

SENIOR EXPRESS

**Oakwood University Church
Debleaire Snell, Senior Pastor**

**Dr. Jessie Bradley
Editor**

Spring is here! God opened our eyes to see another day, week, month and birthdays. **We can count our blessings and rejoice!**

Did you know that many people have returned to church visibly to worship God after being home for months?

We also welcome many additional church family members this quarter by baptisms and transfer of membership. Do you know who they are? Have you met them?

The Andrews University Alumni gathering was an exciting evening, with lots of friends and family gathered together for food, fun, and fellowship. Take a look at the photos and see who you know. I'll name the four in one photo.

Do you know them? (from left to right) on page 9

1. Mrs. Patricia Stewart Daniel
2. Elder Shirley Iheanacho
3. Dr. John Wesley Taylor, AU President
4. Dr. Susie Hill

Oakwood University graduating seniors in need of financial assistance may apply for the HARAW Scholarship (\$1,000 or less). Applications will soon be available in the church office.

Everyone needs a little cheer and a smile in this life. Is your brain leaking memory? Who am I? Were you there? Remember when? How many do you know?

Mark your calendar and stay alert to all the events and activities taking place that may interest you, and or your family members.

Are you able to inspire or energize in either of these languages, Spanish, Arabic, or Dari?
Contact Ms. Lisa Whitehurst
at
Global Ties Alabama
256-513-8019

MARCH IS
**Women's
History
Month**

**God's Grace
Preserved my
Life p. 4**

**Meet Our Mother/
Daughter
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Black History Highlight – Robert Smalls

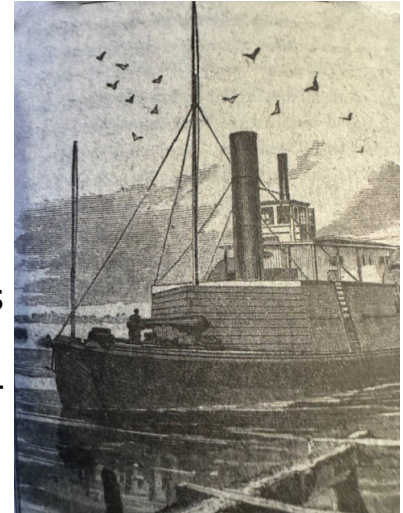


Robert Smalls, a historic figure, Civil War hero, and ultimately United States congressman, was a cousin of Benjamin Smalls, deceased husband of Mary B. Smalls, an Oakwood University Church member now living in the Atlanta area and lifetime member of the J. L. Moran Alumni Chapter of Oakwood University.

Robert Smalls, in one of the most daring feats of the Civil War, seized the 147-foot Confederate sidewheel steamer, the *Planter*, in 1862, commandeered the vessel from the headquarters of a Confederate general and ran the gauntlet of fortifications to deliver the valuable ship and its massive guns to Union forces. In so doing, Smalls won freedom from slavery for himself, his crew, and his wife and two young children who were hidden on board.

Although the South hoped to punish Smalls, he became one of the most famous African Americans in the country. He met with President Abraham Lincoln and members of his cabinet. He delivered orders from the secretary of war that authorized the first regiment of Black soldiers to serve in the U. S. Army. He served as a civilian pilot of Union ships and served in combat in a number of campaigns around Charleston, SC. He became the first Black captain of an Army vessel. In 1864, Smalls bought the home in which he and his mother had once served as house slaves.

Between 1875 and 1887, he was elected and served as a five-term member of the U. S. House of Representatives from South Carolina. Smalls was also a major advocate for free compulsory education in South Carolina and started several schools for African Americans in the state.



Smalls deserves to be remembered and celebrated for his contributions throughout his life. He is a true American hero.

For further information, see the following books: [Robert F. Kennedy, Jr's American Heroes, Robert Smalls: The Boat Thief](#); and [Be Free or Die, The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape From Slavery to Union Hero](#) by Cate Lineberry.

Meet Our Mother/Daughter Educators



It's no secret that Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) has a mother and daughter working side by side.

Tyler Lee, who is a 2018 graduate from OAA has decided to give back, why, because OAA is in her DNA. She is the 4th grade teacher. Her love for teaching was being developed in high school. She spent her summers working at the Oakwood University (OU) pool where she was a lifeguard and swimming instructor. Tyler has spent every summer at the OU pool from being a student (1 year old) to an employee (16 years old). Why is this so important--because this is not her first time teaching some of her current students. She was their swimming instructor long before she decided to become a teacher. In addition to spending her summers at the pool, she spent time at her mother's school helping out. Again, she was introduced to the classroom long before she decided to become an educator.

As a first year teacher, she is following the legacy of her mother Julie Lee who graduated from Lynwood Academy (1985), then attended Oakwood College, and returned back home to California to finish and graduate from La Sierra University (1990).

Julie started her teaching career in Orlando, FL where she taught 2nd and 3rd grade for 8 years in the Orange County Public Schools. After getting married and moving to Little Rock, Arkansas, she taught 1st grade for 1 year before moving to Huntsville, AL where she taught Kindergarten, first, and third grades for 22 years in Huntsville City Schools (HCS).

She has dedicated 31 years of service in the public school system. After leaving HCS, she became a traveling reading consultant while assisting at OAA. Julie says "It has been a blessing to be able to see the fruits of one's labor. To watch your child do what you did for 31 years, lets me know that the Lord has truly blessed my child, Tyler Lee, with the gift of teaching. To be a part of her first year teaching journey is the best gift a mother could receive.

