



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 9, SEPTEMBER 2022

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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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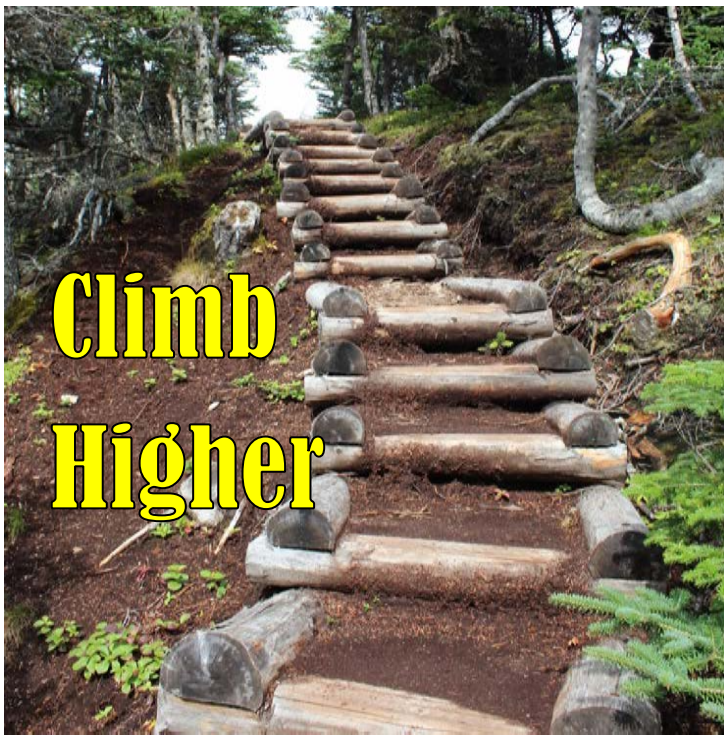
- Telephone: 905-876-2518
- E-mail: [ismessenger@yahoo.com](mailto:ismessenger@yahoo.com)
- Internet: [www.ismessenger.org](http://www.ismessenger.org)
- Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road, Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada

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# Climb Higher

“The humility that bears fruit, filling the soul with a sense of the love of God, will speak for the one who has cherished it, in the great day when men will be rewarded according as their works have been. Happy will be the one of whom it can be said, ‘The Spirit of God never stirred this man's soul in vain. He went forward and upward from strength to strength. Self was not woven into his life. Each message of correction, warning, and counsel he received as a blessing from God. Thus the way was prepared for him to receive still greater blessings, because God did not speak to him in vain. Each step upward on the ladder of progress prepared him to climb still higher. From the top of the ladder the bright beams of God's glory shone upon him. He did not think of resting, but sought constantly to attain the wisdom and righteousness of Christ. Ever he pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.’

“This experience every one who is saved must have.” – *In Heavenly Places*, p. 122

“The youth especially should feel that they must train their minds, and take every opportunity to become intelligent, that they may render acceptable service to Him who has given His precious life for them. And let no one make the mistake of regarding himself as so well educated as to have no more need of studying books or nature. Let everyone improve every opportunity with which in the providence of God he is favored, to acquire all that is possible in revelation or science. We should learn to place the proper estimate on the powers that God has given us. If a youth has to begin at the lowest

round of the ladder, he should not be discouraged, but be determined to climb round after round until he shall hear the voice of Christ saying, ‘Child, come up higher. Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’” – *Fundamentals On Christian Education*, p. 213

“He who is guided by clean, holy principles will be quick to discern the slightest taint of evil, because he keeps Christ before him as his pattern. His deep regret at the discovery of a wrong act means the prompt correction of every step wherein he has diverged from truth. It means a constant, earnest striving for higher and still higher attainments in the Christian life. It means helping others to climb heavenward. It means taking hold of Christ by living faith and resisting evil if need be unto blood, striving against sin.” – *In Heavenly Places*, p. 260

“Those who desire to give themselves to the work of God should receive an education and training for this work, that they may be prepared to engage in it intelligently. They should not feel that they can step at once upon the higher rounds of the ladder; those who would succeed must begin at the first round, and climb upward step by step. Opportunities and privileges are granted for them for improvement, and they should make every effort in their power to learn how to do the work of God acceptably.” – *Gospel Workers*, p. 73

“All heaven is looking upon this company. All the heavenly angels are watching those assembled here. We greatly desire that the deep movings of the Spirit of God shall be felt upon human hearts. Last night I lay awake for hours, saying these very things. I could not keep them out of my mind. I was repeating the very words that I am speaking to you this morning. Clear the King's highway; take out the stumbling-blocks; remove the rubbish; clear away the stones, that the Spirit of God may go through our midst, and that we may see the salvation of God as a lamp that burneth. That is what we need. We can not afford to cover up one sin. We want the richest blessing here; for trial is coming right upon us. Only a little while, only a short time, and every one will be severely tried. We want a daily renewal of the grace of God in our hearts, that we may climb the ladder of perfection step by step, rising higher and higher in the way that leads to heaven, to holiness, and to God.” – *The Review and Herald*, May 18, 1905

*Ellen G. White*

# Wine of Babylon

Terrible accidents are happening every day on our highways, which cause much damage. People are hurt and even killed. Often the cause of the accident is due to drunkenness. This is why laws are so strict against drinking and driving, and the punishment so severe. Also in homes and factories, accidents do happen for the same reason. While being intoxicated, people do not have full control of themselves. Murders have been committed while under the influence of alcohol.

But, nowhere are people so intoxicated as in the religious world. "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters. With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." Revelation 17:1-2

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her; and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." Revelation 18:3

"There are few to whom you bring truth, who have not been drinking of the wine of Babylon. It is hard for them to comprehend the truth." -*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 405

Few people in our world are not drunk with this wine. When you speak to the people, often they do not understand. Their minds cannot grasp the truth. This wine leaves permanent damage. People who have drunk of it deeply have always had difficulty understanding the truth clearly. As long as they live, they easily fall into confusion.

Every person who is drunk with this wine will never make it to heaven. We are travelling on the narrow way, and unless our eyesight is clear, and our feet steady, sooner or later we can fall off the road into a deep abyss, into the drunken world.



In our world today there are in reality only two churches. According to the Bible, one is called the synagogue of Satan. "Behold I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." Revelation 3:9

In the synagogue of Satan there is a large membership. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

By mingling truth with false teachings, they have made the synagogue of Satan very great and popular.

On the other side is the true church of God, a little flock like a mustard seed. "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." Revelation 12:1

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

The church of Satan is divided into many groups and denominations. But the church of God is only one.

There is no division in it, not even two. Only one united family of God.

These two opposing churches are at war against each other. Fallen churches can use weapons such as lies, falsehoods, persecution, prison and death. The true church of God has only one weapon, which is the truth. The word of God is as a two-edged sword.

The woman, Babylon in Revelation 17, is sitting upon the beast, and has in her hand a cup, a golden cup, beautiful. What is inside the cup? Abominations and filthiness. And all nations and inhabitants of the earth are drinking of this cup—wine that makes them drunken.

When you try to reason with a drunk person, it is almost hopeless. Because this wine affects their brain and heart, they cannot reason and understand the truth, neither can they love the truth. Their judgment is not correct.

“Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.” Matthew 23:24

The camel was an unclean animal which they swallowed. But the little gnat they carefully strained out.

The Jews condemned Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, and eating without washing His hands, but they saw nothing wrong in hating Christ and condemning Him to death. When they had to choose between Christ and Barabbas, without hesitation their choice was Barabbas.

This is the same today. When we reject the truth, the words of Jesus, we reject Him. When we join with the world, we choose Barabbas.

What is inside this cup that the great Babylon is offering? What caused Ancient Babylon to fall? “And Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8

The king had a dream, but he forgot it. The wise men could not tell the king his dream. “And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” Daniel 2:11

In their human wisdom, they practiced their religion. The power of the gospel is not in false religion.

“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. And whoso falleth not down and

worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” Daniel 3:1, 6

Even today the churches say, “if you do not worship as we do, you are not our friend but our enemy.” Persecution of nonconformists has continued and will continue during the Sunday law. Today the religious world is the same in its intolerance.

“The king spake, and said, Is this not great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” Daniel 4:30. He was saying, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.

