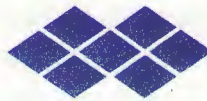
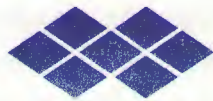


The Canada-Caribbean Union

MESSENGER



AUGUST 1994

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1



Group at Canada-Caribbean Union Conference, July 8-10

CANADA-CARIBBEAN UNION

"Let the people praise Thee, O God; Let all the people praise thee. Then shall all the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us." Psalms 67:5-6.

After many years of planning, the Canada-Caribbean Union was created on July 6-7th, 1994. The delegates from the four different fields (Canada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic) met in Toronto for two days. This meeting was to lay the foundation of the new Union and elect the officers for the next two years. These four countries are now united under the umbrella of one union.

When a child grows bigger it is the time for him to move out on his own. For many years Canada has been a part of the North American Union, but now it has grown to a membership of one hundred and twenty-three, therefore, it is time that the church in Canada to function on its own. This means greater responsibility for the workers and officers of the church, but if there is cooperation with all the members; this Union will prosper and go forward. This calls for a deeper consecration to God on the part of every member and trusting more in the Divine, than human power. This calls for greater sacrifice and self denial. No reformation has ever been done in the past without sacrifice.

Canada is a large country with ten provinces and two territories, and our work has been concentrated in only three of the provinces. It is our goal to plant the banner of truth in every province and territory. This calls for dedicated workers and lay members, who are willing to enter into new fields and start the pioneer work in cities where people are perishing from lack of knowledge. Our goal is also to enter into new islands in the Caribbean. Cuba and Haiti are our next targets. With the help of the Lord, other islands will also be included in this Union.

Let us ask the Lord for great things, and see if our five loaves and two fishes will feed the hungry souls in these areas. May the Lord bless this new Union and give each one wisdom to carry the work of the soul saving forward for it is the sole purpose of this organization.

Timo Martin

CANADA-CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

Friday July 8, 1994, at 7:10pm in Toronto, Canada we began our Conference with a silent prayer. Brother Timo Martin opened the meeting in the name of the Lord and made special mention that this was a combined field and union conference.

Brother Timo then expressed that this Conference would be in the nature of a spiritual feast with the eight visiting ministers present, and each one of them prepared to share the bread of life with us. We continued in singing praises to God with the hymn "Shall We Gather At The River". Brother Cholich led us to the throne of God in prayer. Sister Helen Martin then delighted us with a beautiful solo.

Brother Henry Andrade rose to express his gratitude to God for the opportunity to be present at this monumental Conference. He continued by reading Psalms 145:17,19 "The Lord is righteous in all His ways...He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him." The Lord has fulfilled the desire of His people in helping to organize this new Canada-Caribbean Union. Br. Andrade inspired us to turn to God because He is ready to help, to hear, and to encourage everyone who is willing to do His work. He then closed with the desire that the Lord may bless these three days at the Conference and that all may be done to His honour and glory.

Following Brother Andrade's words, Brother Timo introduced the new Union President, Raúl Escobar to the congregation. Brother Escobar gave a message relating to the motto of the Conference, "Awake to Righteousness". He referred to Revelation 7:11 which presents a marvellous picture, a picture that will make us forget the things of this world. Verse 13 asks, "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" The answer is given in the following verse, "These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their clothes, and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Our work is defined in Col.1:28, "Whom we preach, warning every man, teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Here we

have the reason why we meet in the church Sabbath after Sabbath and in the Conferences.

In John 13:15, Christ has given us an example to do to others as He has done to us, to help us develop a perfect character and to follow His example. Christ gave us the Holy Spirit, the regenerating agency without which man cannot resist and overcome sin. Christ also gave us an example of a life of prayer. We are advised to pray without ceasing. In prayer we find solutions to every problem. Jacob continued in prayer until he was heard and his name was changed to Israel.

Today we are called to make a decision to reconsecrate ourselves to the Lord because Jesus will surely be coming soon. In Matthew 24:44, we are told to be ready, "For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh". We closed the meeting with one voluntary prayer, a prayer by Raúl Escobar and with the hymn "In A Little While We're Going Home."

The late evening meeting was opened with the hymn, "O Day of Rest and Gladness" and prayer by Brother Foster. Brother Jerry Eaton gave a short report on the missionary work in Western Canada. After this we were favoured with a heartfelt song by Brothers Joshua and Ricardito Garcia.

