

A Parable for Living-

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun-down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might! Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind (he will do it every time)! 'You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved.' Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, 'Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough.'

That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of Prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. 'Lord,' he said, 'I have labored long and hard in Your Service, putting all my strength to do that which You have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?' The Lord responded compassionately, 'My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. 'And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. 'Through opposition, you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be Obedient and to push and to exercise your Faith and trust in My Wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock.' At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God Who moves the mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong Just P.U.S.H.

When the job gets you down Just P.U.S.H.

When people don't do as you think they should Just P.U.S.H.

When your money is 'gone' and the bills are due Just P.U.S.H.

When people just don't understand you Just P.U.S.H.

P = Pray U = Until S = Something H = Happens

Remember this is September -Labor Day-. Are we laboring the right way for the right goal? Remember those that have served & died before us giving us this great opportunity to make a difference in the world. Let's make the most of it.

I am not afraid of tomorrow for I have seen yesterday and I love today.

Noah's Ark: Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Give it! Don't just get it!

Most people walk in and out of your life, but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart.

Health Corner

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 1:2

Well, my beloved, I have the same desire apostle John had for his readers, to prosper and be in good physical health as you may prosper and be in good spiritual health. This is why I am sorry to tell you that you missed a great opportunity to learn more about healthy food at our plant based cooking class held on August 6, 2023.

The class was so well received that we plan for another one soon, tentatively November 12. I am forever grateful to the church members who generously offered and donated their time, resources, and knowledge to share with interested people.

The Health and Temperance department is very interested to use any knowledge and resources available in the church to open the door for everyone, even remotely interested in promoting health and healthful living. It is not a secret that today we live in a society plagued with lots of lifestyle diseases, diseases which could be prevented, kept at bay, and even reversed by simple, healthy lifestyle changes. There are a lot of sick people out there and even in our church. In this newsletter we have been talking about some of these changes. However, we want to take it further than simple talk or written material.

First, we provided the opportunity for community to come, get more information, have a simple health check, and ask questions in the environment of a health fair. All I can say is that the table was full, plenty of volunteers, plenty of resources, plenty of time, plenty of stations which did not fully reach its intended audience. It was a blessing for the volunteers and for people that came.

The second attempt was our cooking class. It had been my plan and my desire to start a plant based cooking class here in Clanton, but it seemed that there was always something else going on. God drew my attention back to this matter by using a few people which reminded me within a short time of each other about this project. It did not take a lot of time to get things moving, and let me tell you, I could not ask for a better church to provide the support for this plan.

Now is time to brag about my church family here in Clanton. The truth is my church family never cease to amaze me by their willingness, desire to serve, cooperation, generosity, love for God, and love for their fellow human beings. I have been part of other churches and asking for help is like pulling teeth out. Not here, as soon as I presented the project, offers came left and right: How can I help? What do you need? I am available for this...., I can do this.... And so forth. All I had to do was to ask and it was done. I do praise the Lord for my church family here in Clanton for using their God given talents and resources to help when is needed.

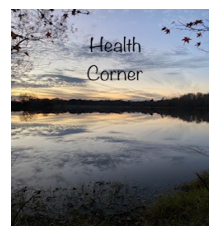
Truth being said the Clanton Church is blessed with so many talents and spiritual gifts and the most beautiful thing is that people in the church are using their God given talents. We are blessed with a great number of good cooks. If anyone has been able to taste some of the delicious dishes at our fellowship meal can attest to the truth of this statement. As a result for our cooking class many of these resources were tapped.

If you missed this cooking class you missed a great opportunity to learn, to fellowship, and have a taste of the good food prepared. Be not dismayed though. This class was a success, not surprising since it is a known fact that where the food is involved there is always a success.

In the mean time let me tell you what you missed. We decided that it was too hot to turn on the oven and the stove on, so summer foods recipes were demonstrated. We learned the secret on how to make Florine’s famous Tofu Spread. Very yummy!!! Always a hit! Judy taught us the secret to make the plant based Cottage Cheese and Nappa Cabbage Salad. Kay showed us how to make a tasty Southwestern Salad. Gary let us in on how to make Vegan Devilled Eggs and let me tell you he did a phenomenal job with the help of Rachel and Laurie. Yours truly was able to show how to make a Chickpea Spread, the Cucumber Salad, Snickers Pie and just in case you run short how to make Chicken Like Seasoning. Everyone present was kind and gracious and we got a rating of 5 on a 1 to 5 scale on most of the surveys and two 10 score on the same scale of 1 to 5. Everyone present there was interested to come to another cooking class. I also want to appreciate the priceless help lend by Karen and Renee with the clean up.

All I can say is a big THANK YOU and that we missed you there. The goal for this class is to help people understand that going on plant based meal plan is not hard, there are lots of resources, and the meals can be easy and delicious. If you are interested or know anyone interested you are welcome to come, get in touch with us, and sorry that you missed this opportunity. Do not despair, we do have more similar classes in the making in the very near future. Let me know your thoughts. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Looking forward for you and me to prosper and be in health physical as well as spiritual. Until next time, yours truly. Gabriela



PASTOR'S CORNER

The Incredible Story of Wisam Ali (Part 2)

In Part 1 of this amazing story, we met Wisam Ali, born and raised in a Muslim home in the city of Nazareth, the same town where Jesus was born two thousand years ago. In one of my trips to Israel, I had the privilege of meeting him and his wife, and learning up close about the incredible journey God had planned for them! We pick up the story where we left off a month ago, the last paragraph of Part 1.

He arrived at the language school during summer vacation and was assigned to work in the Garden. Only later did he realize that he was at a Christian school. He thanked Allah that he could be a Muslim missionary to hundreds of Christians. He thought, "if I have anything to do with it, this school will soon become a Muslim school!"

