



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
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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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## Not Afar Off

***“Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?” Jeremiah 23:23***

“Many of the wealthy property owners are irreligious and irreverent. Worldly thoughts fill their minds. Worldly amusements, merriment, and hilarity occupy their time. Extravagance in dress and luxurious living absorb their means. The heavenly messengers are not welcomed to their homes. They want God afar off.” – *Counsels on Health*, p. 269

BUT:

“We are never alone. Whether we choose Him or not, we have a companion. Remember that wherever you are, whatever you do, God is there. Nothing that is said or done or thought can escape His attention. To your every word or deed you have a witness--the holy, sin-hating God. Before you speak or act, always think of this. As a Christian, you are a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. Say no word, do no act, that shall bring dishonor upon ‘that worthy name by the which ye are called.’ James 2:7.” – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 490–491

“Have any of us an opportunity of doing something for Christ, how eagerly should we seize it and with the greatest earnestness do all we can to be co-workers with Him. The very trials that test our faith most severely, and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are designed to lead us more closely to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace He will give us in exchange. You need a new conversion; you need to be sanctified through the truth and to become in spirit like a little child, meek and humble,

relying wholly upon Christ as your Redeemer. Your pride and independence are closing your heart to the blessed influences of the Spirit of God and rendering it as unimpressible as the hard-beaten highway. You have yet to learn the great lesson of faith. When you surrender yourself entirely to God, when you fall all broken upon Jesus, you will be rewarded by a victory the joy of which you have never yet experienced. As you review the past with a clear vision, you will see that at the very time when life seemed to you only a perplexity and a burden, Jesus Himself was near you, seeking to lead you into the light. Your Father was by your side, bending over you with unutterable love, afflicting you for your good, as the refiner purifies the precious ore. When you have thought yourself forsaken, He has been near you to comfort and sustain. We seldom view Jesus as He is, and are never so ready to receive His help as He is to help us.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 220–221

“Those who have tempted the devil to tempt them will have to make desperate efforts to free themselves from his power. When they begin to work for themselves, then angels of God whom they have grieved will come to their rescue. Satan and his angels are unwilling to lose their prey. They contend and battle with the holy angels, and the conflict is severe. And if those who have erred continue to plead, and in deep humility confess their wrongs, angels who excel in strength will prevail and wrench them from the power of the evil angels.” – *Messages to Young People*, p. 60

“Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep.

“Every soul is as fully known to Jesus as if he were the only one for whom the Saviour died. The distress of every one touches His heart. The cry for aid reaches His ear. He came to draw all men unto Himself. He bids them, ‘Follow Me,’ and His Spirit moves upon their hearts to draw them to come to Him. Many refuse to be drawn. Jesus knows who they are. He also knows who gladly hear His call, and are ready to come under His pastoral care. He says, ‘My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.’ He cares for each one as if there were not another on the face of the earth.” – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 479–480

*Ellen G. White*



# Our Traveling Destination

Our life is a continuous travel. We have only two directions where we can go—one is to heaven and the other is to hell. Sister White was shown two companies, traveling in opposite directions. One company was traveling in a train and seemed to have the whole world in it. The other company was small, with only a few people in it.

“I saw the rapidity with which this delusion was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board, that there could not be one left. Said the angel, ‘They are binding in bundles ready to burn.’ Then he showed me the conductor, who appeared like a stately, fair person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, ‘It is Satan. He is the conductor in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the whole world captive. They are given over to strong delusions, to believe a lie, that they may be damned. This agent, the next highest in order to him, is the engineer, and other of his agents are employed in different offices as he may need them, and they are all going with lightning speed to perdition.’

“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway.” —*Early Writings*, p. 88

“When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest, and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of

others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 135

God has called us to be His messengers in these last days. And the most important message today is revival and reformation. To avoid the danger of ending up in Satan’s train we must overcome every sin.

“While living in neglect of a known duty, he would not be secure; for he could not be shielded by the angels of God.

“In the time of trouble just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels; but there will be no security for the transgressor of God’s law. Angels cannot then protect those who are disregarding one of the divine precepts.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 256

In the beginning, God set man in the right direction, but soon after Adam and Eve decided to change their direction to go in the opposite way. And today, almost the whole world is going in Satan’s train towards hell. Our message to them is, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:7–9

Jesus came from heaven to save the Jewish people, but He found that they were blind. “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Matthew 15:14

Soon we come to the point when there is no more turning back. “And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:10–12

Soon the train of Satan will not stop any more to let someone out to change his direction. Everyone will con-

tinue his direction through the seven last plagues.

My friend, is it your desire to go to heaven, to have eternal life? Then there is only one way—follow the plan of God. The plan of God includes the sealing, shaking, latter rain, the time of trouble, and heaven.

Soon after creation, God told man of the two ways that he can follow—the way of obedience, and the way of disobedience. “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:16–17

Satan was in heaven, the highest of all the angels, but he was not satisfied with his position. He wanted to be like God. He started a rebellion in heaven against Christ and God the Father. But he did not prevail, and he was cast out of heaven to this world. In this world he continued his rebellion, and the whole world followed him except one family—the family of Noah.

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them.” Genesis 6:5–7

And now today again, almost the whole world is following Satan, and God has only a few serving Him. Great numbers of young people who have known the way of God have said, “Not now, later we will give ourselves to You, and follow Thy way.” This “later” may never come.

When we know what God requires and have a knowledge of the truth, but delay our obedience to a later time, it is because we do not love God. It is blindness to disobey Him who is out to save and to rescue us.

Moses tried for 40 years to save the Israelite people, and finally he called them all together to make one more appeal to them to obey God. “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!” Deuteronomy 32:29

How many of over 600,000 men who left Egypt accepted the counsel of Moses and remained faithful to God? Only two—Joshua and Caleb.

Is it your determination to stay with the Lord? Is it your desire to become Christlike, so kind and loving, so gentle and so forgiving? God has promised to help you. He sent the Holy Spirit, His Son, the angels. He give us the

Bible, and encouraged regular attendance at church meetings. When we turn to God and obey Him, then a marvelous change will take place. We will change from the selfish image of Satan to the lovely image of Christ. Then we can love even our enemies, we will be forgiving, and have compassion and pity on others; our hands will do good, our feet will take us where God is. God’s plan for us is a perfect plan, it includes character development, sanctification, missionary work, preparing for heaven, and finally, eternal life. The only thing that can destroy the plan of God is our will. If we insist that our will be done, then the will of God cannot be fulfilled. But if our will is blended with the will of God, then we are ready to work for the Lord. The work of reformation must be carried to completion, and only men and women who are filled with the spirit and power of God will be able to carry forward this work.

When you kneel to pray, ask for the Spirit and the power of God, and then the work of reformation in your life will not die out, but you will go forward into victory.

Let no one of us be an Achan, who took the power of God away from the whole of Israel. “Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.” Joshua 7:11–12, 20–21

Every action you perform brings you closer to Jesus or one step further away from Him. Even every thought that goes on in your mind brings you closer to Jesus or further away from Him.

If you are faithful to God, then with confidence and authority you will tell others, “this is the way of God, this is the way of peace and happiness, this way leads to a home in heaven.” And your face shining peace and happiness, you look beyond the present to the end, to the wonderful reward of the righteous. Amen.

*Timo Martin*

# Coming Out

# Or Staying in?

## Part one



What is safer? Coming out or staying in? No one can answer this question before knowing the details of any dangers on either side. There are only two choices. I hope that everyone will make the right decision which will result in the greatest safety and protection. If the danger is on the outside, then we should stay inside and not venture outside. It is safer to stay in. This is true when there is a rain or snowstorm, or any other physical or climactic danger and we need to take shelter. Going out is dangerous, staying in is much safer. But, on the other hand, when the peril is inside, your safety is to come out from where you are. In part one we shall examine the importance of staying in, when and why it is safer to stay in and not come out.

The church of God is in a greater danger today than at any time in the past. It would be good for every believer and member of God's remnant church to understand the real spiritual conditions to which we are exposed, so we may be on the alert. Let us first examine the situation in the light of God's revealed word.

Very often those who abandon the faith in the end do so because they came to the faith initially for all of the wrong reasons.

It is possible that some come to the church today who appear to be followers of Christ, but are not serious in their commitment. As long as something interesting is going on, and they are entertained, then they will keep coming around. If not, then they will be as some in Jesus' day. "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." John 6:66

In Acts 27:1-12, we read about the time when Paul advised his fellow travelers not to go out of the ship, because it would be dangerous if they did.

This happened on a ship that was to sail to Italy, to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to Rome. They en-

tered into a ship, but sailing was now dangerous at this time of year and Paul said unto them, "Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our

lives." Nevertheless the centurion believed the owner of the ship, and not what Paul Counsell'd.

During the journey, not long after, there arose a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. The ship was caught, and could not bear up in the wind, so they let the ship be blown by the wind. The fear was great. The tempest was too much so they lightened the ship by throwing cargo overboard. It was very difficult because for many days they did not see the sun nor the stars; they lost hope. Luke wrote, "all hope that we should be saved was then taken away." Verse 20. If they would have hearkened unto Paul's words and not set sail, this harm and loss would not have occurred, but his words were not accepted by the passengers and the crew; they ignored his counsel.

