

January / February
2025

Volume 32
Number 1

The Reformation
Messenger



What is Your Excuse? Page 4

The Arch-fiend on the Verge of Repentance Page 14

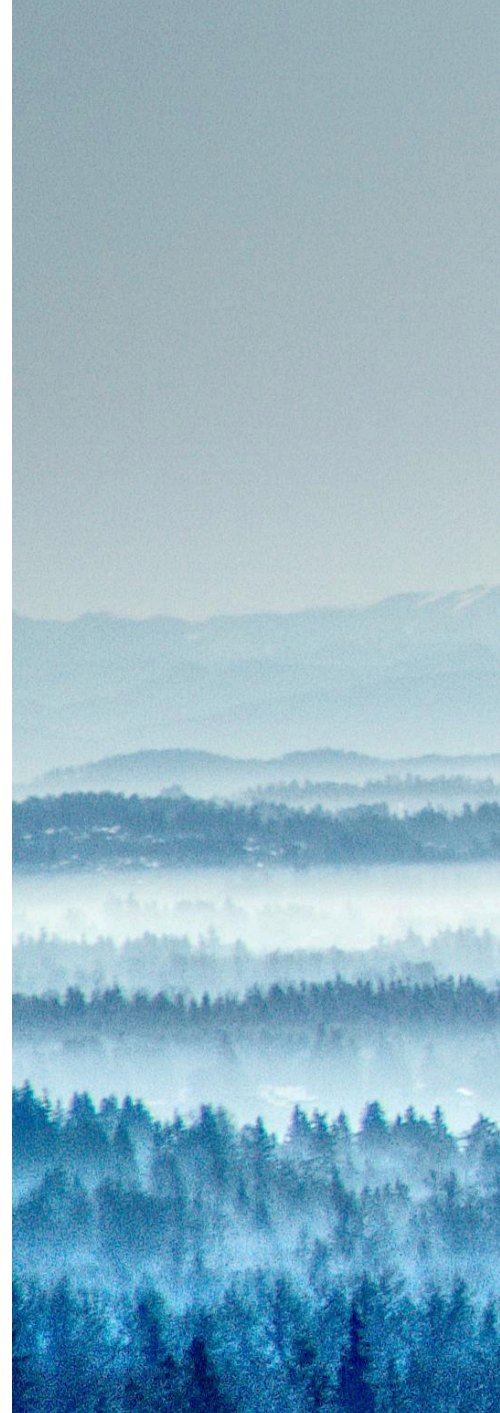
The Nature of Man Page 17

The Reformation **Messenger**

Volume 32, Number 1

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Holy, Holy, Holy
- 4 What is Your Excuse?
- 9 Power in the Blood
- 14 The Arch-fiend on the Verge of Repentance
- 17 The Nature of Man
- 20 Only with the Help of God (Part 3)
- 22 God's Character (Part 3): Slow to Anger
- 24 Channels of Light
- 27 Canadian Field Newsletter
- 28 Healthy Recipes: Soya Balls
- 30 IMS Around the World



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.

The Reformation Messenger is published bi-monthly. It is an Official Publication of the International Missionary Society the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field

Subscriptions can be paid online on the website or by cheque.

- E-mail: imsmessenger@yahoo.com
- Internet: www.imsmessenger.org
- Mail: RR #3, 7899 15 Side Road, Milton, ON L9T 2X7, Canada
- Make cheques out to IMS Publishing

COST:

Black & White x \$22.00 per year.
Colour x \$25.00 per year.
(Add \$10.00 North America / \$20.00 overseas shipping & handling)
Catalogue is available upon request for all articles for 31 years.



Holy, Holy, Holy

By Ellen G. White

“Beautiful and glorious, lovely, lovely, lovely. Haughtiness must come down, pride must fall. Holy, holy, holy, holy. Who shall be able to stand? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart: to those who take Him for the man of their counsel there is salvation. Who hath directed the mind of the Lord, or being His counselor hath taught Him? In infinite wisdom He hath established the Sabbath in Eden. Behold ye, be careful how ye treat the Sabbath of the Lord your God. It is holy, it is holy to the Lord.

“Everything must be sacrificed this side of the (loosing) four winds. Should anything be considered too dear to sacrifice for God? Behold ye, can ye not see them just ready to let go? Speed thee, hide, beneath the covering. The mind is perplexed. The mind is troubled. Break away.

“That seal must be implanted in a clear mind. It is so engrossed there is no place for the seal. Who hath the image of the lovely Jesus? Holy God have mercy, have mercy upon Thy Zion. Heal them, heal them. Watch them carefully, have everything done this side of the standing up of Michael. Those that now get established get fully established not to falter.” —*Manuscript 5, 1849*

“We need an experience similar to that which Isaiah had when he saw the cherubim calling ‘Holy, holy, holy.’ ‘In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he

did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of Him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.’ Isaiah 6:1-8.

“When he caught sight of the throne of God he said, ‘Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips.’ [Verse 5.] Every worker chosen of God will feel thus. But the seraphim touched his lips with the live coal from off the altar and told him that his iniquity was taken away and his sin purged: And then as Isaiah heard the call, Whom shall I send? and who will go for us? he answers, Here am I; send me. [Verses 6-8.] He did not feel fit to be sent till the refining Spirit came upon him.

“We want that the hearts of all in this congregation shall be stirred. Is it not time we should awake out of sleep? How long before you will realize your great need of divine power? Not the ministers only; but there is work for every soul. Lift up Jesus, the Man of Calvary. Lift Him up in prayer, lift Him up in song. We have something to do to let the light flash into our own minds and hearts, and then to let it shine forth to others. . . . Will you not from this very day try to represent Christ to the world? You will have a refuge. You will be sunny Christians. We have been gloomy long enough. Had we not better come out of the cave, stand with God, and we will have Christ with us so that we can talk of redemption as did the disciples when they had been with Jesus and learned of Him. Carry the light of Jesus. Carry it to your neighbors.” —*Manuscript 27, 1891*

What is Your

What is an excuse? It can be described as: a reason or explanation put forward to defend or justify a fault or offense. Or a reason for not performing a task.

People make all kinds of excuses for negative behaviour such as, why you were late for work, or why you offended someone. Perhaps it was in retaliation because they did something you did not like. And the list can go on and on.

People also make excuses when asked to do an unpleasant duty that they feel they do not want to do or are not qualified to perform.

In the Bible, we read of many people who made excuses.

Firstly, we will read about people who made excuses for negative behaviour and then others who made excuses for duties they did not feel qualified to do. Let us read them carefully so we do not make the same kind of mistakes and offer excuses.

One of the most common times people make excuses is after they sinned. Their sin is found out, and they are

embarrassed about it. The first person who made an excuse was Adam, and the second was Eve, after they had eaten from the Tree of Knowledge.

They could not give the Lord any good reason for their sin. Adam simply said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Genesis 3:12. Eve said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." Genesis 3:13. They were very lame excuses, to say the least.

Adam's response was a devious and evasive apology to an embarrassing situation that he found himself in. He had disobeyed God due to his love for Eve, and now he blamed her for his sin. Eve also had an answer—blaming the serpent. Neither denied the fact that they ate the forbidden fruit, but each sought to escape blame by incriminating someone else. The only difference was that Eve said she was deceived and Adam admitted that his act was deliberate.

This scenario has played itself out over and over again for the past 6000 years—people making excuses for their sin when it is found out.



Excuse?

By Wendy Eaton

Then we have the excuse that King Saul made after he defeated the Amalekites. He was told to destroy every living thing, man and animal. Yet he chose to save the animals, and why? He made an excuse and blamed the people by saying, "The people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." 1 Samuel 15:15. It was seemingly a good reason. He evaded fault by saying that it was not him, but it was the people who saved the animals for the purpose of sacrificing to the Lord. Was this not a good reason for doing what they did? It seems positive. Like Adam and Eve, though, he sought to blame someone else for his sin. This clearly shows his spiritual decline. Had he told the people to destroy all the animals, they would have obeyed their king, just in the same manner as he ordered them not to eat food on the day that they put the Philistines to flight. "The people had obeyed Saul's directions; but in order to shield himself, he was willing to charge upon them the sin of his disobedience." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 630

Regardless of the situation and whether it seems like a good idea, it is never ever safe to disobey the Lord and then make an excuse. In essence, the king was saying that the Lord was wrong in wanting to destroy so

many innocent animals, and that he was right. He did a noble and honourable thing. But, it was very selfish—if he sacrificed the enemy's animals, he did not have to sacrifice his own, thus his wealth would increase.

