

Spring 2020

Senior Express

Oakwood University Church
Dr. Carlton Byrd, Senior Pastor



Dr. Jessie G. Bradley,
Leader

HAPPY SPRING! REJOICE IN THIS DAY!

There are causes that unite us no matter what we look like, how we worship, or who we love. Many people have come together to help one another. I am thankful and proud to acknowledge that many kindnesses have come my way. To each of you, I say "Thank you".

On behalf of the Senior Adult Ministries Leadership (SAM) team, I want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected each of us in some manner. We pray all is well with you, and your family. In the middle of this Global Pandemic, with experts suggesting, that Social Distancing may continue until 2022, we can continue to count our blessings, while we trust and obey. God has promised, He is a very present help in times of trouble. Give Him thanks and praise as we remain faithful to "Trust and Obey".

Is your Spring "To Do List" growing? **Have you shown kindness to someone today?**

Our shared values of decency, honesty, and process, must be visible as we face the future. Are you a registered **VOTER**, in the State of Alabama? If not, I urge you to register, and **VOTE**. We must focus on Today and Tomorrow as we magnify His name. If you are traveling to Heaven, that beautiful city above, you will have a **wonderful journey**, if you travel the **Highway of Love**.

Trusting God!

by a Tennessee Pastor

I trust God...and wear my seatbelt.
I trust God...and I wear a motorcycle helmet.
I trust God...and there are enough life jackets in my boat for everyone on board.
I trust God...and I use oven mitts with really hot dishes.
I trust God...and I lock my house at night.
I trust God...and I have smoke detectors in my house.
I trust God...and I take my prescribed medicines.
I trust God...and I will follow the best guidelines to share the task of flattening the curve.



Acting with caution and wisdom does not indicate a lack of trust in God.

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Tanzania, Africa-Breath of Life Evangelistic Effort Nets 15,000 Baptisms

by Christopher Thompson, Breath of Life Communications Director



Dr. Carlton Byrd

The Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church in Tanzania has more than 16,000 new members after a recent evangelistic campaign conducted by Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry and Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church.

This nationwide evangelistic revival, entitled “Mungu Kwanza,” Swahili for “God First” was coordinated through the office of Dr. Godwin Lekundayo, President of the North Tanzanian Union Conference of SDA, and was a collaborative effort between the North Tanzanian Union Conference, Hope Channel - Tanzania, Morning Star Radio, and three lay organizations, the Association of Tanzanian Adventist Professionals and Entrepreneurs (ATAPE), Tanzanian Adventists in the United States (TAUS), and Global Vessels, Inc.

Beginning February 23 and continuing through March 7, 2020, nightly meetings were held in the Tanzanian city of Chato, and broadcast live via Hope Channel Television – Tanzania, the internet, and radio to over 3,000 satellite locations across Tanzania. Each evening Dr. Byrd preached the wonderful gospel message accompanied by language translation interpreters for Swahili and French (audio devices) listeners, as well as Swahili sign language.

At the conclusion of the revival, a total of 16,706 persons were baptized at Chato and the satellite locations! To God be the glory!

Dr. Byrd remarked about the campaign stating, “This revival is another testament to God’s miraculous power! The Spirit of God knows no limits and reaches far beyond our abilities and imaginations! This revival far exceeded what I could’ve ever imagined was possible. I am very grateful for what God has done.”

While the preaching phase of the revival has ended, reports are still being submitted that additional baptisms are taking place across Tanzania! “Mungu Kwanza” served as a reminder for everyone, including the revival organizers, that when God is first, nothing is impossible.

The “God First” Revival also marked another “first.” The 18th Breath of Life Church will be organized and the first Breath of Life Church on the continent of Africa will be established! Plans are now underway to secure property and construct a new Breath of Life Church in Chato!

The response of the 16,000 plus newly baptized members serves as a stark reminder of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when Peter stood before the people and reminded them what the prophet Joel said, “God has promised that in the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...” (Joel 2:28). Our prayer is that God would continue to pour out His Spirit on all of us and that we, too, would put God first!