Brother Larry Watts then gave us a wonderful discourse on Christ our Righteousness. He began with a warning from Sister White that the churches are dying for the lack of knowledge of this message. Therefore, it is our job to be teachers of righteousness. In order to be effective teachers we must have the two characteristics of Jesus--the lion and the lamb. The lion represents courage and the lamb, humility. It is our great and personal responsibility to build a symmetrical character in ourselves and to reveal Christ to the world by our behaviour.

Brother Watts reminded us of the shortness of time and our need to be justified. God has promised to justify the sinner, but not his sins. We were also encouraged to enter into this rest that Jesus has promised or we will not be

able to have peace and rest on the Sabbath day. This rest in Jesus gives power to obey all God's requirements.

We were favoured by a beautiful song by Sisters Rhonda Magee and Natalie Powell. Then we all joined our voices together to sing the hymn "Abide with Me" and closed with a prayer by Brother Watts.

The next morning in Sabbath school we studied the lessons titled "True Education and its Purpose" and "The First School".

Brother Timo Martin began the Sabbath Service by giving a warm greeting to all the members and visitors. We then sang "Not I but Christ" and Brother Steiner Myhre lead us in prayer. The Toronto Choir shared a harmonious song with us, and then we all continued our worship by singing "I Will Sing of Jesus Love"

Brother Branko Cholich spoke briefly about the creation of the Canada-Caribbean Union. Brother Cholich then invited Brother Henry Andrade, President of the General Conference to share the Word of God with us.

Brother Andrade began by reading from Ephesians 5:14 "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead". He warned us that now is the time that we must awake, as the world is in a deplorable condition. Men and women are lost in the world with no hope and no way to find salvation. Therefore, we must have compassion on them and work to bring them to Jesus. He broadened this thought by the story in Luke 5:18-20 about the man with palsy that was brought by some men to Jesus. There was no way that this man could have ever come to Jesus by himself.

He shared a story with us of a man that came to Jesus, but he was not a good speaker and did not want to preach or teach from the pulpit, yet he had a strong desire to do something for Jesus. So he went out and began knocking on doors in his city and took the names of people and began bringing them to church. This man did not want to do anything elaborate for Jesus, he did not want to be a preacher or a missionary, yet in his lifetime he brought over two

thousand souls to Jesus. We all can do something for Jesus once we awaken from our sleep.

Jesus Himself said that by Himself He "can do nothing", and yet He is God. Thus, we cannot trust in our own strength to do anything for Jesus.

We were counseled by Brother Andrade to do three things: We must go to Jesus, we must surrender to Him, and we must ask for the power of God. After we do these three things our lives will be changed and we will be able to win souls to Jesus.

The disciples had spent all night fishing and caught nothing. But when Jesus came and told them to cast their net on the other side, the disciples caught a multitude of fish. Then they realized that they of themselves could do nothing. After this, Jesus told them that he would make them fishers of men. Jesus gives us the same invitation and if we hear his voice and obey, we will have a rich harvest of souls for Him.

We closed the Sabbath service by singing "Near the Cross" and a prayer by Brother Raúl Escobar.

After lunch Sister Christina McTavish opened the Youth and Children's program. We all sang "When He Cometh" and Sister Georgia Grant led us in prayer.

The children presented their program entitled, "Let's Just Praise the Lord". The youth raised their beautiful voices in a cantata filled with songs praising our Saviour. We finished the program by singing the hymn "The Church Has One Foundation" and a prayer by Brother John Bescec.

At this time Brother Andrade read Nehemiah 3:1, and presented the new Canada-Caribbean Union officers to the church. Brother Raúl Escobar, president of the new union, spoke a few words regarding the purpose of the reorganization, which is the salvation of souls, and asked that we remember it in our prayers. We concluded the meeting with two special songs, one by Sisters Felicia Fletcher, Natalie Powell and Zulma Garcia and the other by Sister Hulda Unger and company.

Later in the afternoon, Brother Augustus Pizzaro spoke to us. He read

from Genesis 1:26, 27 to show us that man was created in the likeness of God, and was to have dominion over all creation. Man was perfect in every way when he came from the hand of God.

