



The Reformation
Messenger
VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11, NOVEMBER 2020

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WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover: Helen Marttinen, Canada

Back Cover: Wendy Eaton, Canada

Inside front cover: Wendy Eaton, Canada

Page 3: Helen Marttinen, Canada

The Reformation Messenger is published monthly. It is an Official Publication of the International Missionary Society the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field. Subscriptions can be paid online on the website or by mail.

- Telephone: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: imsmessenger@yahoo.com
- Internet: www.imsmessenger.org
- Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road, Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada

COST:

Black & White x \$27.00 per year. Colour x \$47.00 per year.
(Add \$10.00 North America and \$20.00 overseas shipping & handling)

Purchase all 26 years of the Messenger for \$200.00 (shipping included in price). Bound in books by year.

Catalogue is available upon request for all articles for 26 years.



Show Your Colours

“Show your colors to men and an angels. We are safe only when we are committed to the right. Then the world knows where we shall be found in the day of trial and trouble.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 96

“What is the Sentinel for?—It is to be as the voice of the watchman on the walls of Zion, ready to sound the danger signal. We should cry aloud, and spare not, and show the people their transgressions. We are not to cringe, and beg pardon of the world for telling them the truth. We should scorn concealment. Unfurl your true colors to the gaze of men and angels. Let it be understood that Seventh-day Adventists can make no compromise. In our opinions and faith there must not be the least appearance of wavering. The world has a right to expect something of us, and will look upon us as dishonest, as hiding our real sentiments and principles out of policy, if we present even the semblance of being uncommitted.” –*The Review and Herald*, January 31, 1893

“Nearly all persons can speak loud enough to be heard in ordinary conversation, and why should not the same voice and talent be used when they are called upon to bear testimony or offer prayer? When speaking of heavenly and divine things, why not speak in distinct tones, in a manner that will make it manifest that you know what you are talking about, and are not ashamed to show your colors? Why not pray as though you had a conscience void of offense, and could come to the throne of grace in humility and yet with holy boldness, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting? Do not bow down and cover up your face as if there were something that you desired to conceal; but lift up your eyes toward the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ your Mediator stands before

the Father to present your prayers as fragrant incense, mingled with His own merit and spotless righteousness. You are invited to come, to ask, to seek, to knock, and you are assured that you will not come in vain.” –*Christian Education*, p. 127

“The Lord calls upon you to show your colors. Stand as eternal health reformers, and do not be in such a condition that when they ask you if you are a health reformer, you will blush for shame. No; you want to say, Certainly, I am; certainly I am a health reformer in every respect; and I want to help others to

be health reformers. This work is the right hand of the gospel. It is this health reform, and this healthful living, that is cleaving the way for us right to the hearts of thousands who have nearly killed themselves with their improper diet. Now let us begin to save them.” –*The Review and Herald*, January 7, 1902

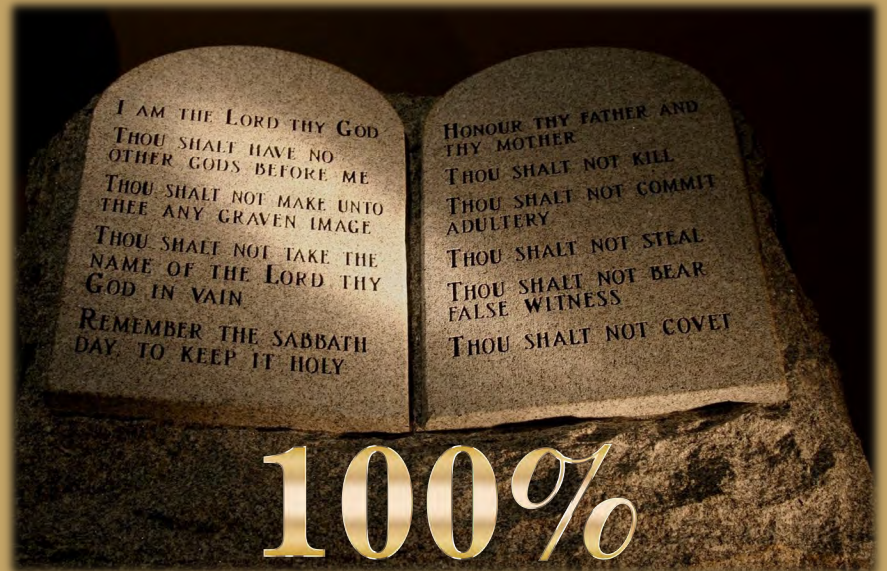
“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.’ We must free ourselves from the customs and bondage of society, that when the principles of our faith are at stake, we shall not hesitate to show our colors, even though we are called singular for so doing. Keep the conscience tender, that you may hear the faintest whisper of the voice that spoke as never man spoke. Let all who would wear the yoke of Christ show an inflexible purpose to do right because it is right. Keep the eye fixed on Jesus, inquiring at every step, Is this the way of the Lord? The Lord will not leave any one who does this, to become the sport of Satan’s temptation.” –*The Review and Herald*, May 9, 1899

“We are living amidst the perils of the last days, and we shall see many manifestations of Satan’s power. As faithful stewards of the grace of Christ we are to show our colors, ever remembering the words, Ye are ‘a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.’” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 32

“God calls upon us to lift up the standard. As God’s standard-bearers we are ever to show our colors, revealing in our lives that we are keeping the commandments of God.” –*Australasian Union Conference Record*, April 1, 1901

Ellen G. White

Standard of God



God has set up a standard which we must reach, or we will be lost. Only a few people will reach this standard. Sister White writes, "I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. . . .

"I saw that none could share the refreshing unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence." —*Early Writings*, p. 71

God has given us time to prepare ourselves to reach His standard, but, if we waste this time suddenly it will be too late.

"It is no small thing to be a Christian and to be owned and approved by God. The Lord has shown me some who profess the present truth, whose lives do not correspond with their profession. They have the standard of piety altogether too low, and they come far short of Bi-

ble holiness. Some engage in vain and unbecoming conversation, and others give way to the risings of self. We must not expect to please ourselves, live and act like the world, have its pleasures, and enjoy the company of those who are of the world, and reign with Christ in glory.

"We must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here if we would share in His glory hereafter. If we seek our own interest, how can we best please ourselves, instead of seeking to please God and advance His precious, suffering cause, we shall dishonor God and the holy cause we profess to love." —*Ibid.*, p. 47

When Belshazzar saw the writing on the wall, it was too late for him to avert the destruction.

When the foolish virgins wake up, it is too late for them to buy oil and be saved. When Achan finally made a confession, it was too late for him to be forgiven. If we have not lived up to the standard of God in our lives, one day it will be too late for us. In worldly schools the passing mark is between 60% and 80%, but in the school of Christ it is 100%. If we come short in one point, we will lose heaven.

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. Adam was perfect in all points except in one point, and for this he was cast out of paradise. Before God will accept us and seal us we must pass the test in every point, and reflect the character of God. All who delay their character building, will find themselves suddenly outside.

Let us study a few points where we must reach the standard of God. "For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently,

this is acceptable with God." 1 Peter 2:20

When we do well and suffer for it, and take it patiently, without retaliating, without anger, and without self-defence, this is acceptable with God. Nothing less is accepted.

"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10-11

The prophets are our examples of patience, who suffered affliction and yet loved their persecutors and tried to save them. "In all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, In distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings." 2 Corinthians 6:4-5

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." 1 Thessalonians 5:14

"God has shown me that He gave His people a bitter cup to drink, to purify and cleanse them. It is a bitter draught, and they can make it still more bitter by murmuring, complaining, and repining. But those who receive it thus must have another draught, for the first does not have its designed effect upon the heart. And if the second does not effect the work, then they must have another, and another, until it does have its designed effect, or they will be left filthy, impure in heart. I saw that this bitter cup can be sweetened by patience, endurance, and prayer, and that it will have its designed effect upon the hearts of those who thus receive it, and God will be honored and glorified." *-Ibid.*, p. 47

Moses failed in this point and hit the rock in impatience and anger for the sin of the Israelites. For this reason he could not lead the people across the river into Canaan.

If we come up to the standard of God in all other points except patience, we fail in reaching God's standard. To teach us patience, God gives us thorns in the flesh like He gave to Paul. He also gives us loss of property and health, like he gave to Job. There are people who irritate us, and get on our nerves. There are accidents, losses, and troubles. All these are God's workmen to teach us patience. In a quiet and peaceful life we would not learn the divine grace of patience.

Peter writes to us, "That the trial of your faith, being

much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:7



James writes to us, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4

When your faith is severely tried, you have passed the test if do not raise your voice in an angry tone, and do wish evil to anyone, or never complain of your lot. After learning this lesson there are more lessons to learn.

Another lesson we need to learn is forgiveness. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:14-15. This is the standard of God. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matthew 6:12

There are different ways to forgive, and how we decide to forgive, is how God will forgive us.

Many have said, "I have forgiven him, but I cannot forget what he did to me," and he keeps telling others what this person did to him. This is not genuine forgiveness. Also, we may forgive, but then separate ourselves from his company, and have nothing to do with him.

How long do we continue to forgive someone? Peter asked this of Jesus. "Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Matthew 18:21-22

God continues to forgive us our sins as long as we continue to forgive others who sin against us. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

A person who has learned this lesson is never offended. As soon as someone does something wrong to him, he already forgives and forgets. "We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. .

