

*The Canadian-Caribbean Union*



# MESSENGER

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**Participants at The Toronto  
Youth Fellowship Open House Forum**

## LIVING FAITH AND DECIDED ACTION

"And I asked them concerning the Jews... And concerning Jerusalem."

Nehemiah interest for the condition of his countrymen in Judah was deep and sincere. His desire was to know the advancement of the work of the restoration. The temple and part of the city had been already rebuilt. But the progress of the work had slowed down and also the temple service had been neglected, because the people suffered afflictions and were oppressed, besides these, they were in constant danger of being unprotected because most of the walls were laid in ruins.

"... I went, mourned... fasted and prayed."

The news was not pleasing. The fears of Nehemiah were confirmed and caused deep pain to him. The love towards God's people who were also his people, made him to cry to God in order to get help, wisdom and guidance to know what to do for the church.

"Grant Now Thy Servant To Prosper"

After asking counsel of God, Nehemiah understood what needed to be done, and this he undertook with courage and decision. He asked the Lord to prepare the way and to ease the situation. After four months the opportunity arose, and once more his thoughts were lifted up to God in prayer. He proceeded to express his sadness before the King. The answer was positive and now with the government approval and support, he started the work of restoration to which he had been called by God.

In the first chapter of Nehemiah, we have analyzed the verses 2,4, and 11. The precedence of the marvelous work of reconstruction, which was restarted and then concluded. The continuation shows the method, the official used in presenting the matter to the people.

"Then said I unto them, ye see..."

Nehemiah could not do the work alone. All the people had to cooperate untidily to reestablish the regular worship to God. It was to restore the reputation of God's people, to lift up the place of worship of the true God, to let everyone know again by the faithful flock that Israel has a Shepherd, and to be able to testify before the world the Divine Truth.

To be able to convince everyone of the need of harmonious action, he showed them the ruins that surrounded them. The oppression that they suffered, the difficulties that they besieged the and the dangers tat followed them.





Church Conference in Motala, Sweden



After Baptism in Tallinn, Estonia.



"...Of the hand of my God that was good."

The presentation of the problems does not always have good results, but Nehemiah was realistic and objective, and above all a man of faith and courage. He was sure that when faced with the most adverse reality while involved in the advancement of the Lord's work, in the name of the Lord and with His blessings, the final success is guaranteed.

"Come and let us build."

The people accepted the challenge all in the name of the Lord. They strengthened their hands for this good work." The difficulties did not disappear by their action, but increased, yet they continued forward in the rebuilding of the wall with great painstaking effort, although suffering harassment, offenses, accusations, conspiracies, vexation, deceptions, war, abuses, miseries and one continues series of needs which caused some to be discouraged, others to stop cooperating and to abandon the work. Nevertheless, the work continued and was finished.

The different classes of the people who were involved in greater or lesser degree in the restoration of the city and its surroundings is the topic of the second part of this article, with the intention to specify the diversity of the motives in the people with whom Nehemiah had to deal.

"But they put not their necks to the work" Neh 3:5.

The Tekoites were a people located near Bethlehem, and because being few in number they did not appear on the list of people who returned from Babylon, to them was given the job to rebuild a section of the wall that needed not to be completely remade.

Their zeal was so great that they accepted the task to build another section of the wall. But the report is negative in the sense that the nobles did not cooperate and left the work to the common people. This is the first opposing case of inactivity reported by Nehemiah.

"...And Judah said, ... we are not able to build the wall." Neh 4:10.

At the same time as the Samaritans conspired against Nehemiah and his work, some of the Jewish leaders feeling dissatisfied managed to discourage the builders by exaggerating the difficulties that surrounded the work.

"... They said unto us ... They will be upon us." Neh 4:2.

Also discouragement came from the Jews that "dwelt by them". Those who did not participate in the work collected the declarations of their enemies and used them systematically to weaken the courage of those who labored to create dissatisfaction

among them. Therefore they repeated them "ten times" which shows the urgency of the report and the devastating effect that it had on the workers.