He then told us how Satan was not satisfied with deceiving one third of the angels, but desired to ensnare man as well. At the right opportunity Satan was able to tempt Eve into disobedience, who in turn caused Adam to sin. At that moment Adam and Eve, lost the righteousness of God which had covered them in their innocence. A curse was brought upon them and they were cast out of their Eden home. The painful sacrificial system began. The innocent lamb had to be slain for the guilty sinner. This system was to be continue until the true Lamb of God was sacrificed for the sins of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:19 tells us, "that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself". It is through the blood of Christ that our sins are forgiven. There is hope for a full restoration which is shown to us in 1 John 3:2 and 1 John 1:9. Once we repent and confess our sins we are not only forgiven, but cleansed from all unrighteousness. We must repent and confess today and be clothed with Christ's righteousness, for tomorrow it may be too late for us.

Before we closed the meeting we heard a trumpet solo by Brother Peder Myhre.

After this we had a thanks and praise meeting led by Brother Timo Martin. He expressed the thought that we are to give thanks at all times, including those of trial and affliction. Jesus took the cup and gave thanks even though it was a symbol of the suffering and death that was to come upon Him.

Much praise in words and music were given, especially by the young people. Brother Andrade shared some experiences of his youth and sang a special song. The meeting closed with the song "Praise Him! Praise Him!" and a prayer by Brother Timo Martin.

In the evening meeting, brother Branko Cholich spoke of his visit to Jerusalem where he saw the statue of Rachel weeping for her children. He then read

the prophesy of Rachel weeping in Jeremiah 31:15-17, where a promise is given to her: "Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded". He spoke of the double reward that was to be given to Rachel's sons Joseph and Manasses among the 144,000.

He also spoke how Joseph's brothers tried to take away his portion completely. But God overruled and gave him a double portion in the end. We closed the meeting with the hymn "O Zion Haste" and a prayer by Brother Cholich.

We began the Sabbath closing meeting with the hymn "Look Upon Jesus", and a prayer by Brother Jerry Eaton. The Toronto Choir then sang another melodious gospel hymn, after which we heard a wondrous solo by Sister Kathy Garcia. Brother Ian Grant then spoke to us for Sabbath closing. He asked us what we would answer if someone asked us what they must do to be lost. Would we tell them they just need to keep on doing what they are doing? Is anyone really ignorant of how to be lost? None of us need to be lost.

By looking to Jesus, a desire awakens in us to be like Him and we want to run the Christian race.

On Sunday morning we began with the song "Lord of our Life" and a prayer by Brother Lambert Hazelhoff. We also had a special song by Sister Hulda Unger and Brother Ed Unger.

Brother Clemente Guerrero spoke on the topic "The Decision for God". He began by showing how we all make decisions every day. Some decisions are for good and some for evil. There are two great invisible powers fighting in the world. Neither of these powers can force a person their way. Therefore, we are the architects of our own destiny. God has planned salvation for all of us, but it is up to us to make the decision to accept or reject it.

In John 5:39 we are asked to search the scriptures. Superficial reading does not reveal the truth to us, but deep earnest searching will. After learning the truth we must believe it and also practice it. Then, there is one more thing to happen which is the conversion

of the believer. It takes continuous effort to live the truth for which our own strength is not sufficient. We need the power of God to produce Christian fruit.

We know how to awake to righteousness? To this the Bible gives an answer--by looking to Jesus, as we find in Hebrews 12:1,2. Also, in Moses time when the spies gave their report of Canaan they only saw the hardships. Often this happens to us that we see only the difficulties in life. Peter did this when he was walking on the water. When He looked away from Jesus he started to sink. We can do this also by dwelling on every offense and insult directed towards us and lose sight of the Saviour and start sinking.

As the children of God, we should remember that whatever happens to us in this life is the will of the Lord. Even offenses and insults have their purpose in the plan of God for us.

Then Brother Guerrero made an appeal to each one of us to decide for God at this very moment. After various special songs and musicals, the meeting was closed.

After the meeting we proceeded to the baptismal place where Brothers Daniel Garcia and Xavior Chelliah, and Sisters Felesha Fletcher, Fatima Bettencourt, made a covenant with the Lord in baptism. Once we returned to the church they were received into membership with another Sister, Marcia Lowe. Brother Steiner Myhre, who conducted the baptismal service spoke of the joy in heaven and on earth when even one soul makes a covenant with the Lord.