. . . However sorely they have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us." *—Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 113–114

We are also tested on selfishness. Selfishness is self-love. "Selfishness is abomination in the sight of God and holy angels. Because of this sin many fail to attain the good which they are capable of enjoying. They look with selfish eyes on their own things, and do not love and seek the interest of others as they do their own." *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 551

Selfishness is idolatry, it is self-worship. "Selfishness always blinds and deceives." *—Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 129

Christ was tested on this point and He overcame by sacrificing His life for others. This same victory we must gain. "May you see the heavy weight that rests upon you in consequence of your selfishness, which is a curse to yourself and to all around you." *—Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 543

"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers, together with God. God cannot pour out His spirit when selfishness and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain,—'Am I my brother's keeper?'" *—Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 52

A selfish person is moody, often downcast, gloomy, and unhappy. Instead of happiness he finds only misery.

"Selfishness is death." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 417

A selfish person is not a living Christian, but dead spiritually. A selfish person justifies himself, seldom admitting his wrongdoing. He is always defending his actions and words. "If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: If I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse." Job 9:20

Millions of Christians who started out bravely fighting against sin, overcame bad habits and joined the church, but they failed in this point; they fell victims to selfishness. If we do not overcome in this point, all will be lost.

Let us study one more point in which we must overcome. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,

is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2: 15–17

What is in the world that people love? Is it not gratification of the eyes, television, shows, movies, unhealthy foods, sensualism, immorality, and worldly books and magazines? People get addicted to them because they are habit forming, and these habits are not easy to break. Many bring them into the Christian life from the world. When Jacob left Laban to go into his homeland, his wife Rachel took along small idols of her father's. So we also can leave the world, but take little idols with us from the world. If we do this, then we are not dead to the world. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2

We touched only four points, but there are many more where we are tested daily to see if we are ready for heaven or not.

How many Christians will say, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24

Often years go on, and our characters remain unchanged. Yet there is a remedy, and Peter found it. We can become holy and pure. Selfishness can be overcome, love of the world can die, there is a way to forgive and forget, even patience can be learned. All these come by fiery trials, by afflictions, sorrows, and pain. These trials are more precious than gold, they change us to Christ-likeness.

"When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we shall have no relish for sin, for Christ will be working with us. We can make mistakes, but we will hate the sin that caused the suffering of the Son of God." *—The Review and Herald*, March 18, 1890

Jesus is the vine; we are the branches. If we do not bear fruit, we will be cut off of the vine. If we bear fruit, He will cleanse us and we will bear more fruit. Then the love of Jesus will fill our hearts, and we will be free. We will be free from self and free from the world. Thus we will be fit for heaven, ready for the company of angels, and for the company of God Himself. We will be without spot and wrinkle reflecting the image of Jesus fully. Amen.

Timo Martin





The Sins of the Heathen

At my work, I made it clear from the beginning that I would not work during the Sabbath hours. Once in awhile the charge nurse forgets, and has asked me to work on Sabbath. I tell her, “no,” and then she replies, “Oh yes, I forgot, it is *your* Sabbath.”

The truth of the matter is, is it *my* Sabbath? I read in my Bible, that “the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” Mark 2:28. I did not create the Sabbath, nor make my personal decision to set that day aside. The Sabbath was from creation, before I was even born. It was “made for man.” Mark 2:27. Jesus did not say that Sabbath was made for the Jew, and the Seventh-day Adventist. No, He said it was made for man (mankind). Anyone who claims to belong to the species of mankind has the claims of the Sabbath placed upon them.

It is not God’s plan that one church keeps the Sabbath and another church keeps Sunday. Some Christians think erroneously that both are accepted by God; it does not matter what day you observe. Will their genuine belief excuse them? We do read, “And the times of this ignorance God winked.” Acts 17:30. But, then we also read, “when the commandment came, sin revived.” Romans 7:9. There is one standard of salvation for all mankind—for the Jew, all Christians, Islam, Buddhist, and even the atheist.

In the Bible we read of the punishments that God has pronounced, not only upon the nation of Judah and Israel for their disobedience, but we also how many of the surrounding nations were also punished. Throughout the prophetic books in the Old Testament, the minor and major prophets, you read of punishments against Moab, Edom, Assyria, Amalek, Philistia, Egypt, Ammon, Baby-

lon, Midian, Damascus, and so on.

Sometimes there was peace between these nations and the nation of Israel, but other times God sent His people to war against them as punishment for their sins and iniquities. Is God fair? I do not believe He arbitrarily decided that it was time to destroy them without giving them opportunity for repentance and salvation. Once they had crossed the boundary of His mercy, it was really in the mercy and love of God that He put an end to their existence. Not only to preserve the faith of the Jewish nation, but also to limit the amount of sin and iniquity the heathen nations were partaking in and thus reducing the amount of suffering they will need to endure as punishment in the lake of fire. Everything that God does is for the love of humanity. He is a God “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:4. But those who choose not to be saved, He finds a way to ease their final punishment as much as possible. Who would not feel sorrow when seeing the people they created suffer?

We often focus on the nation of Israel and their captivity, their sins and their victories, but what about the surrounding nations? There was enough importance regarding them that, in the Bible, mention is made of God’s judgements against them. God loves everyone—Jew and Gentile alike.

“God’s work is to go forward. We are to sow beside all waters, even though we know that many will seek to extinguish the light of truth.” –*The Upward Look*, p. 170. The Israelites had been commissioned to teach the heathen nations the way of salvation.

In this article we will look at a few of the heathen nations



and what led to their punishment. Although most of the nations had given in to idolatry, which led to their demise, it was not their only sin. Often we condemn others for what we see as blatant sins—such as idolatry, which we state we do not indulge in. However, there are other sins that contributed to their destruction, sins which we could very well be guilty of also today.

Thus, we need to search our hearts, to see if there is any wickedness within. The standard of salvation is victory over sin through Jesus Christ.

MOAB

Let us begin with Moab. The Moabites were relatives of the Israelites, so they very likely knew something about the true God. Their founding father, Moab, was the son of Lot's eldest daughter—born in incest. They were a brother nation to the Ammonites—who were born from Lot's other daughter. Moab was located southeast of the nation of Israel.

When the Israelites were nearing the end of their 40-year wilderness sojourn, they came to the southern border of Moab asking permission to cross their country. The Moabites were not friendly and refused to allow them to pass through (Judges 11:17). Since the Edomites (descendants of Esau), Ammonites and Moabites were related to the Israelites, Moses was not permitted to attack them and take their country from them. And so they went around.

Moab stood next to Israel in all matters of material wealth and civilization. However, Israel and Moab were at war with each other at times. In the time of King Ahab, they were in subjection to Israel and had to pay them tribute. On a few occasions there were peaceful relations such as when Ruth and her family went to live in Moab during the famine in Israel. Also, King David, when fleeing from Saul, sent his parents to dwell in Moab—perhaps with a distant relative of his ancestress, Ruth. Some Israelites found refuge in Moab when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed their country.

But, what is the reason Moab was punished? There is actually quite a lot written about the punishment against Moab. I will quote a few:

Isaiah and Jeremiah both give a similar account of the nation of Moab. "We have heard of the pride of Moab; he

is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not be so." Isaiah 16:6. "We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart. I know his wrath, saith the LORD; but it shall not be so; his lies shall not so effect it." Jeremiah 48:29–30. The sins of Moab mentioned here are, pride, haughtiness, wrath, and lies. They had an opportunity to learn of the Lord as did all nations, but they refused and therefore they were punished.

One may outwardly keep all the commandments, but God reads the heart. Some hearts may contain pride, wrath, and lies. These sins can be in the hearts of unconverted Christians. But, even though hidden from man, they are sins that will keep a person out of heaven. Pride is one of the worst sins and most nations were guilty of having a lot of pride. "There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 154

"Many are ignorant of how to work for God, not because they need to be ignorant, but because they are unwilling to submit to His training. Moab is spoken of as a failure because, the prophet declares, 'Moab hath been at ease from his youth, . . . and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed' (Jeremiah 48:11). Thus it is with those whose hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are not purged from them." —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 330

Jeremiah wrote that Moab had settled on their lees. Although they had a few political upheavals, they became proud and self-centred, feeling quite secure because they had never been deported into a foreign land before this time. However, the Lord said, it would come to an end. "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles." Jeremiah 48:12

"He magnified himself against the LORD." Jeremiah 48:26. How many people today defy the Lord? I need not cite examples as it is well known that God has been expelled from much of society today.

"A man may refuse to hear the counsels and admonitions of God. He may choose to take the regulating of his conduct into his own hands. . . . Like Moab, he refuses to be changed. . . . He refuses to correct his defective traits of character, although the Lord has plainly pointed out his work, his privileges, his opportunities, and the advancement to be made. It is too much trouble to break up his

old ways, and transform his ideas and methods. 'His taste remained in him.' He clings to his defects." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 97

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen." Ezekiel 25:8

Using this verse, we will go from Moab to Edom (Mount Seir). It is a sad fact for the unconverted Christians if the heathen view them as being the same as the heathen. I hope that this cannot be said of us. They speak, act, and dress just like the world (heathen); there is no difference. Some of the worst abominations in history have been committed by some professed worshippers of the Lord. A false Christian life has deceived many into unbelief and idolatry.

EDOM

The land of Edom was south of Moab. They were more closely related to Israel than the Moabites and Ammonites. The Edomites were descendants of Esau and were therefore regarded as a brother nation to Israel. "And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom." Genesis 25:30

Due to their close relationship, the Edomites were given special favours above other heathen nations. It was hoped that they still had some knowledge and respect for the true God, therefore they could be admitted to the Hebrew nation after the 3rd generation, whereas the Moabites and Ammonites had to wait until the 10th generation. Israel was commanded to show them kindness. "Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother." Deuteronomy 23:7. The Edomites did not take advantage of the spiritual privileges offered to them. They did not show respect to the Israelites and they became enemies.

Like the Moabites, the Edomites also refused permission for the children of Israel to go through their land on the way to Canaan. The hostility that existed between the Edomites and the Jews was very bitter.