OAA is blessed to have one of their own come back home." OAA is also blessed to have Julie Tyler's extensive experience as a classroom assistant in the kindergarten and first grade classrooms.

God's Grace Preserved My Life

by Dr. Eveythe Cargill



Life is not guaranteed here on earth, but praise the Lord, it is guaranteed for the place Jesus is gone to prepare for us (John 14: 1-3). I am a living testimony of what God can do and does for anyone who trusts in Him. This is why we are admonished to live for God each moment of our lives because none of us know when our creator will call our names.

In January 2021, I awoke from sleep; we had our morning devotion, drank thirty-two ounces of water, and went for a three-mile walk. On our return, we ate breakfast, and then I made a pan of baked spaghetti for our God-son who lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He had an extraordinary story at birth, and we were drawn to him because of his birth situation. The trip was 90 minutes away, but I was fulfilling my promise to him in 2020. We drove the baked spaghetti to Nashville and spent some time visiting with this wonderful youth and his mother.

On our trip back to Huntsville, my husband indicated he was tired and asked me if I would drive from Ardmore home. I gladly obliged the request that he made. Praise the Lord, we made it home safely. About an hour after we arrived home, I told him that I was tired and we needed to worship our Heavenly Father so that I could go to bed. Well, do you ever wonder why certain things happen in life? Do you ever feel like God may be working behind the scenes to make something special out of your life? If so, "God works in mysterious ways" is a phrase that you may have heard before or thought about. The following bible passages give the assurance that God is in control.

Isaiah 55:8-9 states:

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.*

*9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Psalm 115:3

“Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.”

Deuteronomy 29:29

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

As Christians, we believe that the plan and purpose of God are ultimately unknowable and mysterious; however, it can be trusted faith.

After I went to bed, my husband decided to sit in the bed and read for a while. Well, I drifted off to sleep, and sometime after, I started making noises, and he thought I was having a bad dream. He tried to wake me but soon discovered I was not responding to his request, so he called 911 for help. The Holy Spirit must have encouraged him to stay in bed and read, which allowed him to observe what was happening to me.

The ambulance came and took me to the hospital, and after testing, it was discovered that a meningioma was present, which was large enough to press against the skull and the membrane of my brain. The need for immediate surgery was essential. Within a few days, a neurosurgeon was located. Pastor Carlton Byrd conducted the anointing, and the surgery occurred. The eight-hour surgery was successful, but within a few hours after waking, I became unconscious for two weeks.

Prayer is the breath of the soul, and without me knowing, the brethren prayed, and prayed, and prayed. God heard those prayers, and He did answer. The Bible in Psalm 46:1 clearly says, “That God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” The word “strength” means a “might” that is so great that it upholds fellow believers, even in our most difficult times. God enables His people to stand strong through the many trials that come against them through His supernatural strength. All I can exclaim is that I am a miracle! It is truly God’s grace that preserved my life.

Dr. Eveythe Cargill is a retired teacher who lived in Huntsville, Alabama, for 39 years. She attended the Oakwood University Church, where she served as Elder, Sabbath School Superintendent, Treasury Team member, Sabbath School Teacher, and Family Life Committee member. She is married to Dr. Stafford Cargill, and they are the proud parents of two children – Dr. Carla Sandy and Kevin. They have four grandchildren - Zoe, Zuri, Calvin, and Chloe.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH CLERKS

The OUC Clerks recently shared Sabbath dinner and meetings to plan the direction of the ministry for the current year. In addition to the regular duties of the Clerks, several initiatives were proposed to enhance the ministry.

Our Head Clerk, Associate Clerk, and 18 Assistant Clerks will update member data, identify virtual membership, support various church programs, and provide outreach to missing members. The Clerk Ministry is the first OUC ministry to incorporate a virtual team member in our ranks.



Kimberly Russell, an OUC online member in California, is an Assistant Clerk who monitors and reports the weekly online attendance. Kimberly also proposed our theme for this year, **T.H.R.E.A.D.**, symbolizing the cords (the elements of our ministry) that cannot be easily broken and that keep the fabric (our members) together.



OUC Clerks are: Marilyn Lang (Head); Paula Barnes (Associate Head Clerk); (Assistants) Miriam Battles, Vivian Brown, Dianne Cheddar, Jeannette Dulan, Shanta Etheridge, Pamela Haugabrook, Kimberly Jack, Kimberly Jacobs, Tawnya Laughinghouse, Denia Middleton, Dillon Middleton, Margaret Nixon, Kimberly Russell, Dawn Turner, Jannine Vidal, Jamesetta Wheeler, Adana Wilson and (Jr. Clerk) Tai Laughinghouse.



Mission Begins at Home Oakwood University SDA Church

Our Sick & Homebound Members Need You



Shut-in Visitation

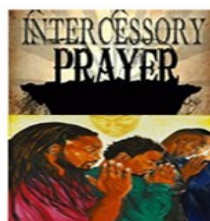
Visiting on behalf of Christ and His Church, I can bring hope and express love. Just showing up enlightens and deepens their faith. Jesus will say "I was sick and you visited me".



Just your presence brings some encouragement and lets them know "You Care". The gift of touch is extended when possible and that indicates we belong to a caring church.



Scripture tells us to "Bear one another's burdens". Listening is part of the burden bearing process. Listening lets us step into the shoes of another person. Offer words of comfort and encouragement (not medical advice). Galatians 6: 2)



This is a spiritual ministry, so pray and prepare your own heart before you visit and offer to pray with or for them during the visit. (James 5) Empower them to change any toxic emotions. Share with them a meaningful Bible verse. A brief prayer is wise and reveals compassion.