Sermon Appeal—Chato Tanzania

Dr. Jocelyn Peterson

Self-Care

Health Program during COVID-19



Sunlight – incorporate sunshine daily into whole person health, wellness and living. Walking outside in the morning is a great time to get Vit. D in the body.

Education – can provide scientifically sound and proven information and good health and wellness practices for individuals in need of changing their lifestyle to a more beneficial and healthy life, these include mental, emotional, attitudinal and personal as well as spiritual health.

Life – learning in balancing work, recreation, study, physical activity, stress management and personal devotion daily.

Food and drink– energize, rejuvenates, replenishes and helps promotes growth, development at cellular as well as in whole person life advancement as well as boosting the immune system.

You've heard of “eating by the colors of the rainbow” when it comes to getting lots of nutritional variety in your diet? High on the list are winter or spring squash, sweet potatoes, carrots, beets (and don't forget their greens) and many green vegetables. Cruciferous veggies, such as cabbage, Brussel sprouts, broccoli, kale, collards, turnips and rutabagas, are at their best in winter, when they've had a bit of cold exposure when they are grown. Also add onions, garlic, turnips, and cauliflower, all nutritional benefits.

A cup of chopped onions provides 20% of your daily value of vitamin C. Yellow or deep-orange vegetables, sweet potatoes and winter squash are high in Vitamin A. One cup of red cabbage provides 43 % of daily value of Vitamin C for just 20 calories. Vitamins A and C are important for your immune system. Also, herbs and spices contain powerful antioxidant compounds, like turmeric, chili powder, sweet basil, Italian seasoning, and cilantro all have a great effect on the flavor of food and boost the immune system. With all the antioxidant and super nutrition, you can enjoy the rainbow of colors from the foods available each season and boost the immune system to keep you strong and healthy during this COVID-19 virus season. Don't forget to drink 8-10 cups (8 ounces) of water daily.

Choice – positively balancing decisions and actions based on the word of God. Be safe and trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5&6

Activity – it is important to develop healthy intellectual, physical, and interpersonal (social) relations with family and friends. While we are in social distancing, we can still touch those we love through phone and text, mailing cards and dropping off care packages at our neighbors' door.

Rest – adequate sleep and relaxation are integral to maintaining optimal health, creativity and a productive life. 7-8 hours are suggested, starting at 9 to 10 pm at night.

Environment – has a significant effect on individual, family, community, regional, and the nation's health status. Refrain from living in crowded cities and move to small towns or rural areas if possible.

These **SELFCARE** principles have proven effective through the years. As we survive COVID- 19, life as we know it will not be the same again. Many adjustments will have to be made as we prepare for the second coming of Christ Jesus our Lord. Be safe and trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5&6

Dr. Joycelyn Peterson
Professor
Morgan State University

EVERY CHILD HAS A STORY By Joseph Adam Lee

According to Lonnie Bunch, founder of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, *“Knowing the Past Opens Doors to the Future”*. This article, *“Every Child Has a Story”*, describes current events that involve the Alabama Black Heritage Council and highlights *“why African Americans (i.e., descendants of formerly enslaved people) should vote.*



In October of 2018, I was appointed to the Black Heritage Council (BHC), which is an affiliate of the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC). The BHC is a 21-member volunteer board of directors representing state governmental agencies, educational institutions, and Alabama’s Congressional Districts. I am the representative for the 5th Congressional District.

This story begins in 1857 when a nine-year-old boy was brought with his mother and brother from Virginia through the wilderness to a place in Madison County called the Green Bottom Inn.

The Inn’s owner, John Connally, was a racehorse breeder who built a horse racing track below the Inn. Seemingly, the racetrack was also a slave auction block because the nine-year-old boy, William Hooper Council, and his family were sold into the Alabama Slave System at the Green Bottom Inn.