We closed the Conference with a farewell meeting. Brother Escobar read Exodus 14:13-15. The Lord has promised to fight for us. We are to go forward. As we leave this Conference,

we each one have a work to do. As we go forward, the waters will depart before us the same way they departed for ancient Israel. We need to have faith in God so that we can go forward.

We all should ask the Lord to grant us that we may win at least one soul for Jesus in the coming year, and at the next conference our numbers will have doubled.

Brother Henry Andrade expressed his desire that this new Union would be a terror to the powers of darkness until Jesus returns to save his people.

We then closed our meeting with our traditional hymn, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", followed by the benediction by Brother Escobar. This concluded our most momentous Conference.

By John Bescec



Baptism at the Conference.

The Necessity of a Close Walk With God

"Some who are numbered among merchant princes will take their position to obey the truth. God's eye has been upon such as they have acted according to the light they have had, maintaining their integrity. Cornelius, a man of high position, maintained his religious experience, strictly walking in accordance with the light he had received. God had His eye upon him, and he sent His angel with a message to him. The heavenly messenger passed by the self-righteous ones, and came to Cornelius, and called him by name. And he said, 'What is it, Lord?' And he said unto him, 'Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.' Then instruction was given to him as to what he should do to receive greater knowledge. He was to become acquainted with the disciples of Christ.

"This record is made for the special benefit of those who are living in these last days. Many who have had great light have not appreciated and improved it as it was their privilege to do. They have not practiced the truth. And because of this the Lord will bring in those who have lived up to all the light they have had. Those who have been privileged with opportunities to understand the truth, and who have not obeyed its principles, will be swayed by Satan's temptations for self-advancement. They will deny the principles of truth in practice and bring reproach upon the cause of God. Christ declares that He will spew these out of His mouth, and leave them to follow their own course of actions to distinguish themselves. This course of action does indeed make them prominent as men that are unfaithful householders. The Lord will give His message to those who have walked in accordance with the light they have had, and will recognize them as true and faithful, according to the measurement of God. These men will take the place of those who having light and knowledge, have walked not in the way of the Lord, but in the imagination of their own unsanctified hearts.

"We are now living in the last days, when the truth must be spoken; when in reproof and warning it must be given to the world, irrespective of consequences. If there are some who will become offended and turn from the truth, we must bear in mind that there were those who did the same in Christ's day. When the greatest Teacher the world has ever known spoke the truth, many of His disciples became offended and walked no more with Him.

"But truth will bear away the victory. Those who will maintain the truth, irrespective of consequences, will offend some whose hearts are not in harmony with the truth as it is in Jesus. These persons cherish theories of their own which are not the truth. The truth does not harmonize with their sentiments: and rather than give up their own ideas, they walk away from those who obey the truth. But there are men who will receive the truth, and these will take the places made vacant by those who become offended and leave the truth.

"Christ declared, 'They went out from us, but they were not of us.' Men of true Christian principle will take their place, and will become faithful, trustworthy householders, to advocate the word of God in its true bearings, and in its simplicity. The Lord will work so that the disaffected ones will be separated from the true and loyal ones. Those who, like Cornelius, will fear God and glorify Him, will take their places. The ranks will not be diminished. Those who are firm and true will close up the vacancies that are made by those who become offended and apostatize."

"The Necessity of a Close Walk With God." E.G. White. August 11, 1898.

Youth and Stress

Stress has no respect for age. It attacks from the time we are born until we are old. Stress is not harmful until it grows into distress, which is harmful, causing sickness, and even death.

The years between childhood and adulthood; the teenage years, seem more stressful because in that time young people meet new challenges and circumstances with less protective parental care than in childhood. Many factors contribute to excessive stress in the lives of teenagers. Among these are, high expectations of parents and teachers, parent's unhappy marriage, peer pressure, and constant criticism. These may also lead to feelings of guilt, low self-esteem, and boredom.

In these years, children are struggling for independence and parents should give them room for it by keeping their distance, while at the same time not staying too far away to help when it is needed. Children may rebel if their parents are too insistent or inquisitive.

The burden of coping with stress during the teenage years should not rest solely upon the young people. Parents can, and they should help relieve the tension in their adolescent children. Most parents, however, are guilty of adding to the stress by overly criticizing, failing to praise and appreciate their children while placing too many demands upon them.