"No one can live the law of God without ministering to others". (DA pg. 584)

"He who lives only to himself is not a Christian". (COL pg. 48)

"If anyone knows the good they ought to do, and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." (James 4:17)

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE VISITATION TEAM? PLEASE CALL Kathy Davis at 256.693.2470 or call 256.837.1255

BETSY'S SHARING MINISTRY

Betsy Dunn, a senior citizen and native of Bermuda, uses her green thumb growing her beautiful garden that includes kale, bananas, limes, lemons, and christophine. She freely shares with her neighbors and friends.



Genesis 1:11
Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds."
And it was so.

LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS BE SEEN

Katherine Davis, Chaplain

“Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All His wonderful passion and purity; May His spirit divine all my being refine, *Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me*”.

When your burden is heavy and hard to bear, When your neighbors refuse all your load to share; When you're feeling so blue, you don't know just what to do, *Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.*

When somebody has been so unkind to you, Some words spoken that pierces you thru, and thru; Think how He was beguiled, spat upon and reviled, then just *Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.*

From the dawn of the morning to close of day, In example in deeds and in all you say; Lay your gifts at His feet, ever strive to keep sweet, and then, just *Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.*

In addition, just a gentle reminder:

Joy in your soul keeps you sweet, Sorrows keep you human,
Life keeps you humble, and success keeps you glowing,
But **only God keeps you going.**

So throughout the rest of this 2024 year, be kind and caring. Remember nearly everyone you meet and nearly everyone you speak with is fighting a hard battle.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI GATHERING in Huntsville, AL

"As members of the Andrews University Staff, we would like to thank each alum and friend for carving out the time to meet with us! We enjoyed the meal and fellowship and look forward to seeing you again soon!" Donald Bedney



HAVE YOU HEARD... by Marilyn Lang

Last fall, the **J L Moran Alumni Chapter** partnered with Oakwood University's Office of Advancement and Development to raise nearly \$75,000 for renovation of the G. E. Peters Music Building.

This Spring, we are pursuing a goal of raising \$8000 within two months so that we can help our graduating seniors with financial clearance via the J. L. Moran Alumni Chapter Scholarship. We welcome your contributions toward this goal and invite you to join the alumni chapter as we support Oakwood University students. Contact any JLMAC member or email jlmachsv.2020@gmail.com for additional information.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH
Membership Transfers and Professions of Faith
January-February 2024

Transfers In:

Name	From Church	City/State
Barrett, Angela	Berean SDA	Charlotte, NC
Cartwright, George Exell William	Decatur SDA	Decatur, GA
Chambers, Alexander	West Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA
Clark, Ingrid	Sligo SDA	Takoma Park, MD
Feagin, Latoya	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Forrester, Sh'Dai	Charity SDA	East Hartford, CT
Hankins, Ernest IV	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Harrell, Ferren Marr	Orlando Filipino SDA	Altamonte Springs, FL
Landers, Charis	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Moore, Kennee	San Diego 31 st Street SDA	San Diego, CA
Parker, Ryan	New Life SDA	Huntsville, AL
Pettus, Delarese	New Life SDA	Huntsville, AL
St. Clair-Abbott, LaToiya	Dennery SDA	St Lucia
Steede, Summer	New Covenant SDA	Memphis, TN
Tolbert, Cynthia	Berea SDA	Dorchester, MA
Tolbert, Dewitt	Berea SDA	Dorchester, MA
Trotman, Shelomah	Trinity SDA	Athens, AL

Profession of Faith (In):

Grant-Chancy, Tameka	Plano, TX
Hairston, Jone' Christen	Huntsville, AL
Hairston, Jonesia Kirstin	Huntsville, AL

Transfers Out:

Name	To Church	City/State
Agyekum, Abia	Abundant Life SDA	New Market, AL
Calixte, De'Andre Jovan	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Daniel, Donald	Abundant Life SDA	New Market, AL
Hart, Patricia Ann	New Heights SDA	Jackson, MS
Jones, Malachi	First SDA	Huntsville, AL

Lewis, Jessica Ciera	Bethany SDA	Montgomery, AL
Mackey, Emma	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Mendoza, Merced M.	Costa Mesa Spanish SDA	Costa Mesa, CA
Monette, Marilyn	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Monette, Michael	First SDA	Huntsville, AL
Palmer, Debora	Bethel SDA	Asheville, NC
Powell, Michael	New Bethel SDA	Columbus, GA
Williams, Eudora	Shiloh SDA	Little Rock, AR

OUC Baptisms
January-February 2024

Boyd, Alicia Ray
Boyd, Myon
Ison, Neo Abel
McIntosh, Sylvia Lorice
Middleton, Dominik
Reynolds, India Nichelle
Rivera, Ramssett Jesus
Watkins, Alana Elizabeth

***YOU WANT TO LIVE A LIFE THAT
PLEASES GOD AND GIVES HIM GLORY?***

by Katherine Davis, Chaplain

A study of the powerful Word of God will do just that -- 'twill build your faith, will deepen your relationship with God and dramatically impact every area of your life. As we study God's Word, He is speaking to us and we will experience an encounter with Jesus which will

- 1) light our way, giving wisdom so we can clearly see which way to go,
- 2) help us grow in faith and Christ-likeness,
- 3) transform our characters (the only thing we'll take to heaven)
- 4) make us complete and equipped for every good work,
- 5) bring reconciliation,
- 6) keep us from falling for Satan's persuasive lies, and
- 7) reveal to us earth's final events.