In later years, Council, the founder of Alabama A&M University (AAMU), writes in his diary that as a child attending his master’s horses at the Inn, he went into a deep sleep and prayed to God that he would become a man who helped his people. The child did become a man who helped his people by devoting his life to building an education system for former slaves. Council’s contributions are reflected worldwide, statewide, locally, and on the AAMU campus.

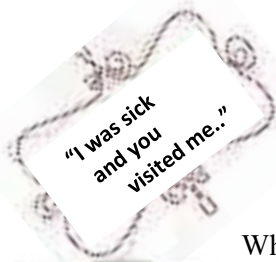
Oddly, most AAMU alumni, students, and the general public are unaware that the older sector of the campus, where the Green Bottom Inn was located, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Listing on the National Register means that the campus has buildings and artifacts that reflect important aspects of the nation’s history.

With the campus closed due to the pandemic, in March (2020), the University began demolishing buildings in the historic district without notification

Many people may find it peculiar or strange that a historically black college or university would not want to preserve its history or heritage. But a survey in the late 1980s conducted by the Smithsonian Institute found that over 90% of white respondents felt that African American history had little meaning to them and remarkably almost 80% of African American respondents expressed no interest and some embarrassment about their slave heritage.

This article is written to encourage you to remember and never forget that *“Every child has a story”* and each child’s story is important. Also, it is important to elect and employ public officials who do not ignore, disregard, or marginalize the stories of African American. What makes African American history so important and what makes visiting African American historic sites so powerful is that the history of the African in America symbolizes the founding principles of the nation: *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”*.





Special Assignment Re-connect With our Sick & Shut-Ins

by
Katherine Davis



When God created the earth He assigned each small creature a job to fulfill. I think He had more in mind for Adam and Eve than garden-tending and keeping watch over the animals. The account in Genesis tells us God loved them and talked to them personally. And, like the early disciples, we too are entrusted with a tremendous “**special assignment**” from our Lord. He tells us “**You shall be witnesses unto me;** He says: “**encourage one another and build each other up...**”; He says: “**Be ye kind, one to another**”; He also reminds us that **when we visit the sick, whether in person or through other methods, we’re doing it to Him.**

I’m sure that all of our sick (**listed below and page 6**) understand that a visit in person now is not permitted. It’s true, life is full of daily challenges, obstacles, disappointments. And this unprecedented pandemic that isolates us, drains our energy, and even makes some of us apathetic. We are unable to get out of our homes and personally interact with others, to make our monthly visits to our Sick and Shut-ins, to conduct our routine tasks, or to attend Church for worship and fellowship. But no day can be all bad when we remember that **Jesus is with them, with us, and for us.**

Our Sick and Shut-ins live in expectation that the dark night will not last forever. True, the dawn will come. And I would say to them: Remind yourself of God’s incredible promise: “***I have loved you with an everlasting love and have been faithful to you in the past, I will continue to love you and draw you to me***”.

Now Dear Ones, you and I still have the opportunity and the pleasure of keeping in touch --“**Re-connecting**”.

WE CAN

- 1) Be a telephone friend. Make it short, but value them, share an experience with them
- 2) Be a minister of intercessory prayer --take them and the needs of others before the Lord
- 3) Write a letter -- give them a lift, something to think about-- remind him or her that their worth rests not in what he/she is able to do, but in the love that Jesus bears for him/her.
- 4) You can send a text message without a single word -- whether a single flower or a bouquet -- flowers remain a part of human connection.
- 5) Surprise them with a warm “**Happy Birthday**” message card. (Birthdays are listed below) They and others around them “will know we are Christians by our love” for each other.