The book of Obadiah describes the punishment that would come to Edom for their cruel attitude towards Judah in a time of crisis. "For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever." Obadiah 1:10

As with the other nations, pride also contributed to the downfall of Edom. "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?" Obadiah 1:3. The

Edomites dwelt in the mountains—Mount Seir. Like Moab, they had a lot of pride. "Self-exaltation is a dangerous element. It tarnishes everything it touches. It is the offspring of pride, and it works so ingeniously that, unless guarded against, it will take possession of the thoughts and control the actions." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 962

When Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, the Edomites rejoiced over the calamities that befell Judah (Psalm 137:7). "But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress." Obadiah 1:12. The two nations should not have been enemies, as they were family. Sadly, today, Satan attacks families and many times there is little familial love any longer. Children, spouses, siblings, parents, extended families, sometimes argue and separate.

Jeremiah's prophecy against Edom closely parallels that of Obadiah.

"Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts. . . . Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: . . . Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof." Jeremiah 49:7, 16–17

Ezekiel also had something to say concerning Edom. "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them; Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword." Ezekiel 25:12–13

And Amos also was given a prophecy from the Lord. "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever." Amos 1:11. Clearly Edom also had anger issues and God is punishing them for this treatment of His people, their brothers.

"Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for

ever." Malachi 1:4. God can easily humble those who magnify and exalt themselves. And He will do it. Those who make flesh their trust, are in reality fighting against themselves.

AMMON

Ammon, as mentioned, was a son of Lot from his younger daughter. They had been hostile against the Israelites beginning in the time of the judges. For the most part they had become tributary to Israel, having to pay tribute to the nation. Solomon had many wives from Ammon. Yet the nation was heathen and as with most of the surrounding nations, they did not treat Israel with respect.

When Israel entered Canaan, the Ammonites were in possessions of the highlands east of the northern part. The tribe of Gad became neighbor to the Ammonites when it took over the Amorite kingdom of Sihon. They were quite bitter towards Israel.

From Amos we read: "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border." Amos 1:13. Why would they act so cruelly? They desperately wanted to take the land occupied by Gad, which would give them access to the Jordan River. They did not seem to care how they got it. "The end justifies the means." They were called into account by the Lord for every evil they had done.

When Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians they also expressed great satisfaction. It is wicked to be glad at the calamities of anyone, especially of God's people; it is a sin for which they will be called into account. Although, when Israel sinned, God allowed them to be oppressed by their enemies and taken to Babylon; that did not excuse the surrounding nations for watching with joy and satisfaction at their distress.

Many times the surrounding nations joined together to make war together against their common enemy—Israel. They trusted in their might and their power. Although they often greatly outnumbered the Israelite army, when Israel was being faithful, God fought for them and many battles were won by the mighty power of God. "I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border. Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my peo-

ple shall possess them. This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts. The LORD will be terrible unto them: for He will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship Him, every one from his place even all the isles of the heathen." Zephaniah 2:8–11

It is said here that the nations of Ammon and Edom reproached and magnified themselves against the people of God. Now we go to Amalek, who also was rebelled against God.

AMALEK

Amalek was the grandson of Esau. This nation also was related to the Israelite nation. Their land lay between Sinai and Palestine so they felt threatened when the Israelite nation was travelling to the Promised Land as it appeared they would have to travel through Amalekite territory. Thus, rather than approach them peacefully, they attacked the Israelites at their most vulnerable time having just been released from slavery and had no weapons. God takes it seriously when you mock or attack His people.

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." 1 Samuel 15:2–3

When people begin to mock and persecute the true and faithful followers of Christ, and His church, they are very close to stepping over the line of His mercy. Sometimes they do it in ignorance as did the Apostle Paul, who repented later. Other times they do it in defiance and, even when shown the truth, they continue doing as they did before, with much glee.

The nation of Israel was His chosen nation, even after they nailed Him to the cross. It was not until the stoning of Stephen, when they began to persecute and kill the Christians (God's people)—that they were cut off as a nation.

The Seventh-day Adventist church was God's visible church on earth, even after they rejected the Christ our Righteousness message in Minneapolis in 1888. They were rejected as a church when they began to betray the faithful members to the authorities in World War I and were indirectly the cause of many of them to be put to death as martyrs.

We need to take careful consideration of our actions, es-

pecially towards other people, to our brothers and sisters, (leaders) in the faith. To gossip and speak evil of them is very offensive to God as they are His chosen people and leaders.

ONE STANDARD



“For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.” Romans 2:11–12

We may fully agree that the religious practices of the heathen nations could not save them, and therefore God punished them when they refused to repent. They worshipped idols and conducted many evil heathen rites and rituals and were full of pride (which is almost incurable).

In God’s church, we all agree on the main principles of the church—the doctrines and prophecies; however, there is an important side of religion that includes personal accountability in one’s life. People have left the church or refused to join the church because they felt they could not conform to the Biblical rule of dress or diet (vegetarianism), or even not working on Sabbath. They feel that it is important to provide for their families and it is ok to work on Sabbath in some cases.

One may feel it is ok to be more worldly in their dress and another may choose to adopt eating habits more on the worldly side (excess sugar, dairy products, chemicals and preservatives), while another seeks to adapt their diet as close as possible to the heavenly diet (plant based, vegan). The unconverted will eventually leave the church if they do not surrender their own ideas to Christ. God has a high standard, and some do not see the necessity of it being so high.

Going back to the comment I made at the very beginning, where some Christians say it is *your* Sabbath; over the years I have heard some people say, “I am not a member, I can do this or that and it is ok. You can’t do it because you are a member.” or “You have to pay tithes as you are a member, it is not a requirement for me.” And so on.

Even false Christians will say, “I can do this and its ok but you cannot, because your church says you cannot.” The reality—the Bible says so and the church I belong to simply acknowledges what the word of God has written.

I can do what I want to do. I can pay my tithes or not, but I choose to because I want to serve and honour God. Not because the church dictates it but because I want to. I am

grateful, though, that I have found a church that encourages and teaches the Bible rules of true commandment keeping in the letter and spirit of the law. If you choose not to obey, you are equally guilty before God whether a member or not. Some therefore do not join the church because they do not want to “obey” all the rules; they feel that they can find salvation outside the church. This is not true. You are judged according to your knowledge. If you have a knowledge of the truth, you are equally accountable whether a member or not.

There was not a different standard for the Philistines, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites or Babylonians. Their forms of religion could not save them. There is only one standard of salvation. We need to seek that out and conform our lives to it completely (by the power and grace of God). If we have a willingness and desire to leave off with the world and its practices, God will provide the grace and strength to overcome. For some it is too much of a cross to be too different from the world. They cannot bear it.

“It is an insult to the Holy Spirit of God for any man to choose a life of self-serving.” –*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1159. All heathen religions and false Christian religions are based on pride and self-serving. Today, you can find a Christian church to suit any lifestyle you wish to live. All promise salvation. It is possible for those in God’s church also to be living to serve self—to be seen of men.

“The Laodicean message must be proclaimed with power; for now it is especially applicable. Now, more than ever before, are seen pride, worldly ambition, self-exaltation, double-dealing, hypocrisy, and deception. Many are speaking great swelling words of vanity, saying, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.’ Yet they are miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” –*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 962. This is the condition of false Christianity today and unconverted members in the church.

May each one of us learn from these ancient civilizations, that our God is not to be trifled with. Let us aim to reach God’s standard, separating from the world and all its heathen practices. It is only possible by the help of God. But, it is possible. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13. Amen.

Wendy Eaton





Speech Is a Talent



“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

“The voice is an entrusted talent, and it should be used to help and encourage and strengthen our fellowmen. If parents will love God and keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment, their language ... will be of a sound, pure, edifying character. Whether they are at home or abroad, their words will be well chosen.” *—The Adventist Home, p. 434*

“The voice and tongue are gifts from God. Words mean very much. They may express love, devotion, praise, melody to God, or hatred and revenge. Words reveal the sentiments of the heart. They may be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. The tongue is a world of blessing, or a world of iniquity.” *—The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 1159*

IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE

“The very best school for voice culture is in the home life. Study in every way, not to annoy, but to cultivate a soft voice, distinct and plain.... Mothers should themselves act like Christ, speaking tender, loving words in the home. The right culture and use of the power of speech has to do with every line of Christian work; it enters into the home life and into all our intercourse with one another. We should accustom ourselves to speak in pleasant tones, to use pure and correct language, and words that are kind and courteous. Sweet, kind words are as dew and gentle showers to the soul. 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.” And the

Lord bids us, “Let your speech be always with grace,” “that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” ... If we follow Christ’s example in doing good, hearts will open to us as they did to Him.” *—My Life Today, p. 114*

“Courtesy, even in little things, should be manifested by the parents toward each other. Universal kindness should be the law of the house. No rude language should be indulged; no bitter words should be spoken. All may possess a cheerful countenance, a gentle voice, a courteous manner; and these are elements of power. Children are attracted by a cheerful, sunny demeanor. Show them kindness and courtesy, and they will manifest the same spirit toward you and toward one another.” *—The Adventist Home, p. 421*

“If impatient words are spoken to you, never reply in the same spirit. Remember that ‘a soft answer turneth away wrath’ (Proverbs 15:1). And there is wonderful power in silence. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry sometimes serve only to exasperate. But anger met with silence, in a tender, forbearing spirit, quickly dies away.

“Under a storm of stinging, faultfinding words, keep the mind stayed upon the word of God. Let mind and heart be stored with God’s promises. If you are ill-treated or wrongfully accused, instead of returning an angry answer, repeat to yourself the precious promises: ‘Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good’ (Romans 12:21).” *—The Ministry of Healing, p. 485–486*

We should receive the education essential in the line of conversation that we may know how to speak right words and how to speak in a proper tone, that our words may be a power for good.