This is how the last warning will also not be heeded by many today. From the beginning, people have taken the message of warning lightly, and when they see the fulfillment of the prophecy, it is very hard for them; they now remember the messenger and his words. In Noah's time, they neglected to heed the message of warning, until the flood came suddenly and destroyed them. Then they cried, "open the door." But it was too late.

Today, the health reform, the Bible Sabbath, and the influence of the world are some of the topics which many oppose. Only few are ready to hear. But, why?

When the storms of life with its issues and difficulties come, many leave the faith and go out from the church. Is leaving the church the solution? Maybe you have an issue with a brother or sister in the faith? What is the way forward? Let us examine the experience of Paul and his ship.

"There shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but

of the ship" (Acts 27:22), said Paul. As the sailors attempted to flee, by letting down the lifeboats into the sea, under the guise of casting the anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." Acts 27:31. The soldier then cut the ropes and let the lifeboat go.

In other words, do not go out of the ship yet, for you cannot survive or be saved. There was a time later when the ship was broken into pieces when they had to leave. They which could swim cast themselves into the sea, and swam to land. The rest held onto some broken pieces of the ship and made it to land. They escaped all safely to land. No one perished.

Dear reader, are you in the true Church of God? If so, do not go out. Stay inside and work hard for your salvation. The church can be symbolized by the ship. And you have to stay in because "except ye abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." God calls us to "stay in the ship" during the rough times.

The teaching that all Christian churches and groups constitute the church of God is unbiblical and false. It is a well-calculated, satanic deception to divert minds from the Biblical teaching that God has one peculiar church. His church can be identified by the following characteristics:

- The members keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12
- They preach the Three Angels' Messages and keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. Revelation 14:6-11
- They uphold the unity of the faith by teaching the principles of the present truth, as presented in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy. Revelation 12:17
- They stress the importance of health and dress reform, which in turn supports each person's spiritual, mental, and physical powers to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17
- They uplift high moral standards through the message of Christ Our Righteousness. Romans 3:23-26; 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:5-10
- They oppose participation in warfare and worldly politics because it is contrary to God's law. John 17:14-17; 18:36
- They teach against cooperation with any ecumenical movement or alliance with fallen churches, trade unions, etc.
- They do this consciously, taking into account the

responsibility, and privilege God has entrusted to His church. 1 Peter 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

The above teachings are the source of spiritual strength for God's people and at the same time are powerful weapons against the attacks of the great adversary, during the storms of life. The storm in your Christian life is not a reason for backsliding or leaving your entrusted work and your hope.

Before reading and quoting the Spirit of Prophecy, please be sure of your answer: Are you in? Will you come out or remain aboard, *notwithstanding hardships and storms*?

"God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. . . . There is but one church in the world who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places; . . . Let all be careful not to make an outcry against the only people who are fulfilling the description given of the remnant people who keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus, who are exalting the standard of righteousness in these last days.

"God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God." -*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 50, 58

Unfortunately, some make excuses to leave the church. What are some of those excuses?

- Loneliness (not being visited)
- Issues with some members
- Storms of life (hardship, poverty, trials)
- Hardship in Christian life and temptations to violate God's principles (comparing earthly attractions with eternal life, Sabbath breaking for life advantages, health reform issues, fidelity, and faithfulness in tithing, etc.)
- Inability to stand against opposition whether internal or external.

There are many more.

#### ***Weapons the devil uses to attack God's church***

Do not be the victim of Satan's snares. The Devil has numerous weapons with which he attacks the church and its members hoping that they will leave the faith and the church. Unless you remain aboard the ship, you will not be saved.

Here are a few snares which he has used successfully to entrap his victims:

- Open apostasy—transgression of God’s holy law. Hebrews 3:12–13; 1 John 3:4
- Love of money, boasting, pride, blasphemy, disobedience, ingratitude, neglect of holiness, failure to love God and one’s fellow man, lack of forgiveness, slander, lack of self-control, brutality, despising of that which is good, treachery, and having the form of godliness while denying its power. 2 Timothy 3:2–5
- Persecution, affliction, and inflicting all manner of suffering. 2 Timothy 3:11–12
- Sexual immorality, which is a major problem in this generation. 1 Thessalonians 4:3–6
- Conflict in the church, in the workplace, at home, and in society. James 4:1–2
- Hatred, jealousy, envy, wrath, malice, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, dissension, heresy, murder, drunkenness, and every type of selfishness—all of which the Scriptures call the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19–21
- Fornication, idolatry, homosexuality, sodomy, theft, covetousness, and reviling. 1 Corinthians 6:9–10
- Hypocrisy and pretense. Jude 4
- Pharisaical pride and a spirit of ingratitude, insincerity, and formalism. Matthew 23:13, 15
- Presumptuous sins. Psalm 19:13–14; Deuteronomy 17:12–13
- Worldly fashion and adornment, jewelry, and costly apparel. Isaiah 3:16–24; 1 Timothy 2:9–10
- Heresy, false and erroneous teachings, and rebellion against church order and organization. Ephesians 4:14

The above are snares that can tempt and have tempted many. Let us take heed and look unto Jesus for our strength. We have no excuse for yielding to temptation, thus weakening our faith. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor

things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35–39

All the above problems may occur to strengthen our faith and for our good. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

Why do some leave the church? “Unless these men stay aboard, they cannot be saved.” Dear reader, remember that, “in the presence of God, and all the heavenly intelligences, in the presence of the unseen army of hell, Christ founded His church upon the living Rock. That Rock is Himself—His own body, for us broken and bruised. Against the church built upon this foundation,

the gates of hell shall not prevail.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 413

One day Jesus asked “the twelve, Will ye also go away?” John 6:67. He asked this question because, first of all, “a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His miracles which He did.” John 6:2. And yet later in the same chapter we read, “From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.” John

6:66 What happened? The problem was that there were those who wanted the blessing of following the Lord without the sacrifices that come with making a full commitment.

There is no reason to be discouraged, “Human power and human might did not establish the church of God, and neither can they destroy it. Not on the rock of human strength, but on Christ Jesus, the Rock of Ages, was the church founded, ‘and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.’ Matthew 16:18. The presence of God gives stability to His cause. ‘Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man,’ is the word that comes to us. Psalm 146:3

“‘In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.’ Isaiah 30:15. God’s glorious work, founded on the eternal principles of right, will never come to nought. It will go on from strength to strength, ‘not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’ Zechariah 4:6.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 595–596

What is safer? Coming out or staying in?

**“There is but one church in the world who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places. . . . God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God.”** —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 50, 58



Even if you experience some hardships, you need to remain aboard the ship. Although you face hard times, and fierce storms, remember your destination. The Lord will help you fight the battle we all face as Christians.

“Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:12–13 NKJV). “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” (James 1:2–3). “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.” 1 Peter 1:6

*As Christians, our hope is in the storms.*

“We should remember that the church, enfeebled and defective though it be, is the only object on earth on which Christ bestows His supreme regard. He is constantly watching it with solicitude, and is strengthening it by His Holy Spirit.” –*Manuscript 155*, 1902

The past confirms our confidence in the future. The storms of today cannot discourage a devoted Christian. The exactness with which each event in prophecy has been, and is being fulfilled in our day, assures us that events still the future will surely come to pass. The wonderful way in which God has guided and protected His people through the centuries, overruling the designs of evil powers, indicates that the church that is now militant will continue to be guided until it soon becomes the church triumphant. It will pass through a severe process of shaking and pruning.

Before the great final day of our deliverance from this world and before probation ends, while the door of mercy is still open to sinners, the following prophesied events will occur: The sealing of the 144,000, the outpouring of the Latter Rain, the sounding of the Loud Cry, the shaking, the enforcement of Sunday worship, the finishing of God’s work, and the close of probation, which will be followed by the Seven Last Plagues. During these events, God’s people will be severely tested and proved. These events will bring about the early time of trouble and persecution.

In Revelation 13:11–17 a prophetic description is given of the persecution to occur before the close of probation under the enforcement of the Sunday law; and it will become more intense after that, particularly during the time of Jacob’s trouble. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed

about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1–2

For the storms in the Christian life, “we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” –*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 196

“Until Christ shall appear in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory,” the messenger of the Lord writes, “men will become perverse in spirit and turn from the truth to fables.

“The church will yet see troublous times. She will prophesy in sackcloth. But although she must meet heresies and persecutions, although she must battle with the infidel and the apostate, yet by the help of God she is bruising the head of Satan. The Lord will have a people as true as steel, and with faith as firm as the granite rock. They are to be His witnesses in the world, His instrumentalities to do a special, a glorious work in the day of His preparation.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 594

God is always there and keeping His promises during our “storms”. “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV). Stand firm in God’s true Church, do not come out of her. Amen.

*Victor Shumbusho, D R Congo*

*To be Continued*





# The Polzer Family Share Their

## Experiences and Memories (Part 4)

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

In the summer of 1954 all seven of us travelled to Germany. Theresa was 16, Barbara was 13, Franziska was 10, Josef was 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.