Because of inadequate skills of dealing with stress, there are devastating results, the worst being teenage suicide. According to the National Center for Health Statistics in Washington, D.C., approximately two million teenagers attempt suicide each year of which six thousand succeed. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers.

Many teenagers are reluctant to seek help even when their distress has gotten out of control. They can suffer moodiness which may turn into severe depression. There can be relentless stretches of melancholy with peculiar or provocative acts of delinquency.

There are danger signs before things develop that far, signs which parents, teachers, and the youth themselves should be watching for. Some of the physical signs are reoccurring headaches, tight stomach muscles, sweaty palms, flushed face, shortness of breath, fatigue, shaking hands, and nervous habits such as teeth grinding. Some of the behavioral signs are, readiness to comply, lack of communication, no cooperation, general loss of interest, rebellion, inability to concentrate, impulsive acts, preoccupation, withdrawal, isolation, restlessness, nightmares, self hating and lower grades.

The first and foremost important medicine to combat stress is to have faith in God. To know the purpose of life, involves Bible reading and prayer. Church going children are better armed to fight stress because of their broader outlook on life with trust in God and His loving care. Without regard for Gods love, children often tend to feel that nobody loves or cares for them. The second most important thing is for the youth to openly express their feelings and emotions to parents and teachers. They should communicate and make friends with their parents and trust that they really care for them and will help them. Third, follow a healthy diet and get sufficient sleep at night, taking good care of their health. Relax, and breathe properly. Fourth, avoid idleness. Seek useful employment and hobbies to occupy their spare time, such as getting involved in helping others. Finally, acquire problem solving skills. Identify the problem and give it a name. Decide on an appropriate solution and then break the solution into manageable steps.

When the youth have learned these stress-fighting skills, their life will be more fulfilled and joyous. Although stress may still be present, they will have learned to live with, and avoid letting it turn into distress. They may even enjoy the challenge of combating stress as much as a mountain climber enjoys scaling the highest peak, or and athlete striving to win a race.

Praying For the Sick

"Praying for the sick is a most solemn thing, and we should not enter upon this work in any careless, hasty way. Examination should be made as to whether those who would be blessed with health have indulged in evil speaking, alienation and dissension. Have they sowed discord among the brethren and sisters in the church? If these things have been committed they should be confessed before God and before the church. When wrongs have been confessed, the subjects of prayer may be presented before God in earnestness and in faith, as the Spirit of God may move upon you. But it is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. Let your prayer include this thought, 'Lord, thou knowest every secret of the soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons: for Jesus their Advocate, gave His life for them. He loves them better than we possibly can. If, therefore, it is for thy glory, and the good of these afflicted ones to raise them up to health, we ask in the name of Jesus, that health may be given them at this time.' In a petition of this kind no lack of faith is manifested. There are cases that are clear and the Lord works with His divine power, decidedly, in their restoration. The will of God is evidenced too plainly to be misunderstood.

"The 'Lord doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.' 'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him; for He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.' He knows our hearts: for He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep in Jesus before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon the world. This is another reason why we should say after our earnest petition, 'Nevertheless not my will, but thine, O Lord, be done.' Such a petition will never be registered in heaven as a faithless prayer.

"The apostle was bidden to write, 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors: and their works do follow them.' From this we can see that every one is not to be raised up, and if they are not raised to health, they should not be judged as unworthy of eternal life. If Jesus the world's Redeemer prayed, 'O My Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me,' and added, 'Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt,' how very appropriate is it for poor finite mortals to make the same surrender to the wisdom and will of God.

"In praying for the sick, we are to pray that if it be God's will that they may be raised to health, but if not, that He will give them His grace to comfort, His presence to sustain them in their suffering. Many who should set their house in order, neglect to do it when they have hope that they will be raised to health in answer to prayer. Buoyed up by false hope, they do not feel the need of saying words of exhortation and counsel to their children, parents and friends, and it is a great misfortune. Accepting the assurance that they would be healed when prayed for, they would dare not make a reference as to how their property shall be disposed of, how their family is to be cared for, or express any wish concerning matters of which they should speak, if they thought they should be removed by death. In this way disasters are brought upon the family and friends, for many things that should be understood, are left unmentioned, because they fear expression on these points would be a denial of their faith. Believing they will be raised to health by prayer, they fail to make use of hygienic measures which are within their power to use, fearing it would be a denial of their faith.