“The tongue is a little member, but the words it frames have great power. The Lord declares, ‘The tongue can no man tame.’ It has set nation against nation, and has caused war and

bloodshed. Words have kindled fires that have been hard to quench. They have also brought joy and gladness to many hearts. And when words are spoken because God says, 'Speak unto them My words,' they often cause sorrow unto repentance. . . .

"A Power for Good—The apostle, seeing the inclination to abuse the gift of speech, gives direction concerning its use. 'Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,' he says, 'but that which is good to the use of edifying.' The word 'corrupt' means here any word that would make an impression detrimental to holy principles and undefiled religion, any communication that would eclipse the view of Christ, and blot from the mind true sympathy and love. It includes impure hints, which, unless instantly resisted, lead to great sin. Upon everyone is laid the duty of barring the way against corrupt communications." —*The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 17–18

THE RIGHT USE

"The great responsibility bound up in the use of the gift of speech is plainly made known by the Word of God. 'By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned,' Christ declared. And the psalmist asks, 'Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved [Psalm 15:1-5].

"'Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile' [Psalm 34:13]. The wild beast of the forest may be tamed, 'but the tongue can no man tame' [James 3:8]. Shall we not all, old and young, learn to converse in the language that is spoken by those who are translated into God's kingdom? Shall not our words be such as will be heard with pleasure by our Heavenly Father? . . .

"With the talent of speech we are to communicate the truth as we have opportunity. It should ever be used in God's service; but this talent is grievously abused. Words are spoken which do great harm." —*The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 19, 14

"When some attempt to speak calmly, without excitement and excessive gesticulation, they become embarrassed, and feel a lack of freedom, because they are restraining themselves from following their old habits. But let all such feelings, which are mere excitement, go to the four winds. That freedom of feeling that would result in your committing suicide is not sanctified." —*The Review and Herald*, February 5, 1880

"As those who claim to be Christians, we are under solemn obligations to reveal the truth of our profession by our words. The tongue is a little member, but what an amount of good it can do if the heart is pure! If the heart is stored with good things, if it is stored with Christlike tenderness, sympathy, and politeness, this will be shown by the words spoken and the actions performed. The light shining from the Word of God is our guide. Nothing so weakens a church as a wrong use of the talent of speech. We dishonor our Leader our words are not such as should come from the lips of a Christian." —*The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 20

"In my younger days I used to talk too loud. The Lord has shown me that I could not make the proper impression upon the people by getting the voice to an unnatural pitch. Then Christ was presented before me, and His manner of talking; and there was a sweet melody in His voice. His voice, in a slow, calm manner, reached those who listened, and His words penetrated their hearts, and they were able to catch on to what He said before the next sentence was spoken. Some seem to think they must race right straight along or else they will lose the inspiration and the people will lose the inspiration. If that is inspiration, let them lose it, and the sooner the better." —*Evangelism*, 670

THE SPEECH TO IMITATE AS PATTERN

"As soon as He could talk, Christ used the talent of speech, in the family circle and among friends and acquaintances, in a way that was without fault. Not one impure word escaped His lips." —*Welfare Ministry*, p. 286–287

"What He taught, He lived. 'I have given you an example,' He said to His disciples, 'that ye should do as I have done.' 'I have kept My Father's commandments.' John 13:15; 15:10. Thus in His life, Christ's words had perfect illustration and support. And more than this; what He taught, He was. His words were the expression, not only of His own life experience, but of His

The voice and tongue are gifts from God, and if rightly used, they are a power for God. Words mean very much. They may express love, devotion, praise, melody to God, or hatred and revenge.

own character." —*Education*, p. 78–79

"The appearance and words of Jesus during His trial made a deep impression upon the minds of many who were present on that occasion." —*Early Writings*, p. 174

"The Saviour never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it always in love. In His intercourse with others, He exercised the greatest tact, and He was always kind and thoughtful. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave unnecessary pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He never made truth cruel, but ever manifested a deep tenderness for humanity." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 117

"Multitudes who were not interested in the harangues of the rabbis were attracted by His teaching. They could understand His words, and their hearts were warmed and comforted. He spoke of God, not as an avenging judge, but as a tender father, and He revealed the image of God as mirrored in Himself. His words were like balm to the wounded spirit. Both by His words and by His works of mercy He was breaking the oppressive power of the old traditions and man-made commandments, and presenting the love of God in its exhaustless fullness." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 204

"Even in His childhood He spoke words of comfort and tenderness to young and old.... He was an example of what all children may strive to be.... In His words and actions He manifested tender sympathy for all. His companionship was a healing, soothing balm to the disheartened and depressed." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 151

"Through the help that Christ can give, we shall be able to learn to bridle the tongue. Sorely as He was tried on the point of hasty and angry speech, He never once sinned with His lips. With patient calmness He met the sneers, the taunts, and the ridicule of His fellow workers at the carpenter's bench. Instead of retorting angrily, He would begin to sing one of David's beautiful psalms; and His companions, before realizing what they were doing, would unite with Him in the hymn. What a transformation would be wrought in this world if men and women today would follow Christ's example in the use of words." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 936

VOICE CULTURE

"The culture and right use of the voice are greatly neglected, even by persons of intelligence and Christian activity. There are many who read or speak in so low or so rapid a manner that they cannot be readily under-

stood. Some have a thick, indistinct utterance; others speak in a high key, in sharp shrill tones, that are painful to the hearers. Texts, hymns, and the reports and other papers presented before public assemblies are sometimes read in such a way that they are not understood and often so that their force and impressiveness are destroyed." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 335

"When voice culture, reading, writing, and spelling take their rightful place in our schools, there will be seen a great change for the better. These subjects have been neglected because teachers have not recognized their value. But they are more important than Latin and Greek. I do not say that it is wrong to study Latin and Greek, but I do say that it is wrong to neglect the subjects that lie at the foundation of education in order to tax the mind with the study of these higher branches." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 218

"Let all make the most of the talent of speech. God calls for a higher, more perfect ministry. The truth is too often marred by the channel through which it passes. The Lord calls upon all who are connected with His service to give attention to the cultivation of the voice, that they may utter in an acceptable manner the great and solemn truths He has entrusted to them. Let none mar the truth by defective utterance. Let not those who have neglected to cultivate the talent of speech suppose that they are qualified to minister, for they have yet to obtain the power to communicate. . . .

"Ministers of the gospel should know how to speak with power and expression, making the words of eternal life so expressive and impressive that the hearers cannot but feel their weight. I am pained as I hear the defective voices of many of our ministers. Such ministers rob God of the glory He might have if they had trained themselves to speak the word with power. No man should regard himself as qualified to enter the ministry until by persevering effort he has overcome every defect in his utterance. If he attempts to speak to the people without knowing how to use the talent of speech, half his influence is lost, for he has little power to hold the attention of a congregation." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 382–383, 381

"The gift of speech has been greatly abused and widely perverted from its intended purpose; but let those who claim to be children of the heavenly King awake to their



responsibility, and make the most of this talent.” – *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 245–246

APPEAL

“The teachings of Christ were impressive and solemn; His voice was melodious. And should not we, as well as Christ, study to have melody in our voices? He had a mighty influence, for He was the Son of God. We are so far beneath Him and so far deficient, that, [even if we] do the very best we can, our efforts will be poor. We cannot gain and possess the influence that He had; but why should we not educate ourselves to come just as near to the Pattern as it is possible for us to do, that we may have the greatest possible influence upon the people? Our words, our actions, our deportment, our dress, everything, should preach. Not only with our words should we speak to the people, but everything pertaining to our person should be a sermon to them, that right impressions may be made upon them, and that the truth spoken may be taken by them to their homes. Thus our faith will stand in a better light before the community.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 617–618

“Responsibility of Youth—Young men and women, have you, as individuals, purchased at infinite cost, sought to study to show yourselves approved unto God, workmen which need not be ashamed? Have you brought to God the precious talent of your voice, and put forth painstaking effort to speak clearly, distinctly, and readily? However imperfect may be your manner of utterance, you may correct your faults, and refuse to allow yourself to have a nasal tone, or to speak in a thick, indistinct way. If your articulation is distinct and intelligible, your usefulness will be greatly increased. Then do not leave one defective habit of speech uncorrected.” – *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 215

“The great educating book is the Bible, and yet it is little read or practiced. Oh, that every individual would seek to make of himself all that he could, improving his opportunities to the very best of his ability, purposing to use every power which God has given him, not simply to advance his temporal affairs, but to advance his spiritual interests. Oh, that all might search diligently to know what is truth, to study earnestly that they might have correct language and cultivated voices, that they might present the truth in all its elevated and ennobling beauty. Let no one imagine that he will drift into some position of usefulness.” – *Ibid.*, p. 256

“The voice should be cultivated so as to promote its mu-

sical quality, that it may fall pleasantly upon the ear and impress the heart.... The Lord requires the human agent not to move by impulse in speaking, but to move calmly, speak slowly, and let the Holy Spirit give efficiency to the truth. Never think that in working yourselves up to

Your words are an index of your character. The words are either a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. “Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.” Psalm 34:13

a passion of delivery, speaking by impulse, and suffering your feelings to raise your voice to an unnaturally high key, that you are giving evidence of the great power of God upon you.... When you

strain the organs of speech, the modulations of the voice are lost. The tendency to rapid speaking should be decidedly overcome. God claims of the human instrumentality all the service that man can give.” – *Evangelism*, p. 668

“The science of reading correctly and with the proper emphasis, is of highest value. . . . Our Words a Channel for the Communication of Truth—We should receive the education essential in the line of conversation that we



may know how to speak right words and how to speak in a proper tone, that our words may be a power for good. The truth is no truth to us unless it is brought into the inner courts of the soul. When this is done, our words are a channel through which truth is communicated to others.

