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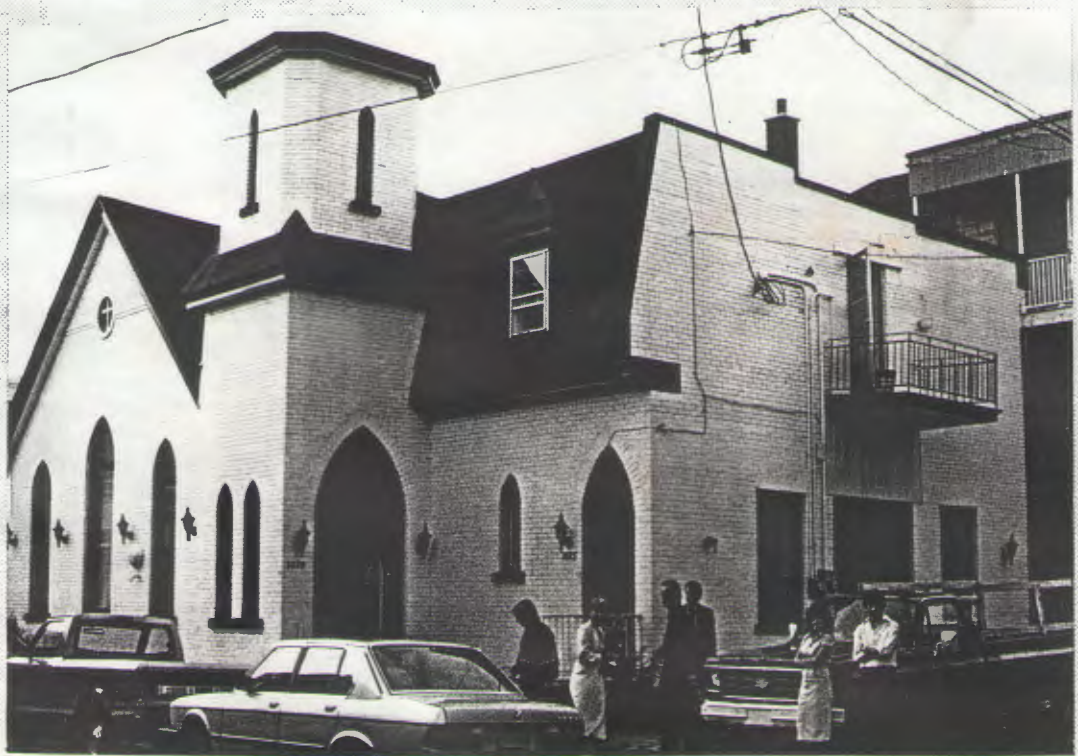
Group of Children at Canadian Field Conference

EDITORIAL NOTE

♥ Give a helping hand when it is most needed ♥

The Toronto church has another missionary project--the church in Montreal. For several weeks now, the Toronto church has adopted the church in Montreal as their child, visiting them, helping them financially and getting repairs done on their church building. The roof that was leaking has now been repaired, and inside the sanctuary new drywall and painting has been done in damaged areas. On the outside, repairs to the brick work, and painting is still in progress. Every week someone from Toronto travels to Montreal to hold Sabbath services and to give Bible studies. If someone is planning a weekend trip to go somewhere, Montreal is an ideal location. The church has an apartment with all the facilities and enough space for several people to stay. The city of Montreal is beautiful with many landmarks, parks and points of interest. There are several interested people also and they need our encouragement and prayers to make their decision to become part of this God's last Reform Movement. It is our hope that soon the church will grow and be taking care of their own services and missionary work. Meanwhile, let us give a helping hand and all the support we can for this missionary project.

The Editors



The Montreal church building

ASK GOD ABOUT THE SABBATH

TELL ME, LORD, DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DAY OF REST FOR YOUR FOLLOWERS?

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" Revelation 1:10.

BUT WHICH DAY IS THE LORD'S DAY?

"The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day." Matthew 12:8.

THERE ARE SEVEN DAYS IN THE WEEK, WHICH ONE IS THE SABBATH DAY ?