No matter how many members they have, how many churches and ministers, it is the same pride today as was in Ancient Babylon.

“Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.” Daniel 5:1. This type of entertainment is also acceptable in Modern Babylon today.

“Among the most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. Instead of being a school of morality and virtue, as is so often claimed, it is the very hotbed of immorality. Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes, deprave the imagination and debase the morals. Every youth who habitually attends such exhibitions will be corrupted in principle. There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence, as the desire for intoxicating drinks strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 652

“The true Christian will not desire to enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater, the billiard hall, or the bowling saloon.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 515

He will not unite with those who plead for these diversions. We answer, “we cannot indulge in them in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.” The blessing of God would not be invoked upon the hours spent at the theater. No Christian would wish to meet death in such a place. No one would wish to be found there when Christ shall come. In heaven there are no theaters, no bowling al-

leys, no television programs. Here we must prepare to live in heaven.

“The amusement lover, the frequenters of the theater and the ballroom, put eternity out of their reckoning. The whole burden of their life is: what shall we eat? what shall we drink? and wherewithal shall we be clothed? They are not in the procession that is moving heavenward. They are led by the great apostate, and with him will be destroyed.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 407

Jesus was condemned by false witnesses. In modern Babylon, people are condemned and rejected because of their faithfulness and loyalty to God. There is enmity between these two classes—and if there is nothing else to show their hatred, they try to find fault in the true religion found in the church of God.

“Babylon is fallen, ‘because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (Rev. 14:8). What is that wine? Her false doctrines. She has given to the world a false sabbath instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and has repeated the falsehood that Satan first told Eve in Eden—the natural immortality of the soul. Many kindred errors she has spread far and wide, ‘teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.’” —*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 118

In Matthew 15:9, Jesus said, “In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Righteousness without commandment-keeping is the most illogical theory. To worship God while believing man’s ideas and doctrines is a worthless religion. There is no joy in such a religion, only misery, wretchedness, soul poverty, and blindness.

What is the outcome of being drunk with the wine of Babylon? “Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister; therefore will I give her cup into thine hand. Thus saith the Lord GOD: Thou shalt drink of thy sister’s cup deep and large: thou shalt be laughed to scorn and had in derision; it containeth much. Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria.” Ezekiel 23:31–33

“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD’s hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations

have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.” Jeremiah 51:7

“He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood.” Lamentations 3:15. Drunkenness and bitterness cannot be separated.

“For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.” Nahum 1:10. Drunkenness brings destruction upon us.

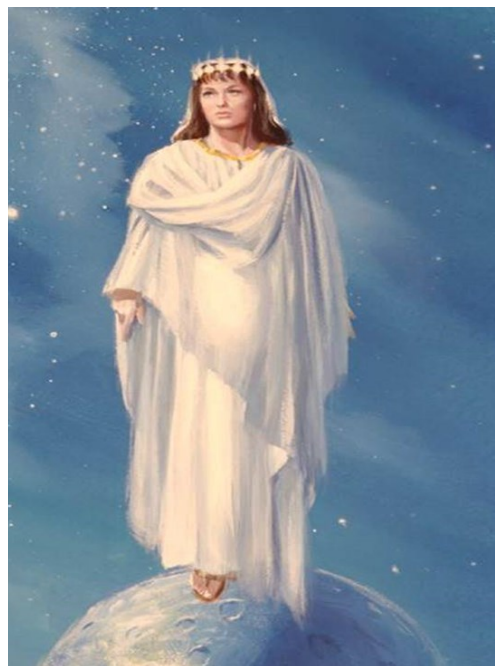
“Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. for the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed.” Isaiah 29:9–11

Their eyes are closed. Seers and prophets are not seen; their visions and words are as a book that is sealed. They cannot understand the truth. Their mind is intoxicated by the wine of Babylon, and they cannot see, hear or understand the truth.

Jesus spoke a parable of two servants. “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants,

and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of. And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: for there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 24:45–51

One servant is giving the right spiritual food at the right time to the people. He is speaking the truth. The other servant joins with the drunken to eat and drink with them and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and with his mouth he says that the Lord is coming soon, but in his heart he is saying the Lord is



not coming yet. I can enjoy the world, its pleasure, fun, and good times, and he turns against the faithful servants.

Jesus said, "the brother will turn against the brother, and deliver him to death." Matthew 10:21

So blinded, so intoxicated, can Christians become, as to hate their fellow believers. Many times throughout history, and even as late as World War 1, we read of people who were persecuted and betrayed to governing authorities by former brethren in the faith and even family members. Their brethren and family members had given up their faith under pressure of persecution from the government and joined to eat and drink with the drunken and to smite their fellow servants.

So strong is the influence of the wine of Babylon that their eyes will close and their minds can no longer see the difference between right and wrong.

The Roman governor, Pilate, had a better understanding and eyesight than the Jews. He could see that Jesus was innocent. "Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet? And as for My flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet." Ezekiel 34:18-19

God had given to the people great truths, and understanding of His laws and statutes and of the prophecies. Unfortunately, some leaders who had drunk of the deep waters have fouled the waters with their feet, and gave polluted water to the flock. God has church today and is calling all who are not satisfied with the wine of Babylon to come to the fountain of the water of life within its borders.

Peter calls us to be sober, because our enemy goes around as a roaring lion, offering wine that would confuse us, and make us lose the saving truth. Paul calls us

to teach the sound doctrine, and not pleasing fables. It is dangerous for us to visit churches that teach errors, and to drink at their fountains of polluted water. They may have some truth, but error mixed in it makes it dangerous. The more truth there is and the less error makes it harder to detect



and therefore more dangerous. As soon as we come under their intoxicating influence we start seeing things in the same light and become confused. Our spiritual understanding will be confused.

When you associate with people with unclean garments, they will soil your garment of righteousness. When you spend a lot of time with a worldly-minded person, their spirit can easily catch you. The world-loving, pleasure seeker will have a terrible influence over others. By spending too much time with the wrong company you play with fire. You cannot come out clean. No one is able to stay spotless under the wrong influence, when they willfully place themselves there.

Fallen churches, as well as the world with its sin and entertainment, are under the same leadership. Satan controls both. They are his enchanted grounds where they can become hypnotized, and cannot see clearly anymore. Then they will be like the Jewish nation, straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

Today almost the whole world is in this condition. "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24:5, 20

The inhabitants of the world and all the nations are drunk from the wine of Babylon, and therefore are ready to fall.

Terrible accidents happen among false Christians; they lose their way, and their eternal life. They become intoxicated by the wine of Babylon and by the wine of the world, and they fall into a complacent condition, seemingly so restful and peaceful, yet so dangerous.

Many Christians who are church goers, sleep a sleep of death, never to awake, until it is too late, forever too late.

God has a church. God has an agency for our salvation, who offers the water of life for the thirsty soul.

If you have been addicted to the wine of Babylon, by prayer and fasting ask the Lord to help you to see the truth clearly, and go only where only the truth is spoken. Go to the fountain of the water of life. Then only can you be safe and make it to heaven in the end. Amen.

*Timo Martin*



# The Polzer Family Share Their

## Experiences and Memories (Part 3)

**(Family of Franziska Pedersen, Canada)**

Previously: The Polzer family was facing persecution as Germans by descent but living in Yugoslavia during and after World War II. They had just recently escaped prison camp in Knicanin and were travelling to Germany, but were recaptured before they could leave the country and were sent to prison camp in Sombor.

The camp in Sombor was terrible—wooden barracks with leaky roofs, wet straw on the floor for a bed, no blankets to sleep on or cover up with. We got our meals from the community kitchen three times a day, but we did not have bowls, plates, spoons, or forks. We had to wait until some kind people would let us have their dishes so that we could get our meal. It was often a challenge to get food that we as vegetarians could eat. Every morning, we had to get up at daybreak and go out for roll call to see whether everyone was still there. About a week later they called us all out into the yard and some official gave us a speech that we will get our freedom. They would give us our rights back. We would get a new ID, get work, earn money, buy things, and have the right to see a doctor and dentist. They kept talking like that every day for four weeks, but no one believed them, because it had been three years since everything was taken away from us and we became government property.

It took three years to gain our freedom again: 1945 to 1948.