In contrast we have King David, who made no excuses, but clearly confessed his sin. His sin was far more grievous than that of King Saul. It was a premeditated murder after he had committed adultery with one of his best friend's wives. He made no excuses. He very sorrowfully repented. "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD." 2 Samuel 12:13. Then he prayed, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalms 51:7. David prayed not only for forgiveness but also for a clean heart. This gives hope to every sinner. No sin is too great that God cannot forgive if one is genuinely repentant. "David awakens as from a dream. He feels the sense of his sin. He does not seek to excuse his course, or palliate his sin, as did Saul; but with remorse and sincere grief, he bows his head before the prophet of God, and acknowledges his guilt." *—The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1023



True repentance is changing one's attitude towards sin. The things we once loved, we now hate. Men often sin because they love the sin. Only when they make a complete change in their attitude towards sin, and by the help of the Lord, put away that sin, will true repentance be found. The old man must be crucified—destroyed. "If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13

Also Zaccheus, whose sin Jesus pointed out, confessed. He responded by saying, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Luke 19:8. He did not make any excuses. He repented and made restitution for his past sins. He did not just stop at repentance and a promise to do better in the future; no, he made restitution.

We all have made mistakes. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23) but we are counselled to "acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God." Jeremiah 3:13. Repentance and acknowledgement of sin are prerequisites to forgiveness. Nothing must be kept back. There must be no vain excuses.

How do you react when someone comes to you and quietly points out a mistake you have made? It may be something you thought no one knew about. Or then, it may be something you were not aware of; you did not realize you had done something wrong, for example, perhaps you offended someone unintentionally. Perhaps it is the church leader who brought you the gentle counsel. But, what if it was the newest member in the

church, or someone much younger than you? How would you react? Hopefully, we react like King David and Zacchaeus and not like King Saul and Adam and Eve.

"The strongest temptation is no excuse for sin. No matter how severe the pressure brought to bear upon you, sin is your own act. The seat of the difficulty is the unrenewed heart." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 331

"Can we not understand that the most costly thing in the world is sin? It is at the expense of purity of conscience, at the cost of losing the favor of God and separating the soul from Him, and at last losing heaven. The sin of grieving the Holy Spirit of God and walking contrary to Him has cost many a one the loss of his soul." —*Faith and Works*, p. 17. So, just give it up, acknowledge it and repent. Do not make any excuses or blame circumstances or other people.

Another time people often give excuses is when they are given a challenging and very difficult and unpleasant duty. They may often try to make excuses to get out of doing the task.

Some people made excuses in the Bible, but were humble enough to go forward, with the coaxing of the Lord. The Lord promised to be with them.

We have Moses who, "said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3:11. "The burden of God's work, laid upon Moses, made him a man of power. While keeping, for so many years, the



flocks of Jethro, he gained an experience that taught him true humility. But God's call found Moses, as it will find us, inefficient, hesitating, and self-distrustful. The command to deliver Israel seemed overwhelming; but, in the fear of God, Moses accepted the trust. Mark the result: He did not bring the work down to his deficiency; but in the strength of God he put forth the most earnest efforts to elevate and sanctify himself for his sacred mission." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 611

Who could think of a more challenging task than leading over 1 million people with their flocks and herds through the desert for 40 years? Moses went and the Lord blessed him.

Then we have the example of Jeremiah. He also made excuses, but he went forward. "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth." Jeremiah 1:6-9. The Lord refused to accept Jeremiah's excuses. When the Lord commands, thoughts of self are out of place. There remains but one duty—the duty to obey. The Lord did promise to assist and protect the prophet, so he went. "In the youthful Jeremiah, God saw one who would be true to his trust and who would stand for the right against great opposition. In childhood he had proved faithful; and now he was to en-

sure hardness, as a good soldier of the cross." —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 407

Jonah was another one who did not like the task given him of the Lord and he simply ran away. The Lord did go after him, and turned him onto the right track and he eventually went, after spending three days in the belly of a whale.

The Lord does not always go after those who refuse to do their duty. We have the case of Hazen Foss and William Foy in the time of Ellen White. They were given the unpleasant task of relating a message from the Lord. They refused, offering whatever excuse they could think of. The spirit of the Lord was removed from them and given to the weakest of the weak in the church—a young 17 year old girl who had sustained a severe head injury. The Lord is never dependent on any man. If someone absolutely refuses to fulfil the duty, He will find someone else who is willing.

The Lord has a duty for you. If it is unpleasant, He has promised to be with you. Do not make excuses as to why you cannot perform the duty.

We should be like Isaiah. When the Lord asked him, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" He could have suggested many different possible people who could go and perform the duties of the Lord, but no, instead he said, "Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8. Isaiah's response was immediate. He did not hesitate, to try to think it through, thinking of all the difficulties he may face. He did not say, he would think about it for a week and discuss it with his family and friends. No,



His only thought was to do the will of the Lord, whatever it may be.

Or Elisha—as soon as he received the call of the Lord, “he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.” 1 Kings 19:20–21. Elisha’s response was also immediate. He sacrificed his animals, turned his back on his past and went forward by faith to enter the service of the Lord. He came from a wealthy family and did not consider the fact that he would have much less material wealth as a prophet. “When he was first summoned, his resolution had been tested. As he turned to follow Elijah he was bidden by the prophet to return home. He must count the cost—decide for himself to accept or reject the call. But Elisha understood the value of his opportunity. Not for any worldly advantage would he forgo the possibility of becoming God’s messenger, or sacrifice the privilege of association with His servant.” —*Education*, p. 59

In the time of Jesus, when He called His disciples, we read that they left their occupations and did not stop to consider the possible consequences. The Lord called, and they answered and followed.

Do you make excuses as to why you cannot do particular duties in the church? Do you feel that it is not your responsibility to give Bible Studies or go out canvassing? It is the duty only of the missionary in the church? Our excuse is that we tell ourselves we do not have a talent for speaking or teaching, so we cannot teach a lesson or give a Bible Study. We say that there are more qualified persons than us. Well, the Lord can qualify anyone. The LORD is not dependent on any one person. All He needs is a willing heart and mind—one who loves the Lord so much that he is willing to do anything he is asked.

What if you are called into the work of the Lord full-time? Do you count the cost and see that it is too costly a sacrifice? You think that you cannot support your family and live a luxurious lifestyle on a missionary salary. Or, do you simply leave all and follow, trusting the Lord to provide?

One man who Jesus called had a ready excuse, “He said unto another, Follow Me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:59–60. This man’s father

was probably still alive, and it may have been many years before he would have to bury him. Jesus called him on his excuse. Had the father died, the man would have been busy with funeral preparations and would not have been following Jesus. We do not know if he went after all to follow Jesus, but he did not seem willing to give up all to follow Jesus quite yet.

And, we cannot forget the rich young ruler. He chose not to follow Jesus. “He went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” Matthew 19:22. There is no biblical record of anything that he would have said or thought other than leaving sorrowful. He likely had many excuses in his mind as to why he could not follow Jesus and sell all. He had eagerly run up to Jesus asking what he should do to gain eternal life. When he was told to sell all, he completely changed. His joy turned to gloom and he left sorrowing. The price was too high. His riches were his excuse for not following Jesus.

There are many who have means but are using them more for themselves. If every member was faithfully giving, there would not need to be so many calls to give. There would be plenty of money in the treasury.

Yet the LORD blesses people with means in order for them to donate to His work and the work can go forward. There are other rich men who left all—Levi Matthew for one. He was busily at work when the Lord came by and said, “Follow me. . . . he arose, and followed Him.” Mathew 9:9. He was a tax collector and likely a wealthy man, but he gave up his employment to follow Jesus.

May God help us not to make any excuses when we sin and it is pointed out to us by a brother or sister, or make any excuses when called to do a duty. Just repent of your sin, if you have sinned, or just obey when called to do a duty, trusting the Lord’s promise that He will be with you, regardless of how challenging the task may be.

I hope we can answer the initial question in the title by telling the Lord, “no, we do not have any excuses.” Just put your heart into the work of character reformation and the Lord will work in and through you and help you to obey His will. He will never leave you, just trust. He said, “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20

Amen.

Power In the *Blood*

By Makoto Matsumoto

When we err, a profound sense of guilt often ensues, weighing heavily on our hearts and leaving us feeling deeply troubled. Sometimes, it feels even suffocating. David vividly expressed this discomfort: "O Lord, rebuke me not in Thy wrath: neither chasten me in Thy hot displeasure. For Thine arrows stick fast in me, and Thy hand presseth me sore. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long." Psalm 38:1-6

Given this powerful depiction of guilt, the pressing question becomes: what is the remedy for such a burdened conscience? How can we liberate ourselves from this overwhelming feeling and be assured that our sins are forgiven?

Threefold Subjects

To begin with, we need to understand where this sense of guilt comes from. Firstly, we feel guilty when the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and shows us our sins. "... that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." Romans 3:19. It is the plan of God for us to feel guilty, as without it we cannot come to seek for His salvation. However, this sense of guilt comes together with release from it, as God shows us His mercy and forgiveness.