Oh how powerful the Word of God is! You can be victorious in your walk with God. Dear ones, you are encouraged and challenged to give God the opportunity to do something amazing in your life.

DON'T WAIT! DO IT TODAY! EMBRACE THE WORD OF GOD!

Order and study the following **FREE** Bible Study Lessons:
Breath of Life - www.breathoflifestudy.com



HARAW

The **Huntsville** Association of Retired and/or Adventist Workers, organized in 1983, now has more than 41 years of fascinating history of fellowshiping, soulwinning and effectively implementing our main purpose – awarding financial scholarships to qualified Oakwood University graduating seniors. Despite the pandemic year and the overall financial decline, in 2022 our organization gave \$1500 in scholarships and \$1000 in 2023. We feel that every graduating student is of incredible value to God as a potential object of His mercy. If we fail in our love and support to our students, we will have missed what it means to be a Christian. We feel our organization has an obligation to support our OUC graduating students.

Our current President, Dr. Horace Taffe, is excited about the prospect of many of you becoming a part of this fine organization. As long as you're a member of a local SDA Church Body, whether you are a homemaker, a retired school teacher, a medical professional, a construction worker, or just someone with a heart to help, "COME JOIN US". Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center at OUC. President Taffe reminds us all "And over all these **virtues put** on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Colossians 3:14) **So come join us** -- share your warmth and vibrancy with us each month as we sing our theme song "**Bind Us Together Lord, Bind Us Together With Love**". May God richly bless each of you and **grant** us the privilege of seeing you at our next meeting, April 14, 2024.

HARAW'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND


The Huntsville Area Retired Adventist Workers (HARAW) Association grew into existence from a discussion between Mrs. Alice Brantley and Elder Harvey Kibble, Sr. **HARAW** was organized in May of 1983 as a subsidiary of the Retirees' Association of the North American Division (NAD) of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Since then, HARAW members have enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of NAD retirees by attending the annual NAD Retirees conferences held in rotation between SDA colleges and universities in the USA.

Mr. Rueben Wilson suggested the name of HARAW. The first President was Elder Harvey Kibble, Sr. He was succeeded by Mr. Adell Warren, Mr. Jonathan Roache, Mrs. Edna Roache, Dr. Frances Mouzon, Mrs. Alice Brantley, Elder Frank Jones, Dr. Alfonzo Greene, Mrs. Lovey Verdun, Mrs. Estella Greene, Mrs. Dorothy Jones, Mrs. Ruth Moore, Mr. William Parks, Mr. Robert D. Wright, Mr. Michael Tucker, and the current president is Dr. Horace Taffe.

HARAW's first secretary was Mrs. Alice Brantley. She was succeeded by Mrs. Hilda Cox, Mrs. Edna Roache, (Frances Blake, Ruth Warren, interim), Mrs. Laura Thomas, Mrs. Veda Rodriguez, Mrs. Muriel Hutchins, Mrs. Minneola Dixon, Mrs. Lovey Verdun, Mrs. Ethel Myles, Mrs. Christina Wright, and currently, Mrs. Beverly Hines.

HARAW's first "Everybody's Birthday Celebration Fundraiser **Banquet**" was held October, 1987. Mrs. Nora Saunders, the first financial scholarship recipient, received \$145. In 2018, **HARAW** awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to Oakwood University graduating seniors.

HARAW is an open association. Meetings are held the second Sunday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center, Room 107 at OUC. May God **richly bless each of** you and **grant** us the privilege of seeing you at our next meeting.



Psalms in Our Own Words

For the past three plus years, Vivian Brown coordinates a Zoom Sabbath School class, organized during the COVID -19 pandemic. Following the passing of their teacher, Angie Hill, and associate teacher, James Roddy, the class continues to meet at 8 a.m. each Sabbath morning, ending around 9:30 a.m. This gives time for members to be present at their in-person S.S. class at their individual churches.

For the first quarter of 2024, an in-depth study of the Book of Psalms was studied. Members were asked to write their own original Psalms showing how the Book of Psalms impacts their lives. Listed below, in their own words are their renditions. **Be blessed!**

A Psalm in the Night

With appreciation, thanksgiving and praise to you God, I lay down to sleep each night. You awake me in the middle of the night by your marvelous system of creation within me that alerts me of a task to be done. When my task is done, I pause a moment to talk with you.

In those silent moments alone with you, I praise you for your presence, protection and safe keeping. I bask in your blessings and give You thanks continually.
I then lie down to finish my night of sleep.

Those are the best moments I spend alone with you. What a blessing!
My soul anxiously awaits the morning and spending another night with you.

I have enjoyed these many years with you. My heart looks forward to that day when my faith will become a reality and I'm awoken by your lovely voice that will either change me or awaken me to live with you in peace forever.
Amen - Selah

A Kaleidoscope of Praise

Lord, we thank you for taking the broken pieces of our lives and cleansing them with the blood of your Son. Your Holy spirit breathed on them along with the light of your Glory. and now we can see through the tunnel of faith, a kaleidoscopic of praise. Thank you for your goodness and love.