**Time to fulfill your
Special Assignment**

To each of our Sick and Shut-Ins (**listed below**) we say “Continue to live in expectation. God has not abandoned you. You may be in a wheelchair, you might depend on a walker to get around, or you could be totally bedridden. **Hold on!** Keep your faith in Jesus, Hold on to God’s Unchanging Hand, and soon you’ll be able to Walk All Over God’s Heaven”. **Now ain’t that good news?**

	Names	Birthdays	Phone#	Addresses	Cities/Zip Codes
1	Jean Blake	6-Nov		697 Carter's Gin Rd.	Toney 35773
2	Ruth Burnette	25-Sep	6-837-9333	1804 Shellbrook	Huntsville 35806
3	Bootang Cartwright	5-Aug	6-828-5262	2330 Charity Lane	Hazel Green 35750
4	Irene Chester	19-Jun	6-361-3439	6010 Cowan Drive	Huntsville 35810
5	Naomi Clark	22-Aug	6-828-9316	116 Spirit Drive	Toney 35773
6	Elizabeth Cleveland **	21-May	6-489-6800	5275 Millennium Dr., Rm 128	Huntsville 35806
7	Martha Crutchfield	24-Mar	6-990-5914	1915 Rideout Rd., #102	Huntsville 35806
8	Herbert Davis **	17-Jan	6-335-6088	206 Bent Oak Circle	Harvest 35749
9	Judyette Dean	11-Oct	6-852-6667	5007 Lumary Drive	Huntsville 35810
10	Barbara Dent	7-Jan		645 Wynn Dr., #11962	Huntsville 35814
11	June Douglas	22-Aug	6-658-4814	202 Pumprock Drive	Huntsville 35806
12	Margaret Dowdy **	28-Jan	6-489-6800	5275 Millennium Dr.,	Huntsville 35806
13	Dorothea & Karen Dykes	16 Sep 25 Mar	6-270-5309	6110 Rickwood Dr.	Huntsville 35810
14	Emmett Florence	27-Oct	6-852-8314	3111 Delia Lane	Huntsville 35810
15	Esther Gill	31-Jan	6-837-2207	1906 Catchings Drive	Huntsville 35810
16	Brenda Haraway	24-Jun	6-701-6258	101 Champagne Drive	Huntsville 35811
17	Anne Holman **	30-Dec	6-489-6800	5275 Millennium Dr.,	Huntsville 35806
18	Edward Jackson **	6-Apr	6-852-1508	611 W. Market Street, #20B	Athens 35611

Continued from page 5—Sick & Shut-Ins

19	Viola Jackson	1-Feb	6-353-5288	211 13th Avenue, NW,	Decatur	35601
20	Blanche James	2-Jul	6-508-7239	105 Clearbrook Court	Madison	35758
21	Nannie Joiner	10-Oct	6-430-2703	NO VISITORS AT THIS TIME		
22	James Lathon	6-Mar	6-771-2969	29897 Andrea Lane	Madison	35756
23	Irma & William Mitchell	6/2 8/8	6-858-1777	6500 Walden Run Circle, #318	Huntsville	35806
24	Joy Moss **	27-Sep		1800 Lydia Drive	Huntsville	35816
25	James Payne **	28-Feb	6-437-7260	4706 AL Hwy 277	Bridgeport	35740
26	Patricia Perkins **	7-Oct	6-617-4006	1800 Lydia Drive	Huntsville	35816
27	Jocelyn Richardson	21-Sep	6-701-6583	610 Summer Cove Circle	Madison	35757
28	Winifred Rivers **	25-Oct	6-424-6500	2004 Max Luther Dr.	Huntsville	35810
29	Marlene Sinous **	18-Oct		4010 Chris Drive	Huntsville	35802
30	Leon Sylvester	17-Sep	6-603-9533	177 Thunderbird Drive	Harvest	35749
31	Freddie Taylor **	13-Dec	6-489-6800	5275 Millennium Dr., #129	Huntsville	35806

** They reside in a facility

“It is God’s purpose that each shall feel himself necessary to others’ welfare, and seek to promote their happiness.” (COL, p. 339) Let us then become channels through which God’s grace is extended.

Your voice, your influence, your time are gifts from God. Use them! Share them! In this fragile world of fear, panic and even desperation (this is just the beginning of sorrows), as Christians, we have been called and chosen. We have been given an assignment to witness, through the eyes of faith, to a living Christ -- to a God who is bigger than Coronavirus, to a God who is faithful to us and is still in control.