"... It grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel. Neh 2:10

The neighboring people that were around God's people were their greatest enemies, as we read in the verse that they were angry when they learned that someone had a concern for the welfare of the cause of God. They tried to hinder the work of the five (5) kilometers of the wall with all their strength, but with the help of God they managed to finish the work, but "when all our enemies heard thereof and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God". Neh 6:16

### CONCLUSIONS

The work undertaken by Nehemiah was extremely difficult and full of dangers, nevertheless he accepted the calling of God and carried forward his mission to the happy finish, observing the following principles:

1. Love for the truth.
2. Commitment to the church
3. Given to service
4. Discipline in the action
5. Perseverance in the difficulties
6. Faith unbreakable
7. Sincere brotherhood
8. Constant prayer
9. Tireless watching
10. Living hope
11. Preaching the word
12. Concern for doctrine

The work accomplished by Nehemiah should be an example for each child of God to follow and especially I want to appeal to each member in the Canadian-Caribbean Union to imitate Nehemiah in his longing to make the work of God to progress and to go forward. If each one of us take hold of committed missionary work, praying and asking daily of Jesus to advance His work in these fields. This union could flourish with souls and means to spread more extensively the last message of warning to the world.

No one of us must become discouraged or give up the work. We should take hold of some type of activity in announcing the second coming of Christ.

Let us begin to build the wall!

Raul Escobar





“TRAIN

UP

A

CHILD...”



The wise man, Solomon, wrote: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6). This verse constitutes a command, “Train up (your) child in the way he should go”, but it is a promise even more, and really, a law of nature, “when he is old, he will not depart from it. “Think about some of the things you were impressed with as a child and how they affected you even to this day.

This verse also implies a time limit. It is during childhood that we are most impressionable. Our offsprings will only be children for a short time. How important it is that we take that time seriously!

In the foreword of Child Guidance, p.13, we find another promise. “It is the privilege of parents to take their children with them to the gates of the city of God, saying, “ I have tried to instruct my children to love the Lord, to do His will, and to glorify Him.” To such the gate will be thrown open, and parents and children will enter in.”

Just to take a few examples from the Bible: Aaron’s two sons, who were priest of Israel were killed because of their drunkenness. Samson, whose parents were visited by an angel to especially instruct them as to how to raise him, fell for heathen women. Eli’s two sons, also priests, were perverted to the depths. Even Samuel, who saw first-hand the results of Eli’s neglects did not succeed in raising his sons so that Israel had any confidence in them. Why?

We are told, “(Man’s) first duty is to his children and nearest relatives. ... In the day of final reckoning fathers and mothers ... will be asked what they did and said to secure the salvation of the souls they took upon themselves the responsibility of bringing into the world. ... In rightly training and molding the minds of her children, mothers are entrusted with the greatest mission ever given to mortals.” (SD 252).

The prophet Hosea (4:6) let’s us in on a common problem. He said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no more priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Notice that Hosea is speaking of a willing ignorance, a rejection of knowledge of the instructions of God.

Where is the formula to educate the children to be found? In the inspired word of God. Parents, have you used your

concordance to study what is said in the Holy Bible about parent-child relationships? Have you read the conflict series through? Have you read the Testimonies? Young couples, wouldn't it make sense to read a book like Child Guidance before your children were born? Wouldn't it be wise then to continue to review it as they are in their formative years? If you wait to read God's instructions until your children start to give you serious trouble (usually in the early teens), it will be largely too late.

Another counsel is found in the Lord's instruction to the Israelites, "And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sitteth in thine house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Duet. 6: 6-7)

These instruction do not imply that we should nag our children. They do imply however, that we should associate with our children closely and use every opportunity to give them object lessons that will engrave the principles of the word of God into their minds and hearts.

There are those who do walk with God but do not find the time to walk and talk with their children. If this is the case they need to pray about altering their work so that they will have more time for them. We can consider the following alternatives: Refuse to work on weekends and overtime. Find work that can be done at home. Start a family business. Then there is the problem of keeping children at home. Parents will need to pray for wisdom and courage to do this, as well.

It is not overprotection to prevent our children from making mistakes that could prove fatal to them or causes them permanent damage. I have never known anyone ruined by protection from evil influences, but hospitals, prisons and other institutions are full of examples of ruined people whose parents did not protect them. God has given the responsibility of raising children to their parents. Each child matures at a different rate and it is the parents who must decide for each child at which rate they will "let them go." We have permitted our children and exposed them to temptations only when their father and I felt they were ready for them.

It is the duty of parents to be with their children in all kinds of situations so that they can help them understand each situation in light of eternity. Let's be careful about transferring this important responsibility to others.