Dr. Standley Gellineau

A 21st Century Psalm

1. Blessed are the Righteous who love and obey the Lord.
2. Blessed are they that keep His commandments and seek Him with all their hearts.
3. They may stumble at times, but they do not sin knowingly.
4. You have commanded us to keep your commandments, and this is our delight day and night.
5. Oh, how I want my ways to be directed to observe your ways by hearing, receiving, loving and obeying Thee.
6. Then I will not be embarrassed or ashamed when I consider your commandment.
7. I will praise you with a clear conscience when I have learned your righteous ways.
8. I will keep all your righteous ways, but please never forsake me or ever take your Holy Spirit from me. Selah

Elder Ronald Lang

Psalm 237

A Psalm of Sharon's Thankfulness

FATHER, You brought Mama out of darkness into Your marvelous, marvelous light. Thank You, FATHER.

FATHER, You gave me to her. Thank You, FATHER.

FATHER, in spite of trials, she remained grounded, steadfast, and faithful to You. Thank You, FATHER.

FATHER, as a result, she shaped the direction of my life for which I will be eternally grateful. Thank You, FATHER

FATHER, all the money, houses, and lands in the world will never equal the legacy that she gently and humbly bequeathed to me during her lifetime.

Thank You, FATHER.

Sharon Thomas

Psalm 237 represents Sharon's birthdate

A Psalm of Dr. Joyce Crider-Anderson

Creator of all things,
Infinity is Your name.

No beginning. No end. Forever the same.
All knowing. All powerful. Everywhere present.

We are Your daughters. Made in Your image. Just like men.

Did You not give us dominion over the earth?

Did You not die for us up on that cross?

Are we not priest, heir, and king?

Shall we not with You in eternity reign?

Have You not given us wisdom, gifts, and talents to glorify Your name?

Are You not restoring Your image in us to present us to Your Father, without blame?

Are our trials meant to grow our characters so that we will look like You?

Or are we just a sidepiece to Your throne?

Do You not love us?

Where is YOUR justice for Your daughters, my God?

What is the meaning of our daughters and sons being sex slaves in the land?

Have You seen the statistics, Lord - 1 out of 4 girls, 1 out of 6 boys - before age fifteen?

And that number is old, when you look at the world, it's more like 1 out of 2 that
are abused by men.

Why do You let Your daughters be treated like dogs,

4-5 women to one man, in Your church, O God?

Will it be the same in eternity? Will women have no one with whom to share that intimate bond?

The one You placed within us when You told us to become one.

Why are women asked to forgive, forget, and move on when the bond of unity
is usually broken by him?

Why can Adam get away with blaming Eve for his roving,
lust-filled eyes when looking at her dress?

Why does Your church teach wives to submit to husbands
without teaching the criteria You put in place:

Husbands love your wives as You love Your church

AND GAVE YOURSELF FOR IT? And You did.

You left heaven, gave up EVERYTHING, and died on the cross –
not just for men, but women as well.

Why does Your church translate Your word as submission to ALL men when
it clearly states my husband?

Do You not hurt with us?

What is YOUR role for Your daughters, my Lord? same?

Continued on page 23

REMEMBERING YOUR GRACE AND MERCY

Lord, I remember when walking home from the Company Store, as a young child, a sudden, violent storm with pelting rain, loud thunder and brilliant lighting sent me running home with my small cousin, leaving the groceries in the road. Your Grace and Mercy saw us safely home. Thank you.

Lord, I remember you sent a strong helpmate to travel with me. Your Grace and Mercy has kept us. Thank you.

Lord, I remember when traveling to see family for the holidays, being engulfed in a blizzard where we could barely see the road. Other vehicles, large and small were stranded on the side of the highway, but your Spirit said "keep going" and by your Grace and Mercy we made it safely to our home away from home. Thank you.

Lord, I remember when rafting down a river with many swirling rapids, while others ended up in the river, Your Grace and Mercy brought us to the appointed shore. Thank you.

Lord, I remember when at home on the mountain, tumultuous, swirling winds approached our home like a train and felled many trees and homes around us, but your Grace and Mercy kept us safe in the midst of the storm. Thank you.

Lord, I remember while walking up mountain trails reveling in the beauty of the forest and walking through valleys covered with flowers in colors like a rainbow, I saw a glimpse of what the earth made new may look like with the beauty of your creation, the calm, pure river of the water of life, the tree of life with multiple manner of fruit every month, and the light of your presence replacing the need of sunlight...the ever present fulfillment of our Hope.

I say Thank you and Amen.

Carolyn Grandison

My Caring Psalm

Lord, we say that we care, but do we really? I know that we have prejudices and if the person or situation does not meet our expectations, we can take a pass at assisting.

You know Lord, that during sweltering heat during a particular summer, You told me repeatedly to hand out bottles of cold water and a sandwich to the homeless people as I drove along a certain highway. I had questions such as, where would I park? Is it safe, etc.? The task was not done.

Lord, help me to be truly caring and to obey your promptings and trust You to do the rest.

My Prayer Psalm

Father in Heaven, You know everything about me, and because You know and care for me, I can trust you. The scriptures tell me that you know even the number of hairs on my head so, why should I not trust You, the God of all gods?

I have experienced miraculous answers to my prayers both physically and otherwise.

At times I did not know how to pray or what to pray for, but you answered anyway and brought me through.

Talking to You have been my comfort. There are times when I have not always followed your instructions. Please forgive. My desire is to be more prayerful, to talk to you more, and to listen.

Dorothy Reid

A Psalm of God's Justice & Deliverance

Vivian Brown

How long, O Lord was the cry of my Black family,
 How long, shall we be under the curse of oppression and injustices?
 How long shall we be treated as slaves?
 How long O Lord shall we be segregated in schools, hospitals, hotels because of the
 color of our skin?