To everyone reading this article, the only safe and satisfying attitude for any of us to take is, that by God’s grace we will accept and fulfill our “Special Assignment”.



One Minute Meditations for Older Women by Jennifer Westrom

My writings, retreats, and therapy practice are for women who have walked a hard path, but today, in the midst of a societal shutdown in the wake of COVID-19, the path may seem even harder for you.

You already know that you have endured very painful things and that you are still here. I am here to remind you that it isn't the event that is so destructive to you, but how you respond to it. This truth is the secret keystone to your psychological survival right now. What do we do when we are knocked off our feet with fear, isolation, grief, or pain? How long do we stay down before we collect our self and get back up?

Step one is to allow yourself the time you need to metabolize the blow. This could be hours, days, or much longer (with grief). If you are numb, try to stay present until you can feel. Allow it to rock and shock your body. You aren't crazy even though you may think you are. You can handle this phase. I promise.

Step two is to observe your thinking. If you are repeating to yourself, "This shouldn't be this way!" "I need for this to be different to be okay," then you are stuck and need to be proactive with changing your thoughts.

Step three is to get yourself to a very provisional level of acceptance. You can still wish this weren't the case. You can still be in a shock. But emphatically state to yourself. "It is what it is. What is my next healthy step?"

Postpone: In crisis, it's easy to get overwhelmed with the enormity of your new reality. It is critical to postpone decisions that don't have to be made immediately. Only focus on your immediate, next best action.

Stay present: After the phase of feeling rocked and shocked ends, see if you can get back to the present moment. In this moment, are you okay? In this moment, are you safe? In this moment, can you find peace? Try not to let your brain run catastrophes in your head. Stay present.

When you get to the point of, "This is certainly not what I would have ever wished for myself or others. This is so hard. But I'm going to assess and accept and figure out my next healthy move," then you are on your way.

Today, see if you can find where you are in this process.

The world outside of you is absolutely out of your control. The world inside of you is not. You deserve the peace this can bring you.

Make sure you test positive for Faith, keep a safe distance from Doubt, Isolate from Fear, & quarantine from Unbelief!

live!
like you mean it



Silence, Please

by

Eurydice V. Osterman, D.M.A.



Music is so very important to each of us. We have become conditioned to hearing it, and other sounds that fill every minute of the day that silence makes us nervous and uncomfortable. For example, when someone gets up to sing with a soundtrack, and there is a delay, we become restless, and look toward the direction of the technician, to try to ascertain the reason for the delay in starting the music. Or, if there is a delay in starting a service, the musician is often called upon to play something during the interim. Yes, our lives are governed by sound, the greatest of all being that of the sound of music.

John Cage, an Avant Guard 20th century American composer, wrote an aleatoric piece entitled “Three Minutes, Thirty-three Seconds” (3:33) whereby an audience is compelled, to sit in silence for 3:33, to become aware of the numerous sounds, in an auditorium that go unnoticed during a performance. Each performance, by the way, renders a different outcome.

But what is it about silence that makes one so uncomfortable? First, silence, especially in total darkness, can be so deafening that it seems as if it will burst one’s eardrums. Another reason is because it causes one, to be alone with his or her thoughts.

Silence, on the other hand, can be a good thing. Silence provides an opportunity for the body to relax, and repair itself, especially during the hours of sleep. In music, the rhythm of silence, known as rests, has helped to create some great master pieces. Think of the grand pause in Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus*. The tension of the silence creates the anticipated resolution of that final “Hallelujah.” Thus, without the rhythm, and silence of rests interspersed throughout a piece, or song, there would be no music, only a conglomeration of noise.

From a spiritual perspective, silence is vital to one’s Christian growth. It opens the mind, to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. God spoke to Elijah in the mountain after the noise of earthquake, wind, and fire had subsided. Today, He tries to speak to us in the same way, but many times we are not aware of His voice, because of the noise of the earthquake, wind, and fire of the circumstances of life, that drown out His “still small voice.”