We stopped in Vienna, Austria to see Aunt Helen, our mother's sister, and her daughter Barbel, our cousin. They had left Yugoslavia before the end of the war. Aunt Helen was employed as a housekeeper with a rich family. They could not believe the way we were dressed—so poorly, but we did the best we could. We stayed several days with them. I remember our Aunt Helen taking us to see a little of Vienna and everything was so beautiful and exciting for us children to see. There was an amusement park and a Ferris wheel. We had never seen anything like it, or the street lights in the city after dark. We then continued by train to Piding, near Bad Reichenhal, not far from Salzburg, in Bavaria, Germany.

In Piding we stayed at a refugee camp where people had come from many different places. We stayed there for several weeks while waiting to be transferred to another camp. In this camp they had a kitchen where they prepared all our food and we, of course, always had to

check what the menu was; whether we as vegetarians could eat it. Food was good and most of the time it was not a problem. On Sabbaths, weather permitting, we walked to a nice green area by the river Saalach not too far away from the camp, and worshipped there together with others. While I (Franziska) was writing this part, I remembered the words written by Luke in the book of Acts when Paul and Silas were preaching in Philippi, "And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down and spake unto the women which resorted thither." Acts 16:13

While in Piding a young man from the Reform Church came to see our family—we cannot remember his name. He was a colporteur. This young man was on his way to Speele, our church's Mission School at that time. Theresa went with him to Speele. There Theresa met Elisabeth Gebhard. This was a young girl, also a refugee, whom our family knew back from Yugoslavia and whose family came to the faith in Knicanin through our Father. While at the Speele Missionary School they were asked to go canvassing once in a while, but Theresa had no decent clothes for this, so a young sister from Holland gave her a coat and some other girls gave her shoes and other clothing items she needed. Theresa did not like it very much at this school and felt that she did not fit in, and after a while she got sick. In the meantime, Father and Mother, with the rest of the family, were transferred to the Hamburg region, about 925 km

north of Piding. Theresa wanted to come home, so our parents sent her the money for the train ticket to Hamburg.

Our parents were told that in order to go overseas—which our Father had in mind—we had to go to Hamburg-Finkenwerder. Father did not wish to stay in Germany because he did not want our brothers Josef and Tony to have to contend with being called into the military service when old enough. So he was advised to go to Hamburg-Finkenwerder and apply to emigrate from there. Hamburg was a large city with the River Elbe on the East side and a smaller city, Finkenwerder on the West side of the Elbe. Here we were again placed in a refugee camp in Finkenwerder. The camp had been an airport that the army/navy used during Hitler's time. There were several large brick barracks in this camp. We were nine people to a room. There were two bathrooms in the building, one for men and one for women, plus a room with a bathtub for the whole building.



**June 1955**

**Finkenwerder, Germany Refugee Camp.  
Left Back: Michael and Bernhard (our cousins), with Barbara, Theresa,  
Front: Josef, Franziska and Tony**

There were approximately 18 rooms. Those old enough to work got jobs in either Hamburg or Finkenwerder. The church and the Red Cross both brought some clothes for the refugees so all could dress a little better. Some of the wives of the refugees were Yugoslavian and did not speak German and neither did their children, so those who were not working and were interest-

ed to learn, took German classes. Everyone in our family could speak, read and write German. Only Tony had to learn how to read and write, as he was not quite 5 years old. Back in Yugoslavia, we used to read the German Bible and of course speak German in our home—that was our mother tongue. That was the first time that Mother did not look for a job. She could stay at home.



**1954/1955**

**Father, with Josef (on left), Franziska and Tony**

After being in this camp for a little while our two cousins Bernhard Dittrich age 18 and his brother Michael age 15, our mother's brother's sons, arrived from Yugoslavia. They moved in with us. We had bunk beds, so it was not too bad; we made it work.

The first year Theresa got a job at Franziska's teacher's parent's house as a maid. The father was a Director at the Deutsche Schiffbau in Hamburg. That was a place where they built ships. They had two daughters. One was a teacher and the younger one was attending college away from home. The one at home did not think it was good for Franziska's 16-year-old sister to live in a room with eight other people, so she asked her mother to let Theresa stay with them while working for them; she then got to use Otie's bedroom. Barbara took the ferry every morning over the River Elbe and then hopped on a streetcar in Hamburg which took her to the shop where she was learning to become a seamstress. Our Father got work at the shipyard at the River Elbe unloading ships.

Josef and Franziska went to school in the camp for a little while and when their German writing had improved they were transferred to the regular school in Finkenwerder. While in this camp, Franziska, Josef, Tony, Nick Sattelmayer and several other children got the measles and had to stay in a medical building in quarantine for some time where the parents had to bring them their meals every day.

While we were in Finkenwerder we met Sister Leila Marttinen (McTavish) for the first time. She and her friend Vuokko, from Speele who were doing canvassing work in Hamburg came to visit us. After a while, some of August Sattelmayer's family, also refugees from Yugoslavia arrived at the camp in Finkenwerder. They all got work in Hamburg at Herr Meuter's calculator factory, where Theresa also worked later on until we left for Canada.

After arriving in Hamburg/Finkenwerder our Father had contacted the Reform Church here in Ontario, Canada, where he was put in touch with Brother Korpman. Brother Korpman was so kind to find a farmer in Niagara-On-The-Lake who guaranteed to give our parents work on his cherry farm when we arrived; this was required by immigration in order to get a Visa so that our family could come here. Our Father would turn 47 years old later that year.

So, in the summer of 1956 with our Visa for Canada and a job lined up for our parents, we took a train to Bremer Hafen which is about 180 km straight north of Hamburg; here we boarded an ocean liner called Castle Felice and were on that ship for ten days. Our cabin was quite low down by the water level in the ocean; we always got sea-sick when in the cabin except when sleeping. So we spent most of our time on deck. There we could handle the wind and the turbulence much better. The ship docked in Quebec City where we then took a train to St. Catharines, Ontario. Brother Hans Baer, who lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake, picked us up at the train station and took us to Sister Unrau's house in St. Catharines on that Friday where we also slept that night. We spent Sabbath at Sister Unrau's house where we had the



1957

**The Polzer family on Wilhem Street, Kitchener**

Sabbath Service. Sister Unrau was Br. Baer's mother-in-law. Hans and Erika Baer had two children, Johnny and Lory. Lory was just a baby and Johnny was 4 years old. After sundown on Sabbath, Br. Baer took us all to the cherry farmer, Mr. Wilms, who had sent my parents the guarantee for work for our visa. He was not ready for us. On his property was a small house in very tall grass and weeds that was waiting for us. There were some mattresses and old metal beds.

Tony, Josef and Franziska attended a country school down the road where they had several classes in one room. We were very disappointed with where we had to live. It was hard at the beginning, not knowing the language, but we kept on trying and were learning something every day. Mom and Dad picked cherries and whatever other fruit needed picking as the summer progressed.

Ruth Milchenko, a German young lady from church and her husband Karl, living in Niagara-on-The-Lake, found work for Barbara and Theresa with two families in St. Catharines as housekeepers. Theresa worked for a Jewish family—a husband and wife with their married daughter and son-in-law. They owned a taxi company. Barbara was on the same street employed

**Father had a hobby of weaving baskets from willow rods.**



**Here is a sample of several that he had made.**

as a housekeeper with a family that had a couple of younger children and a baby.

One Friday evening, not too long after getting the jobs, Ed Unger, who was engaged to Hulda Goertz in Kitchener came to see our family. He drove every Sabbath to Kitchener to visit Hulda and one day he brought her along to visit us. About two months later, Barbara and Theresa moved to Kitchener. Hulda's cousin Erika Friesen got them a job at a sweater factory in Waterloo. Their pay was 55 cents an hour. They rented a one-room place and took the trolley to work every day.

When there was no more work available for Mother and Father on the farm in Niagara-On-The-Lake, they, and Franziska, Joe and Tony moved to Kitchener.

While we lived in Kitchener we became friends with the Goertz, Friesen and Reimer Families and worshipped together each Sabbath. Since Father had no profession and could not speak English, finding work in Kitchener was very difficult, and so after a while we all moved to Toronto.

Now, the Polzer family had five children and no one wanted to rent an apartment to us even though the oldest child was Theresa, who was at that time 20 years old, Barbara was 17 and they were both working. Everyone said, "Sorry, we don't like a family with five kids." But finally we found an apartment on the second floor of a pretty old house on Seaton Street in the East end of Toronto.

When we turned the lights on in the kitchen and when we opened the kitchen cupboards on Seaton Street, the cockroaches scurried into hiding. After living on Seaton Street for a while, our Dad bought a three-storey house at 340 Delaware Avenue a couple of blocks north of Bloor Street and a little East of High Park. Here we were able to rent out the second and third floors while we used the main floor and the basement.