Sow the seed beside all waters, not knowing which shall prosper, either this or that. But be constantly educating yourself in how to use properly the faculty of speech. As you speak to others, lift your heart to God, praying that He will prepare their hearts to receive the heavenly seed. No man or woman can be that which they might be as laborers together with God in propagating the seed of truth without making earnest, painstaking effort in voice and word culture.” – *The Voice in Speech and Song*, p. 187, 189

“The gift of speech is a valuable talent. Never despise or demit this gift. Thank God for entrusting it to you. It is a precious gift, to be sanctified, elevated, and ennobled. As a sacred trust, the voice should be used to honor God. It should never utter harsh, impure words or words of faultfinding. The gospel of Christ is to be proclaimed by the voice.” – *Ibid.*, p. 14

Ellen G White
Compiled by Victor Shumbusho



Saved by Angels from Drowning

Personal Testimony

It was summer vacation time. I was then 24 years old, and went with a group of people from Vienna (Austria), where I was working, on a bus-tour to Rimini Italy on the Adriatic Sea.

One day at about 2 PM I decided to go for a swim. It was hot and the sea was calm like a lake, not a ripple to be seen on the water. The wide sandy beach was almost deserted; it was the hottest time of the day. Only foolish people like us sun-hungry Foreigners would lie on the beach at that time.

The calm sea enticed me to go for a good swim out to the barrier of fastened buoys in the far distance.

The water was warm and I made good progress; it pushed me farther and farther out, and I wanted to reach the barrier.

Then I took a look back to the beach. It was quite far away so I thought I better turn back as this is too far. The buoys were still far in the distance. In the water one does not have an accurate judgment of the real distance.

So, I turned back. Then, swimming for a while, it seemed I did not move from the spot. The water was so calm and was not pushing me forward as it did on the way out. This is, of course, was also a delusion, but it seemed reality to me. Then I began to fear that I may not make it to the shore. I may not have that much energy left.

Suddenly, a terrible fright came over me. The terror of drowning caught me and I looked around. There was only me in the water.

This fearful thought robbed me all at once of my strength. I felt my limbs weaken, and at any moment I thought I would sink down into the deep to perish. I was sure I would not make it back to the shore. No one would even notice that I would drown out there. In my dreadful fear and horror of death, I once again turned my head, hoping there would be somehow some help.

Just then I saw a boat near by. How it got there was a mystery to me, because just a moment ago I did not see anything. I desperately waved and the boat rushed towards me.

It was a dark-green wooden craft with red edges. I can still see it clearly before me. It had a long front with two persons in the boat which looked very strange to me. They did not look like Italians. They were clothed in dark mantles with a hood over the face (I wondered about that because it was summer and very hot). I could only see the face of the first one at the front, with delicate features, a fine straight nose, deep, light colored eyes (I remember this because this person looked right at me), closed lips, and was like one who had worked a lot in the sun.

With new energy I jumped into the front of the boat, saying in Italian: "Stanco", which means "tired."

In a flash the two individuals turned around and with the strong push of the oars shot towards the beach.

We were there in seconds. Again, this was to me a

mystery, for with any normal boat it would have taken some more time to get there. The boat stopped and I jumped off, gladly feeling the safe ground beneath me. I thanked them in Italian and went off. Was I ever relieved!!!

Then I looked back—but there was nothing—the sea from the far left to the far right was deserted like before when I went in. This was amazing!

I marveled about this, but at that time I had no clue that these had been angels. I did not believe in God, at that time and actually lived another ten years as a total unbeliever.

Many years afterwards when the Lord Jesus came into my life, and thinking about my past, I remembered this amazing incident. Then it dawned on me, that in His mercy and infinite love and grace, God sent two angels to rescue me from certain death, while a sinner and unbeliever. How much

He must love me to save me then as a sinner. I can never forget this miracle. The Lord must have had His reasons to spare my life, and I am ever so grateful!

It will be forever a wonder to me, and can only say with the Psalmist “What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And the son (daughter) of man, that Thou visitest him?” Psalm 8:4

May this testimony be an encouragement and hope for all who have family members, relatives, and friends, who have not yet found Jesus and who you are praying for—for their salvation.

There is no limit to what God can, and will, do. His hand is stretched out still; Jesus came to this earth to save sinners, whoever they are, wherever they may be. Amen.

Edda Tedford, Canada

We Are to Be Clean Inwardly and Outwardly

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.” Ezekiel 36:25

“In order to be acceptable in God's sight, the leaders of the people were to give strict heed to the sanitary condition of the armies of Israel, even when they went forth to battle. Every soul, from the commander-in-chief to the lowest soldier in the army, was sacredly charged to preserve cleanliness in his person and surroundings; for the Israelites were chosen by God as His peculiar people. They were sacredly bound to be holy in body and spirit. They were not to be careless or neglectful of their personal duties. In every respect they were to preserve cleanliness. They were to allow nothing untidy or unwholesome in their surroundings, nothing which would taint the purity of the atmosphere.

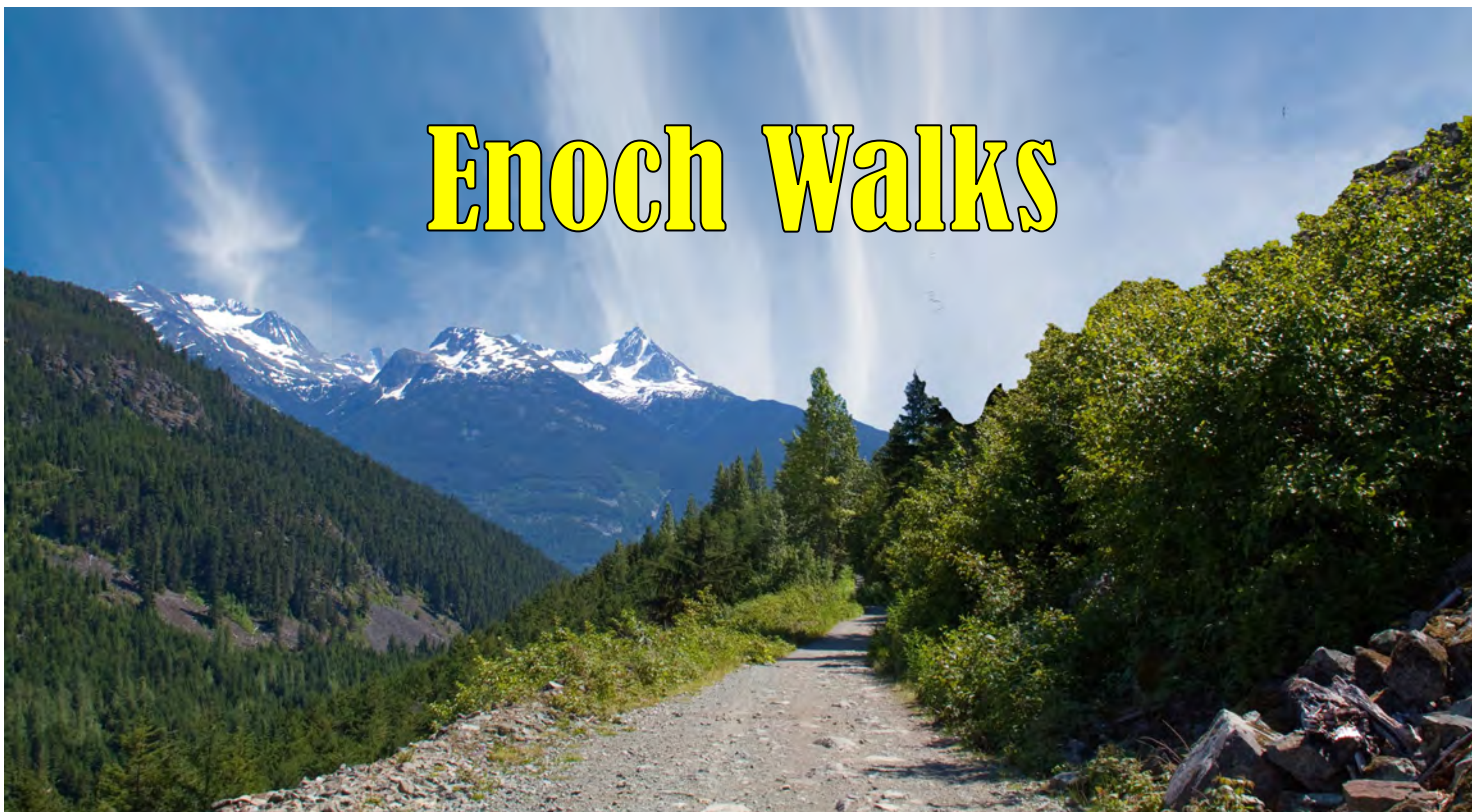
“The Ten Commandments, spoken by Jehovah from Sinai, cannot live in the hearts of persons of disorderly, filthy habits. If ancient Israel could not so much as listen to the proclamation of that holy law, unless they had obeyed the injunction of Jehovah, and had cleansed their clothing, how can that sacred law be written upon the hearts of persons who are not cleanly in person, in clothing, or in their houses? It is impossible.

“Heaven is a clean and holy place. God is pure and holy. All who come into His presence should take heed to His directions, and have the body and the clothing in a pure, clean condition, thus showing respect to themselves and to Him. The heart must also be sanctified. Those who do this will not dishonor His sacred name by worshiping Him while their hearts are polluted and their apparel is untidy. God sees these things. He marks the heart-preparation, the thoughts, the cleanliness . . . of those who worship Him.

“Angels are impressed with the things which they behold in the outward surroundings of God's people.”