E.Marianne Myhre





## *Painting the Picture of Jesus*

**P**eople love beauty. They travel long distances to see the marvels of the nature such as Niagara Falls and Grand Canyon. Men build for themselves beautiful homes with lovely gardens around them. The artist copy on the canvas the most beautiful objects they can find. Yet the object of the greatest beauty, the character of Jesus, is often overlooked. There is nothing more beautiful in the whole universe.

*Is there an artist who can copy it in detail? Is there someone who can draw it and show it to the world?*

*Yes there is someone - you and I. We are the artists who are to present to the world the greatest beauty that ever has been seen by men or angels --The character of Jesus. The canvas upon which we draw this picture is ourselves. We are to paint this picture on our body, soul and spirit.*

*Millions have tried to draw this picture but have failed. The pure features of Jesus have been distorted by strokes of selfishness. Pride has often cast an ugly streak upon it. Love of the world have put a shadow upon the features of divine love. When in the end their paintings are set beside the original, they don't look alike and therefore the work of a lifetime is wasted.*

*Have you ever been in an artist's studio where the paintings are made? I once made a delivery to a studio of wealthy artist in Toronto. As I went in I expected to see a beautiful room, rich furnishings and fine paintings on the walls with breath taking view from the window, but to my disappointment I saw a room with bare walls and no furniture except a chair and a table, and no window except one in the ceiling. There was nothing attractive in the room except the model he was copying. This is exactly what the lord wants us to do, to cut out every idol and attraction which may draw our attention away from the model -Jesus Christ.*

*Paul emptied his life from all things in order to have "Christ, Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Phil 3:8. Finally when Paul's painting was finished he could say: "I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: Gal. 2:20*

*Some people have an eye for beauty, while others can pass through lovely sceneries, mountains, lakes, trees and flowers without noticing anything special.*



When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. Judas saw nothing beautiful in it "After seeing Jesus degrade Himself, as he thought, he confirmed in his purpose to disown Him." D.A. pg. 645 Yet to others this act of Jesus has been an inspiration to true humility.

Are there children who see beauty in Jesus as a child? "He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them."

Luke 2:51 Jesus the King of Glory was subject to His earthly parents.

Do you see beauty in Jesus' patience. He never spoke impatient or angry words. To put this feature on our canvas may take time but it will be well worth it. The artists are not using only bright, joyful colors but also darker shades. In copying the picture of Jesus, we must use the colors of sorrow and grief. "He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." Isa 53:3

Are you willing to copy these features into your canvas? "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: 1 Peter 2:21 Can you see beauty in the words of Jesus while being nailed to the cross? ..." "Father, forgive them: For they know not what they do." Luke 23:34 The thief on the cross had painted a picture of sin and crime in his life and now comparing his own life to the character of Jesus, he realized how ugly it was, and a longing for true beauty was aroused in his heart. The Roman centurion, who had executed many hardened criminals listening to their swearing and cursing, experienced no such words by the crucified Saviour. Now had to confess that "truly this was the Son of God." Matthew 27:54.

"Into the experience of all, there comes times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement - days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earth borne children; days when trouble harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life." P.K. pg.162 In times of great sorrow and grief the bitter tears add the finishing touches to the portrait of Jesus in us. When all seems dark around you and you feel lonely and rejected, that is the moment when the most beautiful features are drawn to your soul. There can be joy in sorrow, you can smile through tears. You can be happy even when there is nothing else left in your life except Jesus.

Is your painting of Jesus almost complete? Are you ready to show to the world the most beautiful picture? - the character of Jesus in you!



Timo Martin



The process of ...

# DESENSITIZATION

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.*

Eric B. Hare relates an experience he made in Burma as follows:

"One day my Burma Brass Band was on its way to hold an evening meeting in Lapota village, suddenly on the hills on the right we heard an animal call- 'Squ-e-e-eak!'

'It was a high reedy note, and I said, 'Boys, listen! There's a deer over there.' For there were lots of deer in our jungle that called just like that.

But the boys shook their heads and said 'That's not a deer, Thara; that's a tiger.' 'I said, 'But boys, tigers don't go squ-e-e-eak; tigers go roar-r-r-r.'

"But the boys answered, 'Not always, Thara; it all depends on what animal the tiger is hunting. He makes a sound like the sound of the animal he is trying to catch.'