But I heard a voice saying, Not long, Not long
 I praise you O Lord for hearing our moans and groans
 I praise you for strong men and women, like Harriet Tubman, a beacon of light, leading the lost
 through the darkest of night. With faith, courage and wisdom, she led the way.

But I heard your voice again saying, Not long, Not Long, my people
 I praise you for Rosa Parks who refused to yield her seat which ignited a mighty
 movement never to be silenced.

Yes, Lord, I sing praises for Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired nations to cease the shackles of
 hatred embracing love and unity. For John Lewis, a pillar for social justice who coined the term
 "good trouble", and led the march from Selma to Montgomery

I praise and thank you O Lord for civil rights activists like Mary Ovington, Thurgood Marshall,
 who led legal fights against segregation, Medgar Evers who fought against Jim Crow laws;
 Carter Woodson who launched Negro History week which
 expanded to Black History Month

I thank and praise you for your continued mercies towards us

I continue to thank you O Lord for Dr. C.B. Rock and Dr. Mervyn Warren and their committee for
 the work they champion for the cause of Social Injustices that continues in our society. They keep
 us abreast by preparing a yearly Sabbath School quarterly each February on Social Justice.

I praise you O Lord for inspiring these champions to continue the fight for social justice when at
 last You will put an end to all the trials and tribulations in this world., and bring complete
 deliverance to your people. In the words of
 James Weldon Johnson of Lift Every Voice and Sing, Lest we forget that...

God of our weary years,
 God of our silent tears,
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
 Thou who hast by Thy might,
 Led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
 May we forever stand,
 True to our God,
 True to our native land.

A Psalm – He Knows My Name

I will praise you O Lord to tell you of your goodness to me. From my very beginnings, you guided my parents to name me, which formed my identity. I will always sing praises with the letter of my name

I am...

G - grateful for your love
W - winner in you
E - ever thankful for the peace you give me.
N - new in you
D - determined to live for you
O - overly in love with you
L - living my best life because of you
Y - yearning for You daily
N - never alone

S - safe guarded with your loving care
H - heeding your Word in my heart
E - easily comforted by your love
P - pursuing the lost to hasten your coming
H - healed by your tender care
E - ever faithful
R - restored by your forgiveness
D - divinely guided by the Great Shepherd

This is why I praise, sing, and serve You with my whole being, using my name.

Gwendolyn Shepherd

A Psalm of Submission and Commitment

O Holy Father and Creator God, You know my name!
 Like a lowly worm, I bury myself in the dust of your Holy presence.
 As the worm offers its juice to the early bird,
 I yield to Your plans for me.

--Johnnye Yates

Why Me...LORD?

To paraphrase Ephesians 1:6, “as a child of God, [I AM] greatly blessed, highly favored and deeply loved.

Also, in Deuteronomy 7:14 it says: [I] shall be blessed above all peoples! **Wow!!!**

I can't help but being enjoined with the songwriter Beatrice Bush Bixler: (quote)

“I am not worthy the least of His favor, But Jesus left heaven for me; The Word became flesh, and He died as my Savior, forsaken on dark Calvary...Jesus left heaven to die in my place... What mercy, what love and what grace!”

“I am not worthy the least of His favor, But He is preparing a place where I shall dwell with my glorified Savior, forever to look on His face.” **Praise the Lord, Hallelujah!**

Eleanor Wright sings the song:

*“Hallelujah, **HOME AT LAST!** the Redeemed are home at last!”*

Lord, please help me to be ready! “Even so, Come Lord Jesus!” **Maranatha!!!**

Albert Dudley

My God is My Psalm

My Psalm is always with me.
 My Psalm is there even when I don't think He is there.
 My Psalm is my friend when I don't think I have any friends.
 My Psalm brings comforting memories of my mother and
 my husband as they sleep in the dust.

My Psalm loves me with an everlasting love!
 My Psalm continues to wake me up everyday!
 My Psalm cares for the tiny concerns on my mind.
 My Psalm is with me when I am tempted to sin and to do wrong!

My Psalm endures forever and ever!
 I trust my Psalm daily as I go through life in this sinful world!
 My Psalm would have died just for ME. What kind of love is that?
 That's why I love Him so much!

My Psalm promised to return one day soon.
 My Psalm will take ME and everyone that follows
 the Good Shepherd back to Heaven with Him.
 I can't wait for that amazing day. What about you?

Syzon Barnease

Jannice's Psalm

God it was You. It's always been You
 You, who existed before there was the very beginning of time.
 You by whose word were created the heavens and the earth.

And while the earth in its existence, was unformed and void, your Spirit moved in the darkness, laying down all the plans You had for me,
 because from then, You knew me.

You knew my name, you knew my nature, you knew even the number of hairs you would place on my very head long before You made me, long before You made my parents, long before You even formed the world's very first ancestors in the garden of Eden, long before you hurled this earth into space, You knew me!

Your plans have always been to prosper me, to provide for me, to love me, to save me. You knew the risk of creating me but you did it anyway. You knew of the ultimate sacrifice of the cross from the very foundations of the earth but you loved me enough to have such a plan in place just because You desired me.

You, oh God, are the fount of my every blessing.
 Today oh God, I praise You for who You are.
 You, oh God are my creator. You, oh God are my keeper.

You, oh God are my redeemer and Savior.
 You, oh God are my Lord and King.
 Strong and mighty.
 Mighty in battle.
 Mighty to save.
 First and last.
 Beginning and end.
 You, oh God, are good!