Finally, around mid-March, the big trucks came and loaded us all up to take us to the railroad station. We were put in boxcars and taken to a government-owned property which used to be large German farms. Now, it was all one farm and they had built a big brick building with windows. About eight bricks off the floor were some boards with clean straw and new pillows and blankets. It was clean and dry—no bedbugs or lice in the beds. The kitchen had big pots, no black iron kettles like the camp. We had our first meal as soon as we got there—a lot of white bread and thick cabbage soup with potatoes. We were all very happy for that meal. Mother got the food for us. Franziska kissed the white bread! Every day she would say, “I want white bread,” and it broke Mother’s heart. Franziska was five years old at that time.

They let us rest for a few days and then the children had to go to school. Theresa was 11 years old. They gave her a test and put her in grade 4. Barbara and Franziska started grade 1. Josef was only two years old. Mother and Father went to work with the bricklayers. Since we were a big family, we were given an empty German house. The previous occupants were probably also somewhere in the camp or had fled the country during the German occupation. So, we got out of the barracks and lived in a house. It was pretty good compared to the previous three years, but our parents had



to work for two years here before we could move somewhere else. They got paid for their work and so we were eating our own food and could buy some necessary things.

After some time, we found Brother Milan Kasabasic and his wife Sister Andja. They lived not too far on the other side of the Danube River, and there were other believers too. About one year after we had been brought here, one of the brothers who had a cow that had a female calf asked our Father whether he would like to have the calf. The government did not let anyone have two cows. So they brought her in a rowboat at night over the Danube River. We also had some goats by that time with babies. The calf did not know how to graze, so we had to teach her. She was so nice and we loved her so much. Her name was Schecky (Shecky).

She thought the goat was her Mama and ran after her all the time—this was in 1949. Now our Mother was expecting a baby. Father did not want to stay in Backa (Bachka) on the government run farm Labudnjaca, (Labudnjacha), north-west of Belgrade, so he planned to move to Banat, where he used to have his home, but there the houses and land were all occupied by people from the Macedonian mountains.

Since Mother's baby was going to be born soon, she left by train to go to Jabuka—her birthplace. On October 31, 1949, Anton (Tony), our little brother, was born. Mother stayed at Sister Kristina Tinus' house. She was a Seventh-day Adventist church member. Father packed us up—four kids, calf and dog—and we walked to the train station to pay for a boxcar and travel to Banat. On the way to the station we all got very thirsty and when we came to a well in a field Father let the bucket down to pull some water up. Schecky was so thirsty too. She ran to the bucket and stuck her nose in, but would not drink the water. We all drank, and within 10 minutes were sick with stomach cramps. Everyone was sick, but our calf. At the station, we had to wait for a freight train to come hook our car up to take us to our destination. Our journey took several days since we travelled on a freight train.

We travelled by train to Jabuka in the boxcar—our Father, we children, our calf and dog. When we arrived in Jabuka, Father rented a very nice German house which the government had given to an officer, but his wife did not like living in the village, so they moved to the city and rented the house out. Before we got that house, we lived in a one-room summer kitchen on a big German farm. But now a large Macedonian family lived in it.

They let us have the summer kitchen across the yard for that first winter. Father got a job working for the company that took care of the levies beside the River Tamis. Mother also worked with him. Theresa was 12 years old and took care of our baby brother Tony, Josef who was three years old, Franziska six years old, and Barbara nine years old that summer of 1950.

Toma Buneta was Father's boss. He was the same man that Father gave Peter Cosic's documents to years before. Toma Buneta and his family lived in a house close to the levy which kept the water from flooding the government-owned farmland every spring when the River Tamis would overflow its banks. Toma was employed by the government. Every 12 km or so was a house where a watchman and his family lived. His job was to keep an eye on the levy for several kilometers, and in case a problem should arise, he would look after matters. Toma gave us a small piece of land, a little distance away from his house; it was at the one end of a little forest with young trees. Toma said, "Josef, build yourself a house and bring the family over the River Tamis to the country."

We all helped build our little house out of sticks and mud, but the inside was nicely white-washed; only the outside looked very rough, made of wood from trees in the area. On the interior the wood was just smeared (plastered) with mud. The house was one bedroom and a kitchen. The bedroom had a double bed on each side of the room. In the front was a window, and at the end of one bed was a single bed and on the other side was a baby bed for Tony. Father made all the beds. Mother made our mattresses filled with straw. Mother and Father slept in one bed, Barbara and Theresa in the other, Josef and Franziska in the third. Sometimes we traded beds; only Tony was the lucky one to have his own bed! There was no electricity, no running water, and only a dirt floor. We had a woodstove in the kitchen and our light was an oil lamp.

Shecky's stall was on the other side of our kitchen wall. The outhouse was a little distance away from the house. We had to carry our water for drinking and cooking from the Bunetas who had a pump in their yard. When it was time to do laundry, the water was brought from the pump, heated on our woodstove in the kitchen and the laundry was washed by hand on a washboard in a metal tub which also served as our bathtub. In summer we sometimes walked over the levy to the River Tamis to get a good wash on Friday afternoon, getting ready for the Sabbath. Life in those days was very different.



The Lord was with us. We had a roof over our head, food to eat, and our parents were with us. We had our freedom and we felt blessed.

Toma Buneta had several cows and he was so kind to allow our Shecky to graze with his on Government land. Whenever we were not attending school we looked after the cows so they did not go into the area where government crops were growing or into the clover fields. In the summer when it got hot, they were often tempted to run over the levy and stand in the dug-out areas full of water to cool off. These low areas were created when they took the earth for building the levy years before.

The Bunetas were very good people. Toma and Anna had four children, Johan (Yole), Slavica, Franjo and Zvonko. Anna's mother, Hana also lived with them. They had everything, and the main thing was a lot of food! Anna always gave us milk, bread, cornmeal, and honey from their beehives when we first moved there. They had a large garden which their grandma Hana looked after. Toma gave us potatoes, corn, beans, cabbage, etc. while we were waiting for our garden to grow and supply us with our own vegetables.

Barbara and Franziska started school in Jabucki Rit, a large government farming settlement. The school was in a small village called Uprava, which was about 3 km from our little house. There was no bus or any kind of transportation in that area, no houses either—only farmland and a dirt road. At Uprava the government had large barns where they raised dairy cows and the farmland was mainly owned by the government. Barbara, Franziska and Josef, when he was old enough, walked to school every day, rain or shine. Our Father had a bicycle, and that was it. Barbara attended school in the mornings and Josef and Franziska in the afternoons.

Those of us who went to school in Uprava remember as if it was yesterday how often we had cold and wet feet in the winter when arriving at school. The reason was that all we had to wear on our feet in the winter snow were rubber boots with our feet wrapped in old diapers or other rags to try and keep them warm on the 3 km walk. The winter could sometimes be very cold with tons of snow as well. Theresa was 13 and had to work with Mother and Father digging ditches and planting trees, sometimes in mud up to their ankles in rubber boots. She had cold feet and hands a lot in early spring and fall. In the summer, Theresa went to work on the government owned farmland in Jabucki Rit.

Life got a little better. We had a garden, and our little calf had grown up and had a calf, so we had our own milk and our Mother made cheese and also what we called sour milk. It was very similar to the yogurt we get today.

I (Franziska) remember one winter having a bad snowstorm with high winds during the night while living in our little house. This caused high snowdrifts. When we got up in the morning, Dad was unable to open our door to get out of the house. A snowdrift was right in front of the door. Dad had to work on it for quite a while, inch by inch to get the door open. When he got outside, he found a snowdrift against the back of the house as high as the wall. Our outhouse was buried beneath the snow, so Dad just dug out an area for us to use until the snow which covered the outhouse had melted.

While we lived in Jabucki Rit, near Toma Buneta, Nevenka Brajdic, now Nevenka Doemland who now lives with her husband Frank Doemland in Loveland, Colorado, USA moved to the Uprava with her mother Marina, her two aunts, Desa and Ivanka and her grandmother. The grown-ups worked in the vegetable fields owned by the Government. Nevenka was a toddler at that time. The family Bauman and Gebhard who were together with us in Knicanin and came to the truth there, lived in Padinska Skela about 20 km from us. I remember our family walking there one Friday to worship with them on the Sabbath. They immigrated to Germany in the early 50's and settled there. While living there, we also were acquainted with the Baumung family, Fritz, Siegfried, Elizabeth and their mother. They also moved from Yugoslavia to Germany in the early 50's.