The greatest and most welcome silence of all, will be that of the silence on earth, when the devil is bound, to the bottomless pit, for one thousand years (Rev 20:1, 2). While he sits in deafening silence, the saved of earth will be in heaven making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

God says: “Be still and know that I am God.” The coronavirus has provided an unexpected opportunity for each of us to do just that. Why not take advantage of this, to enjoy the refreshment, that comes from the rest that silence affords. Not only is it good for the body, mind, and spiritual health, it is the window of opportunity, that God uses to speak to us. Hear ye Him.

MUSIC 
Changes
 **LIVES**

Vivian E. Brown: A Life Directed by God

Seventy-eight years go by quickly when filled with a life committed to family, education, church, and a determination to make heaven her home.

Born and reared in New Orleans, LA and guided by god-fearing parents (Milan and Vivian Jones), Vivian and her twin sister, Valeria, attended Ephesus SDA Church and Ephesus Jr. Academy. For one year, they attended Oakwood Adventist Academy. Vivian is grateful for these influences that have ordered her steps to become the person she is today.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Vivian married the love of her life and soulmate, Jimmie Lee Brown, a graduate of Oakwood College, and a retired principal of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. This year marks the couple's 60th anniversary. The Lord blessed their marriage with three caring children: Dr. Jimmie Lee Brown, Jr., Director of Professional Standards for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and also a graduate of Oakwood College; Dr. Loretta Brown Smith (Raymond), Youth Development Consultant; and Dr. Nelson Brown (Suzie), Principal of Athens Renaissance School. Adding to the joy of this close-knit family, Vivian and Jimmie were blessed with six loving grandchildren: Myla, Anthony, Nelson, Jr., Kobe, Andrew, and Branden.



During the years of rearing her children, Vivian pursued her educational and career goals. She obtained a Bachelor of Professional Studies, a Master of Science in elementary education, and an Educational Specialist in educational technology. She taught for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for sixteen years. In 2001, she took an early retirement due to breast cancer. She praises God for being cancer free for nineteen years! As her favorite quote states: "It is *always* too soon to stop praying! It is *never* too late to start praying!" After retirement, the school system called her to work part time as a mentor for new teachers and an instructor of technology for administrators, teachers, parents, and students.

Education and career were not her only focuses. Vivian has always had a deep love for church family. At Miami-Bethany SDA Church, she served as Children's Sabbath School leader; Adult Sabbath School teacher and superintendent; director of a 100-voice children's choir; and church pianist and organist. And, as technology leader, she launched the church's first computer lab and computer camp. Additionally, she worked alongside her husband in several Revelation Seminars, where many attendees decided to follow Christ.

Since moving from Miami to Huntsville in 2006, Vivian has made an impact on her church and community. She serves Oakwood University Church as one of the clerks, as creator of the Senior Adult Ministries newsletter, and as a member of the photography class. In the community, she taught piano lessons to youth and adults to enhance their musical skills. From 2008-2020, she used her computer teaching skills as a catalyst to be a godly witness at Madison Senior Center. Because of her witness, many of the seniors regularly visit her home and attend divine services and revivals at Oakwood University Church. And, throughout the years, her home has been a home-away-from-home to many university students.

Inspiration from God's Word has led Vivian to share her faith by writing several devotionals for the Women's Ministries Department of the General Conference. She also enjoys reading. A few of her recent favorite books include: *The Paradigm* (Jonathan Cahn); *Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me* (Condoleezza Rice); *After Visiting Friends* (Michael Hainey); *FREE* (Dr. Carlton Byrd with Christopher Thompson); *Longing for God* (Frank M. Hasel); *Becoming* (Michelle Obama); *Prevailing Prayer* (Taylor G. Bunch); *Before I Forget* (B. Smith and Dan Gasby); *Conflict of the Ages series* (Ellen G. White).



Vivian urges us to be faithful as we await the soon coming of our Lord. She declares: "It won't be long!"