"I thank the Lord that it is our privilege to cooperate with Him in the work of restoration, availing ourselves of all possible advantages in the recovery of health. It is no denial of our faith to place ourselves in the conditions most favorable for recovery."

"Prayer For the Sick." E. G. White.

MISSIONARY AND CANVASSING RALLY

“The greatest work, the noblest effort, in which men can engage, is to point sinners to the Lamb of God.” E.G. White. Gospel Workers. P. 18. A Missionary and Canvassing Rally will be held in Toronto on September 16, 17, and 18. All are invited to participate in practical instruction in Missionary Work. We will begin on Friday evening at 7:00 pm, and continue on Sabbath afternoon as well as Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm, a health meeting will be held. Come and learn to use Natural Remedies for healing the sick.

Raul Escobar



Baptism in Toronto

The Sabbath of July 30th was one joyful occasion as we witnessed the baptism of two dear souls, William Garcia and Chester Cosby.

Br. William made his covenant with the Lord at the early age of fourteen. Already at the end of last year, he had expressed his desire at our annual New Years resolution meeting to be baptized this year, which has been now fulfilled

These occasions bring great joy to the hearts of parents, to see their children deciding to follow the Lord.

Br. Chester has been a member of the Adventist Church and residing in Detroit. On attending the Christ Righteousness seminar last February in Detroit, he had decided to take his stand among the remnant people of God. Let us pray for the labors of Br. Chester in Detroit that others may also join him.

Timo Martin.

The following officers were elected for the Canadian Field on July 3, 1994 by the delegates:

- President* - Steiner Myhre
- Vice President* - Timo Martin
- Secretary / Treasurer* - John Bescec
- Mission Leader* - Timo Martin
- Health Leader* - Morris Lowe
- Assistant Health Leader* - Rose Powell
- Youth Leader* - Kathleen Garcia
- Committee:*
 - Steiner Myhre
 - Timo Martin
 - John Bescec
 - Franziska Pedersen
 - Jerry Eaton



Brethren; Andrade, Cholich, and Escobar.



Canadian field Delegates.

Union Officers:

President - Raúl Escobar
Vice-President - Steinar Myhre
Secretary - Timo Martin
Treasurer - John Bescec
Youth Leader - Christina McTavish
Publishing & Canvassing Leader -
Raúl Escobar

Literature committee :
Leader - Raúl Escobar
Treasurer - Timo Martin
Secretary - Christina McTavish

Committee Members:

Raúl Escobar
Steinar Myhre
Timo Martin
John Bescec
Ian Grant
Clemente Guerrero
Augustus Pizarro

Executive Committee:

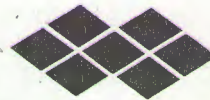
Raúl Escobar
Timo Martin
John Bescec

Financial Committee:

Timo Martin
John Bescec
Franziska Pedersen

Health and Home Department:

Rose Powell
Jerry Eaton
Marianne Myhre



Union Delegates.



The Two Debtors

Once a woman silent stood,
While Jesus sat at meat;
From her eyes she poured a flood,
To wash His sacred feet;
Shame and wonder, joy, and love,
All at once possessed her mind,
That she e'er so vile could prove,
Yet now forgiveness find.

"How came this vile woman here?
Will Jesus notice such?
Sure, if He a Prophet were,
He would disdain her touch!"
Simon thus, with scornful heart,
Slighted one whom Jesus loved;
But her Saviour took her part,
And thus his pride reproved:

"If two men in debt were bound,
One less, the other more,
Fifty of five hundred pound,
And both alike were poor;
Should the lender both forgive,
When he saw them both distressed.
Which of them would you believe
Engaged to love him best?"

"Surely he who most did owe,"
The Pharisee replied;
Then our Lord, "By judging so,
Thou dost for her decide;
Simon, if, like her, you knew
How much you forgiveness need;
You like her had acted too,
And welcomed me indeed.

"When the load of sin is felt,
And much forgiveness known,
Then the heart of course will melt,
Though hard before as stone;
Blame not then her love and tears,
Greatly she in debt has been;
But I have removed her fears,
And pardoned all her sin."

John Newton