In 1950, the government said all Germans who are not citizens can go to Germany. Mother and Father had taken their Yugoslavian citizenship because they

thought if you did not take it, you are showing that you are an enemy of the State and would go back to the concentration camp. The government was asking 12,000 Dinars per person to give up the citizenship and be allowed to move to Germany. Both Father and Mother and Theresa had earned very little money, so there was not much. We applied to emigrate and finally received our documents in 1954. We sold our cow for 25,000 Dinars and paid 24,000 to release us from the citizenship. Theresa went over and over—first walking 3 km to the train station to catch a train to Belgrade and there go to the government office to check whether the documents were ready, and the answer was always “No” until one day it finally happened. During our waiting period, it was suggested by some that if we gave the officers some

money, our documents would get done faster, but we did not have any money to give away.

So in the summer of 1954 all seven of us travelled to Germany. Theresia was 16, Barbara was 13, Franziska was 10, Josef 7, and Tony was 4 years old. It had rained and so we walked barefoot on the dirt road to the train station, carrying our sandals and socks with us. When we arrived in Uprava, where we used to attend school, we washed our feet in a puddle and put our sandals on, before getting on the train. We stayed with Brother Jova Ovuka in Belgrade over the weekend and then continued by train towards Germany.

*Compiled by Franziska Pedersen*

*To Be Continued*



Visa Photo taken in 1953 (Left to Right)

Back: Theresa, Mother, Father, Barbara. Front: Tony, Franziska, Josef

**“We shall never know what dangers, seen and unseen, we have been delivered from through the interposition of the angels until we shall see in the light of eternity the providences of God. Then we shall better understand what God has done for us all the days of our life. We shall know then that the whole heavenly family watched to see our course of action from day to day.” –*In Heavenly Places*, p. 101**



“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:1–2. This verse was the theme of the recent Canadian Field Conference (July 29–31, 2022).

Brother Nicholas Anca, the Canadian Field President, opened the conference on Friday by reading Psalm 34:4, “I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” Not long after David was anointed as king of Israel, he found himself fleeing for his life. Brother Anca posed the question, “What direction are we fleeing?” When the Lord calls us we often need to turn in the opposite direction to where the world is going. We are in the world but not of the world. Seeing the events in the world we know that we live in the last days of this earth’s history and so we all have a mission. The Lord asks each one of us to Arise and Shine.

Following the introduction, Brother Evald Pedersen spoke. He directed our minds to the true source of light. “This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5

Light is opposite of darkness. Light is necessary for all life on this planet. Without God, all is darkness. Being in the dark can be a very uncomfortable feeling. You are unaware of the dangers around you. Before God came into this world, there was darkness and chaos. If God is not there, sooner or later things become chaotic.

John described a person who is in darkness like this. “But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” 1 John 2:11. Hate = darkness. Hatred has led to wars, and to murder. It is therefore very important to control the mind to keep these evil

thoughts out.

John then provides a solution. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:1–2. If we go to Jesus and learn of Him, we will be like Him. If we understand the love of God, we shall never be able to hate again.

There are people who actually love darkness. “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be re-proved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” John 3:19–21. When the Jewish leaders took Jesus, they did it at night for fear of the people. They had the Scriptures and the evidence of His miracles, but they preferred to stay in darkness. God’s light can shine but if we choose darkness, no light can help.

When Jesus comes in the clouds of glory, we will see the greatest light. May we reflect the light the Lord has given us today.

Brother Elder Hernandez continued by sharing the subject, “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” Romans 13:12

The apostle Paul encouraged the Roman believers to cast off the works of darkness. Unlike the other letters he wrote, which were for the encouragement of the churches he had established, Paul had never met the believers in Rome when he wrote this letter. He had always desired to go to Rome, “After these things were ended, Paul purposed in

the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome." Acts 19:21. Being a large city, and the capital of the world, there would be opportunity to meet people from all over the world who could carry the message of salvation far and wide. Rome was not only a large city, but there was much darkness. Thus Paul was encouraging the believers not to be affected by the darkness around them. He told them to "cast off" the works of darkness and "put on" the armour of light.

The verse before the opening verse, in Romans 13:11, it reads, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Now is the right time to wake out of our sleep and cast off the works of darkness.

After a lively Sabbath School, Brother Douglas Francis, the General Conference Secretary, spoke about the theme, "*Arise and Shine*" for the divine service on Sabbath.

The Bible Verse in Isaiah 60:1 does not say, "Sit and shine" or "Sleep and shine."

Isaiah wrote this text in troublesome times. The ten Northern Tribes had already gone into captivity. The remaining people were discouraged and then he brings this message.

In the previous chapter, Isaiah gives them assurance and confidence. "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear." Isaiah 59:1

However, in verse 2 he tells the people what the cause of all their problems were. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." And further in the chapter in verses 12 and 13 we read: "For our transgressions are multiplied before Thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood."

For many Israelites, their worship had just become a round of ceremonies and their heart was not fully in it. It is also true with some today. They want to keep on sinning in secret. Today Jesus is still calling people back to Him. He is asking for your hearts, and your thoughts—your complete self.

In order to shine, we must have light in the first place. Jesus is the light of the world and if you have Him, you have light.

The disciples and Christians throughout the ages did not shine only when there was peace, but they also shone in

difficult times. They did not hide their light under a bushel to spare them any trouble. If Jesus is in you, you cannot help but to shine. The Lord is calling you to shine also today at all times.

Sabbath Afternoon, Brother Neptali Acevedo from the United States continued by sharing the topic of *Victory Through the Spirit*.

Human beings are born with a sinful nature. Therefore, their tendency naturally leans towards sin. It is a challenge for many to keep the law of God. There is a misconception by many that when they overcome, they have done it in their own strength. They state that Jesus has done part of the saving, but they have done the rest. Jesus died, yes, but the rest they have done in their own power.

Some get discouraged when they see their deficiencies and find themselves in the situation the apostle Paul wrote about in Romans 7:15–19. In these verses Paul presents a frustrating situation that some believers find themselves in. I know what is good, but I am not able to do it. "But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling-stone." Romans 9:31–32. They *tried*, but not by faith. If we try in our own power, we will fail.

The nation of Israel gave up when, on the borders of the Promised Land the first time, they saw the giants in the land. They were sent back into the wilderness for 40 years until they learned that victory is only through Christ.

Jehoshaphat was disheartened by the size of his enemy until the Lord sent him a prophet to tell him the battle is not his, but the Lord's. If you feel overwhelmed, remember, the battle is the Lord's, not your own. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. You may have mountains in front of you, preventing you from going forward, but you must trust the Lord. When we put our hopes and energies at the feet of Jesus this is when we gain the victory.

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324

When Jesus fights with you and defends you, you will come off victorious.

In the late afternoon on Sabbath, during the testimony meeting, several members gave thanks to the Lord for His blessings and benefits. The highlight was to hear words of encouragement from our oldest member. Sister Teresita in London, Canada who will celebrate her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday next month. She encouraged the youth to remain faithful and to share the gospel message to the world. We have many blessings to thank the Lord for.

At the end of a long and blessed Sabbath day, Brother Basheer Kheder, originally from Iraq, shared a message about *Shining for Jesus*.

The Lord calls each one of us to be a light in the world. When Jesus asks you to let your light shine it means to be true and willing to be witnesses to those around us in the midst of this world that is sinking in darkness of sin.

Firstly, the question was asked, "How do we become lights in the world?" The apostle Paul writes, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12. Fear and trembling means having a sensitivity to sin and worldly practices. If we want to prove our doctrines, the words we speak only will not have as much of an effect as the life we live. Yet it is, "God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13. The power comes from Christ, not from within ourselves.

Then Paul goes on to say, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." verse 14. After we understand the truth we should obey it without complaint or doubt.

We are called to be lights to the entire world, not only in the church and among our loved ones who appreciate the light. We are to be a light everywhere in the midst of this corrupt world, whether at school, at work, or anywhere we go in public.