Peter Sattelmayer whom we had met at the camp in Finkenwerder, Germany also came to Toronto in 1956. He got Father a job with him unloading lumber out of boxcars at the railroad station. Mother was cleaning houses and Franziska, Joe, and Tony attended school. Barbara and Theresa worked at a men's hosiery factory called McGregor Hosiery Mills. Ruth Milchenko's sister Hildegard also worked there. It was not a bad job. They travelled by streetcar all the way down Bloor Street to Spadina Avenue.

After moving to Toronto we got to know Brother Timo Marttinen and his brother Leo with his wife Ira, and his

brother Taimo and his wife Eira and family. We also befriended Brother and Sister Korpman, family Karhinen, Sister Liske and her mother, Ernst Hofer, Siegfried, Brother and Sister Moore, their son David and in time the Family Radin, the Koledin family and many more.

While we lived at 340 Delaware Avenue, Brother Timo also purchased a house on Delaware Avenue only a few blocks north of our house. A while later his Sister Leila came from Finland and moved in with him. Then Sister Rose Incze, whom we called Rosly also came and lived there, as well as our sister Theresa with her husband Peter Sattelmayer.

One of the things I fondly remember is when we spent time together during the Christmas holidays on the weekend in 1958. We all came together at Brother



1958

**Outside Brother Timo's house  
on Delaware Avenue**

Timo's house on Delaware Avenue to attend Bible classes with Brother M.P. Ringelberg.

Now many years have gone by since we experienced the above and we have all grown older and things have changed. Our parents have since passed away and



**April 1979**

**Mother 67 years old, Father 70 years old**

some of us five Polzer children are now in our seventies and others in their eighties. We thank the Lord for all His love and care for our family throughout the years until today.

We are so happy and grateful that our Father found the truth and became an Adventist before the Second World War. Both our uncles and our grandfather lost their lives and most likely our Father would not have survived, if he had not known the truth and refused to join the army. It definitely is a miracle that our whole family survived this terrible time during and after the War.

We pray that our family, and our church family here and everywhere, may remain faithful and be a blessing for others in our lives and prepare for Jesus' soon coming in the clouds of heaven so that when He comes we will be ready to go with Him to the home He is preparing for all who love Him. Amen.

*Compiled by: Franziska S. Pedersen*



**July 2019**

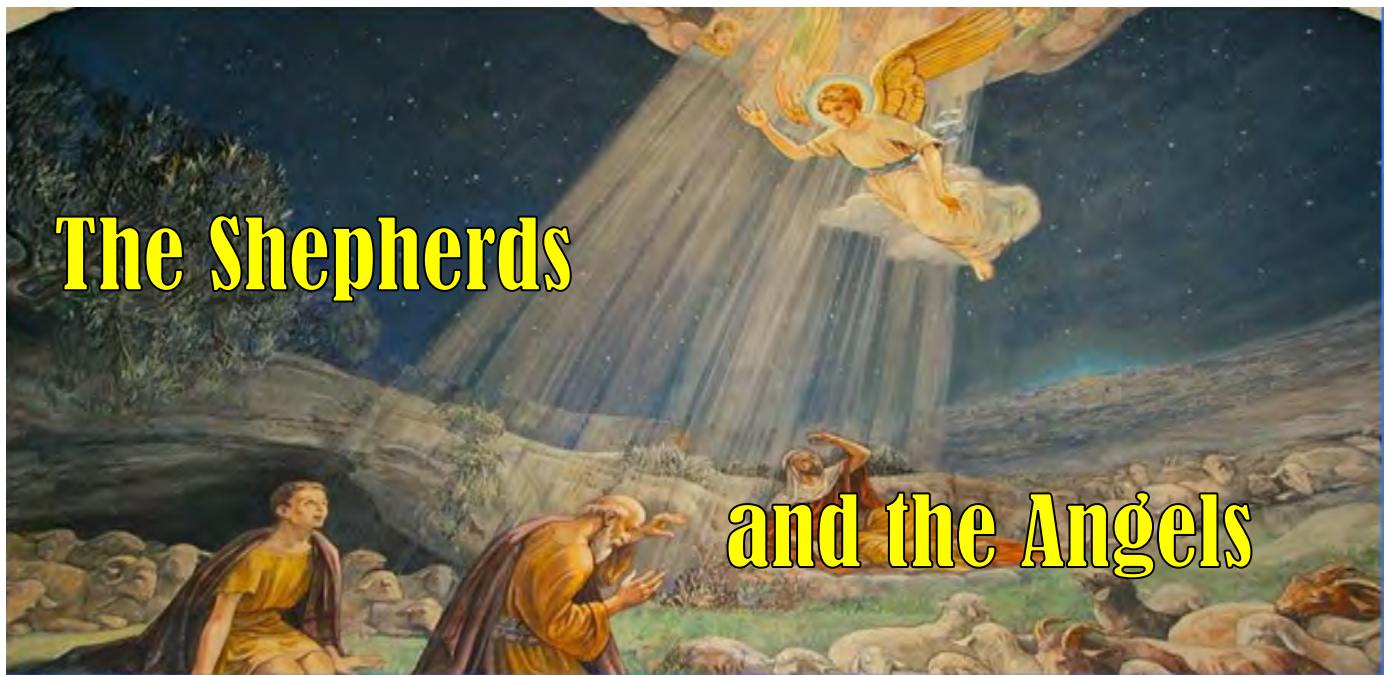
**From Left: Teresa, Barbara, Franziska, Josef, Tony**



**Franziska married Evald Pedersen in 1969. He is originally from Denmark and after living in Denmark for four years and one year in Norway, they came to live in Canada.**

**They currently attend the church in Hamilton, Ontario, where Brother Evald serves as the church leader and Elder.**

**They are pictured here with their son, Paul**



# The Shepherds

# and the Angels

For one thousand years since the fall of Adam, and the promise of the seed of the woman, people were waiting for the Messiah. "The Saviour's coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. But many sunk so deep in cares of life until they forgot about God and prophecies. Sinfulness and wickedness increased, there were very few who remembered about God. When the Angels searched the whole world only the shepherds and magi were seeking for God and truth. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.' Ezekiel 12:22." —*A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 5

"When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, . . . To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5. "Providence had directed the movements of nations, and the tide of human impulse and influence, until the world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 32

"The angels had wondered at the glorious plan of redemption. They watched to see how the people of God would receive His Son, clothed in the garb of humanity. Angels came to the land of the chosen people. Other nations were dealing in fables and worshiping false gods. To the land where the glory of God had been revealed, and the light of

prophecy had shone, the angels came. They came unseen to Jerusalem, to the appointed expositors of the Sacred Oracles, and the ministers of God's house. Already to Zacharias the priest, as he ministered before the altar, the nearness of Christ's coming had been announced. Already the forerunner was born, His mission attested by miracle and prophecy. The tidings of His birth and the wonderful significance of His mission had been spread abroad. Yet Jerusalem was not preparing to welcome her Redeemer." —*Ibid.*, p. 43

"In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour and prayed for the coming of the King to David's throne. 'And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'" —*Ibid.*, p. 47

They would find the baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger. The angel spoke of a "Saviour" and said He was "Christ the Lord". This is an important detail about the identity of Jesus. "Christ" is a Greek word and is the equivalent of the Hebrew "Messiah". Both words mean "the Anointed One". "Lord" is a title often used for God in the Old Testament. The baby will be a Saviour, but not in a political or military sense; He will save His people from sin and death. Suddenly, many angels appeared, singing praises to God, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased!"

"Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song. Humanity is still as much the object of heaven's solicitude as when common

men of common occupations met angels at noonday and talked with the heavenly messengers in the vineyards and the fields. To us in the common walks of life, heaven may be very near. Angels from the courts above will attend the steps of those who come and go at God's command." *-Ibid.*, p. 48

The angels left and the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem. They found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. The shepherds returned, praising God for all they had heard and seen.

In Luke's Gospel, the shepherds are the first to hear about the birth of Jesus. Being a shepherd in the first century in Palestine was not considered to be a privileged position in society. The Jewish leaders often criticized shepherds as the nature of their work meant that they could not always strictly keep their rules (like strict Sabbath observance.) This shows that the message of Jesus was for all people, even those considered to be insignificant or marginalized.

### THE MAGI

"It was not alone upon the hills of Judea, not among the lowly shepherds only, that angels found the watchers for the Messiah's coming. In the land of the heathen also were those that looked for Him; they were wise men, rich and noble, the philosophers of the East. Students of nature, the Magi had seen God in His handiwork. From the Hebrew Scriptures they had learned of the Star to arise out of Jacob, and with eager desire they awaited His coming, who should be not only the 'Consolation of Israel,' but a 'Light to lighten the Gentiles,' and 'for salvation unto the ends of the earth.' Luke 2:25, 32; Acts 13:47." *-The Great Controversy*, p. 315

The wise men had studied prophecy, and knew the time was at hand when Christ would come, and they were anxiously watching for some sign of this great event, that they might be among the first to welcome the infant heavenly King and worship Him. These wise men had seen the heavens illuminated with light, which enshrouded the heavenly messengers who heralded the advent of Christ to the shepherds of Israel, and after the angelic messenger returned to heaven, a bright star appeared, and lingered in



the heavens. The unusual appearance of the large, bright star which they had never seen before, hanging as a sign in the heavens, attracted their attention, and the

Spirit of God moved them out to seek this heavenly Visitor to a fallen world.

