

Getting to Know You ~

Pastor Harry & Terry Robinson

Harry and Terry met at church. Actually, the whole church met Harry at the same time because he had just arrived to be the new Pastor in Orlando, Florida. He was the Pastor there for seven years before officially retiring.

Terry was asked to be an ordained Elder in the Orlando church, even though she had not sought the office. Besides being available to make home visits with the Pastor whenever a woman was living alone, Terry also taught Revelation Seminars in the city. The seminars were held in the spring and fall of each year, and many new members were added to the church during that time. Orlando was such a large city, with many smaller communities all around it, people had to be turned away from the seminars because of the lack of space. So, Harry taught a seminar three nights each week on the north side of the city, and Terry taught the same seminar on the south side of the city on three different nights. This gave the students a chance to make up a class that they might have missed.

Some time after the Robinson family had moved back to North Carolina, Terry moved from Orlando to Collegedale, Tennessee to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. Harry later became a widower but continued his work in teaching Revelation Seminars and filling in as an interim Pastor for the Carolina Conference.

When Harry decided it was time for him to try to put his life back together,

he only wanted to contact someone whom he had previously known. One day, he called Terry and asked if he could travel to Collegedale, which was three hours away, and take her to lunch.

Before going to lunch and after visiting for some time, the conversation became quite serious. Harry said that he would very much like to court Terry, which she absolutely did not see coming! After quite a lengthy conversation on the subject, Terry said, "Pastor, I will start down that road with you, but we need to give the Lord time to place His blessing upon this decision," to which Harry happily agreed. At lunch, Harry was enjoying his meal immensely, but Terry could only get two bites down. Thinking, "I'm not going to get any lunch today," she placed her fork back on the table. Her only incredulous thought was, "What? How can this be? I'm out on a date with my PASTOR!"

All the members of the Orlando church called Harry by his first name, and he didn't mind a bit. Terry, however, had been raised that it wasn't proper to call any Pastor by his first name and, for seven years, she was the only member of the congregation who did not.

During lunch, Harry said, "Terry, one of these days, you are going to have to begin calling me Harry." Her answer came swiftly yet respectfully, "No, I'm not!!!" Needless to say, the name "Pastor" has long since been replaced by sweet names in Terry's vocabulary, and they are both living happily ever after.



Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

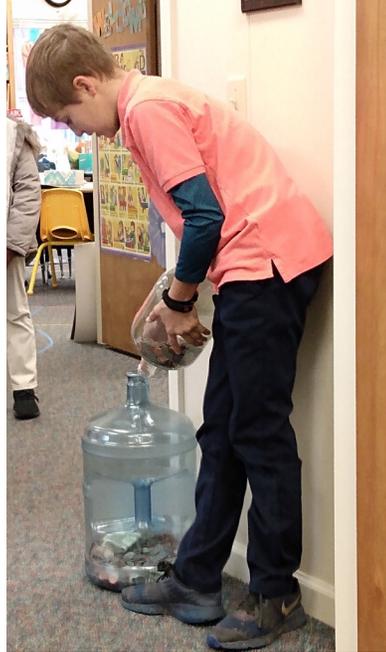
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.





Maja Project



Maja Project



Juliana Wolff is selling American Doll, Isabella, to raise money for Maja.



Church Library

Wanangwa Hartwell

Greetings! If you're looking for Christmas reading, look no further than your church library! (Unless, of course, you want to visit the county library too!) There are so many wonderful books, from the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, to the Sam Campbell nature books, to the wonderful Testimonies that Ellen White gave us. There are many excellent DVDs too and we have been adding to our music and audiobook collection. See the church website for an index of everything we have (<http://tryonsdachurch.org/discover/library>) and add a card to the check-out box with YOUR name on it!