'Just then we heard another 'squ-e-e-eak' on the hills to the left. And I said, 'Listen, boys! There's another tiger,'

"The boys listened, then whispered, 'No, Thara, that's not another tiger; that is a deer.'

'For the next half an hour we listened to one of the tragedies of jungle life. 'Squ-e-e-eak,' called the crafty and deceitful tiger. 'Squ-e-e-eak,' answered the innocent little deer, thinking it's mate was calling; and it ran a little closer. Closer and closer they came together, till the tiger was close enough to spring upon it's victim. Then the tiger opened it's

mouth and roar-r-r-r-red. The poor little deer was paralyzed with the awful sound; and the tiger sprang upon it and killed it!

Peter warns us of a great lion who operates in the same way:

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8*

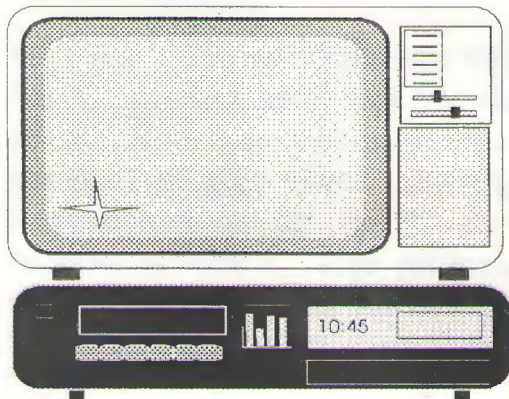
And in the book of Proverbs we read:

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14;12.

Who is the author of the last verse? None other than the wise King Solomon. How could Solomon, who had started out so well, fall so low? How could a man, to whom the Lord appeared with words of approval and counsel, stray so far? It definitely did not happen overnight. "His separation from God through communication with idolaters was his ruin. As he cast off his allegiance to God, he lost the mastery of himself. His moral efficiency was gone. His fine sensibilities became blunted, his conscience seared. He who in his early reign had displayed so much wisdom and sympathy in restoring a helpless babe to it's unfortunate mother, fell so low as to consent to the erection of an idol to whom



living children were offered as sacrifices. He who in his youth was endowed with discretion and understanding, and who in his strong manhood had been inspired to write, 'There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death', in later years departed so far from purity as to countenance licentious, revolting rites connected with the worship of Chemosh and Ashtoreth. He who at the dedication of the temple had said to his people, 'Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God,' became himself an offender, in heart and life denying his own words. He mistook license for liberty. He tried-but at what cost!-to unite light with darkness, good with evil, purity with impurity, Christ with Belial."



And so we see our introductory story reenacted in the life of King Solomon. The king never intended to turn away from God. He wanted with all his heart (well almost all his heart), to please God and honor Him. The path he took seemed right in his own eyes; he did not realize that the adversary of souls had enticed him down a sinful path and obliterated his sense of right and wrong.

What about today? Is there **desensitization** taking place in our modern society? Has the devil invented mediums to **desensitize** us to sin? That the sin would not appear so terribly evil to us anymore. Yes, certainly, more than ever. That harmless looking box in our living rooms, has changed the attitude of the people towards sin and violence. To many it will be said in the end: OUTSIDE of heaven because of television.

Concerning the **television**; "...what could be the motive for spewing such violence into our homes? NBC News Vice President Jeffrey Gaspin laid out his case, 'We look for jolts,' he said. Indeed!... "There are dozens of other new shows that assault common decency and tear at the fabric of our culture. As the networks continue to lose viewers to cable programming and other forms of entertainment, they are depending increasingly on sex and violence to compete...

"US magazine devoted it's cover story in August to the subject "Sex in Entertainment: How Far Can It Go? Their lead story featured this headline: 'Welcome to the New Sexual Revolution-the one waged by the entertainment industry.' Brace yourself! The tube is going to sizzle as never before this season! What is most disturbing is that these programs are deliberately aimed at the most vulnerable and easily influenced among us- our kids.

A famous commentator on family values has stated: "I believe this wicked theme is having a profound impact on society-especially on the



more unstable individuals who emerged from childhood with a predisposition to perverse behavior....

"... What is the process by which young children grow up to be such monsters? Many believe that the violent fantasies generated by television, movies and pornography have helped to transform some people into warped and heartless killers....