Then why do we still feel bad? We sometimes

feel guilty despite God's forgiveness. It is because of a lack of faith. Let us think about Judas Iscariot. Even though Jesus looked into Judas with a face full of compassion and forgiveness, Judas could not forgive himself. "Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. . . ." Matthew 27:3-4. Would Judas have been saved if he had trusted Jesus' forgiveness and truly repented? Yes, he would. We know this because Peter, who betrayed Jesus through his denials, trusted His forgiveness and was saved. Therefore, if we feel guilty despite His forgiveness, it is because we are not forgiving ourselves.

Lastly, there is Satan, making us feel guilty. He whispers into our ears that our sins are too great, that God cannot forgive us. In the heavenly court, he works so hard to claim our souls as his property on the grounds of our sins. He is called "the accuser of our brethren . . . which accused them before our God day and night." Revelation 12:10. Unlike the Holy Spirit, who shows



us our sins so that we can have hope in Jesus, Satan shows us our sins so that we become discouraged.

Therefore, there are three subjects that make us realize our sins and thus trouble our conscience: God, Man (ourselves), and Satan. How can we answer these three subjects? Amazingly, only one solution is required for us to bring God-ward, man-ward (ourselves), and Satan-ward. It is the blood of Jesus.

God-ward

We tend to think that the blood of Jesus is mostly for us. Well, yes, that is true. However, it is essential to note that the blood is for God first. What does this mean? Of course, God does not need redemption through the blood. God does not need the blood in the same manner as we do. He does not need the blood to be clean, as He is already clean. What I meant is that the blood had to be brought to God first so that God would approve the blood and declare that it is sufficient to forgive all our sins. We can see this truth in the Bible through different examples.

For instance, in the Passover, the Israelites were instructed to put the blood on their door. "And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it." Exodus 12:7. Now, let us imagine we are living in their time. Let us take a look at a door nearby. Where would you stand to put the blood? Would you stand indoors or outdoors to put the blood? You would have to go out of the house and put the blood on the outside of the door. Why?

It is because God has to see the blood. That was the whole point of putting the blood on the door. "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt... And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." Exodus 12:12-13

The blood was to be a sign visible to God passing through the land. So, it would not make sense to put the blood on the side of the door that is visible from the inside. As a result, the blood was invisible to the people who had to stay inside throughout the night. From this, we can conclude that the blood had to be presented to God first.

It was the same on the Day of Atonement also. On this particular day, blood was shed for the sins of the people. Then, it was brought into the Most Holy to be presented to God. "Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood

within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat." Leviticus 16:15

Now, the only person allowed to enter the Most Holy was the high priest. People had to wait outside, searching their hearts. Therefore, when the blood was brought to God, people could not see it. Again, the blood was presented to God first before the sins were removed from the camp.

Indeed, after Jesus shed His blood and was resurrected from death, the first thing on Jesus' agenda was to go see His Father to present His blood. "Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God." John 20:17

"Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life. The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son." *-The Desire of Ages*, p. 790

Now, why does the Bible emphasize this truth? Why did the blood have to be accepted by God first? Here, we see a lesson so deep that it reaches the foundation of our faith. Jesus brought His blood to His Father, and He approved it. Thus, God proclaimed that this blood is sufficient for our sins. The total price was paid. No matter how big our sins might be, the blood is enough to free us from guilt. Hence, we can be assured that we are forgiven and do not need to feel guilty anymore. Rather, we are called to rejoice for our freedom.

Despite this truth, some of us tend not to forgive ourselves. There is also Satan, who tells us that our sins are too terrible to be forgiven. And that is what suffocates us. However, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." Romans 8:31-33

Before God provided us with the blood of atonement, He had already seen and approved it. He announced that the blood was sufficient. He justified us. He said we are forgiven. If God has said so, who would dare speak against Him? How could we dare? How could Satan dare? We are forgiven. "But the Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him."

“But the Lord is in
His Holy temple:
let all the earth keep
silence before Him.”

Habakkuk 2:20



“Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, He hath bid his guests.” Habakkuk 2:20; Zephaniah 1:7

Man-ward

Let us discuss in more depth how we sometimes do not forgive ourselves. Even though the Bible shows us that God has forgiven us, we sometimes cannot accept that truth as a reality. This is because we cannot believe we are truly forgiven. This form of a sense of guilt is not aroused by the Holy Spirit. It is due to a lack of faith. The Bible calls it “an evil conscience.”

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

We should not mistake this evil conscience for the true conscience. The true conscience is given by the Holy Spirit to help us realize our sins and receive forgiveness. However, if we think we are so terrible that God would not forgive us, that is rather the voice of an evil spirit.

Many people with this evil conscience rely on their feelings. They want to feel better by punishing or abusing themselves, or they have to feel better by doing something good to redeem their bad actions. Until then, they do not allow themselves free from guilt. They cannot believe that they are forgiven, even without having to pay for the consequences.

However, Jesus' blood is already proof that He has paid for everything. If we do not forgive ourselves, we are telling others that His blood is not enough.

“... you are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You believe that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You will to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise,—believe that you are forgiven and cleansed,—God supplies the fact; you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. It is so if you believe it.

“Do not wait to feel that you are made whole, but say, ‘I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised.’” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 51

The paralytic whom Christ healed did not wait until he felt strength in his legs. He believed the word of Jesus and stood up. And when he did so, His word became the reality. It is the same for our sins. Do not put your trust in your feelings. Do not wait until you feel righteous. Do not wait until you feel like being a better person. Trust His promise, and know that you are forgiven. When you do so, it will be a reality.

Does “believe” sound too simple to be the solution? Well, yes, it is simple. Why? Because the blood is sufficient. If Jesus paid it all, why would we need second and third solutions? There is power in the blood. It is enough to forgive all our sins.

Satan-ward

The final subject that we have to deal with is Satan. Even though our sins are forgiven, Satan will not let our past go. In the heavenly court, he brings up how we have committed sins and tries to prove that we should not be forgiven. He does so to keep us as his subjects.

When Jesus came to resurrect Moses from death, Satan tried to claim Moses as his prisoner, pointing out his sin. "For the first time Christ was about to give life to the dead. As the Prince of life and the shining ones approached the grave, Satan was alarmed for his supremacy. With his evil angels he stood to dispute an invasion of the territory that he claimed as his own. He boasted that the servant of God had become his prisoner. He declared that even Moses was not able to keep the law of God; that he had taken to himself the glory due to Jehovah—the very sin which had caused Satan's banishment from heaven—and by transgression had come under the dominion of Satan. The archtraitor reiterated the original charges that he had made against the divine government, and repeated his complaints of God's injustice toward him." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 478

He does the same with us. Satan tries to claim our souls as his property. However, Satan knows very well the power of Jesus' blood. He knows that if we trust Jesus, he has no more ground to claim us. Therefore, he plants an evil conscience in us and tempts us to think we cannot be forgiven because of our sins. In this way, he tries to cut us off from the power in the blood.

However, we should not stand against Satan by ourselves. When we are accused, we tend to defend ourselves. We look into our hearts and try to find something good to prove we are not terrible sinners. However, that is exactly what Satan wants. There is nothing good in ourselves. Therefore, the attempts to overcome the sense of guilt fail, and we fall into discouragement. It leads us to think we are hopeless. Hence, we should not deal with the accuser ourselves. We should leave it to God. We should say, "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen

Jerusalem rebuke thee." Zechariah 3:2. In other words, we should not find the answer toward Satan in ourselves but in the blood of Jesus.