I'm thankful for the daily blessings we take for granted every day! Ronda Dever

Maja

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Jesus's love and do what they can to help alleviate the latter for dear Maja and her family. We are making cards and letters, laminating them so they can be sterilized when received, and she can hopefully be able to have them around her. Last week, we decided for our big Christmas service project that we would attempt to fill a water cooler jug with coins to help their family to be able to have some special meals and gifts as they deal with such heavy emotional and physical burdens this holiday season. It is only the first week of our project, and the staff here have been astounded at the outpouring of coins our students are bringing from piggy banks and coin jars at home. Every coin that goes into the bottle will be a ray of hope for this young family. If you have a coin jar at home and would like to contribute to the project, please come visit the Tryon Seventh-day Adventist School, Church, or Thrift Store. Notes of encouragement can be sent to

Maja Stefanowska-Cieslak
934 Mallard Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Maja

The Tryon Seventh-day Adventist Church has a strong commitment to service that has rubbed off on their children in a BIG way. The Tryon Seventh-day Adventist school is currently reaching out to a family in need of encouragement, hope, and support.

Several weeks ago the story of Maja Stefanowska-Cieslak came to our attention. Our pastor's wife worked with Maja, and that is where the story begins. Both mothers became pregnant with their first children, girls, at the same time. They shared laughter, hopes, and dreams for their little girls throughout the pregnancy. The girls were born healthy and happy and their lives were filled with love and joy – knowing their girl would grow up dear friends.

Shortly after the girls' first birthday, Maja's family had exciting news as she discovered she was pregnant – with twins! The parents were overjoyed as they watched their family grow. When her pregnancy was 6 months along, Maja went in for some routine bloodwork, and they received devastating news. She never dreamed she would leave that appointment with the twins having an emergency

C-section and her own diagnosis of leukemia. The twins spent months in NICU, but have come home happy and healthy; however, Maja's ordeal had just begun. She credits her babies with saving her life; it was only her routine bloodwork with them that caught her leukemia in time to give her a chance to fight it. She has spent the past 6 months undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, but the reality is that she needs a bone marrow transplant very soon. Her sister was found to be a perfect match, and will fly here from Poland to spend the holidays hoping to save her sister's life. The transplant procedure is currently scheduled for the beginning of December. Right now, Maja's immune system is severely depleted, and she is often unable to be with her toddler and the babies. What is giving her courage each day is the hope that the bone marrow transplant will give here a new lease on life and allow their family to once again be reunited.

So many times we hear a story like this and realize how powerless we are against disease and sadness. Our students have banded together to share

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The Cooks are thankful for many things. How can we possibly list all the blessings God has given us? In the past year, the blessing that comes to the top is Chet's healing from cancer. That was a trial but we are told trials prepare us for the heavenly realms so we thank God for working in us. Another blessing was the opportunity for Chet's mom, Marilyn, to be placed in an assisted living home. The blessing was especially for her where she gets more socialization and needed nursing care. As we get older, we are thankful for the Word, our health, and our church family. We view each day as a blessing as we are in God's hands and whatever we encounter He gives us strength to make it through.



Maja



Children's Story

Maja



Diluting the Gospel ~ 4

Liberty Department

Diluting the Gospel with External Viewpoints; Series Part 5 – The Neoplatonism: The Grand Synthesis of the Human Based Intellectual Heritage

But, was it really a competition between the two revelations; or was it a brilliant strategy of the Deceiver to use the Neoplatonism as a vehicle to bring its false teachings into the Christianity? Yes, on one side, the Neoplatonism, with its mystical practices, was used as a weapon against the Christianity but; on the other side, the Plato's spiritualism was used as a defense weapon by the Christians as well. When the Biblical doctrines were attacked by the pagan materialism some of the Christians were tempted to use the Neoplatonic theories as a shield. This was a dangerous relationship, a spiritual compromise. Using an external philosophical ideology to defend Biblical doctrines was like bringing a Trojan horse into the Church. The Bible was not looked anymore as the sole source of the spiritual knowledge and this lead to corruption.

In the first several centuries the Devil tried to destroy God's Church with persecutions but it did not worked out as planned. During the persecutions the Christianity was spreading more and more, taking new territories. The Devil realized that he cannot terminate the Church from the outside, and that he has to enter from the inside through deception. But there was a problem. The philosophical theories at that time did not offer any concepts ready to be

incorporated into the Christianity. The Neoplatonism just arrived to become the perfect deceiving tool.

In the Catholic Encyclopedia from the "New Advent" website we read: "Christian thinkers, almost from the beginning of Christian speculation, found in the spiritualism of Plato a powerful aid in defending and maintaining a conception of the human soul which pagan materialism rejected, but to which the Christian Church was irrevocably committed."