Your love is everlasting, from the beginning of time through
 time present and throughout all of time to come.

To You be blessing and honor and glory and power now and forevermore. ***Amen.***

Dr. Jannice Beckford

A Psalm of Praise for Listening

Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with an increased ability to **listen** to your voice. My ears rejoice to hear your declarations that come forth from Your Word. Declarations that protect and inspire me. Faithful declarations that lead me closer and closer to your green pastures of peace and rest.

Your voice is so comforting, soothing, and supportive; it provides me with life-saving direction and wisdom so I will glorify and honor you all the days of my life. As I **listen** to your lovely voice, peace floods my soul and heart. Fear and anxiety flee while contentment takes a permanent seat!!

Please attend my efforts to obey your voice and follow you daily as you direct my path!!

I will choose to **listen** to your voice, believe your beautiful Words of life and obey your loving commands all the days of my life.

Miriam Battles

Psalm 151

Whether past, present or future, in Your master plan for my life, You have guided, are guiding, and will continue to guide me with Your tender grace.

When I am faced with difficult battles, You see the overwhelming victory, because I have Your favor.

When I see the caterpillar in its small steps, Your miracles are like butterflies, full of color and mystery.

My heart is ever longing to continue serving You willingly, to love and obey Your will.

I trust each step I take because of Your power. I praise You for your goodness, and my gratitude of the cross is ever before me.

Humbled for the gentle whispers in my soul and mind for this journey of salvation, is found in You.

Praise ye the Lord!

Thea Benjamin

My Psalm

Hebrews 13:5 For He hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee";
but I felt forsaken and in my years of lamenting I chose not to praise you but
Your mercy endured with me

When I didn't pray or even acknowledge your presence in my life
Your mercy endured and went before me to cover me,

As I lamented in my darkness and pain,
I didn't know how to praise You, but your Word said
Your Mercy will endure with me forever!

The times I forgot I even needed you
Your mercy endured with me still forever!

But when you saw me drowning in deep waters of my own sins,
and of my own making,
Your hand stretched from the heavens above to pull me to safety
Because Your mercy Endures with me forever!

When I finally felt You pursuing me through Your Holy Spirit,
I came running back to You, because
Your Mercy and Love Endured with me!

Then when I couldn't see myself as someone of worth or any good thing,
you sent me someone that saw me through Your eyes.
Someone that saw worth, value and love in me
Because it was Your Mercy,
Your Love and Your Grace endures with me forever!

So when life hits hard this time,
I will remember Your Word that You will Never leave nor forsake me
Because Your Mercy Endures Forever!

And when You burst through the clouds on Your return,
I know it's because of Your Mercy,
Grace and Love that endured with me all the days of my life ,
and I pray that I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen, Amen and Amen!

Denise Mathis

Continued from page 15

Why is there no outreach for holy husbands for the next generation in Your sanctuary, my God?
 Why does the next generation not see someone who looks like them at the head of the table?
 Why does Adam call us aggressive, liberated women because we say sexism and racism are the same?

Can they not see that when women are deprived of a space, that it deprives
 the whole human race?

When all around us people are dying without a knowledge of You as Lord and Saviour
 Why do Your daughters sit in the pews when skills You gave are needed to teach
 others that are Yours?

How long will Your message be hindered from being shared because
 Your daughters in Your Sanctuary
 are only allowed to clean the house, babysit the kids, and cook bread?

You speak to me like You spoke to Job.

“Where were you when I hung the stars in space?”

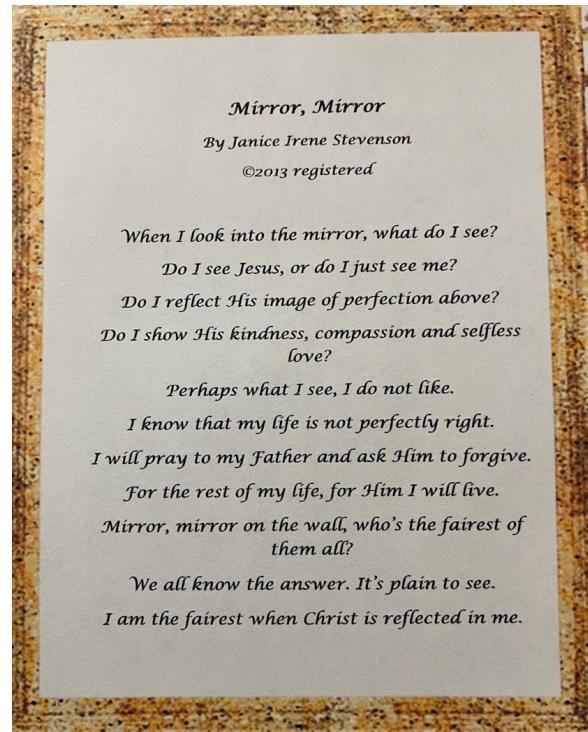
“Where were You when I formed Eve from the dust to begin the human race?”
 I hear You, O God! And I take my place. I call Your name and with You alone,
 I’ll run the race.

I say my prayers and wait on You.

While waiting, I stand up, speak up, and be what You empowered me to be –
 that aggressive, liberated woman You helped me become

I love You, Lord. You are my King! I trust Your judgment in everything.
 In You I live. In You I move. In You I have my being.
 I am Yours. You are mine.