"As the light [of the angels at Bethlehem] faded, a luminous star appeared, and lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a distant company of shining angels, but of this the wise men were ignorant. Yet they were impressed that the star was of special import to them. They consulted priests and philosophers and searched the scrolls of the ancient records. The prophecy of Balaam had declared, 'There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel.' Numbers 24:17. Could this strange star have been sent as a harbinger of the Promised One? The magi had welcomed the light of heaven-sent truth; now it was shed upon them in brighter rays. Through dreams they were instructed to go in search of the newborn Prince." *-The Desire of Ages*, p. 60

"Angels of God, in the appearance of a star, conducted the wise men on their mission in search of Jesus. They came with gifts and costly offerings of frankincense and myrrh, to pay their oblation to the infant King foretold in prophecy. They followed the brilliant messengers with assurance and great joy." *-The Review and Herald*, December 9, 1884

"At this time the systems of heathenism were losing their hold upon the people. Men were weary of pageant and fable. They longed for a religion that could satisfy the heart. While the light of truth seemed to have departed from among men, there were souls who were looking for light, and who were filled with perplexity and sorrow. They were thirsting for a knowledge of the living God, for some assurance of a life beyond the grave.

"As the Jews had departed from God, faith had grown dim, and hope had well-nigh ceased to illuminate the future. The words of the prophets were uncomprehended. To the masses of the people, death was a dread mystery; beyond was uncertainty and gloom. It was not alone the wailing of the mothers of Bethlehem, but the cry from the great heart of humanity, that was borne to the prophet across the centuries, the voice heard in Ramah, 'lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.' Matthew 2:18. In 'the region and shadow of death,' men sat unsolaced. With longing eyes they looked for the coming of the Deliverer, when the darkness should be dispelled, and the mystery of the future should be made plain." *-The Desire of Ages*, p. 32

"At the first advent of Christ, darkness, covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Light and truth seemed to have departed from among men, and Satan appeared to reign in undisputed power. Rival sects existed, and among those who professed to be the servants of God were dis-



played love of preeminence and strife for power and position. Souls who were desirous of light were filled with perplexity and sorrow. Many were sighing, 'What is truth?' Ignorance prevailed, but many were looking for something better, looking for light that would illuminate the moral darkness of the world. They were thirsting for a knowledge of the living God, for some assurance of a life beyond the tomb. There were men not of the Jewish nation who prophesied that an inspired instructor would come to teach them of the truth. There were among the Jews men who had not polluted their integrity, who read with eager anticipation the sure word of prophecy that pointed to the advent of the Redeemer. They rejoiced in the promise that God had made to his servant Moses: 'I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto My words which He shall speak in My name, I will require it of him.' -*The Signs of the Times*, January 20, 1890

"The deception of sin had reached its height. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation. The Son of God, looking upon the world, beheld suffering and misery. With pity He saw how men had become victims of satanic cruelty. He looked with compassion upon those who were being corrupted, murdered, and lost. They had chosen a ruler who chained them to his car as captives. Bewildered and deceived, they were moving on in gloomy procession toward eternal ruin,—to death in which is no hope of life, toward night to which comes no morning. Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God, had become the habitation of demons. The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men. Human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed. Such was the prospect upon which the world's Redeemer looked. What a spectacle for Infinite Purity to behold!" -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 36

"Outside of the Jewish nation there were men who foretold the appearance of a Divine Instructor. These men were seeking for truth, and to them the Spirit of Inspiration was imparted. One after another, like stars in the darkened heavens, such teachers had arisen. Their words of prophecy had kindled hope in the hearts of thousands of the Gentile world." -*Ibid.*, p. 33

"Then was the melody of heaven heard by mortal ears, and the heavenly choir swept back to heaven as they closed their ever memorable anthem. The light faded away and the shadows of the night once more fell on the hills and

plains of Bethlehem; but there remained in the hearts of the shepherds the brightest picture mortal man had ever looked upon, and the blessed promise and assurance of the advent to our world of the Savior of men, which filled their hearts with joy and gladness, mingled with faith and wondrous love to God." -*The Review and Herald*, December 9, 1884

"Those who love God should feel deeply interested in the children and youth. To them God can reveal His truth and salvation. Jesus calls the little ones that believe on Him the lambs of His flock. He has a special love for and interest in the children. The most precious offering that the children can give to Jesus, is the freshness of their childhood." -*The Review and Herald*, December 17, 1889

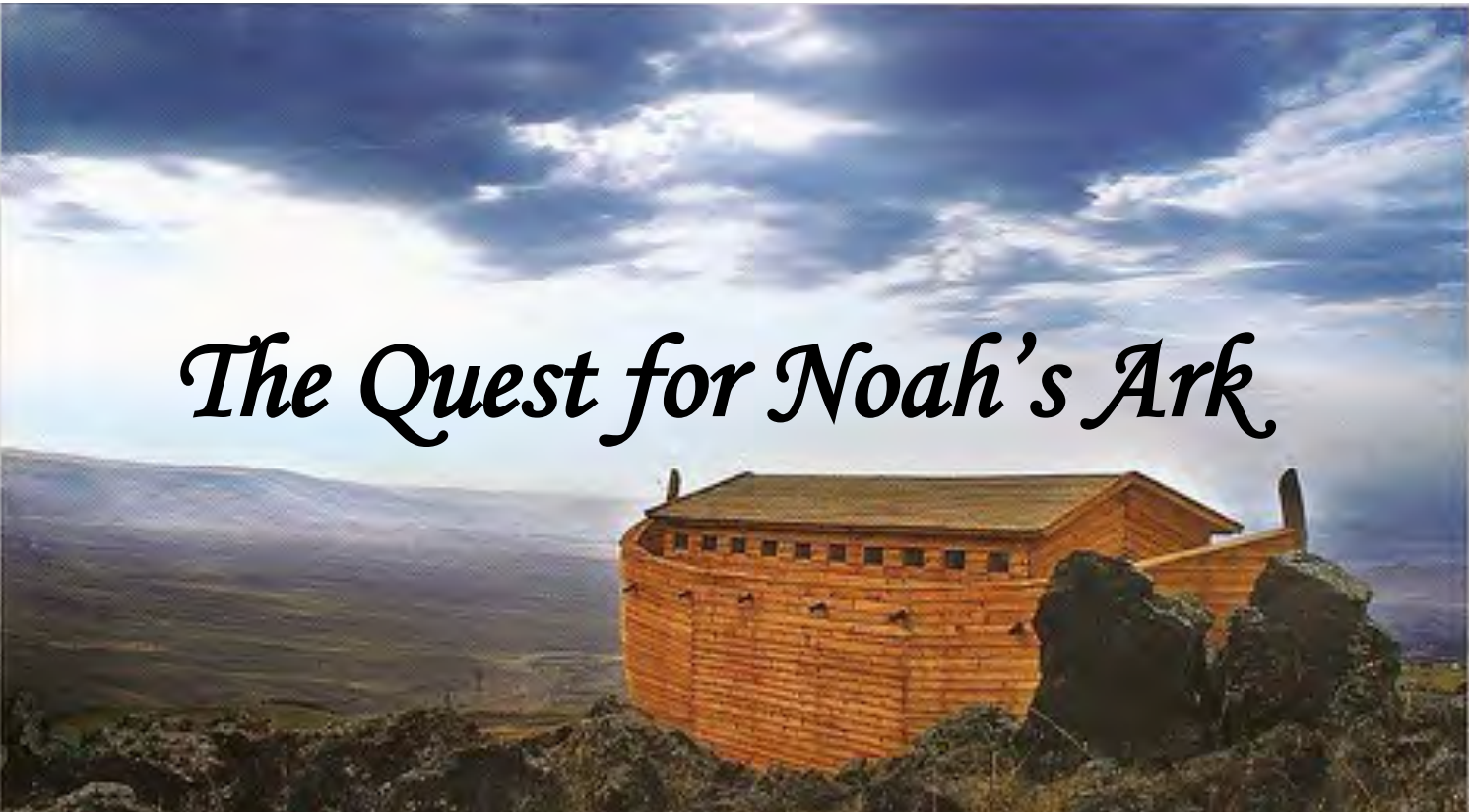
We are in great danger of losing eternal life if we fail to walk according to God's way. "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: for He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we could have been as Sodom and been made like unto Gomorrah." -*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 379

"From Paul's day to the present time, God by His Holy Spirit has been calling after the Jew as well as the Gentile. 'There is no respect of persons with God,' [Romans 2:11] declared Paul. . . . 'The gospel,' he declared, 'is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.' [Romans 1:16, 17.] It is of this gospel of Christ, equally efficacious for Jew and Gentile, that Paul in his epistle to the Romans declared he was not ashamed." -*Ibid.*, p. 380



"If the church will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God's promise to her will stand fast forever. He will make her an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Truth, passing by those who despise and reject it, will triumph. Although at times apparently retarded, its progress has never been checked. When the message of God meets with opposition, He gives it additional force, that it may exert greater influence. Endowed with divine energy, it will cut its way through the strongest barriers and triumph over every obstacle." -*Ibid.*, p. 601. Amen.