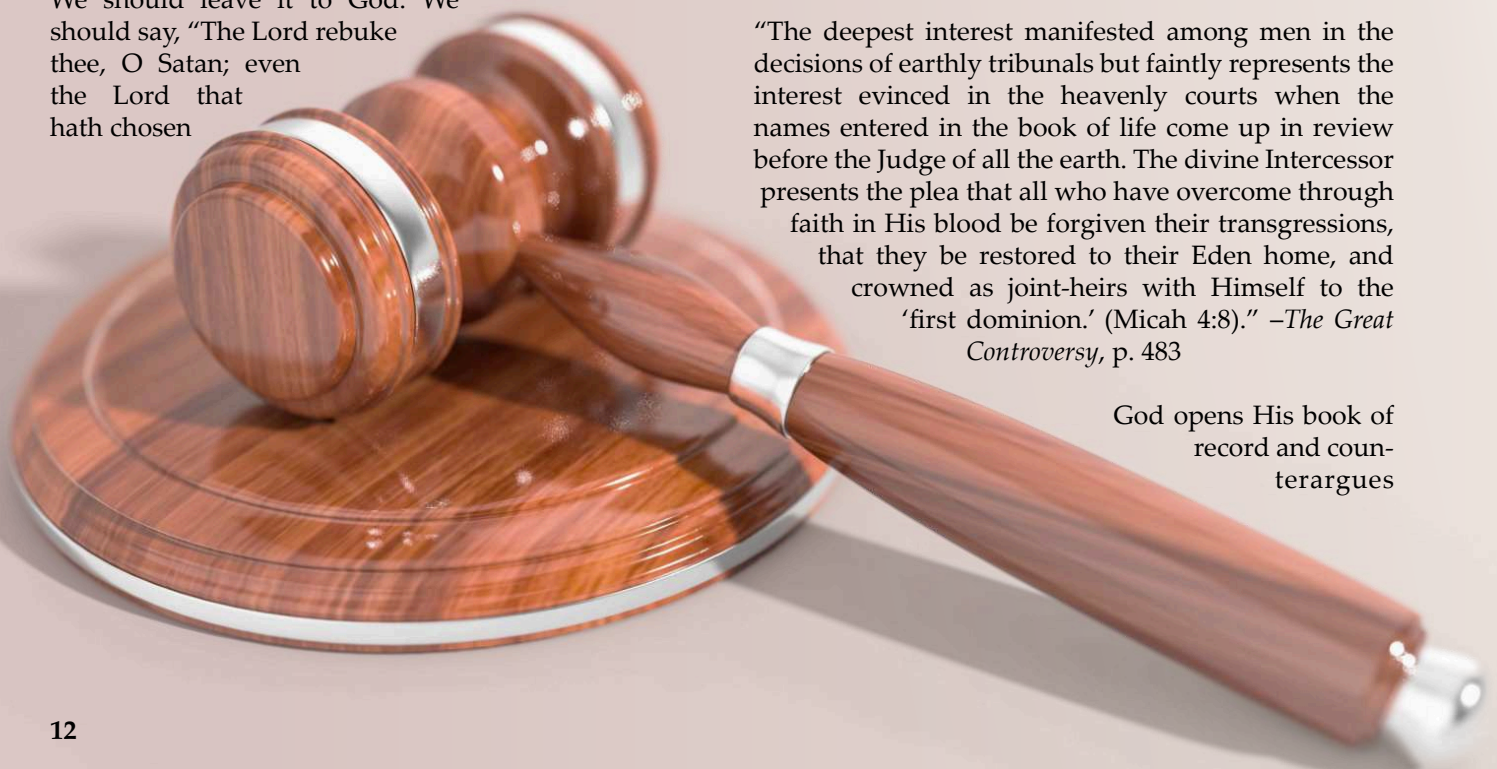
Satan points out our sins one by one, telling the angels and people from other planets that we should not be saved. God already knows that we have repented and are saved. However, God does not hide nor overlook. When we enter heaven, God does not want anyone to doubt whether we can be there. As we can see in the story of Job, God wants to prove our right to enter His kingdom while everyone in the universe is observing so that they can sincerely welcome us when we reach there.

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.... Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?... But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord." Job 1:6–12

Now, let us turn our eyes to the heavenly court and see how God answers to Satan in regards to our sins. "All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of Heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. . . .

"The deepest interest manifested among men in the decisions of earthly tribunals but faintly represents the interest evinced in the heavenly courts when the names entered in the book of life come up in review before the Judge of all the earth. The divine Intercessor presents the plea that all who have overcome through faith in His blood be forgiven their transgressions, that they be restored to their Eden home, and crowned as joint-heirs with Himself to the 'first dominion.' (Micah 4:8)." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 483

God opens His book of record and counterargues



Satan point by point. He says, "Look, this sin is forgiven by My Son's blood. That sin is crossed out by the blood." And there is nothing Satan can insist on anymore.

Therefore, the blood makes us stand against the accuser. How powerful the blood is! The blood of Jesus is sufficient to make the devil silent. "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? . . . Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." Romans 8:31, 33. Let us not forget that there is power in the blood. It is the power that has defeated Satan already, and it will defeat him again.

Do NOT Hesitate to be Free

David once committed a terrible sin. He killed his faithful soldier and took his wife. God's prophet came and scolded him. His words pierced through David's heart as a two-edged sword. Listen to his words, imagining the sacred anger toward the great sin of the king:

"Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised Me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." 2 Samuel 12:7-12

After all these long and scary rebukes, David said one sentence with a deep sense of guilt: "I have sinned against the Lord." It did not take long for the answer to be given. Within the same Bible verse, God responded to him immediately. "And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." 2 Samuel 12:13

Through this story, we can see how God is ready to forgive our sins. When David realized what he had done, he did not wait to confess his sin. And he was forgiven right there. The blood of Jesus is already there for us.

"Beware of procrastination. Do not put off the work of forsaking your sins and seeking purity of heart through Jesus. Here is where thousands upon thousands have erred to their eternal loss. I will not here dwell upon the shortness and uncertainty of life; but there is a terrible danger—a danger not sufficiently understood—in delaying to yield to the pleading voice of God's Holy Spirit, in choosing to live in sin; for such this delay really is. Sin, however small it may be esteemed, can be indulged in only at the peril of infinite loss. What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction." —*Steps to Christ*, p.32

Do not wait to be forgiven, my beloved readers. Let us say you found out that you have a deadly disease in your body that needs to be treated right away. If you say, "I will do it tomorrow," it would be much more difficult to heal. Even with the same treatment, the chance of recovery is much lower because you did it later. After all, you might not be alive by tomorrow if you do not receive the treatment today.

It is the same with sin. Thousands of souls could have been saved if they repented when they heard the message. They are lost just because they postponed it until the next day. Just as Felix who procrastinated his conversion to another day, many say: "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Acts 24:25. This "convenient season" for Felix never came. He had lost the chance to receive the power in the blood.

My dear brothers and sisters, there is profound power in the blood of Christ. It is powerful enough to forgive all our sins, no matter how grave they may be. So, what could possibly keep you from being free from guilt today? Confess your sins and embrace freedom now. God has already accepted the sacrifice. He has declared that the blood of Jesus is sufficient. Then what can prevent you from receiving forgiveness today? Trust in His word. Let the past be a lesson, but do not let it trap you. Go and sin no more. When Satan tempts you and tells you that God does not love you because of your sin, tell him about the blood that Jesus shed for you. Its power will defeat your enemy.

It is my wish and prayer that the power in the blood live in your heart today, so that you can walk your life in joy and peace with God. "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." Luke 23:43

Amen.

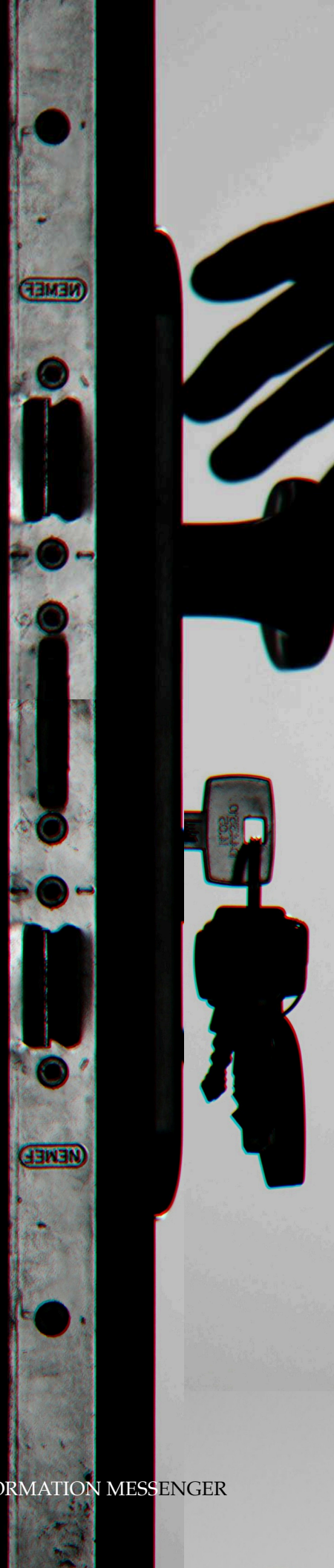
The Arch-fiend *on the Verge of* Repentance

By Emmanuel Salamba, Malawi

Do you remember that at the very onset of the great controversy in heaven, Satan had almost confessed his sin—that he almost redeemed his great mistake, saving himself and the fallen angels from the ruin awaiting them? But, what prevented him from doing this? A deeper look into that cause is of vital importance to you and me “upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11), for the same has proved the ruin of many in the history of mankind.

You recall that in heaven, before he had matured his disaffection into an open revolt, “Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong. He saw that ‘the Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works’ (Psalm 145:17); that the divine statutes are just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven. . . . He nearly reached the decision to return, but **PRIDE** forbade him. It was too great a sacrifice for one who had been so highly honoured to confess that he had been in error, that his imaginings were false, and to yield to the authority which he had been working to prove unjust.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 39. You see! It was pride that prevented him. Heretofore, there would have been neither sickness nor death, poverty nor hunger, disappointments nor depression, if not for that day’s exercise of pride. We want to unpack this behaviour; but before that, there is yet a question to be both asked and answered in the next paragraph.