Meet Cathy Mayfield Rocker

You could call Cathy Mayfield-Rocker a “Hidden Figure” because she had to overcome some of the same obstacles as depicted in the movie. She became a teen-age runaway in her senior year of high school but was determined to get her diploma and did so by going to night school.

In 1973 she began her career in the computer field as a part-time keypunch operator at Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This is when she set her eyes on becoming a programmer. As Cathy followed her career path, she completed an Associates, Bachelors and a Masters degree in Computer Science as a single parent.

Her accomplishments included becoming a GS-11 Computer Systems Analyst at Redstone Arsenal and the first Director of Computer Services for Drake State Technical College. Cathy retired from Oakwood University as an Applications Support Specialist in Administrative Systems, where she worked from 2011 – 2019. She is married to Marvin Rocker, and has two children; Robyn Davis and Demetrius Stewart, and is a grandmother and great-grandmother.



Think About it

Graceful Kindness

by Barbara Lee



Have you been kind to someone lately? Grace is about kindness. When we are recipients of God’s grace, that grace and mercy flow through us and reveal their effects in our acts of kindness toward our brothers and sisters in the church and in the world. The Bible tells us that we were created in Christ Jesus for good works. Showing kindness to others is a manifestation of good works. “So in everything, do to others, what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the prophets,” Matthew 7:12 NIV

The Golden Rule is familiar to most of us. Whether or not we live it is a different question. This is the law of kindness. Jesus is saying to those who profess love for Him: “Be kind to people.” The verse tells us to treat others the way we would like to be treated, not the way they may have treated us. This is kindness in its highest form.

The business world has learned the secret to profitability. They call it “customer service.” Customer service means providing the customer with more than he or she thinks is needed, thus exceeding the customer’s expectations. This is nothing more than an application of the Golden Rule. Doing for and to others what we would like to have done for us –this concept and practice keep customers coming back to the provider over and over.

Jesus was the perfect manifestation of kindness. It was His joy to make others happy. “The scripture says of Christ, that grace was poured into His lips, that He might ‘know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary,’” - Col. 4:6 and Eph. 4:29. And the Lord bids us, “let your speech be always with grace...that it may minister grace unto the hearers -Gospel Workers, page 122.

The deeds of kindness may have been done in secret, but the result upon the character of the doer cannot be hidden,” advises White in Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 83.

Our youth struggle in a society that is void of grace and love. Many rebel against the values some hold dear. The key to helping and saving our youth (and others in society) from the evils in this world is found in bestowing upon them sincere acts of kindness.

Spread some graceful kindness today —and be blessed!

Ruth Maddox-Swan, Ph.D.



Highlighted in this issue is one of our female elders, Ruth Maddox-Swan. Elder Swan and her family initially transitioned to Huntsville, Alabama and to the Oakwood Community in 1979 when she accepted a position as Media Librarian at what was then Oakwood College. Naturally, she and her family moved their church membership here to the Oakwood College (University) Church which was then under the Pastorship of Elder Eric C. Ward. Her career eventually led her in 2001, to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida. Retirement led her back to the Oakwood Community and Church in 2015.

What new members may not know about Elder Swan's contributions to the Church and University, is that her role as Media Librarian for the College, flowed over to her founding the Church's media services. Initially, she and student workers, Dr. Dedrick Blue, Elder Kevin Patterson, and

Dr. Vernon Norman audiotaped the weekly sermons of the church, and special church functions, and weeks of prayer messages.

Eventually, Ruth expanded library services, to include video production and was responsible for videotaping College graduations. This capability led to providing videotaping services for church services and special events like funerals and weddings. She was usually behind the camera, or directing the work of student workers. Her son, Jonathan became accustomed to being the first to arrive at events, loading gear, setting up equipment, assisting with taping; and then packing up and being the last to leave. Then would begin the tedious job of editing productions or contracting editing out to Lee Ford or Jerome Foster, for inclusion in the library collection. Media services enabled students, especially theology majors, and community to freely come to the library to enjoy sermons, and to also freely copy audiotapes and videotapes. In recent years, some have redistributed and monetized access to these collections.