*Josiah Daniel*



# *The Quest for Noah's Ark*

My Seventh-day Adventist neighbour, Lois, while shopping at the thrift store purchased the book "In Search of Noah's Ark" by Dave Balsiger & Charles E. Sellier JR., Copyrighted 1976.

By chance I mentioned to her that I was working on a poem about Noah and the flood; she then said that she just found the book mentioned above and asked me if I wanted to read it. I was thrilled about what has been investigated, seriously searched out and found about the ark, that has fascinated people for centuries.

The book begins with the Bible record and the quest for its historical reliability, scientific evidence of a universal flood, etc.

It documents the earliest sightings of the ark, the many attempts, expeditions and dangers in the search of this ancient great vessel, the ark of Noah.

Each chapter ends with footnotes with the original source of documents, writers, expeditions, etc.

It is an honest investigation, fascinating to read and well worth for anyone interested to try to find this book, probably out of print, but may possibly be searched for in antique book stores, thrift stores and online.

For thousands of years the story of the flood has interested people and the ark's landing in the mountains of Ararat, Big Ararat and Small Ararat, in Armenia, today's Turkey.

The landing area was called "The Place of Descend."

Josephus, the Jewish Historian, writes that Beresus the Chaldean says that people later in time carried pieces of bitumen off the ark and used it mostly for amulets—then already again idol worshipers, to ward off evil spirits.

Noah settled at the base of the mountain and it is said he had built a town called Ahora that was completely destroyed in 1840 by an earthquake. Arghuri, another name for Ahora means "the planting of vine", and historians claim that wine-growing in Europe originated from this area, where Noah did plant a vineyard.

Many legends surround Mt. Ararat and had attracted people from all places to search or climb to find Noah's ark.

But the climate situation today is not the same as it was after Noah's time.

There was no snow or ice for ages, but over time a drastic climate change created a totally different and hostile environment, engulfing the ark in snow and ice, making the spot inaccessible.

Today the area is permanently covered by glaciers and snow. The summit is rarely visible, except on some clear early mornings. But at about 10 A.M. misty, fog-like clouds set in, obscuring the upper mountain, and in the afternoon, a severe thunderstorm hits the lower levels,

while higher elevations have a blizzard.

This happens because Ararat is the only glacial covered mountain in the area; any evaporation from the ground condenses, then by midafternoon creates these stormy conditions.

The two summits, Big Ararat is 16,984 feet, Little Ararat 12,806 feet high.

In late summer Little Ararat can be without snow. But Big Ararat's glacial ice cap is over 200 feet thick, starting at the 13,000–13,500 foot level.

In the night the temperature plummets well below zero, with winds of about 80 mph (130 km). During the day the temperature rises slightly above freezing.

Often thunder-like noises can be heard; this is an echo reaction created by winds almost 150 mph (240 km), and huge boulders crashing down the slopes. Climbers have been killed by such, because they could not see them through the fogs and mists on the mountain. No trees grow up there for shelter and campfire wood.

Water is lacking for the melting snow is immediately absorbed through the porous rocks down to underground streams. Deep crevasses 100 feet (30 meters) deep at snow covered elevations, are not realized until too late.

Truly this mountain is treacherous, hostile to any climber. High on top there are poisonous snakes, bears, and vicious, wolf-like man-attacking dogs.

There are treacherous, loose, porous rocks, making the climber slip two steps backwards, for any three forward. It is not possible to drive in a piton anywhere.

Besides, most dangerous massive snow and rock avalanches are triggered by just the voices of people.

Mt. Ararat is a very unusual volcano. It has no crater on top, but has such on the southward side.

There existed no record of volcanic activity or major earthquakes before 1840.

But, on July 2, 1840, before sunset the ground was shaking on Mt. Ararat, fissures appeared on its sides, gas fumes bursting out, hurling down stones. The ice cap was shattered, the village of Ahora disappeared and a monastery which had existed there for 800 years. From 200 dwellers only 100 survived (another report says, no one survived).

We may wonder why it is so difficult to get to Noah's ark. Does God have a reason for this, or is it Satan, who does not want to have this precious vessel fully discovered?

For God nothing is impossible. He can melt the snow and solve the political and military hindering situation there today quickly. But it could also be, that God is waiting for the right moment and right situation to reveal the truth and evidence of the flood to all the world in the time when His truth and law will be proclaimed with a loud cry over all the world.

In the next issue we shall hear about the first sightings and attempts of many expeditions in the search of Noah's Ark.

To be continued.

*Edda Tedford, Canada*

## **DO YOU WANT TO BE A BLESSING FOR YOUR FELLOW BELIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD?**



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# Victory Over Appetite

Last month we talked about the sin of appetite and its awful consequences. Many lives have been lost through the ages because of indulgence of appetite, but this does not need to happen. We can be victorious in the battle over appetite, and gain a heavenly crown.

Sin entered into this world because through appetite, and in order to overcome we must gain the victory over appetite. "Those who indulge a perverted appetite, do it to the injury of health and intellect. They cannot appreciate the value of spiritual things. Their sensibilities are blunted, and sin does not appear very sinful, and truth is not regarded of greater value than earthly treasure." —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 425

When we indulge in appetite, we develop a familiarity with sin, and it no longer appears sinful. The sin of appetite leads to many other sins; we no longer have the spiritual discernment to recognize when we are falling into sinful practices.

As the people of God received greater light regarding many truths, such as the Sabbath, the Investigative Judgment, and the Three Angels' Messages for the end times, they were also given light on the health message. In 1863, through Sister White, God provided the Adventist people with the laws that are to govern our health, and the penalty that will follow the transgression of it, that all may learn, and be careful to live in harmony with natural law. "Obedience to the laws of health should be made a matter of earnest study, for willing ignorance on this subject is sin." —*Child Guidance*, p. 392

In the matter of indulgence of appetite, the best way to control appetite is not to allow indulgence to occur in the first place. The habit of indulging appetite can start from a very young age. Our appetites have been perverted over

6000 years of sin. Even as children, we have a natural desire for foods that are unhealthy. Parents need to control what their children eat. Often when children ask for unhealthy treats, parents have a hard time denying their requests.

Children can be very fussy eaters and will refuse to eat healthy foods, and insist on eating something that is unhealthy. Parents get concerned when their children refuse to eat, unless it is what they desire, and will give in to a child's demands. However, we cannot indulge our children's appetite when they are young, thinking that when they are older, we will feed them a healthy diet. By then, their tastes are established. And these tastes for foods that children were taught to indulge in at a young age will continue into their adult lives. Habits formed in childhood are very difficult to overcome, and will always be a source of temptation throughout one's lifetime.

It is the responsibility of the parents to make wise decisions for their children when they are too young to understand for themselves. If a child's appetite is indulged, the parents will have to answer for their course of action. Through the food that a mother provides for her family, she can either teach her children to control appetite, or she can teach them to indulge appetite.

"Teach them to deny appetite, to be grateful for the plain, simple diet God gives them. It is not for you to allow them to dictate to you what they should eat, but you should dictate what is best for them. It is a sin for you to allow your children to murmur and complain about good wholesome food, just because it does not suit their *depraved appetite*. . . . He [the child] should not be permitted to choose articles of food that are not good for him, simply because he likes them. The experience of parents should

have a controlling power in the life of the child.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 391

We see the same struggle when people join God’s church and become vegetarians. They must adapt their taste buds to a diet that they often find bland and unexciting. When we eat unhealthy foods, we are creating pathways in our brain that then crave these foods. These pathways are strengthened each time we indulge; the cravings for unhealthy foods then becomes an addiction, often to the same degree as the one who indulges in drugs or alcohol. Refusing to eat certain foods will remove those pathways in our brain.

Sister White spoke of her own struggle to give up unhealthy foods when she was presented with the health reform message in 1863. However, she persevered, and we can do the same thing. Through the power of God we can deny our bodies the foods that they crave, and train our appetite to enjoy healthy foods.

“I have not changed my course a particle since I adopted the health reform. I have not taken one step back since this light from heaven upon this subject first shone upon my pathway. I broke away from everything at once,—from meat and butter, and from three meals,—and that while engaged in exhaustive brain labor, writing from early morning till sundown. I came down to two meals a day without changing my labor.

“I have been a great sufferer from disease. . . . When making these changes in my diet, I refused to yield to taste, and let them govern me. Shall that stand in the way of my securing greater strength, that I therewith glorify my Lord? Shall that stand in my way for a moment? Never!