And why are we called to be lights? "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16. Two reasons are given here, so that men may see your good works, but also to glorify your Father in heaven.

May the Lord help us to be lights, not only in our church pew, but to the entire world.

Sunday morning found us at the shores of Lake Ontario.

This is always the highlight of the conference. Six dear souls turned their backs on the world and began their journey towards the heavenly Canaan as they followed the example of Jesus in baptism. They buried the past in the waters of the lake, and turned heavenwards. All heaven rejoiced along with all the believers present. Our new brothers and sisters are no longer ordinary people. They are princes and princesses—children of the heavenly King. We are all part of the family of God. (See picture on inside back cover)

After the welcoming in ceremony, Brother Errol Fletcher continued the series of messages by sharing a message about "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:34

Jesus spoke these words to the disciples in the Upper Room. It was one of the final messages He had for them. When one is nearing the end of their life, we often want to know what their final words were. These were the final words that Jesus wanted to leave with His disciples. Not long after He was crucified.

This message is for us today also. Jesus tells us to love each other. We are all one family.

But why a new commandment? If you read a different translation of the Bible, it reads "a renewed" commandment. The love required of the believer and the love of God does not change. It is renewed and will continue.

Love is from Jesus and flows out to our fellow men and



this is only possible if we maintain our connection with Jesus. We were all encouraged to make this possible in our personal lives and in the church.

The final message was given by Brother Nicholas Anca who spoke a very important message about, *The Church's Mission and Message*.

Jesus' final words to His followers before ascending to heaven were: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

Most people in the world are walking in darkness today and need the light. It is the mission of the church and each individual to go and share this light. We are ambassadors for Christ. In order to be successful we must be reconciled to our brothers and reconciled to God. "God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 30. "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 102

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25), they all were sleeping, but five had no oil. They missed what was most important. They had a candle, but no light. Today all have a Bible, but not all have the Holy Spirit. Time is short and we are called to prepare the way for Jesus' second coming as John the Baptist prepared the way for His first. "As a prophet, John was 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to

the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 101. The Lord calls us to awake out of our spiritual sleep. He is coming and He has a place for you to work. That is the only way we can continue shining for Jesus—by working for Him.

In conclusion, Brother Douglas Francis recapped the highlights of the conference. If we continue reading in Isaiah 60 and read verse 3, we read: "And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." It is our duty to shine, and if we do so, the Gentiles will be attracted to the message; they will come.

From the life of Jesus we read "And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when He was come out of the ship, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit." Mark 5:1-2. This is a familiar story; however, the point was brought out that Jesus went to find him. There are people with unclean spirits in the world and they will not come to you. You, as a representative of Jesus, have to go and find them. Take Jesus home with you, spread His word. Arise and Shine.

Amen.

*Canadian Field Secretary*  
**Wendy Eaton**





# We Are the Light of the World

Light is defined as “the natural agent (force of nature) that stimulates our sight and makes things visible.” When our eyes encounter light, they send messages to our brain in order for us to see. Light is a form of electromagnetic radiation that can be detected by the human eye, called visible light. In simple terms, electromagnetic radiation consists of waves that contain both an electric field and a magnetic field. These waves carry energy and travel at the speed of light. Although electromagnetic radiation occurs over an extremely wide range of wavelengths, from gamma rays with wavelengths less than about  $1 \times 10^{-11}$  meters to radio waves measured in meters, our eyes can only see wavelengths that correspond to visible light, consisting of the colours of the rainbow.

Light allows us to see the surrounding world by distinguishing details, individual colors, movement, and brightness. It has a very big impact on a human in terms of physiology (how our body functions) and psyche (thoughts and feelings). Light also has extremely important functions in relation to a lot of biological processes that occur in our body, everything that makes our body work, for example, breathing and digestion.

What is light made of?

Light is made of particles called photons, bundles of the electromagnetic field that carry a specific amount of energy. With sophisticated equipment, you can count photons or even perform measurements on a single one. Light helps us to see things. It helps plants to make food and grow. It is used to power satellites and space sta-

tions. It is used in many electronic appliances.

What is light in our life?

Light is the source of all life on our planet. The importance of light could be comprehended as plants synthesize (create) nutrients from light using chlorophyll; plants also filter the air we breathe. Animals and humans depend on plants for survival. Therefore, everything depends on light in some way.

When you think of light within the human body, our mind has light in it; when you think, you emit energy or light. The human body is so much more than its apparent physical aspect. The human mind is vaster than the mind itself can know. The purpose of life is far more profound than chasing achievements in society, career, and family.

The human body converts energy stored in food into work—thermal energy or chemical energy that is stored in the fatty tissues of our body. The energy included in the basal metabolic rate (the number of calories you burn as your body performs all of its basic life-sustaining functions) is divided among various systems in the body with the largest portion going to the liver and spleen and brain.

The elements in our bodies like sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium have a specific electrical charge. Almost all our cells can use these charged elements called ions to generate electricity. Humans obtain energy from three classes of fuel molecules: carbohydrates, lipids (fats), and proteins. The chemical energy of these



molecules is transformed into other energy forms such as thermal (heat), kinetic (movement) and other chemical forms.

Electricity is everywhere, even in the human body. Our cells are specialized to conduct electrical currents. Electricity is required for the nervous system to send signals throughout the body and to the brain, making it possible for us to move, think, and feel. Our body even contains radioactive particles which come from our environment, our food; even our own body processes create radioactive particles.

How much electricity is in the human body?

Scientists agree that the human body, at rest, can produce around 100 watts of power on average. This is enough electricity to power up a light bulb. Some humans have the ability to output over 2,000 watts of power, for example, when sprinting.

Seeing how humans can only exist because of sunlight, it is not so far-fetched to know that our bodies also emit light, in the form of biophotons, light particles that are not visible to the naked eye. Biologists have measured biophotons produced by rat brains at the rate of one photon per neuron per minute. Although that does not sound like many, there are  $10^{11}$  neurons in a human brain, which suggests it could produce more than a billion biophotons per second.

Since then, the evidence has grown. So-called biophotons seem to be produced naturally in the brain and elsewhere in the body by the decay of certain electronically excited molecular species. Our brains produce biophotons with wavelengths of between 200 and 1,300 nanometers; in other words, from near-infrared to ultraviolet. We are truly fearfully and wonderfully made.

“God endowed man with so great vital force that he has withstood the accumulation of disease brought upon the race in consequence of perverted habits and has continued for six thousand years. This fact in itself is enough evidence to us of the strength and electrical energy that God gave to man at his creation. If Adam, at his creation, had not been endowed with twenty times as much vital force as men now have, the race, with their present habits of living in violation of natural law, would have become extinct.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 21

“The love which Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part of the brain, the heart, and the nerves it touches with healing. By it, the highest energies of the being are roused to activity. It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the anxiety

and care, that crush the life forces. With it come serenity and composure. It implants in the soul, joy that nothing earthly can destroy, joy in the Holy Spirit, health-giving, life-giving joy.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 216

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:14–16

“The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Psalm 119:130

“It [the Word of God] is a light shining in a dark place. As we search its pages, light enters the heart, illuminating the mind. By this light, we see what we ought to be.

“We see in the Word, warnings, and promises, with God behind them all. We are invited to search this Word for aid when brought into difficult places. If we do not consult the Guidebook at every step, inquiring, Is this the way of the Lord? our words and acts will be tainted by selfishness. We shall forget God and walk in paths that He has not chosen for us.” —*My Life Today*, p. 27

“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” 1 Thessalonians 5:5

“The Bible is God’s great director. It is a lamp to our feet, a light to our path. It flashes its light ahead, so that we may see the path by which we are traveling; and its rays are thrown back on history, showing the most perfect harmony in that which to the mind in darkness appears like error and discord. In that which seems to the worldling an inexplicable mystery, God’s children see light and beauty.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 328

“Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:14.  
Amen

*Daniel Kimeu*



# NOAH – The Story of the Flood

Based on Genesis 5-9 in Four Parts

## Part Four: The Dry Earth



*In the 600<sup>th</sup> and first year, first month, first day,  
Carefully and anxiously,  
Noah opened up the cover of the ark and looked –  
What he saw made him cry out with joy – for all the ground was dry!  
And in the second month, 27<sup>th</sup> day the whole earth was dry.  
Then the ark's heavy door was opened by the angel of the LORD,  
And God said to Noah to come forth, his family and every living creature,  
To replenish with life again the earth and nature.  
What a joy it was to step out on solid ground again!  
To see the vastness of the sky, soaking up the pure fresh air,  
To behold the land so fair, with the carpet of green grass,  
And the lovely blooming flower mass.  
Happiness was on each face, gratefulness that by God's grace,  
The long confinement had an end, to walk and live now on new land!*

.....