The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. Fourth Commandment (Exodus 20:8).

WHICH DAY, ACCORDING TO OUR RECKONING, IS THE SEVENTH DAY, SATURDAY OR SUNDAY?

"And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James,...very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun" Mark 16:1-2.

"And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man... And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen" Mark 16:1-6. (Note: everybody knows that Sunday was the resurrection day. The Sabbath was past when it dawned. Thus it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday).

BUT, LORD, DIDN'T YOU ABOLISH THE LAW WHICH CONTAINS THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT?

"Do not suppose that I have come to do away with the law or the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to enforce them." Matthew 5:18 (Goodspeed).

WELL AT LEAST , DIDN'T YOU CHANGE ONE OF THE COMMANDMENTS SO THAT TODAY YOUR FOLLOWERS MAY KEEP ANOTHER DAY THAN THE SEVENTH DAY?

"I tell you, as long as heaven and earth endure, not one dotting of an "i" or crossing of a "t" will be dropped from the law until it is all observed." Matthew 5:18 (Goodspeed).

BUT LORD ISN'T SATURDAY A JEWISH DAY? ISN'T THE SEVENTH DAY THE SABBATH DAY OF THE JEWS?

"The Sabbath was made for man" Mark 2:27 (The Sabbath was made and given to man 2500 years before the existence of a Jew [See Gen. 2:1-3]).

SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT AFTER YOUR CRUCIFIXION, LORD YOUR FOLLOWERS NO LONGER KEPT THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT, IS THIS TRUE?

"And that day was the preparation day and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how His body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:54-56.

BUT DIDN'T APOSTLE PAUL ALWAYS MEET WITH THE EARLY CHRISTIANS ON SUNDAY IN HONOUR OF THE RESURRECTION? WHAT WAS HIS MANNER IN REGARDS

TO A DAY OF WORSHIP?

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures" Acts 17:2.

DID HE MEET WITH THE GENTILE CONVERTS ON THE SABBATH, TOO? PERHAPS HE MET WITH THE JEWS ON THE SABBATH AND THE GREEKS ON SUNDAY?

"And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." Acts: 18:4.

WHAT DID PAUL TEACH IN REGARD TO SABBATH KEEPING?

"There remaineth therefore a keeping of the Sabbath (margin) to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from His." Hebrews 4:9-10.

BUT, WHICH DAY DID PAUL MEAN HE SPOKE OF RESTING AS GOD DID?

"For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works." Hebrews 4:4.

IS THIS THEN, YOUR INSTRUCTION IN REGARD TO SABBATH KEEPING?

"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsels of God" Acts 20:27. (In the New Testament there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath. The book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious services. Yet there is not one word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday keeping.)

THEN WHY IS IT THAT MANY PEOPLE KEEP SUNDAY INSTEAD OF SATURDAY? IF THE BIBLE TEACHES SABBATH KEEPING, HOW AND BY WHOM WAS SUNDAY KEEPING INTRODUCED INTO CHRISTIANITY?

"And he (the little horn) shall speak great words against the Most High... and think to change times and laws" Daniel 7:25.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL 7; DO YOU MEAN THAT IT SHOULD THINK TO CHANGE THE LAW OF GOD?

"Ask now the priest concerning the law" Haggai 2:11.

VERY WELL, I WILL ASK STEPHEN KEENAN, A CATHOLIC PRIEST: DOES YOUR CHURCH THINK IT HAS POWER TO CHANGE THE LAW OF GOD?

"Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, a change for which there is no scriptural authority. Doctrinal Catechism, Page 174.

WHEN WAS THIS CHANGE MADE ?

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (364 A.D.) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." Peter Geirmann. The

Converts' Catechism, Page 50. (This catechism received the popes blessing on Jan. 25, 1910.)

DO PROTESTANT MINISTERS AGREE WITH THIS?

CONGREGATIONALIST: "It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath," – Dr. R. W. Dale, The Ten Commandments, page 106.