“I suffered keen hunger, I was a great meat eater. But when faint, I placed my arms across my stomach, and said, ‘I will not taste a morsel. I will eat simple food or I will not eat at all.’ . . . Some things in the reform I could get along with very well; but when I came to the bread, I was especially set against it. When I made these changes, I had a special battle to fight. The first two or three meals, I could not eat. I said to my stomach, ‘You may wait until you can eat bread.’ In a little while I could eat bread, and graham bread, too. This I could not eat before; but now it tastes good, and I have had no loss of appetite.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 483

The light on health reform continues to shine brighter. Already in her day, Sister White counseled that “the diet reform should be progressive. As disease in animals increases, the use of milk and eggs will become more and more unsafe. An effort should be made to supply their place with other things that are healthful and inexpensive.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 225. Our church has not

taken a formal stance on a vegan diet, and members still continue to use dairy and eggs. However, many members have made the choice to be vegan, now that there is strong evidence that dairy products are unhealthy. We need to progress in our health reform to return to the diet given to man in Eden, to prepare ourselves for our future, eternal home.

In the victory over appetite we have the example of Daniel and his three friends in the court of Babylon. They had been taken as slaves from their home, and placed in a heathen land, with the expectation that they would take on the customs and beliefs of their captors. Early on they were tested on the point of appetite when asked to eat and drink from the king’s table. “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.” Daniel 1:8. He knew that such a diet would not strengthen his physical powers or increase his mental capacity. He would do nothing to cloud his mind.



Daniel is a good example of a parent’s influence upon their children’s future choices. “Daniel’s parents had trained him in his childhood to habits of strict temperance. They had taught him that he must conform to nature’s laws in all his habits; that his eating and drinking had a direct influence upon his physical, mental, and moral nature, and that he was accountable to God for his capabilities, for he held them all as a gift from God, and must not, by any course of action, dwarf or cripple them. As the result of this teaching, the law of God was exalted in his heart.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 166

“The experience of Daniel and his youthful companions illustrates the benefits that may result from an abstemious diet, and shows what God will do for those who will cooperate with Him in the purifying and uplifting of the soul. They were an honor to God, and a bright and shining light in the court of Babylon. –*Temperance*, p. 91

“What if Daniel and his companions had made a compromise with those heathen officers, and had yielded to the pressure of the occasion by eating and drinking as was customary to the Babylonians? *That single instance of departure from principle* would have weakened their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong. Indulgence of appetite would have involved the sacrifice of physical vigor, clearness of intellect, and spiritual power. One wrong step would probably have led to others, until, their connection with heaven being severed, they would have been swept away by temptation.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 155

How many times have we departed from principle and indulged our appetites in unhealthy foods? And yet, many continue to do so, opening up temptation to many other sins. We need to learn from Daniel, so that we can prevail against Satan and keep from being swept away by his temptations.

### JESUS OVERCAME ON THE POINT OF APPETITE

In finding the victory over appetite, our greatest example is Jesus. Immediately after He began His ministry, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Jesus’ time in the wilderness was to prepare Himself for His mission. He spent time in fasting and prayer, contemplating what was ahead of Him in His work for the salvation of mankind. This time was to strengthen Him for the path to the cross.

His agony was marked by knowing that mankind fell into sin on the point of appetite. And in order to show that appetite could be overcome, He needed to fast for 40 days. And then, after His time of fasting, Satan felt that Jesus was now weak enough to fall to the temptation of appetite. Satan came to Him when He was weak and hungry and said to Him, “If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” Jesus answered and said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Satan could not tempt Jesus into sin.

“Many who profess godliness do not inquire into the reason of Christ’s long period of fasting and suffering in the wilderness. His anguish was not so much from the pangs

of hunger as from His sense of the fearful result of the indulgence of appetite and passion upon the race. He knew that appetite would be man’s



idol, and would lead him to forget God, and would stand directly in the way of his salvation.” —*Temperance*, p. 20

As Adam sinned on the point of appetite, now Jesus must start His redemption of mankind by being tempted by appetite. Satan also knew that many had fallen because of appetite, including Adam and Eve, who, through their giving into temptation introduced sin into the world. He knew that the children of Israel, God’s chosen people, so easily failed when tempted on the point of appetite, and believed that Jesus Himself would easily fail also. Satan became bold, and he boasted to the heavenly angels that when Christ appeared, taking on man’s nature after 4,000 years of sin, that He would be weaker than Satan, and Jesus would be overcome by Satan’s power. Therefore, he brought the hardest test to Christ first. If he could make Him sin because of appetite, then the dominion of this earth would remain his.

“[Jesus] realized the power of appetite upon man; and in behalf of sinful man, He bore the closest test possible upon that point. Here a victory was gained which few can appreciate. The controlling power of depraved appetite, and the grievous sin of indulging it, can only be understood by the length of the fast which our Saviour endured that He might break its power. . . . Intemperance lies at the foundation of all the moral evils known to man. Christ began the work of redemption just where the ruin began. The fall of our first parents was caused by the indulgence of appetite. In redemption, the denial of appetite is the first work of Christ.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 194

Jesus resisted the temptation of appetite for almost six weeks. His fast strengthened Him for His earthly mission. He proved that we all can overcome appetite, through prayer and fasting; through His example and sacrifice on the cross, we have the power to become the sons of God.

“That long fast in the wilderness was to be a lesson to fallen man for all time. Christ overcame appetite by self-denial and self-control. He was not overcome by the strong temptations of the enemy, and this is encouragement for every soul who is struggling against temptation. Christ has made it possible for every member of the human family to resist temptation. . . . That long fast of the Saviour strengthened Him to endure. He gave evidence to man that He would begin the work of overcoming just where the ruin began,—on the point of appetite. . . . If the indulgence of appetite was so strong upon the race that in order to break its power, the divine Son of God, in behalf of man, was required to fast nearly six weeks, what a work is before the Christian in order that he may overcome even as Christ overcame! The strength of the temptation to indulge perverted appetite can be measured only by the inexpressible anguish of Christ in that long fast in

the wilderness.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 186

We have the great example of Jesus, who overcame appetite, and in whose strength we can also gain the victory over appetite. “In our own strength it is impossible for us to deny the clamours of our fallen nature. . . . Christ knew that the enemy would come to every human being, to take advantage of hereditary weakness, and by his false insinuations to ensnare all whose trust is not in God. And by passing over the ground which man must travel, our Lord has prepared the way for us to overcome. It is not His will that we should be placed at a disadvantage in the conflict with Satan. He would not have us intimidated and discouraged by the assaults of the serpent. ‘Be of good cheer,’ He says, ‘I have overcome the world.’ Let him who is struggling against the power of appetite, look to the Saviour in the wilderness of temptation, See Him in His agony upon the cross, as He exclaimed, ‘I thirst. He has endured all that is possible for us to bear. His victory is ours.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 123

“There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine image. So long as we are united with Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. . . .

“And how is this accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation. . . . Every promise in God’s word is ours. ‘By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God’ are we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the word. All its strength is yours. ‘Thy word,’ says the psalmist, ‘have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.’” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 123

However, we cannot solely rely on Christ to remove all our cravings to indulge appetite. We must do our utmost to overcome. Many people blame God when they continue to fall into sin, and that God is not working hard enough in their behalf to put away sin from them. We can choose what we have in our homes to eat, we can choose which company we associate with, we can choose to deny our desires for unhealthy foods. This all rests on us. And small victories will then grow into greater victories, and we will have trained our appetites to follow the light given to us in the health reform message. “But it is not our heavenly Father’s purpose to save us without an effort on our part to cooperate with Christ. We must act our part, and divine power, uniting with our effort, will bring vic-

tory.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 153. “There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine image. So long as we are united with Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. . . .

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“Temptations to the indulgence of appetite possess a power which can only be overcome by the help that God can impart. But with every temptation we have the promise of God, that there shall be a way of escape. Why, then, are so many overcome? It is because they do not put their trust in God. They do not avail themselves of the means provided for their safety. *The excuses offered for the gratification of perverted appetite, are therefore of no weight with God.*” –*Ibid.*, p.

154. As long as we place our dependence and our trust in God, we can be victorious over appetite, and many other besetting sins.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER:

# Old Charlie



"I am worried about Sister White," said a woman to her neighbour who sat in the back of the meetinghouse. "She is so tired and worn she can scarcely stand."

"Yes," said the neighbour, "she and her husband travel nearly all the time, going from place to place to hold meetings. The stages go slowly and stop so often that it takes hours and hours to go only a few miles; and the train isn't much better. One has to wait a long time at the junctions where a change of cars is made too." She sighed. "They will soon wear out and be able to visit us no more, I fear."

Brother and Sister White were attending meetings in Sutton, Vermont. Sister White was extremely tired. She could scarcely stand to speak.

One of the women spoke to her husband about it. "What they need," he answered, "is a good horse and a covered buggy of their own. Then they could travel much faster and safer than by stage. They could stop when they please, and go across country if they wanted to, and save much time."

At once he began talking to other men attending the meetings. "A horse and buggy is what they need," he told them. "They are too poor to buy one of their own. Why can't we take up a collection and buy them one?"

The idea struck them all as being just the right thing to do, and before long the offering plate was being passed

around. When the money was counted, with a few promises added from those who did not have very much money with them, there was \$175. What a good amount of money in those days. Several of the men who had horses for sale agreed each to bring a horse to a certain place on Monday morning and let James and Ellen choose the one that they liked best. Of course, Brother and Sister White were surprised and delighted to hear that they were to have a horse of their own to drive. They knew better than anyone else how tiresome it was riding on the train and in the stagecoach.