What was Satan’s gain? He was expelled from the abode of bliss. Although he was not immediately destroyed, it was only for the purpose of placing matters on an eternal basis of security. “Had he been immediately blotted out of existence, some would have served God from fear rather than from love. The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages, he must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, and that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might be forever placed beyond all question.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 42. The time given to him to reveal his true





character is to prove to the Universe that his way of government is a disaster for everyone. He will finally be destroyed and sink into eternal oblivion.

Pride can be likened to an untamed pet, which today you nurture, and tomorrow it devours you. The tricky part of it all is that it does not appear as dangerous as it really is. To emphasize this point, we have three more ruinous examples from which an object lesson can be obtained. This will give a chance to the eye capable of seeing, to see and escape; and to the ear capable of hearing, to hear and be warned.

Pilate and Pride

Imagine how different would have been the history of Pilate had he utilised the chance given him to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God. How pleasant would it have been to read that one of the Roman governors became a Christian as Jesus was being tried in his Tribunal. Pilate was given an opportunity, but he let it slip away, never to meet it again. But, why? Concerning him, on the day of Jesus' trial and crucifixion, we read: "Pilate was astonished at His [Jesus'] bearing. Does this Man disregard the proceedings because He does not care to save His life? he asked himself. As he looked at Jesus, bearing insult and mockery without retaliation, he felt that He could not be as unrighteous and unjust as were the clamouring priests. Hoping to gain the truth from Him and to escape the tumult of the crowd, Pilate took Jesus aside with him, and again questioned, 'Art Thou the King of the Jews?'

"Jesus did not directly answer this question. He knew that the Holy Spirit was striving with Pilate,

and He gave him opportunity to acknowledge his conviction. 'Sayest thou this thing of thyself,' He asked, 'or did others tell it thee of Me?' That is, was it the accusations of the priests, or a desire to receive light from Christ, that prompted Pilate's question? Pilate understood Christ's meaning; but **PRIDE** arose in his heart. He would not acknowledge the conviction that pressed upon him. 'Am I a Jew?' he said. 'Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered Thee unto me: what hast Thou done?' Pilate's golden opportunity had passed." -*The Desire of Ages*. p. 726-727

Because of pride, Pilate lost the chance of recovery and will not be among the white robed ones that will, one day, sweep through the pearly gates into the city of God.

Herod and Pride

Did you know that if not for pride, John the Baptist would not have died by beheading on that fatal day? His life might have been spared and Herod would not have plunged himself in continual remorse, robbing himself of peace. When Salome had presented her fearful request, "Herod was astonished and confounded. The riotous mirth ceased, and an ominous silence settled down upon the scene of revelry. The king was horror-stricken at the thought of taking the life of John. Yet his word was pledged, and **HE WAS UNWILLING TO APPEAR FICKLE OR RASH.**" - *The Desire of Ages*, p. 221. Imagine that! Do you recognise the pride that prevented him from doing the **RIGHT**, which he himself longed to do? The result was the loss of the life of one of the greatest prophets.

"Herod's sin was ever before him. He was constantly seeking to find relief from the accusings of a guilty conscience. His confidence in John was unshaken. As he recalled his life of self-denial, his solemn, earnest appeals, his sound judgment in counsel, and then remembered how he had come to his death, Herod could find no rest. Engaged in the affairs of the state, receiving honors from men, he bore a smiling face and dignified mien, while he concealed an anxious heart, ever oppressed with the fear that a curse was upon him." -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 223

Zedekiah and Pride

Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, had for a long time, persisted in denying the counsels from God, requiring him to quietly submit to the Babylonish captivity. Yet God in His mercy, and through Jeremiah the prophet, further entreated him to give heed to that divine counsel, the hearkening of which would have proved a saviour of life unto life, to himself and his subjects.

“Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon’s princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house: But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon’s princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand. And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me. But Jeremiah said, they shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so, it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.” Jeremiah 38:17–20

“Thus even to the last hour, God made plain His willingness to show mercy to those who would choose to submit to His just requirements. Had the king chosen to obey, the lives of the people might have been spared, and the city saved from conflagration; but he thought he had gone too far to retrace his steps. He was afraid of the Jews, afraid of ridicule, afraid for his life. After years of rebellion against God, Zedekiah thought it **TOO HUMILIATING** to say to his people, I accept the word of the Lord, as spoken through the prophet Jeremiah; I dare not venture to war against the enemy in the face of all these warnings.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 457

How did it end with Zedekiah? “The weakness of Zedekiah was a sin for which he paid a fearful penalty. The enemy swept down like a resistless avalanche and devastated the city. The Hebrew armies were beaten back in confusion. The nation was conquered. Zedekiah was taken prisoner, and his sons were slain before his eyes. The king was led away from Jerusalem a captive, his eyes were put out, and after arriving in Babylon he perished miserably.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 458–459

Because of pride, some fail to retrace their footsteps even upon full realisation of the wrongfulness of the

direction they have taken. Some find it hard to express words of sincere apology for the wrong they do to their brothers and sisters. They think it is beneath their dignity to say “I am sorry, it was I who was in the wrong.” The words “forgive me” are too expensive for them to utter. They think that by so doing, their greatness will be detracted. But God’s kingdom recognises no such greatness; “The only greatness is the greatness of humility.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 650. Such do not know that those who learn the lesson of humility are much more honoured and admired, than those with a puffed-up spirit.

Pride has ever been a threat to both temporal as well as spiritual prosperity. Concerning Nebuchadnezzar, we read that “when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that He appointeth over it whomsoever He will.” Daniel 5:20–21. We thank God that he was reclaimed from his ruinous condition, and that his later end shows him acknowledging the supremacy of the God of heaven. If it finally ended well with him, he will be among the redeemed.

Remember that “What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 33. Thank God that the Master Physician has stretched forth His hands, and to all who are willing He will help to remedy their defect of pride, before it leavens the whole character, before a word of eternal condemnation is spoken against them, in the same way it was spoken to Belshazzar—Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson (also called his son)—saying: “And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; . . . Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.” Daniel 5:22, 27.


Amen.

“

A man’s **pride** shall bring him low:
but honour shall uphold the **humble** in spirit.

Proverbs 29:23





The Nature *of* Man

*Adapted from a sermon
by Timo Martin*

If you cut wood, your work is very easy if you always cut along the grain. One hit on the end of a log with the axe and the wood will split very easily. But, if you try to cut it crossways to the grain, it is much harder. If you continue to always cut along the grain, what do you get?—Firewood, only good for burning.

If you want to make something more useful or beautiful, you have to also cut crossways to the grain, and be careful that when you try to cut one way, the wood will not split the other way. This is the nature of wood.

Stone also has grain in it. Artists often have accidents; the sculptor tries to hit the stone to remove excess material to make a beautiful image, the stone can split the wrong way and the work of art is spoiled. That is the nature of stone.

Animals follow their nature. Migratory birds fly south for the winter. Mountain goats climb to the highest peaks. Salmon return upstream to the river where they were born. Even the small ants are toiling hard to build their homes with intricate passageways. They all do these by nature, without being taught or having to learn it in a school.

We human beings also have a nature, and it is easy to follow it. We do many things naturally, because that is what we are. This is the philosophy of modern society, to do your own thing, do what you enjoy, do that which gives pleasure to you. In other words, do what is natural to you. You do not feel guilty, even if it happens to go against established behaviours, because that is the way you are. That is your nature.

Already, children and young people want to do what they like, what they enjoy, without questioning whether it is right or wrong. Even the Christian churches are catering to the natural tendencies of men and women, removing the cross and self-denial from the way to heaven. Parents find it easy to deal with children if they go along with their nature. But try to cross it, and they have rebellion on their hands.

As a result of this freedom, permitting man to follow his nature, the world is in its present condition—corrupt, evil, cold, selfish. Men are killing one another, stealing from one another, hating one another, causing untold suffering and misery to one another.

Man is born into the world with an evil nature. He has a tendency to sin, and to be selfish, evil. The way of God is foolishness to him.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14. It is impossible for natural man to understand the spiritual things of God.

Who are these natural men and women, who cannot understand? Are they not often professed Christians? It is foolishness to them to be so strict in moral purity. It is foolishness for them to spend every evening in missionary work. It is foolish not to fight for your rights.

Christ spoke to the Jewish nation, to His church, to His own people. “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?” John 3:12

“Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of My sheep, as I said unto you.” John 10:25–26

“Many therefore of His disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?” John 6:60

When Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Give Caesar what is Caesar’s,” it went against their wishes. When He said, “Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you,” which meant to love the Romans and be kind to them, this went completely against the grain of their nature. The teachings of Jesus did not appeal to them. Some simply ignored His words, others hated His teachings, again others ridiculed them and made fun of them.