*Noah built an altar to the LORD, brought burnt offerings of every kind  
Of clean animals and fowl. All through the deluge, he kept his mind  
Close upon his God, a day without worship he spent not.  
And now to express his gratefulness, his heart did overflow with praise,  
And with the sacrifice did raise his prayer to the great Creator,  
That he might lead, direct him and family on this now different earth,  
And his prayer God had heard.  
And God said in His heart, He will not again to curse the earth,  
For man's imagination from his youth is evil, contrary to His will.  
Neither will He bring again so great destruction to every living thing.  
Summer and winter, seedtime and harvest,  
Day and night, cold and heat shall remain,  
All by His grace He will sustain.  
And God blessed Noah and his sons  
To be fruitful and repopulate the earth.  
And the fear of them shall be upon every animal and bird,  
And upon the fishes in the sea, into their hands delivered were to be.  
Then God did make with Noah a covenant, His righteous, faithful servant,  
Never more to bring a flood again upon the earth but that it shall remain.  
And as a token for His promise, God will set a bow unto the earth below,*

*That after any rainstorm shall be seen a rainbow  
In the clouds as a reminder of the covenant,  
God made between all flesh, the earth and Him be constant.  
And every living creature, to preserve all nature.*

.....

*From the turmoil of the waters, the open up of the great deep,  
High mountain ranges were thrust up, steep and rugged, rocky, bare on top.  
Everywhere the landscape was different now in shape.  
The surface of the valleys, open plains uneven, littered strewn about  
With rocks and boulders with rivers winding through.  
But will soon be green and graced with willows, other trees  
And shrubs, where birds will build their nest,  
And cattle, horses, graze and rest.  
Hills yet bare with sparkling brooks cascading down,  
Soon with trees and bushes, flowers, berries shall wear nature's lovely gown.  
Near rives, lakes, lush forests will be home to many animals to roam.  
Lakes and ponds for fowl will beautify the plains  
With rich green grass and shrubs for pasture and grow grains.*

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*Far away the great wide sea, for later generations to explore, discover, see  
New lands to make a home, expanding living room,  
And by such separation forming other nations.*

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*Noah at once did built a home, the timber taken from the stalls  
And chambers of the ark and fenced the area in,  
To keep his own kept cattle, sheep and goats within.  
All the animals dispersed in all directions,  
Down the hills and up the mountains,  
With the fear of man in them to keep away from him.  
Noah a garden planted then, with the seeds he brought with him,  
For trees and fruit trees, shrubs and flowers, veggies, berries,  
Their beauty soon to cherish, the taste of fruit and berries relish.  
Then children's laughter filled the air, God's blessings were felt everywhere,  
Life again was beautiful and fair!*



*“And Noah lived after the flood 300 and 50 years,” and died.  
He was 950 years old, a man of faith and courage very bold,  
Therefore his amazing, grand and unique story was here told.  
Amen.*

*Edda Tedford. Canada*

**HEALTH MATTERS:**

## Indulgence of Appetite:

## Satan's Most Effective Tool

For this month, instead of speaking on a particular health topic, I wish to talk about the greatest violation of the laws of health, the indulgence of appetite. God gave mankind the Ten Commandments as well as the laws of health. They go very much hand in hand. It is impossible to keep the Ten Commandments while violating natural law.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1. The earth was beautiful and majestic, with magnificent trees, colourful flowers, and rolling hills. Animals of all kinds filled the seas, sky and on the dry ground. After he was done creating the rest of the world, on the sixth day God created Adam, and gave him dominion over all the living things on the earth.

When Adam was created, he was made perfect, both in physical beauty, and having a mind that was in harmony with God and His will. He had no tendencies to disease, and his mind had no inclination towards evil. As long as he remained obedient to the laws of God, including the laws of health, He would preserve his health—spiritually, emotionally, and physically. "Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God." —*The Review and Herald*, June 18, 1895

"Our natural inclinations and appetites. . . were divinely appointed, and when given to man, were pure and holy. It was God's design that reason should rule the appetites, and they should minister to our happiness. And when they are regulated and controlled by a sanctified reason, they are holiness unto the Lord." —*Manuscript 47*, 1896

Adam and Eve had everything they needed to ensure their happiness. God had held nothing back from them except a warning not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge

of Good and Evil. Despite all what God had provided for them, Eve was curious about the fruit from the forbidden tree. After straying from her husband's side, the serpent was able to tempt Eve into desiring the fruit of the only tree that God withheld from her. She did not need this fruit from the tree of knowledge, but she allowed her appetite and her curiosity to override her reason. The fruit looked beautiful, and she wondered how death could be concealed in the fruit of this tree. Satan tempted her into believing that God was deliberately preventing them from eating of the tree to keep them in subordination to Him, to withhold knowledge and power from them. She was fascinated by the fact that in eating the fruit, she could be elevated to the level of God, knowing both good and evil.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:6

Eve fell under the temptation of appetite, but she began by deliberately disregarding another of God's commands. She was told to stay by her husband's side, but she wandered off. She then approached the tree and saw that it looked good. To her it was more desirable than the fruit of all the other trees. And then, the serpent was able to influence her into making a wrong decision. It was not only the eating of the fruit, but what it could give her that enticed her, to elevate her to the level of God. She was desiring the kind of knowledge that God, in His mercy and love towards her and Adam, withheld from her, the knowledge of sin.

Because of Adam and Eve's fall from grace in the indulgence of appetite, sin entered into the world, and death

from sin. And we are now all subject to death because of this sin.

When Satan tempted Adam and Eve into sin on the point of appetite, he realized that he could use appetite to tempt many others. And over the next 6,000 years, this has been the principal temptation of Satan's to bring mankind into the degraded, corrupt condition that existed already in the time of Noah and continues to our time. Satan realized that if he was to tempt man into intemperance, into indulgence of appetite and other corrupt passions, it would lead to many other evils. Indulgence of appetite has been the special snare of Satan that has brought many people, cities, and even nations to everlasting destruction.

When we think of the word "indulgence" we often use it in context of gratifying our appetite, or being lenient or permissive, like giving into the wishes of a child. Indulgence typically has a negative connotation, in that we are doing something that we should not be doing. Often indulging appetite is eating something that is unhealthy or forbidden. And, indulging a child is often giving a child permission to do something that the child desires, but we know to be harmful to the child, such as allowing a child to stay up past their regular bedtime.

Another word which is often used in the place of indulgence is intemperance. If we look at the opposite word, temperance, it is defined as having moderation in actions, thoughts, and feelings. Often it refers to moderation from the indulgence of appetites or passions, from the excesses of luxury. It also is used in the context of voluntarily refraining from negative emotions or actions towards other people. The Ten Commandments teach temperance towards our fellow man, we restrain from extremes such as violence, hatred, and lying.

Intemperance, on the other hand, is the "excessive indulgence of an appetite or a passion." This not only refers to food and drink, but also other passions of the flesh. When appetite is indulged it leads to more and worse sins, until the person is under the complete control of Satan.