Is this statement correct? Let's read carefully! It says that on the doctrine of the human soul Plato and Christianity agreed. Do the Plato's ideas share the same concepts as the Bible? Let's find out.

Remember, when the Christianity arrived, the two main philosophical schools were the Stoicism and the Epicureanism. Both schools, on the doctrine of the soul, were sharing the idea that the soul is corporeal or relating to the person's body. Some Stoic writers claimed that the body and the soul came down to us. They were putting some equality between the soul and the body. This is because according to their philosophy, only bodies affect one another; thus, the soul and the body affect one another (based on the Aristotelian materialistic viewpoint of the world). Epicureans employed the same argument. In conclusion, both schools held to the idea that the soul is a particularly fine kind of matter, different from the matter of the organism (the flesh-and-blood). These philosophical schools were known as

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Diluting the Gospel ~ 4

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the "pagan materialism".

According to the statement from the Catholic Encyclopedia the "pagan materialism" opposes the Christian believes concerning the human soul while the Platonic concept, expressed in the form of Neoplatonism, favored it. To better understand this; let us look at greater details how these philosophical schools (the Epicureans, the Stoics, and the Neoplatonists) looked at the human soul. Those were the most prominent philosophical thoughts during the early Christian era having the potentiality to be used by the Devil. To be able to make any conclusions, we should study the subject of the human soul from the Biblical prospective and the Roman Catholic traditions as well. We have a lot to do; we will comper five



Wanangwa Hartwell

Scorching sun, desert heat,
Dripping sweat, trudging feet,
Pricked by zeal as by a goad,
Northward on Damascus Road.

Blinding light, stricken down,
Hearing such a thunderous sound,
"Why do ye kick against the goad?"
Pressing up Damascus Road.

viewpoints on this subject! Because the things can get very tricky, it is wise to review the Biblical concept first. In this way, we will establish a point of reference.

What the possible outcome for our study could be? We should not expect that the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church on the subject of the human soul to be exactly like the Neoplatonic viewpoint. Instead, their teachings should be a crossbreed between the two - the Biblical and the Plato's. We should expect that the Bible have been bent, twisted, and modified in order to make something new look like the Biblical. This is how the Devil worked and twisted the word of God in the Garden of Eden and later while he was tempting Jesus in the wilderness. This is his trait.

Continued Next Month

Darkness now, rise from sand,
Led along the way by hand,
Pricked by conscience as a goad,
Slowly on Damascus Road.

Three days more, a new light shines,
A new path for the future finds,
Driven for God as by a goad,
Changed forever on Damascus Road.

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP

Monday's at 6:30 p.m.
Morgan Center

COME ON OUT: The first meeting of the Lighthouse Group will meet on Monday, September 23, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We'll meet in the Morgan Center with snacks and light refreshments. The Lighthouse group will be a discussion meeting, discussing life issues and problems that come up in day-to-day living. It will be an opportunity to share with each other and lift each other up. The goal is to get to know each other better to help each other as time goes on. You don't have to commit, just come and see if you can be a help or get some help. See you then.

Hour of Prayer

First Tuesday of the Month, 6:00 p.m.
75 Carmel Drive
Columbus, North Carolina

This is an interdenominational group who meets once a month to pray for our county. Join us for this special season of prayer with others in our community interested in intercessory for God's leading in our community.

I'm thankful for so much this year! I've got a wonderful family, especially my hard-working husband and mom. I love my job and am grateful that it is also flexible enough to allow me to continue teaching bells. I'm thankful for the chance to work with the kids and I love the Warm Fuzzies I've gotten from some of my students this month. The joy we see in the people who receive food through Share Thy Bread, the enthusiasm of people over the libraries I'm involved with (both at work and church), and the beautiful music I get to help make with the bells and other instruments are such a blessing.

Wanangwa Hartwell

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday's at 6:30 p.m.
Adventist School.

The next series will be *Peter's Ladder of Spiritual Growth*. Please join us for singing, prayer time, and Bible study.

THURSDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP

Thursdays at 6:50 p.m.
2795 Green Creek Drive
Columbus, North Carolina

Studying Revelation.

Small Groups

FRIDAY NIGHT FAMILY STUDY

Friday's at 7:00 p.m.
199 Grassy Lane
Mooresboro, North Carolina

We will be studying the Minor Prophets. Please join us at the Sparks' house for study and dessert.



Sara Wolff

Tryon Adventurers have been busy learning how to be friends of Nature.

Ms. Lorna taught our club about trees. She brought her good friend, Mr John Vining, and he took the kids around the church and showed them different trees. The kids had to identify 10 different leaves. They also did leaf rubbings and learned how to press leaves.

Mrs. Karen taught the kids how to make a terrarium. The kids loved adding rocks, dirt, moss, plant and all kinds of pretty things to their container. They also learned how to take care of the terrarium.

We also learned about whales. We got to go outside and measure 100 feet to see how big a whale can be. We learned facts about the whales and got to see how blubber keeps the whale warm by trying a shortening glove in ice water.

We are thankful for Ms. Lorna and Mrs. Karen for being willing to come and teach our club!



Michael Wolff,
Deputy Director

Pathfinders have had multiple exciting adventures this year. Some of them scary! The year started out warm so we worked on our Basic Swimming and Water Safety Honors for our first club meeting at Twin Lakes in Saluda, North Carolina. While we still had some warm weather we started working on our Softball Honor for our next club meeting at Harmon Field in Tryon. When the weather turned sour we did our Duct Tape Honor. One of the neatest things we had to do in the Duct Tape Honor was make a boat out of Duct Tape able to carry a five pound sack of flour for five minutes without getting wet!

The funnest event Pathfinders took part of in November was a backpacking trip at Panthertown in Nantahala National Forest. We had 6 adults and 12 Pathfinders with us. After hiking in about a mile and a half we set up camp and started cooking our dinner. A giant 500 lb black bear walked right into camp thinking we were making him food. He came after our food twice in the night and we had to chase him away each time with gunshots. Only 3 of us lost our food to the bear that night but because of the repeated bear events we had to leave a day early after hiking to see all the waterfalls we could hike to in one day. Overall it was an unforgettable experience and as we relied on God to protect us and learned more about grace.



Share Thy Bread

Share Thy Bread

Bev Cook

Share Thy Bread is a food sharing ministry of our local church. We continue to have a viable presence in the community.

We have been blessed recently with the food bank out of Asheville (MANNA) delivering food right to our trailer door every two weeks. As a matter of information, the food is not free as some have assumed. There is a minimal charge. We not only receive food but personal care, kitchen, and cleaning items as well. We have three household refrigerators currently in use but hope to expand our refrigeration especially freezer space. We collect Ingles' milk boxes to put food in to take out to the community so remember us when you are at Ingles and they have their boxes out for taking.

This ministry takes minimal time and effort with big rewards. If you would like to join our volunteers, just contact either Wanangwa, 828-817-0251, or Bev, 704-692-6667.

I am so thankful for eyesight, hands and feet. Also family and a loving church and a loving God. (Sorry I forgot who sent me this.)



School Bells

Wanangwa Hartwell

Hi everyone! Come support our kids at their Christmas bell programs. First, the school is taking over the church service on Sabbath, December 14, and the bells will be a big part of it.

Then we are playing at Foothills Community Chapel (2720 Landrum Rd, Columbus) as part of a special Christmas program they are doing at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15. This is a great opportunity to connect with other Christians in our community.

At 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, the bells will play at the Columbus Library (1289 W Mills St, Columbus).

At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 20, they will be at The Meeting Place (75 Carmel Lane), the senior center in Columbus.

In the Library and Senior Center, they will be able to be heard throughout the building. We hope you can join us!

I am thankful for my Tryon church family. We love the Lord and pressing forward with the Blessed Hope that soon Jesus will come. Let's encourage one another. Pixie and Art



Adventurers



Pathfinders



Advertising

news@tryonsdachurch.org

Do you have something you wish to sell? A service you provide? Please submit to the above e-mail address. Thanks!

ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS - Do your blue jeans need attention? I can usually fix torn belt loops, rips, holes in the pockets or hemming. Has the elastic deteriorated in your skirt or pants? Are your sleeves or pant legs too long? Give me a call @ 828-817-7015. ~ Deb Grant.

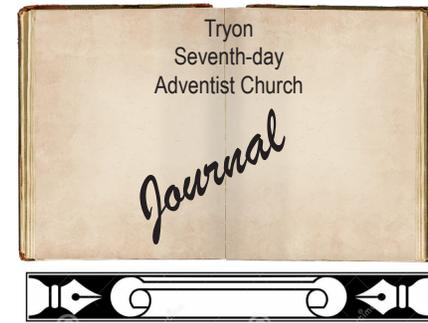
FIREWOOD: John Cantrell, 828-817-7345 or 828-817-4178. Split. Hardwood. Delivery within 25 miles.

HONEY for Sale: Benjamin Owens, 828-287-5866. 24# = \$65. 12# = \$40. 3# = \$12.

RECUPERATIVE MASSAGE: Roseanne Richards, 864-357-4875. Call or Text. Chair Massage on site. Therapeutic Massage at Richard's home. (SC #10851; NC #16659.)



- 2 Jazzilyn Ford
Ginny Finch
- 3 Bill Sampson
- 4 Kasey Thompson Reynolds
Sally Rhynearson
- 5 Owen Gordon
- 7 Brian Coon
- 8 Odila Oliver
- 9 Faith Iannone
John Cantrell
- 16 Tim Grindley
- 18 Myrna Esh
- 19 Audrey Connelly
Gerald Tary
- 21 Jodi Smith
- 22 Jordan Saladino
- 24 Marilyn Cook
Michael Wolff
- 25 Fred Gibbs
John Richards
- 27 Richard Bayley
- 28 Tonya Kim
Vesta Whitmore
- 29 Judah Kim
- 30 Lynn Bayley
- 31 Brenda Lee Brittain
Ron Herman
Jane McCulley



December, 2019

Blessed
by Roberta Amoroso

At the end of 2014 I began making comments to my husband, Keith. "I cannot continue working; the pain is too severe! I just can't do this anymore!" (My job was very hands-on, demanding, and physical). He would respond, "Well, of course, you need to do whatever you need to do for yourself but it would be better if you could get out of debt first!" I began praying in earnest asking my Heavenly Father to help me.

At the end of 2015 I received word that a dear friend had passed away and left me a monetary gift. This gift arrived at the end of 2016. In February of 2017 I put in my notice to quit. I would continue to work until a replacement was found. I worked until the end of June of the same year. Two weeks after I put my notice in, I was given flowers and a monetary gift for my time served at my job. What I was given as a gift from my dear friend and the gift given me from my work place added up to exactly what I needed to get out of debt!

The story does not end there. I was urged by a friend to apply for disability. On July 30, 2018 I called Social Security and applied for disability knowing I would be denied. Papers were sent to me and I answered all of their questions and went to the doctor they sent me to. On Friday, October 19 I received a call from Social Security saying a determination was made regarding my application. I was granted Social Security disability – only two and a half months later. This is unheard of. God is so awesome. Beginning December 1, 2019 I will receive Medicare and my insurance will kick in.

As I reflect back on my life, I am most blessed and so thankful.
Be faithful and God will bless you beyond what you can think or imagine.

Fun Christmas Fact

Wanangwa Hartwell

The animal most associated with Christmas is probably the reindeer: Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen being the most famous of course. But did you know that Rudolph was only added in 1939? The other eight names originated from the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas written in 1807 by Major Henry Livingston, Jr. The poem was originally printed in German and, in translation, the original Dunder and Blixem were changed to Donner and Blitzen. However, "Dunder und Blixem" is a German phrase literally

meaning "thunder and lightning," and is also used as a phrase meaning go faster. So there was probably only ever meant to be six reindeer and Saint Nicholas was telling them to hurry up!

In North America, reindeer are called caribou. Arctic peoples have used them for food and clothing, but unlike other reindeer, caribou have not been domesticated. Caribou have one of the longest migrations of any animal, traveling up to 3,000 miles each year. They stand only four to five feet tall, but the bull reindeer has the largest antlers of any deer other than the moose.