Career wise, Ruth continued to grow and provide leadership in media library services and faculty development. Being an education major as well as librarian, she was tasked with teaching the required educational technology course for education majors and takes real joy in reminiscing with current or retiring teachers. Ruth enjoyed continual advancement in faculty rank at Oakwood College, and was approved to earn the Ph.D. in Information Sciences from the Florida State University. She was awarded full professorship in 2000. Her research emphasis is Academic Library Administration. For her dissertation research, Dr. Swan developed and tested a business marketing model for use in Academic Libraries. The instrument and findings are part of the basis for a customer service instrument used world-wide today.

In moving to Tallahassee, Florida, Dr. Swan continued to be active in the First Seventh-day Adventist Church; a congregation of about 300. She continued teaching Sabbath School classes, teaching often twice a day; once in the morning, and once after potluck to an Action Sabbath School Class. Some of her roles were Sabbath School Superintendent, School Board member, and Personal Ministries Leader. She was ordained as an Elder and served as Head Elder, and then Lay Pastor for the church and served on the Executive Committee of the Florida Conference.

Elder Swan is delighted to once again call Oakwood her home. Since being in retirement she is enjoying international travel, and gave service at the Adventist University of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya in the fall of 2018, with Vice-Chancellor Dr. Delbert Baker. She is currently serving as Interim Director of the Oakwood University Library, and is assisting in identifying her replacement. She enjoys teaching Sabbath School Class #11 and serving on the volunteer staff of the treasury department of Oakwood University Church. If she finds free time; along with travel- she loves to garden, experiment with the newest technology gadgets, dialog with members in three book clubs, volunteer, and experiment with creating homemade personal products, and health potions in her home laboratory (kitchen). Her son, Jonathan Swan lives in Tallahassee, Florida, and is a library technician at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU).

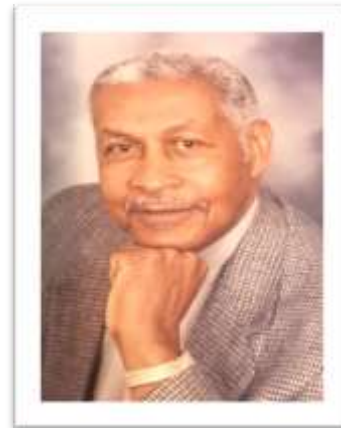
Welcome to our Newest Nonagenarians



T. Marshal Kelly



90 years young!



Robert Douglas

Appreciation

Appreciation is expressed, to Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Pastoral team, Media team, the Senior Adult Ministries Leadership team (SAM), and church family for your support, especially during these challenging times. We are facing an unprecedented moment of physical and social isolation, and grief that we have never experienced before. To our grieving families, we say trust God, He loves you.

The lockdown has allowed many families, to become better acquainted with each other, and some families suddenly thrust into homeschooling! To all **first responders, doctors, nurses, medical staff, and health care workers who risk their lives to save ours, postal workers, sanitation workers, store workers, store clerks, transit workers, and pharmacy staff**, we say thank you, we appreciate you, to Speaker/Director of Breath of Life, Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, to Dr. Jocelyn Peterson, Registered Dietician, Professor, Morgan State University, and former Chairman of Nutrition and Dietetics, Department of Dietetics Internship Director of Oakwood University, to Dr. Ruth Swan for returning to active duty at Oakwood University, and to all our special friends spotlighted in this newsletter for your dedicated service, and commitment to excellence as you reach out to others, to Elder Katherine Davis, for your weekly ministry, to the Sick and Shut-In, and providing information, so we too can reach out and bring a smile, to at least one member per week, and to Vivian Brown, for your exceptional coordination, and continued commitment in designing the Newsletter for publication. Thank you for maintaining a standard of excellence.

Each day is God's Gift to you. Make it bloom and grow into a thing of beauty.

In His Service,
Dr. Jessie Mary Godley Bradley, Leader