These reactions to the teachings of Jesus we find also today. Some ignore them. They hear the words, but do nothing. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” James 1:22. Those who hear the word but do not do it are deceiving themselves. They will be lost in the end. They have the message. They may even believe it; but they do not practice it. They are deceived, and will be disappointed.

The second class hated His words. Today the truth is hated. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 1 Timothy 4:3–4. The truth hurts their ears.

The third class ridicule and make fun of the teachings of God—the old-fashioned moral standards that the

church is upholding even today in this permissive society. Modesty and simplicity are often ridiculed, even by members of the church, and amongst the young people. Yet those who dare to make light of these standards are very nearly committing sin against the Holy Spirit.

When a group of children made fun of Elisha and of his teachings, two bears came out of the woods and tore 42 children to death. These children had no time to repent. Under the Almighty’s inspiration, the prophet pronounced a curse on them. The awful judgement that followed came from God. “And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.” 2 Kings 2:24

Reformation often goes against the grain. Many refuse it and fight against it. “For all those things hath Mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word.” Isaiah 66:2. God will look upon those of a contrite spirit and will save them.

We are warned by God that, “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” Genesis 6:3. There is a limit; when a man becomes bold in sin and knowingly and willfully goes against the law of God, and lightly esteems it, the Holy Spirit quietly leaves him alone, and the peace he once had, he will never feel again.

God is good. God is love. He tries to change our evil nature into the likeness of His divine nature. “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4.

We have a way of escape. However, in order to partake of the divine nature, we must be born again of the Spirit, and become spiritually minded.

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” Romans 8:5–9

AND I WILL TAKE THE *stony* HEART OUT OF THEIR FLESH, AND WILL GIVE THEM AN HEART OF *flesh*.

To be spiritually minded is peace and joy. The power of God is with them. A spiritually-minded person loves God and his fellow men. He is full of zeal to save others. A spiritually-minded person constantly tries to find ways to please God, to obey Him better. He tries to be a blessing to others, a help to others, to be more patient, forgiving. He is walking with God, as did Enoch. To be in the company of God daily is the greatest happiness.

When we walk with Him, we need no one else. Nothing less is sufficient for our salvation. We must walk with God. He is offering His spirit to us. He is stretching out His hand to us. He wants to talk to us. He wants to bless us. He wants to save us. He wants to change our natural human nature.

“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in My statutes, and keep Mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.” Ezekiel 11:19–20

Only God is able to change the human heart. Many have a heart of stone, so selfish, so evil. Only God is able to remove it, and give us a new heart. Then we will have a heart that can love, a heart that can forgive. The ice in our heart will melt, and a burning desire to save others comes in. To please God becomes all important.

The natural man can follow all the outward ceremonies of religion, and be proud of his goodness. But he cannot love God above all and his neighbour as himself. He cannot love his enemies. He cannot turn the other cheek. And to have a natural heart is to be an unconverted Christian; it means to be lost. He will come to church and go back home to his selfish indulgences, to practice his sin—covetousness, envy, pride. An unconverted Christian is not free. He is bound to his natural ways. He has no power to overcome. An unconverted Christian is not progressing. He is the same today as he was a year ago, or five years ago. He has the same habits, the same formal religion.

“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:13–14

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. . . . And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:2–3, 6

Down in this world all is dark, confusing, evil, and so easily we become influenced by the world and get entangled in their ways, in their ambitions. But when we rise higher above the world, all seems different. We see the great plan of redemption, the providences of God. This world will look empty and wicked from above. And our desire will be nearer to God, nearer to Him who died for us; we want to flee far from the sinful, selfish world, into the presence of God, where all is pure and holy, peaceful. Then we will walk with God as did Enoch.

Then the natural heart, the natural man will change, and we become as pliable clay in the hand of the potter. God will do His work in us. Daily we see a remarkable transformation. Daily the lovely image of Jesus is seen in us, more and more. The world becomes so strange to us, and we will be homesick for the better land, homesick to see Jesus face to face. Soon Jesus shall come. Soon our trials will be over forever. Soon we change the vile, mortal body to the likeness of His immortal body.

Then this earth will hold us no more, but we will rise higher and higher, into the glorious presence of God. May the Lord grant that this is not a broken promise, but a reality to each one of us.

AMEN.

Only with the Help of God

Experiences from
the Life of Johannes Altwein

Part
3

REFUGEE'S IDENTITY CARD IN UELZEN

In 1947 I went from Schwerin to Hannover, which is in the West. I lived there for a while with the Beese family. We knew the Beese family, because after they were bombed mercilessly in Cologne, which was their hometown, they looked for refuge at our home in Schwerin. Other tenants of the house could provide a loft in the attic for the family of five. I had a special connection to the youngest daughter, Karla Beese, and we have been married since 1952.

To stay in Hannover, I needed a Refugee Identity card. This Refugee Identity card was the basis for an ID card in the Federal Republic of Germany. These cards were issued in the refugee camp in Uelzen. Thousands of refugees were housed in tin sheds for many weeks and even months in this camp. Those sheds were called "Nissen huts". I wouldn't speak of comfort concerning those Nissen huts. People were sleeping on concrete floors, lined with straw.

I was just 16 years old when I said goodbye to the Beese family in the morning to go to Uelzen by train. Since this was only about 95 kilometers one way, I thought I would get my Refugee ID instantly, just like that, and be back the same afternoon. I had planned a day's journey.

When I arrived at the camp, first I was deloused, even though I didn't have any lice. After that, I had to pass through different offices, which seemed to be the routine to get the Refugee ID card.

As I was not familiar with the procedures there, I asked a young man who stood next to me: "So what's next?" He named various places to go to, and I told him that I had already passed them. "Then you have to wait," he answered. "How long?" I asked, "and how long have you been waiting here?" "I have been here six weeks already," he answered. "Why does it take so long?" I wanted to know. "It is very simple. Everyone has his turn, one after the other. There is a high pile of applications on the Camp Commanding Officer's desk, next to the window. The new applications are always placed at the bottom. Each sheet corresponds to a person. He only signs a certain number of applications per day. That causes congestion. He will be in his office in about half an hour." I inquired what the commandant looked like and where his office was. After he had explained the location of his office to me, he described the commanding officer as a tall Englishman in uniform with red hair and freckles. I thanked him and went to the office straightaway.

It did not take long until the commanding officer in question appeared. He noticed me and addressed me

in English, which I unfortunately could not understand. Hence, I was dependent on sign language. I pointed to the pile of sheets, trying to explain to him that the sheets on the bottom had to go right to the top. Surprisingly, he accepted, showing me the names of the lowest and latest applicants. Very quickly, I spotted my application and said: "This is it; this is my application." He pulled my application out of the pile and placed it on top. Then he looked at me, and with a satisfied expression placed his flat hand on top of the pile. I thanked him profusely and went back to the yard.

No more than about 30 minutes later, several names were announced over the loudspeaker. My name was also called out. Those people whose names were announced through the speaker had to go into a certain hall and there they received their Refugee Identity card.

After I had received my Refugee Identity card, I immediately started my way back home. I did not have to wait long for the train. I arrived at the Beese family's house at dusk. They were worried. I saw them looking out of the window, waiting for me. When I arrived upstairs, they asked me: "Where have you been so long?" I answered jokingly "I am actually not here yet; I will be here in six or eight weeks!" I do not even want to think of how worried the Beese family would have been if I had been stuck in the camp for such a long time, because the possibility to leave a quick message by phone did not exist in those days.

I am very grateful to the Lord that everything turned out so well.

IDENTITY CARD TAKEN INTO EAST GERMANY

Only a short time after I got my Refugee Identity card, I was able to pick up my ID card for the Federal Republic of Germany at the district office in Hannover.

From then on I went across the border "illegally", but I was not successful every time. For example, when I intended to travel to the conference in Memmingen, I was promptly caught. I handed over my West German ID and was thus considered a West German. Therefore, I was separated from the East Germans and was transported in a truck to another place. As we arrived, we were led into a room and everyone had to sit down next to each other in a row. One by one we were called to be examined by way of a body search. Very unfortunately I also had my East German ID card with me. If I was caught it could have had serious consequences for me. I was very worried, for if they considered me to be a spy, my new home would have become Siberia. Alternatively, I could have ended up in the prison at Bautzen. I prayed without ceasing.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

"HE THAT DWELLETH
in the secret place
OF THE MOST HIGH
SHALL ABIDE
under the shadow
OF THE ALMIGHTY.
I WILL SAY OF THE LORD,
He is my refuge
and my fortress:
MY GOD,
IN HIM WILL I TRUST."

PSALMS 91:1-2



There were around eight people in front of me to be body searched. When it came to be my turn, the policemen were suddenly no longer interested, and the body search ended. They kept us in the house overnight, and the next morning we were safely taken across the border by the East German Border Guards and were handed over to the English. Then I hitchhiked my way to Memmingen and enjoyed my freedom to participate at the conference immensely, thanking God with all my heart that He rescued me from this dangerous situation.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God, in Him will I trust."
Psalms 91:1-2

Amen. To be continued.