"Intemperance in eating and drinking, leading as it does to the indulgence of the lower passions, prepares the way for men to disregard all moral obligations. When assailed by temptation, they have little power of resistance." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 378

"He [Satan] exulted that Adam and Eve in Eden could not resist his insinuations when he appealed to their appetite. The inhabitants of the old world he overcame

in the same manner, through the indulgence of lustful appetite and corrupt passions. Through the gratification of appetite, he had overthrown the Israelites." – *Temperance*, p. 13

Since man fell into sin, appetite has been Satan's main tool to draw people away from God. The antediluvian world had gone away from God and were committing the most grievous sins. "Since the first surrender to appetite, mankind have been growing more and more self-indulgent, until health has been sacrificed on the altar of appetite. The inhabitants of the antediluvian world were intemperate in eating and drinking. They would have flesh-meats, although God had at that time given man no permission to eat animal food. They ate and drank till the indulgence of their depraved appetite

knew no bounds, and they became so corrupt that God could bear with them no longer. Their cup of iniquity was full, and He cleansed the earth of its moral pollution by a flood." –*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 43



"This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah, and led to widespread corruption. Violence and sin reached to heaven." –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 145. The wickedness was so great that "every imagination of the thoughts of the heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5

The sin was not in the eating and drinking, but how they ate and drank. It was lawful to eat and drink. But they corrupted God's gifts by carrying them to extremes and using them to minister to their selfish desires. They did it to excess, thus losing all desire for spiritual things. As a result of their perverted appetites, their imaginations became corrupted, all manner of sin was the result. God had to destroy them. Sister White says they were "slaves of Satan, led and controlled by him."

After the flood, man quickly forgot God and the lessons learned from the destruction of the antediluvian world. It did not take long before he his indulgence of appetite led to greater wickedness and crime. Man's heart was no longer ruled by reason or by the law of God.

Even though God promised there would not be another

flood, entire cities have been removed from the face of the earth because of the gratification of unnatural appetites. We have the example of Sodom and Gomorrah; the inhabitants of those cities became so depraved and wicked that God removed them from the face of the earth.

Christ warns the world: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28-30

When reading these verses, it describes many activities that were common to everyone. But the sins that followed from their eating and drinking to excess was what caused their ruin. "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Ezekiel 16:49. We are reminded of the seriousness of the sins of Sodom when Lot's wife turned back and looked longingly at the city, and was instantly turned into a pillar of salt. She had fled Sodom, but her heart remained there.

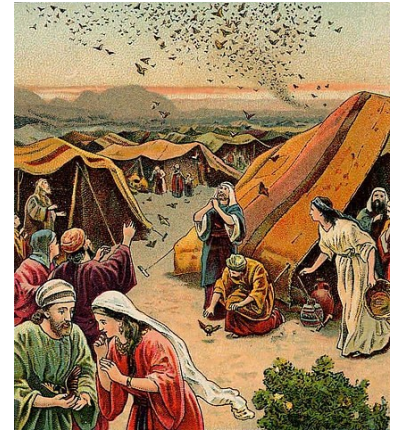
"God ascribes the fall of Babylon to her gluttony and drunkenness. Indulgence of appetite and passion was the foundation of all their sins." *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 43

We read the example of the children of Israel. God had just delivered them from dreadful bondage by a mighty show of miracles, they had been led through the Red Sea, and seen their enemy destroyed in the waters of the sea. Yet, they soon forgot what God had done for them, and began to complain about the conditions in the desert. They worried that their food would run out and they would starve to death in the wilderness.

God had not forgotten them, and he provided the perfect food to sustain them on their journey, He fed them with manna, "angel's food." During their journey to Canaan, God withheld flesh meats from the Israelites "because He knew that the use of this diet would create disease and insubordination." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 375. However, the people murmured and complained about the diet God provided for them. Often it was the "mixed multitude" who Satan tempted first, inciting them into murmuring against Moses' leading. They did not have faith in God but left Egypt to escape the plagues. These Egyptians were accustomed to a lux-

urious diet, and they were the first to complain about the simple manna they were to eat.

God decided to give the people what they were clamoring for. "He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by His power He brought in the south wind. He rained flesh upon them as dust, and feathered fowl like as the sand of the sea. . . So they did eat, and were well filled: for He gave them their own desire; They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel." Psalm 78:26-27, 29-31



On the surface, the children of Israel's desire for meat was to gratify their appetites for the types of food they had left behind in Egypt, while complaining of the manna provided by God. Their appetites had been depraved through the many years of living in Egypt. However, they also lusted for the luxuries left behind in Egypt; despite traveling to Canaan and freedom, their hearts remained in Egypt. This led to indulge their appetite for the forbidden fruits of Egypt, and ultimately caused the downfall of the children of Israel in their wilderness travel. Because of this sin, they were led to commit more sin, continually murmuring against God's leading, until finally they were not permitted to enter into the Promised Land. "Under Satan's direct temptations the children of Israel suffered appetite to control reason, and they were, through indulgence, led to commit grievous sins which awakened the wrath of God against them, and they fell in the wilderness." *-Confrontation*, p. 39

"If the Israelites had been obedient to the words of God, He would have bestowed upon them special blessings. But they fell in consequence of the indulgence of appetite and passion. They would not be obedient to the words of God. Indulgence of perverted appetite led them into numerous and grievous sins. If they had made the requirements of God their first consideration, and their physical wants secondary, in submission to God's choice of proper food for them, not one of them would have fallen in the wilderness. They would have been established in the goodly land of Canaan, a holy, happy, people with not a feeble one in all their tribe." -

*Ibid.*, p. 43

Many men of God were tempted by appetite. David had become king; he had just had a great victory over the Ammonites. Sister White says that he became enticed by the sins of self-exaltation, flattery, power, and luxuries. And he began to trust in his own power and wisdom. After this the sin of passion caused him to give in to temptation when he viewed Bathsheba's beauty from the top of his palace. He committed the sin of adultery. Unfortunately, this led to Bathsheba becoming pregnant, so David compounded his sin by hiding this fact. David arranged to have Uriah brought home, so that the pregnancy could be assumed to be from Bathsheba's husband. But, Uriah being an honourable man refused to lie with his wife while his comrades were on the battlefield. So then David had to go a step further to cover up his sin, and arranged for Uriah to be killed in the battlefield; he committed the sin of murder. Unlike many others who fell into the sin of indulging appetites and were lost, David repented and God forgave him, even calling him "a man after my own heart." However, David reaped a bitter harvest, by losing the son he had with Bathsheba. God taught that even those who are honoured by the Lord are not safe from falling into sin.

When Solomon was a young king, God said to him, Ask what I shall give thee? He did not ask for riches, or glory or power, but an understanding heart to judge the people. God granted him wisdom, but also gave him riches and honour. His wisdom was known worldwide; among the kings of the earth, there was not another like him, either before or after him. When he was young, he trusted in God, and looked to Him for guidance. But he was overcome by temptations that came through his prosperity. He lived a luxurious life. His appetite was gratified by the most expensive foods. Sister White says, "The effects of this luxurious living, and the free use of wine, finally clouded his intellect, and caused him to depart from God. He entered into rash and sinful marriage relations with idolatrous women." *—The Health Reformer*, April 1, 1878. His wives led him into idolatry and much of his life was wasted in idolatrous practices and he separated from God. In later years, Solomon returned to God. But, he recognized the many years he wasted. "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit." Ecclesiastes 2:17

We have the example of Esau, and his indulgence of appetite. "Esau had a special, strong desire for a particular article of food, and he had so long gratified self that he did not feel the necessity of turning from the tempt-

ing coveted dish. He thought upon it, making no special effort to restrain his appetite, until the power of appetite bore down every other consideration, and controlled him, and he imagined that he would suffer great inconvenience, and even death, if he could not have that particular dish. The more he thought upon it, the more his desire strengthened, until his birthright, which was sacred, lost its value and its sacredness." *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p 38

Esau had fallen prey to a momentary gratification of appetite, that "had never been restrained." He didn't value the blessing of the birthright when it was rightfully his. But, when he saw what he had done, it was too late to recover the blessing. Esau could repent of his sin, but still there was no recovering of the birthright that he gave up. His grief did not spring from conviction of sin; he did not desire to be reconciled to God. He sorrowed because of the results of his sin, but not for the sin itself.



Esau represents those who value very little the things pertinent to their salvation. . . . If they have a choice between gratifying their depraved appetite or the heavenly blessings that come from self-denial, they choose appetite, and God and heaven are rejected. The way is too narrow, and they succumb to their lustful desires, and they no longer walk with God's people. "So it will be in the day of God with those who have bartered their heirship to heaven for selfish gratifications." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 182

We have seen from examples in the Bible the grave consequences of the indulgence of appetite. We too must be mindful of the power of appetite to draw us away from God. Satan is increasing his attacks as he knows the end is near. Every follower of Jesus that he can lure away from the narrow path is one less person's sin he must suffer for in the final destruction of the wicked. "To every soul Satan comes with temptation in many alluring forms on the point of indulgence of appetite." *—A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 56

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**NEXT MONTH: VICTORY OVER APPETITE**

# James Works Hard



"Will you not come and live in part of our house?" Stockbridge Howland said to James White. "Some of the other Sabbathkeepers here in Topsham have a little furniture to spare. We would like to have you and your wife come and be with us."