Sons and Daughters of God, p. 173

Enoch Walks



“And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Genesis 5:22–24

These verses were the first memory verse assignment that I was given as a child, so I remember them well. I was given them by Sister Anneli Martin, (who later became my mother-in-law), on my first Sabbath at church, when I was 11 years old.

To an eleven-year-old kid this was a new and interesting concept. The idea that this man named Enoch walked with God for three hundred years was a powerful statement. Then there was the idea that God then “took him.” Where did he go? Was anyone really that good that God would want to take him to be with Him?

“Enoch’s walk with God was not in a trance or vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85

Enoch did not just believe in God but he believed God. Each and every day Enoch developed a trust in what God said, and how He led him. This trust came from a daily experience with God. This was not just something

that he meditated upon in the morning or the evening, but something that he actually lived. God was part of his daily life, his work, his chores at home and his interaction with other human beings.

“His heart was in harmony with God’s will; for ‘can two walk together, except they be agreed?’ Amos 3:3. And this holy walk was continued for three hundred years. There are few Christians who would not be far more earnest and devoted if they knew that they had but a short time to live, or that the coming of Christ was about to take place. *But Enoch’s faith waxed the stronger, his love became more ardent, with the lapse of centuries.*” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85

I have heard it said by many preachers, even in our church, that it is much more difficult to live for God than to die for Him. *But I respectfully disagree with them.*

The reason that they might find it more difficult to live for God is because *they are not living with God, because they do not believe God!* They may believe *in* God, that He exists, but they do not believe what God tells them and that God has their best interests at heart. They have little trust in God and more trust in themselves. If you come to a point in your life where you start to believe God, then, like Enoch, your faith or belief will wax stronger and your love will become more ardent with each passing day.

“Enoch was a man of strong and highly cultivated mind

and extensive knowledge; he was honored with special revelations from God; yet being in constant communion with Heaven, with a sense of the divine greatness and perfection ever before him, he was one of the humblest of men. The closer the connection with God, the deeper was the sense of his own weakness and imperfection.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85

I ask you—*do you believe God?* It is actually very easy to tell. What is your life like? Do you trust yourself? How often do you ask God to participate in your life? Do you only interact with God a couple of times a day? God wants you to walk with Him every moment of every day. Do you only believe in some scriptures and testimonies that fit your life or way of thinking and others are not so important? That is not believing God.

Enoch did not think himself too wise or too important to be taught of God. Each moment of his life he realized how much he needed to depend on God. But this did not happen from his birth. It took Enoch until he was 65 years old to come to the point where he was humble enough to start believing God, to start trusting Him.

Enoch was one of the sons of God so he was brought up around Adam, who was a first-hand witness to God’s creation. Adam experienced paradise and how it was lost to him through sin. Adam saw first-hand how sin had caused the murder of his own beloved son, Abel, by his other son’s hand. Yet it took Enoch 65 years before he really started to believe God. Sixty-five years before he began a walk with God, *a walk that has never ended.*



“Thus he waited before the Lord, seeking a clearer knowledge of His will, that he might perform it. To him prayer was as the breath of the soul; he lived in the very atmosphere of heaven.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85

I wonder how much we wait before the Lord. How often do we allow God to work with us in our lives? Is your life like living “*in the very atmosphere of heaven*”? I do not know about you, but I want this for my life; I need this for my life. I think I will believe Jesus. I will believe in all that Jesus says.

But, how do I do that?

Trust as Enoch trusted, believe as Enoch believed, and walk with God as Enoch walked. You are never too old

to start.

“The men of that generation had mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver or to build up possessions here. But *Enoch’s heart was upon eternal treasures.* He had looked upon the celestial city. He had seen the King in His glory in the midst of Zion. His mind, his heart, his conversation, were in heaven. The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his longing for the home of God. While still on earth, he dwelt, by faith, in the realms of light.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 87

Enoch’s mind, heart and conversation were in Heaven!

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:5–6

Two steps, “believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8. For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of soul, that he might be in harmony with Heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest; and now the portals opened, the walk with God, so long pursued on earth, continued, and he passed through the gates of the Holy City—*the first from among men to enter there.*” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 87

Enoch became the first man to walk into Heaven, into God’s Holy City, and he walked there with God.





Are we not tired of walking alone on this earth? Are we not tired of failure and regret? Are we tired of being unhappy Christians? Are we not tired of believing in God without knowing and believing God?

Is your goal not the Celestial City that has been promised by Jesus to you personally? The road that leads to that home starts here on earth with

a walk with Jesus, your personal Saviour. This is not a time when we should be thinking first of what we have in our home, but what we have for God's home—what time we have for our work but what time we have for God's work. In truth it should be the same. *A Christian should always be a Christian.*

It is often said that numbers never lie. You can tell a lot from numbers. People do not give and sacrifice for the cause of God and that is very evident from the numbers. God's church should not be poor and always be scraping by. Very few sacrifice for the cause of Jesus. Why do you think that is? I would say because they do not believe God as Enoch did. Enoch did not keep treasure to himself but instead his "heart was upon eternal treasures."

If you just believe in God, you might say that "I am barely making my payments at home, I cannot pay my tithe fully. I cannot give an offering this week, as I do not have much, only enough to cover my expenses. God will understand."

If you really believe God, you will trust in what He says and know that God knows what you have and need. When you pay your tithe faithfully, as He has said, He will bless you—so when you sacrifice and give an offering, even when you are not sure that you can pay your bills, you believe that God will take care of you and provide for you because that is what *He has promised!*

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

Yes, it is a promise from God! But that promise may only be words to you. You see, you have the choice of whether to believe God or not. If you believe God, that is real faith! That real faith then produces real and acceptable works because it is enabled by God's grace. You become the workmanship of Jesus.

When you only believe in God you will be apprehensive about telling someone about God and your experience with Him. But *when you really believe God* there will be no fear. *For you know* that He has said that He will be with you and will surround you with angels to protect you. His Spirit will give you the words to speak. *If you believe God that is real faith!*

It is your choice, my friends, and no one can make that decision for you. But, it all begins with one step. Enoch began with one step and so must we. Do you not want to take that same walk as Enoch did?

Believe God; He does not lie; He does not forget; and He does not tire.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:16-18

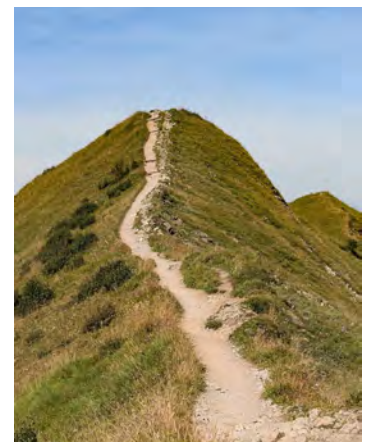
God the Father gave His Son for you, that you might be saved because He loves you. But, do you believe Him? Jesus gave His life to pay the penalty of your sin because He loves you. But, do you believe Him?

That eleven-year-old boy introduced to that verse in Enoch is now a 57-year-old man. I have never regretted starting my walk with God just as I have never forgotten my first memory verse. "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

If you have not yet begun your walk with God, I urge you today to begin. It just takes that first step.

May God grant us the same end as Enoch. Amen.

John Formosa



HEALTH MATTERS:

Lemongrass

Lemongrass is a type of grass, with more than 55 different species, each having its own unique properties. It is a tropical plant that is native to Asia, Africa, and Australia. Lemongrass has red base stems, which can grow up to 3 metres in ideal conditions. Each stalk of lemongrass contains several layers, each growing tightly wrapped around the core. The top layers are tough and green, similar to that of the outer layer of cornhusks. The inner white core of the lemongrass stalk is used in cooking.

One species, *Cymbopogon nardus*, is not edible, however it contains citronella oil, which is used in bug sprays and candles. Its lemon-like scent is irritating to mosquitoes. It can be purchased as an oil that can be used topically. Its effects only last about 20 minutes, but it is a good alternative to DEET containing bug-sprays, if you want to avoid using chemicals on your skin. Lemongrass can also be planted outside to act as an insect repellent in those areas where you spend time outdoors.

The main chemicals in citronella are geraniol and citronellol, oils which have antiseptic properties, and are used in household disinfectants and soaps. Citronellol is mostly used to improve the scent of hair and skincare products, such as shampoos and lotions. Geraniol is an antioxidant and has anti-inflammatory and antifungal properties. It has been proven to treat candida infections, which can infect various parts of the body. It also has a depressant effect on the central nervous system bringing on a feeling of calm-



ness and relaxation which helps to relieve anxiety and promotes good sleep. The calming effect can also relieve muscles spasms, increase appetite, and act as a diuretic to rid the body of excess fluids.

Lemongrass oil is also used to expel worms and other parasites from the intestines. Some studies have found that lemongrass oil applied to the scalp can help reduce dandruff. Other health benefits include lowering cholesterol and boosting red blood cells. Chewing lemongrass can prevent the bacteria forming that causes cavities.

Lemongrass oils can be purchased fresh, as a tea or as an oil

Other species of lemongrass (particularly *Cymbopogon citratus*) are cultivated as culinary and medicinal herbs because of their scent, resembling that of lemons. It has long been a staple ingredient in many Thai dishes around the world. In foods, it can be used in its fresh, dried, or powdered forms. The lemon flavour withstands prolonged cooking, making it perfect for slow cooked stews. It can also be added to teas, sauces, salads, soups, and broths. Some people add it to desserts because of its lemony flavour.

When using lemongrass in its fresh form, cut off the lower bulb and remove the tough outer leaves. The main stalk (the yellow section) is what is used in cooking. You can cut the yellow stalk into 5 to 7 cm lengths and then crush the stalks either by bending them or using a rolling pin. Also, if you create superficial cuts along these sections with your knife, it will help release the lemon flavor. Simply add the stalks to your food. When serving, remove the lemongrass pieces from the dish you have prepared.