God's Character

Part 3 of 5

Slow to Anger

By Ylenia Gallo

Dear readers, here we are again for the third installment of our reading series dedicated to studying the character of God, as described in Exodus 34:6: "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." In this edition, I would like to delve deeper with you into the profound meaning of the attribute "long-suffering," which is translated as "slow to anger" in the Italian, Japanese, and Korean Bible. Many, especially the more skeptical, form an incorrect idea of the God of the Bible, considering Him a tyrant, devoid of compassion, always ready to judge and curse people because of their sin. However, in this reading, we will see that the very manifestation of God's anger is irrefutable evidence of His holy, just, and good character.

The phrase "slow to anger" is pronounced in Hebrew as "*erek apayim*," and it is literally translated as "long of nostrils" or "long-nosed." But what does God's patience have to do with having a long nose? The answer is quite interesting: in Hebrew, when a person becomes angry, it is said that their nose gets heated or burns. Think about it: when we lose our patience, our whole body seems to heat up; our chest swells, and our nostrils flare as we utter hasty words against our unfortunate interlocutor. For this reason, in Hebrew, the se-

mantic field of anger includes the words "hot" and "nose," which effectively recalls the common imagination. In other words, a person with a long nose will take longer to heat up and will show more patience for a longer time. As the proverb says, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 16:32. The anger of the Lord is an expression of His justice and love for humanity, and since He defines Himself as "slow to anger," He is often willing to wait for us to change.

An example of this patience is found in the story of the Exodus, when Pharaoh decided to exterminate the Jewish people by throwing all the newborn male children into the dangerous waters of the Nile River. The Lord sends Moses to confront the ruler, who is given ten opportunities to redeem himself and change his mind, freeing God's people. But after the tenth refusal, Pharaoh launches himself with fury against the people of Israel crossing the Red Sea, and in response, God destroys him in those waters. A superficial understanding might make it seem that God was ruthless with Pharaoh, but if we reflect more deeply, we see that the Lord would not be a God of justice if Pharaoh's wickedness had not provoked and angered Him. Notice how the expression of His anger is nothing more

than abandoning Pharaoh to the consequences of his own actions. In other words, the evil done by Pharaoh turned back on him. Exodus 15:7 says: "In the greatness of Thine excellency Thou hast overthrown them that rose up against Thee: Thou sentest forth Thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble." The Lord is slow to anger.

All the nations mentioned in the Bible had enough time to become familiar with Him and to know His character. But they rejected His light and chose their own ways instead of the Lord's. There was a reason God did not immediately drive out the Canaanites: the iniquity of the Amorites had not yet reached its full measure. Their wickedness had to reach a point where God's patience would run out, and consequently, the time for their extermination would come. Those who rejected God's law sank deeper and deeper into evil. The children inherited the rebellious spirit of their parents and behaved even worse than they did, until God's anger reached them. The punishment, though delayed, was not less. The Apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Romans 1:18

The apostle goes on to explain how God's anger manifests in people's lives simply by abandoning them to the consequences of their perverse desires and destructive actions. However, he also affirms that the Lord is a patient God, offering men the time necessary for them to realize their mistakes and change course. This was the case with the people of Israel, who, over the centuries, repeatedly renounced the God who had redeemed them from slavery. Despite the Lord giving them more than one opportunity to redeem themselves, the Jews continued to worship the gods of the pagan nations. Every time God's anger reaches its peak, it is expressed in the same way: by leaving the unrepentant in the hands of their enemies. Since Israel desired to serve the gods of other nations, God, in His righteous anger, gave them what they wanted. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

I am amazed at how God can bear with the perversity of His children, their disobedience, the abuse of His mercy, and the false testimony against Him for so long. But the ways and methods of the Lord are not like ours, so we should not be surprised at His tolerance, tender mercy, and infinite compassion, for He has given irrefutable evidence of His character, which is slow to anger, merciful towards all who love Him and observe His commandments.

How thankful we should be to the Lord that He is slow to anger! How wonderful is the thought of the Almighty who places a limit on His great power. The clearest and most solemn manifestation of divine holy anger is undoubtedly the episode of Jesus' cleansing of the temple, as recorded in the Gospels. Sister White describes the scene as follows: "Slowly descending the steps, and raising the scourge of cords gathered up on entering the enclosure, He bids the bargaining company depart from the precincts of the temple. With a zeal and severity He has never before manifested, He overthrows the tables of the money-changers. The coin falls, ringing sharply upon the marble pavement. None presume to question His authority. None dare stop to gather up their ill-gotten gain. Jesus does not smite them with the whip of cords, but in His hand that simple scourge seems terrible as a flaming sword. Officers of the temple, speculating priests, brokers and cattle traders, with their sheep and oxen, rush from the place, with the one thought of escaping from the condemnation of His presence."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 158. This is the anger of the Lamb. Which man, in his state of sin, can resist Him?

"It is a fearful thing for the unrepenting sinner to fall into the hands of the living God. This is proved by the history of the destruction of the old world by a flood, by the record of the fire which fell from heaven and destroyed the inhabitants of Sodom. But never was this proved to so great an extent as in the agony of Christ, . . . when He bore the wrath of God for a sinful world."—*That I May Know Him*, p. 64

How many times have we profaned God's law, trampled on His principles, and made His house of prayer a den of commerce? How many times have we allowed Satan to tempt us, and have we yielded once again, disappointing our heavenly Father? But we should not despair because of this. God's ultimate act of love is this: we are spared from suffering the terrible wrath of God, caused by our sins, because Jesus took the punishment upon Himself, in our place. "The love of God now reaches out to embrace the lowest, vilest sinner that will come to Christ with contrition. It reaches out to transform the sinner into an obedient, faithful child of God."—*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 313

The rainbow of the promise is a guarantee for every humble, contrite, and believing soul, because their life is united with that of Christ, who is One with God. The wrath of God will not fall on a single soul that takes refuge in Him. Thank You, Lord, because You are a God slow to anger, and because we can take refuge in Your promise: "When I see the blood, I will pass over." Exodus 12:13

Amen. To be continued.

Channels of Light

By Josephine Gwina

“E very follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives.” –*Christian Service*, p. 18. This is the most important reason why God chose the children of Israel as His people. It is the same reason that He has chosen us to be His peculiar people in these last days, regardless of our social status, of being poor or rich, educated or uneducated, each one has a part in his sphere to be a channel of light. “When Jesus went away, He left to every man his work, and nothing to do’ is an unwarrantable excuse. ‘Nothing to do’ is the reason of trial among the brethren; for Satan will fill the minds of idlers with his own plans, and set them to work.” –*The Review and Herald*, March 13, 1888

I would like to share with you a small testimony. It was in the year 2020, when the COVID pandemic was at its peak that we decided to leave the city. By God’s grace we had already purchased a piece of land some 20 km from town. As soon as we arrived in this place, we started to do door-to-door visitations so that at least we could introduce our message to the people and by God’s grace we could find some souls to fellowship with.

This is when we realized that out of all the places where we had worked as missionaries, this particular place was the hardest community to accept the mes-

sage or even give you a chance to explain. The reason for this hard soil was because most of these people belonged to a certain spiritual sect which was teaching its members some false doctrines like believing in prophets, polygamy, and also discouraging members from going to schools. Because of these doctrines the people believed that only their leaders and the so-called prophets could tell them the truth. Most men here will not entertain another gospel, to keep their families in bondage under their control; it is even difficult to reach the wives, for a wife to be seen discussing a different gospel with a stranger is considered an offence. Illiteracy among most of the members of the community is also one of the greatest hindrances otherwise we could have resorted to distributing tracts. As I visited some families, I was heartbroken to see most children playing around at home while it was time for school.



We were facing a dilemma on how we were going to live among such people, but we believed had God sent us to this place for a purpose. Therefore it was up to us to bring light to this place. The most important task which came to my mind was to introduce education to these people, not as a way of generating income but as a way of finding a breakthrough with these people. We then brought the matter before God in prayers.

There was no light ahead since we are also a poor struggling family but we decided to utilise what we had and that was our humble home and the experience that I had as a school teacher. In our new home we had one very small room which was reserved for visitors. We then decided to convert it into a small classroom.

I sold the idea to the community of opening a class for kindergarten students at our home, but only few parents responded positively. We started classes mid-March 2022. At the beginning we had less than 10 children who came for classes. We decided to charge a small fee of \$5 per term so that at least we could raise the money for buying some small plastic chairs and tables which we did the following term. The news about our school spread very fast like wildfire and by the end of the term we had a total of 19 pupils. We worked wholeheartedly for these children and the results testified to this truth. As a result, by the end of the year we had more than 40 children. As we speak now, in less than 2 years we now have more than 100 students. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

We worked very hard to nurture these children and the results testified to that. We also do extra curriculum ac-

tivities such as Physical Education, Bible knowledge, and sports. Some time last year we had kindergarten competitions for these extra curriculum activities and among four well-established schools we came first in all the events.