Gladly James and Ellen White accepted this generous offer. They had a new responsibility now, since a little son, Henry, had been born to them. Although they spent nearly all their time traveling, visiting, and teaching the people, still, with their little boy, they needed a place to call home. In the house of the Howlands they were comfortable, though their home was far from elegant.

James White had a courageous, independent spirit. God had called him to the work of the ministry and had sent messages to him telling of the work that he must do in teaching the Bible to others. But even so, James White still felt that he must support his family financially and not ask others for help. There were many who had money who would have helped had they known the need in the family, but James and Ellen White carried out their responsibilities without telling others of their needs. Constantly calls were sent asking Brother and Sister White to come and preach to some little company of believers that were hungry to hear the Bible truths. The faithful workers answered all the calls they could, but soon letters began to come asking them to go further away to other States and hold meetings. They had no money to pay their fare, and Ellen White felt that it was impossible for her to travel with her small baby. They sent word to the little companies that were calling for meetings that the way was not open for them to come.

That winter, money was very scarce in the humble home of James White. In these early times there was no regular plan for supporting our ministers. One day, when all the food in the house was gone, he walked three miles in the rain to get some money that was due him for labor, and to buy some food. But the man for whom he had worked could give him only a little money, and so Brother White could not buy much food to take home. He bought a few beans, a little meal and rice, and a few pounds of flour. He put these in a bag and carried them on his back. On his way home he passed through the town of Brunswick, where a few years before he had held meetings, and was known as a preacher. One might think that he would be ashamed and hurt to be seen going through the street with this load. But he was not downhearted. He entered his home courageously singing, "I'm a pilgrim, and I'm a stranger."

His poor wife, however, could not feel so cheerful at first. She was shocked to think that he was given so little money from his employer and could bring home so little food.

"Has it come to this? Has God forsaken us?" she said.

Brother White lifted his hand and said, "Hush, the Lord has not forsaken us. He gives us enough for our present wants. Jesus fared no better." Then Ellen was sorry that she had shown her discouragement. "Yes," she answered. "And sufferings and trials bring us near to Jesus. The Lord is trying us for our own good. He is stirring up our nest, lest we settle down at ease. Our work is to labor for souls."

In a few days little Henry was taken ill, and rapidly grew worse. His parents were much alarmed as they



saw their baby lying unconscious, with his breathing quick and heavy. They tried all the remedies that they knew, but he still grew worse. They then called in a nurse, who said that she did not think the baby would get well. They prayed for him, but still there was no change for the better. Ellen then realized that she had made the child an excuse for not traveling and laboring for the good of others as much as they had been called to do. Again they knelt and prayed for the life of their little son, promising God that if He would heal the child, they would go wherever they were needed, trusting in Him always.

They prayed earnestly until they felt that a light from heaven was shining upon them, and from that hour the child began to recover.

Not long after they received a call to come and hold a meeting in Connecticut.

Although they had no money on hand to pay the traveling expenses, and hardly enough to buy the food they needed, James replied, "Yes, we will come." He thought they might save the money to pay for the trip out of what he was currently earning. He was cutting wood for only twenty-five cents a cord. To make it seem still harder, he developed rheumatism, and night after night he was unable to sleep because of the pain. He and his wife both prayed faithfully that God would relieve the pain and give him strength to work; and God did bless him, for he was able to keep on working.

"Wife," James said one day, "we must keep five dollars on hand and not use it. Even if we get short of food, we must not use that. It will be used for our travel."

Sometimes they did lack food, but still they were determined to save the money for the upcoming trip. When James went to collect his money from his boss, he was given ten dollars. With this they purchased their tickets and a little necessary clothing to make the journey to Connecticut.

After the meetings were over, they remained in Connecticut for a while, and James looked for another way to earn money with which to buy food and clothing and other necessary supplies.

He was offered work in the harvest field cutting grain, and although it was harder work than he was accustomed to, he started in at once.

James White had suffered an injury that made it hard for him to do work which required much walking. When he was just a young man, he was cutting heavy

timber, when the ax slipped and severed a piece of his ankle bone. The tendons had grown stiff, and he had not been able to bear his weight upon the heel of his right foot for years.

When he went to the field to work, he found that there were several other men working there who were rough and irreligious. They did not like the idea of having a preacher working with them.

"He's not used to this hard work," one of the men said. "Let's run him down and drive him from the field."

Of course, James did not know of their feelings, but he himself realized that this heavy work was too hard for him. Before he had gone into the field he had prayed that God would give him the strength to do the work and earn the money.

When he entered the field, the men all waited to start the work together. They each were given a long scythe and were told to cut a swath across the field. They were to work, one following the other, so that each would begin his strip of grain where the other left off. The men put the minister in the lead. This was the hardest place, for the leader had to keep ahead of all the others and set the pace for the mowers.

Brother White began and cut a wide swath, swinging his scythe as fast as he could. The other men who followed him took narrower swaths, and kept as close to him as possible. When James felt them coming closer, he tried to work even faster than he had before. Across the wide field they all worked. At the far end, after a short rest, they turned and started back, with the minister still ahead of the men. When they reached the starting place, the men threw down their scythes.

"White," their leader said, "do you mean to kill yourself and us? We give up this trial. We thought you were a minister, and could not know by experience how to handle a scythe, but we give you the credit of being far ahead of us and the best mower we ever saw."

"And you have taken no beer or liquor this hot day," added another of the rough men.

"When you came into this field as a worker, we were angry," went on the leader. "We didn't want a minister in our company, and we agreed to give you the hardest place. You have gone steadily on, and we have had to give up. We crown you as a leader and a captain in the field."

James quietly thanked them for the compliment, but he felt that he had One to thank whom they did not love,

trust, or serve—the God of heaven.

That day's work proved to be a blessing in more ways than one. It broke down the prejudice of the men of the neighborhood that they had felt toward him because he was a minister, and the severe strain of working so hard in the heat of the day relaxed the tendons of his ankle, and he found himself bringing his heel down squarely on the ground. After this he stepped so firmly no one would ever imagine he had walked with a limp for many years.

A few weeks later an urgent invitation came for Mr. and Mrs. White to go to New York and hold a series of meetings among the believers.

"What can we do?" Ellen White asked her husband. "We have no money to pay our fare to New York." Together they prayed that God would open the way.

"I know what I will do," exclaimed James White, after they had finished praying. "I'll buy a scythe and work again in the harvest field. I can earn enough money there to take us to the meeting." This time he worked with Adventist neighbors, and during the next few weeks earned forty dollars, which was used in making the trip to New York to attend the meetings.

And so it was. Even though he was not in the best of health, he loved the cause of God so much that James worked hard physically in order to pay their travelling expenses in the early stages of their labour. The Lord blessed Him with the required strength when he went forward by faith. If the Lord asks something of you, He will provide the strength and the means to fulfil the task. Do not be discouraged at outward circumstances. Trust God, He will never ask something of you that you cannot perform with His help.

## Madagascar




### Seminar for Bible Workers and their Wives

## Vancouver, Canada



## Baptism at Canadian Field Conference



A photograph of a wooden staircase built on a forested hillside. The stairs are made of weathered wooden planks and are flanked by vertical wooden posts. The surrounding area is filled with lush green evergreen trees and some deciduous plants. In the background, a body of water is visible under a cloudy sky, and a small structure is perched on a distant hill.

“God wants that men of capabilities and of mind should understand there is a ladder for them to climb, round after round, and if they climb this ladder, round after round, why they will step off finally into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We want our course heavenward. And we want that all the selfishness, every thread of it, that

has been woven into the pattern, that every thread of this selfishness is to be got out, and here is a work that, from the light that God has given me, it should stand, yes, a hundred per cent, higher than it stands today.” –*The Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 164