One cup of lemongrass contains 17 grams of carbohydrates, 0.3 grams of fat, and 1.2 grams of protein. It also contains the vitamins, A, C, B2, B3, B6 and folate as well as the minerals calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, zinc, copper, manganese and selenium.

When buying lemongrass, look for firm stalks as they produce the best flavour. The lower stalk should be pale yellow, while the upper stalks are green. It can be stored in the fridge, tightly wrapped, for up to two weeks and can also be frozen. The stalks can also be cut into small pieces and dried, and then ground to a powder to be used in food.

“The Lord has given some simple herbs of the field that at times are beneficial; and if every family were educated in how to use these herbs in case of sickness, much suffering might be prevented, and no doctor need be called. These old-fashioned, simple herbs, used intelligently, would have recovered many sick, who have died under drug medication.”
— *The Place of Herbs in Rational Therapy* (Pamphlet).

CHILDREN'S CORNER:



Controlling your Anger

Roger was a very happy young boy. He was very outgoing and loved to make his friends laugh and smile. Most of the time he spent happy days with his friends, however, Roger had one problem. Once in a while, when things did not go his way, he got very angry. When he was angry, his friends did not like to be around him.

One day, in the middle of summer, Roger went out looking for his friends to play with. He knew he had an anger problem and wished he could control it, but sometimes no matter how hard he tried, he just got angry. He wanted his friends to like him, not be scared off by his anger.

When he came to the park, he saw Carla, Elwood, and Bruce just standing around. "Hi, what are you doing?" he said. Carla answered, "We can't decide what to do. What would you like to do?"

"Let's go see if we can get some friends and play ball," said Roger.

"Play ball? I don't really want to," Carla remarked. "I'm no good at playing ball."

Roger was getting frustrated, but he did not want his friends to know. He tried to keep his anger inside, but he could still feel it coming.

Since no one had any ideas, Roger then suggested, "What about hide and seek?"

"I hate that game, I always lose," said Bruce, who was a bit overweight and could not run fast.

Roger was now getting more annoyed, but he did not tell his friends how he was feeling. Finally, he said, "How about all of us racing to the creek and we can throw rocks in the water." He was a fast runner.

Elwood, who was also a fast runner said, "Let's go." So off they ran. Elwood was faster than Roger that day, and when Elwood beat him, Roger got very, very angry and in a loud voice he snapped, "You guys are no fun and I

don't want to play with you anymore."

Bruce, who just got to the creek in time to hear Roger say this, said, "Roger, you're our friend and we like to play with you, but when you get angry, we don't like to be with you." With that, Bruce, Elwood and Carla walked away.

"Well, I never liked them anyway," Roger mumbled as he stomped around the park and scuffed stones with his shoes. "I'll go to my secret place and play by myself."

His secret place was in a little grassy spot behind a lilac bush next to the fence at the far corner of the empty lot behind his family's house. When he felt like nobody liked him, Roger would go to this secret place just to be alone.

"Nobody will find me here," he muttered. Here he sat and sat and muttered and muttered to himself. There was no one to make him frustrated, or hurt, or sad here. But also, there was nobody to talk to or play with either. He thought he would feel better, but he did not. He felt lonely.

Suddenly, he heard a noise. Somebody was nearby, just on the other side of the fence. He looked up to see Mr. Jones peering over the fence at him. Mr. Jones was retired, and he had a flower garden just on the other side. Roger hoped Mr. Jones had not heard him muttering.

"Is that you, Roger? What are you doing here alone?" Mr. Jones asked.

"Just having fun by myself," Roger muttered and looked down at the ground.

"If you're having so much fun, why do you look and sound so sad?"

"I'm angry and I want to be alone," Roger replied.

Mr. Jones looked deep into Roger's eyes and said, "Sometimes when we get hurt or feel frustrated, or things just don't go our way, we get angry. And when

we get angry, we end up hurting those who love us, our friends and family.”

“What do you do when you feel angry?” asked Roger.

“When I begin to feel angry, I pray right away. I need God’s help to take the anger away immediately or then I know I will say something that will hurt my friends and family. It has worked, and now I hardly ever feel angry anymore.”

Roger was surprised to hear Mr. Jones say that. He thought everyone felt things the same way he did when they were angry.

“When things go wrong, and don’t go my way,” continued Mr. Jones, “I now stop and think it through. I ask myself, what I will gain by getting angry. Then I realize it is not worth it. I will end up saying and doing things I regret, so, God helps me to put the angry feelings away immediately and I sing a hymn.”

Roger replied, “When I get angry, I stomp around and, you are right, I say things I wish I had not said. My friends don’t want to play with me now.”

“And how do you feel when your friends don’t like you?” asked Mr. Jones.

“I feel hurt and sad. And then I feel even more angry.”

“So, sometimes when you feel mad, it’s because you first felt hurt and sad and things did not go your way?” asked Mr. Jones.

“I guess so,” said Roger. “I had never thought of that.”

“Well,” said Mr. Jones, “if getting angry didn’t help, what else could you do that might work better?”

“I suppose I should try to do as you do and pray. My parents have morning and evening worship with me, but I never pray in between. I forget all about God during the day.”

Mr. Jones added, “you don’t have to bow on your knees to pray in the middle of the day. If you are in sudden need, God will hear and answer you if you send up a quick prayer from your heart right at the time of danger. And He answers immediately.”

Roger thought long and hard about what Mr. Jones said. That evening when he prayed before bedtime, asking God to help him with his anger during the day.

Next day, Roger went by himself to the park to throw stones in the creek. He was still thinking about what Mr. Jones had said, and he was trying to do as he suggested by sending little prayers to heaven for help to control himself today. He then saw his friends having a wonderful time at the other side of the park. He went close to

them and hoped they would invite him to play. “Hi,” he said. They waved back but continued with their game. They did not invite him to play. Roger felt really hurt inside. He felt sad. But he decided to take Mr. Jones’ advice and he sent another prayer to heaven. “Lord, I feel hurt and sad that my friends don’t want to play with me, but I know it is because I was angry yesterday. Please help me not to be angry today when I am hurt. And please make them want to play with me again.” Roger then started to sing.

Then Elwood heard him singing and noticed that Roger was sad and not mad, so he called him, “Roger, would you like to play with us?”

“Sure,” said Roger. “Thank you, Lord,” he whispered under his breath. In his eagerness to get to his friends, he slipped in the mud at the edge of the creek and fell in. He had mud all over. He heard his friends start to laugh. When he stumbled toward them, they laughed even louder.

Roger was embarrassed that he had fallen in the mud. He did not like his friends laughing at him and he felt a strong temptation to get angry at them and tell them how he was feeling, but again, he took Mr. Jones’s advice. “Lord, I am hurt that they are laughing at me, but they want to play with me. Thank you that I have not hurt myself when I fell in the mud. Please take these angry feelings away.”

Suddenly Roger found himself laughing along with his friends. He looked down at himself. He was not hurt, and he did look pretty funny. It felt good to laugh instead of being angry and stomping away.

Then they all went back to playing their game.

From that day onwards, Roger had learned the secret of controlling his anger. He was helpless to control it himself, but every time he felt the anger rising, he prayed, and Jesus helped him to not be angry. And as time went on, he noticed he was feeling less and less angry. Things did not bother and annoy him as they used to. He had learned to talk with God all day long and, as long as he did, he found himself able to be happy and to laugh, no matter what situation he found himself in.

“Never should we lose control of ourselves. Let us ever keep before us the perfect Pattern. It is a sin to speak impatiently and fretfully or to feel angry—even though we do not speak. We are to walk worthy, giving a right representation of Christ.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 95

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thessalonians, 5:16–18

“I Was Naked and ye clothed Me”



Jesus said, “When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Matthew 25:32–40

It is a sad reality that in countries such as Canada and USA, as well as in every developed nation, there are poor, homeless people living on the streets. They are very much out of the public eye for the most part, but they live there. Many are forlorn and neglected. Many are there due to circumstances beyond their control. Many also have mental health issues. During the sum-

mer time, it is manageable (although still not an ideal living situation), but in the winter time it gets very cold.

When Jesus told His followers to help the poor and needy, He meant not only those in far away countries, where there is much poverty, He also meant that we are not to neglect those close to home. There are the poor, sick and suffering all around us.

“How wise the arrangement of God in giving to every man a work to do to promote the cause and save his fellow men. Each was to demonstrate a living faith in his family and in his neighborhood, by showing kindness to the poor, sympathizing with the afflicted, engaging in missionary labor, and by aiding the cause of God with his means.” –*Testimonies, for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 384

In the past few months, the Lord has impressed me with the ministry to the homeless in the large cities close to where I live. Thanks to generous donations from a few people, my ministry has been able to become a reality.

Some of the local church members have also expressed an interest in helping in this work for our Master.

On the first Monday in October Sister Tiffany, her mother, Sister Tina, and I headed out to the city of Hamilton with a car loaded with clothing and food. We also brought along some Bibles and missionary tracts. We not only want to give people a hand out, but also a hand up to help them find permanent solutions to their problems such as housing. We also want to point them to

Jesus who is their dearest friend, when it seems that they have no friends left in the world. Jesus will help them and comfort them in their lowest point in their lives.