Janice Stevenson is a
 retired SDA educator for
 the past 38 1/2 years.
 Now she manages her
 own business
 J.I.S. Create LLC



Oakwood University

Consecration— May 10, 2024

Baccalaureate/Commencement - May 11, 2024

Oakwood Adventist Academy

<https://oakwoodadventistacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/OAA-Academic-Calendar-2023-2024-v4.pdf>

Kindergarten Promotional—May 21, 2024

8th Grade Promotional—May 23, 2024

12th Grade Consecration—May 24, 2024

Baccalaureate—May 25, 2024

Commencement—May 26, 2024





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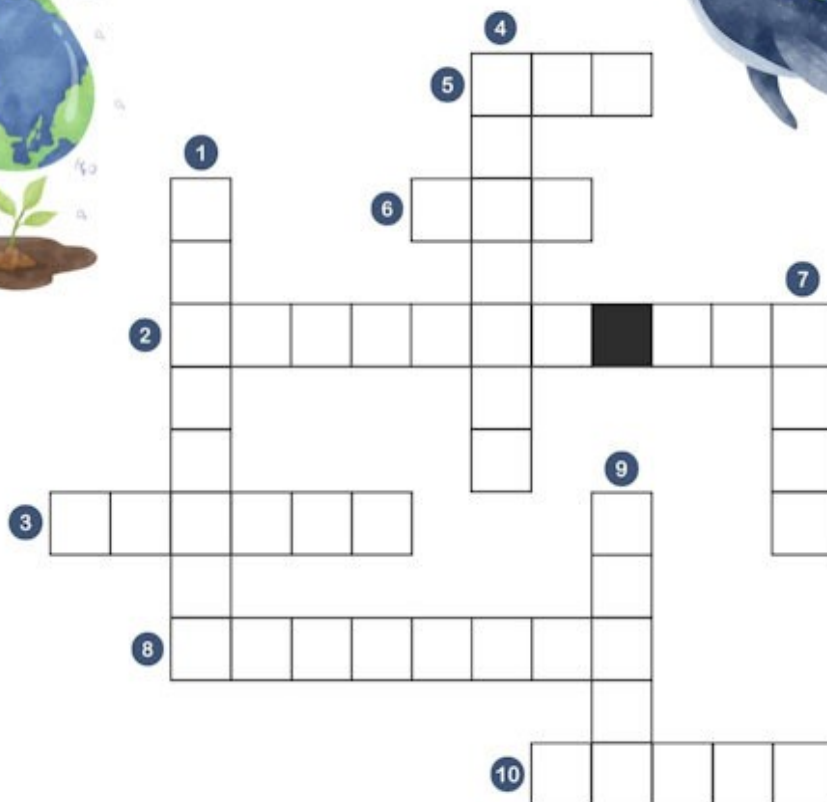
PSALMS SCAVENGER HUNT

USE YOUR BIBLE...

- How many chapters are in this book? _____
- What is the first Psalm that is said to be written by David? _____
- What book comes before Psalms? _____
- What book comes after Psalms? _____
- Psalm 117 is the shortest Psalm; how many verses are in it? _____
- Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm; how many verses are in it? _____
- Moses only wrote 1 Psalm. Which one did he write? _____
- Who wrote Psalm 72? _____
- How does chapter 100:2 say we should come before the Lord's presence? _____
- Who wrote the most Psalms? _____

NATURAL RESOURCES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | RESOURCE FOUND IN FOODS AND BUILDS STRONG BONES AND TEETH | 6 | RESOURCE USED TO PROPEL CARS AND OTHER VEHICLES. |
| 2 | RESOURCE USED FOR HEATING AND GENERATING ELECTRICITY. | 7 | RESOURCE PROVIDES THE SURVIVAL SUPPORT TO PLANTS. |
| 3 | RESOURCE USUALLY HAS A STEM, LEAVES, ROOTS, AND PRODUCES SEEDS | 8 | RESOURCE GIVES US HEAT, LIGHT, AND VITAMIN D. |
| 4 | RESOURCE ESSENTIAL IN MAINTAINING ECOSYSTEM BALANCE AND PRODUCE NUTRIENTS FOR OTHER ANIMALS | 9 | RESOURCE IS A TRANSPARENT, TASTELESS, ODORLESS, AND NEARLY COLORLESS LIQUID NEEDED TO SURVIVE |
| 5 | RESOURCE IS AN INVISIBLE MIXTURE OF GASES THAT SUSTAINS LIFE. | 10 | RESOURCE GIVES US WOOD TO MAKE PAPER AND FURNITURE. |

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Send your email to vbrow.100@att.net to receive the answers.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**“Expressing thanks has no expiration date!”
How often do you say, “Thank You”?**

Our appreciation is expressed to our Pastoral Team: Pastor Debelaire Snell, Pastor Goodridge, Pastor Raphael, Pastor Mann, Pastor Nugent, Pastor Ross, Pastor Lawrence, Pastor Johnson, Pastor Wilson, and Pastor Dorsey.

Appreciation is also extended to our church family and friends who assist in keeping our church family informed, and encouraged, sharing smiles, food, and validating needs. A very special Thank You to the many friends who shared information for this Newsletter.

To Mrs. Vivian Brown for her continued outstanding service in designing and preparing the Newsletter for your information and enjoyment.

As we travel this journey of grief for families and loved ones, let us pray for peace, comfort and strength from our eternal Comforter.

Remember to connect with Jesus everyday!



**In His Service,
Dr. Jessie Godley Bradley, Ph.D.
Senior Adult Ministries, Leader**