Because of all this, many people's attention have been drawn to us and our religion has been brought to light. At last we now have an IMS branch in this place with 11 baptized members of which 2 have transferred, and also 13 souls attending baptismal classes. Because of the school we now have many connections with the parents in this community and the prejudice of not belonging to their church has been broken. Most are now aware of our attitude towards politics and also our diet. Some have come for cookery lessons where we prepare healthy foods such as soya milk and tofu. We have even received a nickname in the community of the "Sabbath-keepers" in our dialect, which makes everyone aware of the gospel we preach.

The most important benefit we are getting from the school is the opportunity to win these children to Christ while they are young; and we are doing our best to improve this opportunity. Almost every Sabbath some attend services with us. Some also are restricted by their parents but we know and believe all will take away the knowledge we are giving them at school. They will also grow up with a perspective altogether different from that of their parents. Through them, in the end, we might even win some of their parents to Christ.

Another miracle which we witnessed is that of one of our teachers who was a staunch believer of these false





doctrines has since realized the deception she was in and has stopped attending their services. She fellowships with us every Sabbath whenever she is available and also attends the baptism class regularly.

The news of the school reached the authorities of this place unbeknownst to us. At the beginning of December 2024, as we had our last annual meeting with the parents, the Member of Parliament for this place whom we have never met, called in appreciation for what we have done for this community and promised to donate 60 small chairs for the children at the beginning of the year. We thank God for inspiring even unbelievers to come to our aid.

Above all there are brethren from overseas who have made the construction of this school possible. Though the Bible has little praise for the good deeds done by humans, like the sick who were healed by Jesus, whom He commanded not to tell anyone, yet they went out publishing all that had been done to them. We also thank God for inspiring Sister Leila McTavish to give us some help as we started building the first classroom. She has been like a mother to us for years now. May the Lord remember her name always. We wished to honour her by naming the school after her as our first donor, but she asked us to name it rather after her late brother, and our Brother Tim Martin. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13

If we do well, our works will follow us, even in death. Because of its performance and transformation which it has brought to this community, Tim Martin Junior School has become a household name near and far, and will continue to grow to be a channel of light.

May the Lord always remember all who have assisted, whom we could not mention by name, for what they have done and continue doing for this community. They may not realise the impact of what they do now, but if they continue to be faithful, one day they will understand when Jesus comes.

Because of all this help we have managed to build two small classrooms and one big block with two classrooms which is still under construction. We received funds for buying a printer and copier from one of our beloved donors, which will lighten our work and help in the smooth running of the school and as well in the promotion of the gospel.

We are still a long way from accomplishing the objective of this dream. We still have need of more classrooms, furniture, and computers. We also wish to extend our education for the children living with disabilities who are not given much attention in most parts of this country. We need specialist educators for the blind and those with hearing and speech impairments so that in the end they also will hear the gospel. Also needed are things like braille and musical instruments. We believe God who started this work will finish it.

From all this as a family we have learned that with God it is possible to be a channel of light and to brighten the corner where you are regardless of your situation. We need wisdom and tact from above on how to bring the light to those around us in this short probationary time. If we seek God for wisdom, and like Daniel, purpose in our hearts to put it into action, God is ever ready to lead and guide us. At the end if we remain faithful, Jesus will open the pearly gates for us as we enter into everlasting life. May God help us so that each one of us can brighten the corner where we are. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Canadian Field
Newsletter



Youth
Give Thanks Day

On the last sabbath of 2024, Canadian Youth organized a special "Give Thanks Day" in London, ON and Calgary, AB. Participants meditated on the importance of gratitude and the different aspects of life that we should be thankful to God for. In the testimony program, each shared the blessings they have received throughout the year. The video recordings of the program are available on Canadian Field's official YouTube channel (IMS Canada). More detailed reports will be shared in the next issue of the Canadian Field Youth Department's official magazine, "The Young Messenger."





Healthy Recipes

Soya Balls

By Tumbikani Martha Pawindo

Ingredients:

1 cup soya beans
½ cup baking flour
½ finely chopped onion
½ teaspoon ginger paste*
½ teaspoon garlic paste*
1 green pepper paste*
½ teaspoon paprika powder*
½ teaspoon masala powder*
1 Tablespoon cooking oil
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
Salt to taste
Oil for frying if you are not cooking it in an oven

Instructions:

Boil soya beans for 30 minutes, then drain the water. Grind the soya beans. In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients and mix them well. Add water gradually to the mixture to make a dough.

Cover the dough for 15 to 20 minutes for it to rest. Divide the dough into small portions and then shape them into balls. Heat oil in frying pan over medium heat. Add soya balls and fry them until golden brown. You can also bake the soya balls in a pre-heated oven at 375F (190C) for about 15-20 minutes, or until they are golden brown.

Serve the soya balls hot with your favourite soup.

*NB: You can use any flavouring/spice of your choosing, or replace with others not listed here

Usefulness of Soya Beans

“Poor cooking is a sin.

“It is a sin to place poorly prepared food on the table, because the matter of eating concerns the well-being of the entire system. The Lord desires His people to appreciate the necessity of having food prepared in such a way that it will not make sour your stomachs, and in consequences, sour tempers. Let us remember that there is practical religion in a loaf of good bread.” – *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 251

I wish to share some information regarding the usefulness of soya beans. It is a nutrient-rich food and it offers numerous health benefits when consumed.

Soya beans are a source of high-quality protein and are rich in fiber. They also include Vitamins B, E, and K, and minerals such as calcium, iron, and zinc. Finally, it has a low saturated fat content (14% of the total fat content). Saturated fats increase cholesterol levels and thus increase the risk of heart disease. Soya beans can significantly lower saturated fat levels in the body because of the phytochemicals they contain.

Health benefits include heart health, as soya beans lower the amount of LDL “bad” cholesterol. High cholesterol is associated with cardiovascular disease, related to causing damage to the circulatory system. They also lower triglycerides, a major constituent of animal and vegetable fats. Soya beans also lower high blood pressure.

Furthermore, regarding weight management. Many women experience weight gain, particularly around the mid-section; soya beans support weight loss and maintenance.

Digestive health is another benefit we get from the soya bean. Its fiber content promotes regular bowel movements. It also fortifies the bones with calcium, vitamin K and other minerals. Its antioxidant properties act to slow the oxidation of other molecules in the body. Its Omega-3 fatty acid content supports cognitive functioning.

Soya beans provide menopause relief. Menopause is a natural biological process, but it can bring various physical, emotional and psychological changes. There are common problems associated with menopause, for example, hot flashes, causing feelings of heat, sweating, and flushing; night sweats—hot flashes that occur while asleep. The isoflavones that are found in soya beans can alleviate menopausal symptoms.

I am sure you agree with me that soya beans are nutritious, protein-rich, wholesome, healthy, energizing,



nourishing, balanced and complete. Unfortunately, many people do not use soya for different reasons.

One of the common reasons that people state is the fact that soya beans contain **trypsin inhibitors**. Yes, this is true, but this should not hinder us from using soya beans. A trypsin inhibitor is a type of protease inhibitor, a protein that blocks the activity of trypsin, a digestive enzyme responsible for breaking down proteins into smaller peptides and amino acids we need trypsin to digest proteins.

There are various methods of removing trypsin inhibitors from soya beans. Firstly, you can boil them for 30–60 minutes. You need to boil the water first and then put the soya beans in while the water is boiling. Heat can deactivate trypsin inhibitors. Another method that you can use is soaking the soya beans in water. This activates enzymes that break down the trypsin inhibitors. I prefer soaking them overnight.

Finally, soya beans are very versatile. You can make soya milk, soya balls, soya snacks, soya mince, soya cocoa and various other dishes from the soya bean.

God should be praised, for He gave us nutritious food, yet sometimes we fail to identify what those foods may be. Let us ask God for wisdom, so that He would reveal to us what is good for our health. Amen



Sri Lanka



Philippines



Thailand



United States



Malawi



Argentina



“I am instructed to say to students, In your search for knowledge climb higher than the standard set by the world; follow where Jesus has led the way. And to teachers I would say, Beware how you sow the seeds of unbelief in human hearts and minds. Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The crowning glory of Christ's attributes is His holiness. The angels bow before Him in adoration, exclaiming, ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.’ Revelation 4:8. He is declared to be glorious in His holiness. Study the character of God. By beholding Christ, by seeking Him in faith and prayer, you may become like Him.”

*–Counsels to Parents, Teachers,
and Students, p. 402*



**International
Missionary Society**

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Reform Movement