Wisam was very devoted to his prayer life and continued to pray to Allah five times a day through his open window. Also, full of confidence, he started to frighten his classmates telling them, "become a Muslim or you're going to go to hell!" He even started reading Bible to try to prove them wrong, but instead of getting converts, only got criticism. That's when his sister got an alarming phone call from some teachers saying that students were complaining about his behavior and that she needed to come and get him. But instead of giving up, she asked the school to give him a second chance, and, after some negotiating and special consideration, they finally agreed to give him a second chance.

One day, while Wisam was just basking in the warm sunshine, a lady came by and started talking to him, just casual talk, asking how he was doing and if he had heard from his sister lately, and if he knew how her boyfriend was doing. Wisam was absolutely livid as he responded, "my sister has a boyfriend?!" And to make matters even worse, not only was his sister a Christian, but the man she planned to marry was as pastor, in fact same man who met him at the train station! Filled with rage, he called his family and informed them, "sister has become a Christian!" They immediately commissioned him to find her and tell her straight out, "repent or you will be killed!" He got on the phone and begged her to return to Islam, but in return she quoted Matthew 16:26: "For what profits a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?" She added, "I have found Jesus, and I won't go back to Islam." Wisam was beyond furious and threatened her saying, "I'll have to kill you!" "I serve an Almighty God", his sister calmly replied. Out of sheer frustration he simply said, "do what you want, but be forewarned!"

At that point in the conversation, his sister requested that he study German for one year at the language school, and if he did this at end of the school year she would hand herself over to be killed. Wisam thought this was a good plan but left her with warning, "if you don't come at the end of one year, I will kill a Christian every day until you come". Wisam went on working very hard to pass exam, and soon then summer came and he went back to working at the garden. As the days passed and the end of that year was drawing to a close, Wisam contemplated hard as to what method he'd use to kill his sister. (to be continued)



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FIERCELY FAITHFUL

God Always Keeps His Promises



This years VBS was held, July 24-29.

Following Naomi and Ruth's journey from Moab to Bethlehem. The VBS Director in Decatur had put her imagination and creativeness to work to come up with the story and actual visualization's of the building, camels, palm trees and etc. so the journey that Natalie Smith, VBS Director and all the wonderful church members in Clanton could take the children on the journey making it feel real. It was well coordinated and everyone did their part to make it a success. Bible stories, crafts and games were enjoyed by all.



S	3	Kay Cheser
E	8	Sam Smith
P	19	Sue Mims
T	20	Olan Suddeth
	28	Kay Suddeth

Anniversaries:

7th - Roy & Brenda Davis—55 years

14th - Phil & Pamela Jackson

25th - Billy & Diane Fulmer

Tentative Speakers Schedule: Sept: 2 - Brian Halley, 9 - Pastor DeOliveira, 16 - Shawn Smith, 23 - Pastor DeOliveira, 30 - Shawn Smith



No longer I who live, but Christ in me
For I've been born again, my heart is free
The hope of Heaven before me, the grave behind

I won't forget the moment
I heard You call my name
Out of the grip of darkness
Into the light of grace
And where there was dead religion
Now there is living faith
All of my hope and freedom
I found in Jesus' name

When something says I am guilty
I'll point to the price You paid
When something says I'm not worthy
I'll point to that empty grave

How can I begin to thank You
For all that You've done for me?
Jesus, to fully praise You
It will take all eternity

The enemy thought he had me
But Jesus said, "You are mine"
The hope of Heaven before me, the grave behind
Hallelujah, You brought me back to life

Songwriters: Ben Fielding, Phil Wickham, Reuben Morgan, Chris Davenport, Brian Mark Johnson, Zahriya Zachary.

This picture popped up in my One Drive email this week. Where & when & how I got it I don't know; but I wanted to share it since I enjoyed it so much. Sam is having a birthday this month and will be 94 on the 8th.

SL is what we called Sarah, not sure where she got the nickname but she was wonderful and everyone that knew her loved her. She has been missed so much by church members and family since February 14, 2015.

Hope you enjoy reminiscing with me, next month it is your turn to share with us, until then, have a wonderful month, Love, Brenda

Spicy Black Beans Pita (Servings:4)

1 can (16 oz) black beans, rinsed, 3/4 cup red onion, chopped, 3 Tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped, 1 clove garlic, minced, 1 Tbsp mild chili powder, 1 tsp ground cumin, 2 Tbsp lime juice, salt to taste.

Mayo: 1 Tbsp vegenaïse, 3 Tbsp tofutti sour cream, 2 tsp green chilis, chopped. 4 (6-inch) pita pockets or tortillas, romaine lettuce, shredded, 1 ripe avocado, sliced, 1 tomato, sliced. Make and set aside.

Combine black beans slightly mashed, onions, cilantro, garlick, cumin and lime juice in a large bowl. Season to taste with salt. Slice off the top of each pita and spread the bean mixture inside. Top with the mayo, lettuce, avocado, and tomato. BOM Appetite! God Bless, Mirtes



PICTURE DIRECTORY REQUEST: Is anyone interested in pursuing getting a church picture directory together. I haven't heard from anyone with a picture and something about themselves yet.

Now my proposal is: What if every one that attends and those that are members that can't attend like they wish they could, get someone to snap a picture on their cellphone and send to me with their address, birthdate, phone number, email address and something about themselves that they would like to share including pictures that they like. A mini spotlight so we can get to know you. I could make the directories and have most of them digital which means the cost would be nothing, except for those that wanted a hard copy. What do you think of my brilliant idea? I think it would be a way to make us feel more like a family... I'm looking forward to hearing from each of you.

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 also added a link at the bottom of every page for Adventistgiving. Thanks to those that do contribute, Until next month! ... Brenda

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To: «AddressBlock»