"Why is this happening? What is propelling this senseless bloodshed? Among many other explanations, it is obvious that we have systematically numbed our kids to human suffering! That process of desensitization is very well known historically. DESENSITIZATION IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH VIOLENCE BECOMES COMMONPLACE....

"The Spirit of Prophecy warns of the dangers of television. You may say: Why, television did not exist at that time. That is true, but the theater did exist; can we conscientiously say that the shows and movies on television are any different? Listen to what God tells us through His servant:

"Among the most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. Instead of being a school for morality and virtue, as is so often claimed, it is the very hotbed of immorality. Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes, deprave the imagination and debase the morals. Every youth who habitually attends such an exhibition

will be corrupted in principle. There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life, than theatrical amusements.

"The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence, as the desire for intoxicating drinks strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement."

Notice that the more we indulge for these worldly things, the stronger will become our desire for them, until it becomes humanly impossible to give them up. Could it be that you and I are addicts? Are we under a desensitization process?

God tells us that we better guard our ears and eyes from exposure to evil things if we are ever going to be righteous. David tells us in Psalm 101:3 "I will set no wicked thing before my eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

"It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. *The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell.*" This is the principle of desensitization.

"In Christian homes a bulwark should be built against temptation. Satan is using every means to make crime and degrading vice popular. We cannot walk the streets without encountering



flaring notices of crime presented in some novel, or being acted out in some theater. The mind is educated to familiarity with sin. The course pursued by the base and the vile is kept before the people in the periodicals of the day, and everything that can arouse passion is bought before them in exciting stories.

The Spirit of Prophecy warns us:

“Christians are to keep themselves distinct and separate from the world, its spirit, and its influences. God is fully able to keep us in the world, but we are not to be of the world. His love is not uncertain and fluctuating. Ever He watches over His children with a care that is measureless. But He requires undivided allegiances. ‘No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’ Matt. 6:24”

“Solomon was endued with wonderful wisdom, but the world drew him away from God. Men today are no stronger than he; they are as prone to yield to the influences that caused his downfall. As God warned Solomon of his danger, so today He warns His children not to imperil their souls by affinity with the world.”

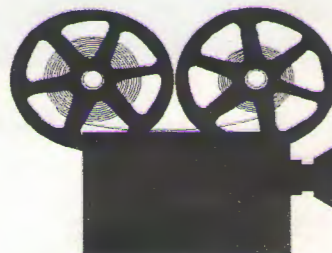
“And if the little box simply can’t be subdued, you might try unplugging it, hacking it with an axe or sticking a shoe in its flickering blue eye. Then gather the family around and read a great book together.”

And there are many great inspirational books available. How many of us have read through the Bible, the nine volumes of Testimonies for the Church, or the Conflict of the Ages series. Do we take time to read character-building stories to our children?

“From such examples we should learn that in watchfulness and prayer is the only safety for both young and old. Security does not lie in exalted position and great privileges. One may for many years have enjoyed a genuine Christian experience, but he is still exposed to Satan’s attacks. In the battle with inward sin and outward temptation, even the wise and powerful Solomon was vanquished. His failure teaches us that, whatever a man’s intellectual qualities may be, and however faithfully he may have served God in the past, he can never with safety trust in his own wisdom and integrity.

Why do we not invest the time we squander on television in doing something useful--something that will endure for eternity.

Gretchen Schendel





# INVESTIGATION OF TRUTH AND NEW

## LIGHT

"I said further: As the word of God is walled in with these books and pamphlets, so has God walled you in with reproofs, counsel, warnings, and encouragements. Here you are crying before God, in the anguish of your souls, for more light. I am authorized from God to tell you that not another ray of light through the *TESTIMONIES* will shine upon your pathway until you make a practical use of the light already given. The Lord has walled you about with light; but you have not appreciated the light; you have trampled upon it. While some have despised the light, others have neglected it, or followed it but indifferently. A few have set their hearts to obey the light which God has been pleased to give them." 2T 606.

"...He requires of His people faith that rest upon the weight of evidence, not upon perfect knowledge. Those followers of Christ who accept the light that God sends them must obey the voice of God speaking to them when there are many other voices crying out against it. It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God.

"Those who will not act when the Lord calls upon them, but who wait for more certain evidence and more favorable opportunities, will walk in darkness, for the light will be withdrawn. The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated." 3T 258.

I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith.



They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth." 5T 707.