The people we found had a great need for warm clothing, food, blankets, umbrellas, hand warmers and Bi-



bles. They are barely surviving there it seems. The weather is starting to get very cold now as winter approaches. All the people we met were extremely thankful when we pulled up. We kept telling them God loves them as we let them freely choose from the supplies we had brought in our car. Everyone was very excited, very happy, and very, very grateful. I felt so good and happy, and felt like Jesus was smiling at us. I announced that we are doing this because Jesus said that "If we've done it unto the least of these My brethren, you've done it unto Me." Suddenly a homeless lady saw the tracts we were handing out with the messages of hope and church contact information, and exclaimed... "Do you by chance... have a Bible?" I said "Wow, I sure do actually! I knew I brought these for a reason." And I pulled out a small New Testament and held it towards her. She clasped it to her chest in sheer joy and kept uttering words of thanks and praise saying that the Bible would warm her soul, and the clothes we just gave her would warm her body. Another homeless person, a very excited elderly man had heard me mention having the Bible and had immediately hurried to join us too, and when he saw the Bible in my hand his eyes lit up. Luckily I had two, but instantly as soon as I handed my two Bibles out a third homeless person exclaimed "Oh I need a Bible so badly too." And I sadly said "Oh no, that was my last Bible." But it turned out he was friends with the homeless lady I had handed the first Bible to, so they agreed to share the Bible I had given her, and I promised to bring more Bibles next time.

I thank God so much for this beautiful experience. I have never had people ask me for a Bible like that be-

fore. That there is such a thirst for the word of God is a refreshment to the soul. The people saw the love that God gave us to share with them, and then their next question all day was "Do you help with housing too?" All the homeless wanted, they said, is a warm and dry place to stay indoors and that there are not enough shelters. One little elderly lady with a cane was sitting in front of a homeless shelter that had not yet opened for the night, and exclaimed to us that she always "gets there early." I saw that she had a cane that the blind use and was sitting on the front step of the closed homeless shelter with only a light shirt on. All I could think about is that if that were my grandma I would be worried. We asked if she was ok, and if she needed any help, and she assured us that the place would provide her shelter. We gave her a warm coat, hat and gloves.

I told the homeless people that we would love to help with housing and that we are praying for God to provide a solution to that problem, and mentioned helping build small homeless shelters that we could perhaps set up on donated land. One young man advised us that "Three small tarps from the Dollar store, and specifically Gorilla tape," (as apparently all other tape leaks) "would be some necessary items to help construct small temporary makeshift shelters." This would help while we try to help them find permanent shelter.

We met this one young married couple (see picture) who were wanting to stay the nights together and therefore having virtually no luck finding homeless shelters to stay in, as there are only separate men's and women's homeless shelters. A lot of people had tents set up in which to keep what little possessions in the world they have, but in the previous few days there was a heavy rainstorm, and quite



a few people said that everything had gotten wet and were desperate for dry socks especially as they said "The nights are getting very cold now."

At the end of the day we had passed out a full car load of warm and useful items. We had been remarking to each other all day that we were "having so much fun doing Jesus's work" and the car ride home was filled



with many joyous recountings of all the blessings Jesus had blessed us to share with other people. I can say without a doubt it is far better to give than to receive.

We thank everyone so much for your continued prayer and support. Please continue to pray that God can work through us, that together with you we can help save a world that is dying. That we will go beyond dying with Christ but will rise and walk in newness of life too, to also put on the new life of Jesus Christ by living the life that Jesus would live. God is not going to ask you when He returns to earth how big our house was, or what kind of car we were driving... He is going

to ask, "What did you do to feed and clothe My starving children? What did you do to help people who were dying with no hope?" Again, Jesus says "if you have done it unto the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me."

May God bless you all. I pray that wherever we are, we can all do something to provide help to the less fortunate, as God grants us the ability and means.

Since we gave out everything we had, we are now looking for more donations and Bibles so that we can make regular visits to find help these people. With cash donations, we will go to the second hand stores to find good blankets and winter clothing, not to forget the Bibles, at a good price. How beautiful it will be to meet these people one day in heaven. Seemingly, rejected by society, but loved by Jesus.



“Every act, every deed of justice and mercy and benevolence, makes music in heaven. The Father from His throne beholds and numbers the performer of them with His most precious treasures. ‘And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, when I make up My jewels.’ Every merciful act to the needy or the suffering is as though done to Jesus. Whoever succors the poor, or sympathizes with the afflicted and oppressed, and befriends the orphan, brings himself into a more close relationship to Jesus” –*The Review and Herald*, August 16, 1881

“Christ regards all acts of mercy, benevolence, and thoughtful consideration for

the unfortunate, the blind, the lame, the sick, the widow, and the orphan, as done to Himself; and these works are preserved in the heavenly records, and will be rewarded.”--*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 512–513

Sharon Eaton



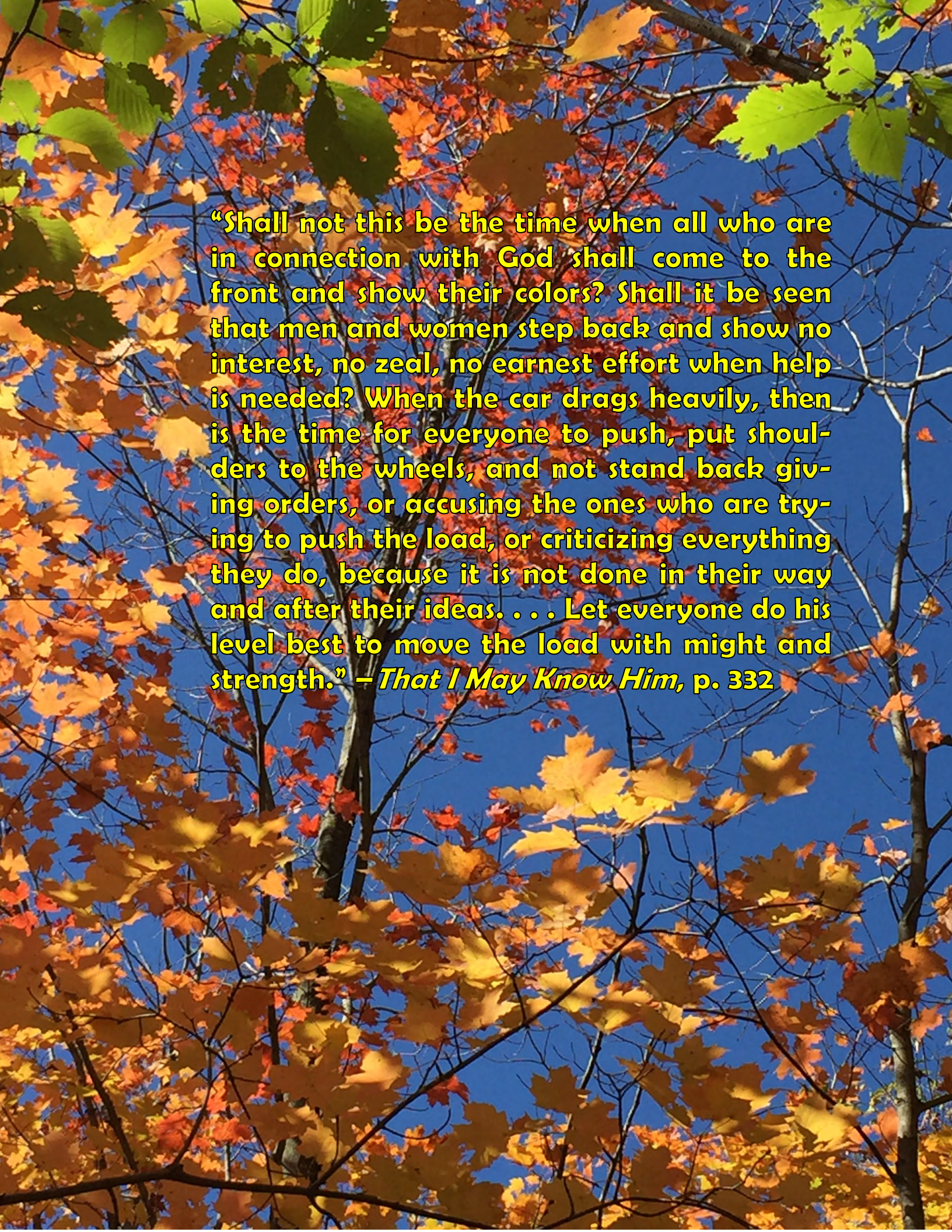
“Seize every opportunity to contribute to the happiness of those around you, sharing with them your affection. Words of kindness, looks of sympathy, expressions of appreciation, would to many a struggling, lonely one be as a cup of cold water to a thirsty soul. . . .

“Live in the sunshine of the Saviour's love. Then your influence will bless the world. Let the Spirit of Christ control you. Let the law of kindness be ever on your lips. Forbearance and unselfishness mark the words and actions of those who are born again, to live the new life in Christ.” –*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 299

“After the Sabbath, August 19, we stepped on board the train for Hastings. The only car for any passengers--second-class--was filled, with few exceptions, with Maoris. Many of them were heavily loaded with drink. There were a few white men, and one of these was as boisterous as the Maoris, who were very rough and boisterous, yelling, stomping, and some smoking. . . . I have to make an effort to center my mind on Jesus and ask for His grace to sustain and comfort me. Exactly opposite us sat three Maori young men who were quiet, intelligent-looking lads. They struck up a song in English and with clear, musical voices sang of Christ and the pardoning love of God to sinners. Oh, how refreshing! It was indeed as cold water to a thirsty soul. They sang hymn after hymn, and I thanked them for thus doing. They stated, pointing to the boisterous Maoris, ‘They are showing their colors and we must show our colors.’” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, p. 102

Believers in Philippines praising the Lord





“Shall not this be the time when all who are in connection with God shall come to the front and show their colors? Shall it be seen that men and women step back and show no interest, no zeal, no earnest effort when help is needed? When the car drags heavily, then is the time for everyone to push, put shoulders to the wheels, and not stand back giving orders, or accusing the ones who are trying to push the load, or criticizing everything they do, because it is not done in their way and after their ideas. . . . Let everyone do his level best to move the load with might and strength.” – *That I May Know Him*, p. 332