Sunday night Ellen was given a vision in which she saw a group of men gathered at the crossroads. They were holding three horses that they had brought for James to inspect. The first one brought forward was a high-spirited, nervous sorrel. As they were looking at the horse, the angel who was acting as their guide said to her, "Not that one." Then the man showed them a large gray horse that was clumsy and awkward, and again the angel said, "Not that one." The third horse was a beautiful dappled chestnut, a fine, intelligent-looking horse. When he was led forward, the angel said, "This is the one for you."

The next morning the Whites went to the crossroads where the men were to bring the horses, and the fulfillment of her vision was exact. The same three horses were brought forward for inspection—the nervous sor-



rel, the clumsy gray, and the dappled chestnut. Of course, it was not hard for James to make his choice, and soon Old Charlie, the dappled chestnut, was hitched to a good buggy and presented to the delighted workers.

With happy hearts Brother and Sister White went on their way. They were not only happy that they had this comfortable way to travel but they were cheered by the kindness of the good people who had been so thoughtful of their comfort. It was autumn, and as they traveled over the beautiful hills of New England, the road wound in and out among the trees flaming with autumn colors, and now and then dipped down into a valley where orchards lined the road. Big red apples lay in the path which Old Charlie was following. He soon made known to his new masters that he was fond of apples, and James unhitched the checkrein so that the horse could lower his head.

Charlie would come trotting down the road until he saw an apple within easy reach, and gently slowing down, he would pick up the apple. Then throwing his head high he would trot on, eating the apple as he went.

At noon they often stopped beside the road to eat their lunch and to rest. James would spread a blanket on the grass for Ellen to rest, and then braid the tall grass and tie the horse to it, so that Charlie might feed and not wander away. During these periods of rest James was often busy answering letters or writing articles for the paper. He frequently used a box for a writing table, or if he could find nothing better he even laid his paper on the stiff crown of his tall hat.

After a simple lunch and a little rest they thanked God for a safe, pleasant journey, and then traveled on.

Brother White was so anxious that all his possessions be used in the cause of God that he often lent Old Charlie to other ministers who were called upon to go to some distant place and preach.

One Fourth of July, John Loughborough and another minister started across the country, driving this faithful horse. A heavy rain had been falling, and they found a bridge gone at a stream crossing. Some people living on the bank of the stream told them that

other teams of horses had been just walking through the creek; so Brother Loughborough drove Old Charlie into the water while the other minister crossed on a narrow footbridge. In a moment the wagon was floating and the horse was pulled off his feet. Both horse and wagon began to float down the stream. The ministers both lifted their hearts to God, asking that He would save John and the faithful horse. As they were being swept down the stream, the wagon wheels struck a large rock. Old Charlie turned his head back and cast a pitiful glance at the driver. "Charlie," called Brother Loughborough, "you've got to get me out of this!" The horse gave two or three lunges forward with all his might toward the bank. He gained a footing and drew the wagon up out of the water.

A group of people had gathered on the shore when they saw John drive the horse into the water, and now they gave a shout of cheer for the brave horse as he walked out on the other side.

The men drove on until they came to a little grove of trees, where they allowed the horse to rest while they gave thanks to God for saving Old Charlie and Brother Loughborough from drowning.

And so the Adventist message went forward even though the missionaries faced many trials and tribulations along the way. We need to support the leaders in our churches as did the early Advent believers. Their work is not easy as they often face difficulties and challenges. We all need to help out in the work of the Lord.



# Nigeria

August 21, 2022



# Philippine Union Conference

August 27, 2022



# East Congo

**Camp Meeting July 27–31**

The Congo union is composed of 6 fields  
Membership is: 2,595: Ordained ministers: 2 Number of Churches: 82



**The East Congo Field is located near the Rwanda Border. They are few in number, but strong in the faith. The**

**following activities took place during the camp meeting: Evangelism crusade and missionary work, Baptism and Lord's Supper, Child dedication, Camp meeting enriched by songs and teachings on the Three Angels' Messages, Unity in Family and Health Reform.**

## The youth

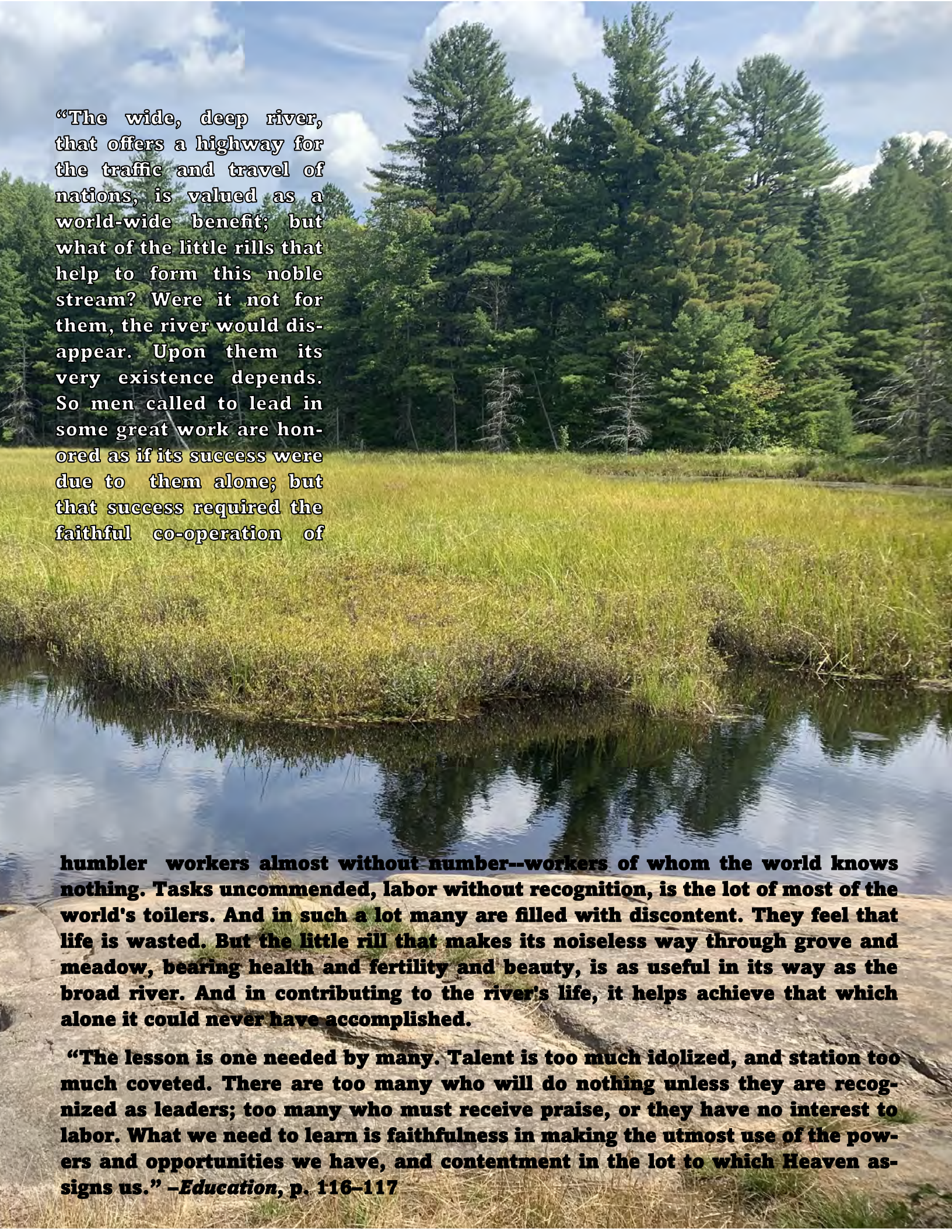


**It was a wonderful experience during the Field conference, when two new souls joined the Church by being baptized.**

**After the baptism, they were accepted into the church and we shared the Lord's Supper together.**

**We pray that the Lord's work in this new field will grow and that the light of the truth will shine everywhere to everyone in order to hasten the Lord's coming.**





“The wide, deep river, that offers a highway for the traffic and travel of nations, is valued as a world-wide benefit; but what of the little rills that help to form this noble stream? Were it not for them, the river would disappear. Upon them its very existence depends. So men called to lead in some great work are honored as if its success were due to them alone; but that success required the faithful co-operation of

**humbler workers almost without number--workers of whom the world knows nothing. Tasks uncommended, labor without recognition, is the lot of most of the world's toilers. And in such a lot many are filled with discontent. They feel that life is wasted. But the little rill that makes its noiseless way through grove and meadow, bearing health and fertility and beauty, is as useful in its way as the broad river. And in contributing to the river's life, it helps achieve that which alone it could never have accomplished.**

**“The lesson is one needed by many. Talent is too much idolized, and station too much coveted. There are too many who will do nothing unless they are recognized as leaders; too many who must receive praise, or they have no interest to labor. What we need to learn is faithfulness in making the utmost use of the powers and opportunities we have, and contentment in the lot to which Heaven assigns us.”—*Education*, p. 116–117**