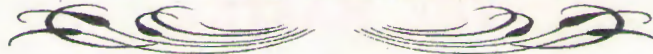
"Those to whom the message of truth is spoken seldom ask, 'Is it true?' but 'By whom is it advocated?' 'Multitudes estimate it by the numbers who accept it; and the question is still asked, 'Have any of the learned men or religious leaders believed?' Men are no more favorable to real godliness now than in the days of Christ." DA 459.

"The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon men, and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible for themselves, or weighing evidence, have confidence in the leading men, and accept the decisions they make; and thus many will reject the very messages God sends to His people, if these leading brethren do not accept them." TM 106, 107.





## A TESTIMONY



*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (Jhn. 10: 27)*

I arrived in Denver, Colorado, July 1991, single without dependents and sharing an apartment with my mother and brother. Two months later I began working for a well known luggage manufacturer. Nearly everyday I consumed an alcoholic beverage and smoked eighty to one hundred dollars worth of marijuana a week. When tempted, I smoked two to three hundred dollars worth of rock cocaine (Tim. 6: 10). I was tired of it all. I had no friends. I was lonely.

I remember once, while I was waiting for a bus, a piece of paper startled me. "Have you tried Jesus?", was printed on it (Matt. 11: 28). But I did not go to church. I knew very little about God or Jesus and with so many different religions, what church would I attend? (Mark 13: 6). A co-worker invited me to his church. The pastor preached a very good sermon.

In March 1993, I began attending church regularly. My co-worker asked me if I owned a Bible. "No I don't." The next day, he presented to me the holy Bible, placed by the Gideons Luke 8:11. He instructed me to read the gospel according to St. John (Luke 1:16), and when I was finished, to read it again (Math 13:23). Chapter seven verse twenty-four was my first (1 Timothy 4:15). I joined the church and was baptized. But, I continued to smoke and drink. (Romans 7:20).

At the church, a guest speaker was teaching, "You are under grace and not under law" (Romans 6:15). It seem as he was talking directly to me. Who was grace (Ephesians 2:8). Another co-worker who was also a member of the church, provided me with a 33 lesson Bible correspondence course which she had completed. She said that the lessons would teach the many different subjects in the Bible (Luke 1:79). I was hesitant, but I begun reading them. And while I read them, I was surprised by the different days of worship (Hebrew 4:8,9). I asked both co-workers about the subject and was disturbed by their answers (2 Thessalonians 2:10,11). I attended their church no more.

I arrived in Detroit, Michigan June 1993. My four brothers and I were born here and we had moved to Kosciusko, Mississippi in 1977. I would not return to Denver ( Luke 5:28).

I shared an apartment with my father and continued to read to read my bible daily. I finally visited a Seventh-Day Adventist church in the city. A tent had been set-up and they were having a revival. There, I learnt more about the Bible, and before my birthday, I decided to quit smoking and drinking. On August 7th 1993 I was baptized into the church (John 3:5 ) ( 2 Corinthians 5:17). I haven't smoked a cigarette, a joint or drunk alcohol, since that the day (Phillippians 4:13).

A month later, I begun working for a business that cared for the mentally ill. I was required to live-in and the rent and food were free. I also had access to a mini-van which I drove every Sabbath to church. But my experience at the church made me wonder, "Is this how Christians act? Is this the Remnant? (II Tim. 3: 5).

In February, I met a brother from Toronto. Canada. Not only was he a member of the International Missionary Society, S.D.A. Church Reform Movement, but also the answer to a prayer I had petitioned the Lord concerning I Cor. 7:1 and Rev. 14:4 (asked- Gen. 2:23 received - Ephesian 5: 27). The next Sabbath was my last Sabbath as a member of a S.D.A church (Rev. 3: 17, II Cor. 6: 17). Five months later, I traveled to Toronto and was baptized into the Reform Movement. Psalm 34:1.



## **THE MASTER**

**If you had lived way back  
say about 2000 years ago.  
You may have met  
with a crowd walking slow.**

**They walked for miles,  
passing town by town.  
As they drew nearer,  
it grew quiet all around.**

**Jesus healed the sick,  
made rich the poor.  
But to everyone's horror  
He slept on the floor.**

**A short time after  
He was condemned  
He accepted the cross  
on behalf of lost men.**

**Yes He resurrected  
on the third day.  
Your debt & mine  
no more to pay.**

**Sofia Cabral**