CORNER

You're Shining for Jesus Wherever You Are

HOLLEY GERTH

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

The news headlines drifted in from the living room as I sat at my desk. The story of yet another tragedy contrasted so sharply with what I was writing that I stopped, sighed and leaned back in my chair. A sense of despair washed over me. "Lord," I silently prayed, "is there *anything* I can do about the darkness in this world? It seems so overwhelming." I sensed a gentle whisper within my heart replying, "*The only way to get rid of the darkness is to add more light.*" Darkness is the absence of light. Trying to go after it directly is like chasing your shadow. You can't bag it up and throw it away. Only light is powerful enough to make the darkness disappear. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made it clear that we are the light of the world. We are called to shine. But the light we share is not our own.

From the very beginning of creation, God has been the source of light both spiritually and literally. Genesis 1:2b-3 says, "*Darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light*" (NIV). Imagine a world full of darkness. Then with four small words, light blazes forth. Every living thing in our world relies on light for its existence — plants, animals and people. The God who brought light to the world also brings it to our lives. As 2 Corinthians 4:6a says, "*For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts*" (NIV).

The best part of all is that we don't have to be like the light bulb that said, "I have to find a way to shine!" The light bulb went to a self-help meeting to learn about its inner capacity for light. It read books about how to get brighter. Each morning the light bulb would get up and recite positive affirmations. "*I am a light bulb. I believe in myself. I will shine!*" But nothing happened. Eventually the light bulb became weary and discouraged. It began to doubt who it was and what it could do. It almost burned out completely. Fortunately, one day the light bulb was carefully placed in a fixture. Light burst forth and filled the room. The light bulb finally understood. ***The key was not to try harder but to plug into the source.*** Trying to shine on our own can be exhausting. Instead, we're simply called to be closely connected to God and remain in Him. When we do, His light pours forth through us in powerful, brilliant ways that change the world. The ways we shine might not make the news, but they make even more of a difference than we can see.

Lord, thank You for being the light within us so we can shine brightly for the world around us.

When it seems darkness is crowding in, use us to make a difference.

We ask that You will help us share Your love, joy and peace — especially with everything going on now.

You are the hope we need and the One light that will never burn out, be overcome or fade away.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Pastor Michel, Elizabeth and Emma, we have missed you so much. Hope you don't mind me sharing pictures from Facebook. I heard Emma was glad to be back from Cuba to enjoy A/C again, LOL. Looking forward to seeing you all in person again soon.

October

Birthdays

4- Sylvia Newell
8 - Gary Linkous
12 - Matthew Stewart
21- Gary Boggus
25- Bill Wiese
Happy Birthday to each of you.

Anniversary
8 - Matthew & Sheryl Stewart



Calendar of Events

Weekly: Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 7pm

Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail

Monthly: Tennis Shoe Sabbath: 1st Sabbath each month, after lunch. Come help us make Kingdom Friends for God.

Book Group: 2nd Sabbath After Lunch in the Teen Room.

Sabbath School Visitation: 3rd Sabbath each month.

Nursing Home Visitation—4th Sabbaths

Speaker Schedule tentative so far: 10/3 Pastor Rodriguez, 10/10

Tom Bates, 10/17 Elder Livermore, 10/24 Chip Anderson, 10/31

Pastor Rodriguez including **Communion**

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

www.stepsingupward.org

www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org [http://](http://www.grandmastidbits.org)

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. We have all the issues for this year 2015. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter...

Balanced
+ Living

Changing Lives...for Good

These
Doctors
STILL MAKE
House Calls

Health Series 1

Health Seminars will be starting on October 10 at 3:00 PM.. They will be on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays in October and November at 3:00 PM. December there will be a break, more in January of next year. The 8 Laws of Health will be covered first, later on ways to help with diabetes and cardiovascular issues. The seminars will last about 1 1/2 hours each afternoon. Afterwards refreshments will be served and literature shared. Cooking classes of health food will be held in the near future. The seminars will be held at the **Community Center, 100 Thompson Ave, in Clanton.** Dates are October 10 & 17, November 14 & 21.

8 Laws of Health are: 1. Nutrition, 2. Fresh Air and Exercise, 3. Rest, 4. Attitude, 5. Relationships, 6. Mental Fitness, 7. Positive Choices, 8. Spiritual Health. **The Living Word:** The Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ is the Great Physician who came to establish His kingdom of love, life, and freedom from bad habits deep within our hearts. Even though we live in a world of sin, sickness, and sorrow, He has given us an eight-step plan - eight "doctors" we can use - that improves mental, physical, and spiritual health and reduces the risk for much needless suffering. His message of love may be calling to your heart right now: 3 John 2... He is waiting for you now as your Great Healer, Savior, and Restorer! Come to find out more.....



Kay 3's Vegan Recipes

This is Lasagna. I brought it for Fellowship Lunch the second time on the 26th and it was again a hit. Kay#3

Forks Over Knives Type Lasagna

Ingredients :

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 small head of garlic, all cloves chopped or pressed
- 4 ounces mushrooms, sliced
- 1 head broccoli, chopped
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 1 red bell peppers, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 can corn, rinsed and drained
- 12 to 2/3 package Silken Lite tofu
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon basil.
- 1 1/2 jars pasta sauce
- 1 1/2 boxes whole grain lasagna noodles
- 10 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and drained
- 2 sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed
- 4 to 6 Roma tomatoes, sliced thin
- 2/3 cup raw cashews, ground
- 1 tsp nutritional yeast

Preparation: Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees. Grind the cashews, and add nutritional yeast; will use instead of Parmesan Cheese. Sauté the onion and garlic on high heat for 3 minutes in a wok or nonstick pan. (use a bit of water or vegetable broth to prevent sticking. Add the mushrooms and cook until the onions are limp and the mushrooms give up their liquid. Remove them to a large bowl with a slotted spoon. Reserve the mushroom liquid in the pan. (I had none) Sauté the broccoli and carrots for 5 minutes and add to the mushroom bowl. Sauté the peppers and corn until just beginning to soften.

Add them to the vegetable bowl. Drain the silken tofu very well by wrapping in paper towels. Break it up directly in the towel and mix into the vegetable bowl. Add spices to the vegetable bowl and combine. To assemble the vegetable lasagna : Cover the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch casserole with a layer of sauce. Add a layer of noodles. Cover the noodles with sauce. This way the noodles cook in the oven, saving time and energy. Spread the vegetable mixture over the sauced noodles. Cover with a layer of noodles and another dressing of sauce. Add the spinach to the second layer of sauced noodles. Cover the spinach with the mashed sweet potatoes. Add another layer of sauce, the final layer of noodles, and a last topping of sauce. Cover the lasagna with thinly sliced Roma tomatoes. Cover with foil and bake in the oven for 45 minutes. Remove the foil, sprinkle with the cashew mixture, and return to the oven for 15 minutes. Let lasagna sit for 15 minutes before serving. Makes 10 - 12 servings of lasagna.

Also, the first Clanton Women's Ministry meeting will be the second Sunday in October which is the 11th at 10:00 AM

Women's Autumn Annual Retreat... Perfectly Loved...with speaker Becki Rogers...October 2-4, 2015 @Springville Camp and Conference Center, 3804 Mountain View Road, Odenville, AL 35150... To register go online to plusline.org and click on Events and Gulf States Women's Retreat or call (800)732-7587

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