METHODIST: "Sabbath in the Hebrew language signifies rest and is the seventh day of the week...and it must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day." Buck's Theological Dictionary.

BAPTIST: "There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week. Where can the record of such a transfer be found? Not in the New Testament—absolutely not...Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history...But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, when adopted and sanctioned by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism." – Dr. E. T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHICH DAY I KEEP? A DAY IS A DAY, ISN'T IT?

"Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16

THEN WHAT SHALL I DO, OBEY THE SABBATH OF GOD'S COMMANDMENT OR KEEP THE SUNDAY OF MAN?

"We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

WELL, LORD WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SUNDAY KEEPING?

"Thus have ye made the commandments of God of none effect by your tradition...But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:6,9

BUT SURELY THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO KEEP SUNDAY CAN'T BE WRONG. CAN THEY?

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" Matthew 7:13,14 (Only a few obeyed God in the days of Noah, in the days of Lot, in the days of Christ. The majority were lost).

BUT DR. SO AND SO IS A VERY WISE MAN: WHY DOESN'T HE AND ALL THE GREAT PREACHERS KEEP THE SABBATH?

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" 1 Corinthians 1:26,27. (Note: The great religious teachers in Christ's day rejected the truth also. His followers were of the common people.)

BUT I HAVE ACCEPTED JESUS; I KNOW HE IS MY SAVIOUR; I KNOW HE HAS ACCEPTED ME AND I HAVE

BEEN KEEPING SUNDAY. SURELY I WOULD NOT BE LOST IF I DID NOT KEEP THE SABBATH NOW, WOULD I?

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" Acts 17:30.

I KNOW YOU LORD, YOU WOULDN'T CONDEMN ME FOR BREAKING THE SABBATH, WOULD YOU?

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.

BUT ISN'T IT SUFFICIENT THAT I LOVE THE LORD AND LIVE BY THE LAW OF HIS LOVE?

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

DOES THAT MEAN ALL TEN OF THEM?

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

WELL, I THINK THAT IF WE TRY TO FOLLOW JESUS, THAT IS ALL THAT IS NECESSARY, ISN'T THAT RIGHT JESUS?

"He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked" 1 John 2:6.

HOW DID YOU WALK LORD, WHAT WAS YOUR CUSTOM?

"And He came to Nazareth, where He has been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read" Luke 4:16.

BUT LORD, THAT WAS OVER 1900 YEARS AGO WOULDN'T YOU KEEP SOME OTHER DAY THAN SATURDAY IF YOU SHOULD COME TO EARTH TODAY?

"I am the Lord, I change not" Malachi 3:6. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" Hebrews 13:8.

"DOES MY SALVATION DEPEND UPON MY OBEDIENCE TO THIS SABBATH INJUNCTION?

"And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" Hebrews 5:9.

DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE?

"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" Matthew 19:17.

BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE WHY YOU INSIST ON THE SEVENTH DAY, LORD, ISN'T SUNDAY AS GOOD AS SATURDAY?

"God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it" Genesis 2:3. "He hath blessed: and I cannot reverse it" Numbers 23:20. "For thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed for ever." 1 Chronicles 17:27.

WELL, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF I KEEP ONE DAY IN SEVEN REGARDLESS OF WHICH ONE, THAT OUGHT TO BE GOOD ENOUGH.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" Proverbs 16:25. "Spiritual things...are spiritually discerned" 1 Corinthians 2:13,14.

BUT LORD! LORD! CAN'T I DO SOMETHING ELSE? WON'T MY PROFESSION GET ME TO HEAVEN?

"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father

which is in heaven" Matthew 7:21. "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" Proverbs 28:9.

BUT LORD, LOOK AT THE PEOPLE WHO WORK MIRACLES IN YOUR NAME, SOME HEAL THE SICK, OTHERS TALK IN TONGUES AND DO MANY WONDERFUL THINGS; YET THEY DO-NOT KEEP THE SABBATH. WHAT ABOUT THEM?

"Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me" Matthew 7:22,23.

YES I KNOW THE SABBATH IS RIGHT, BUT MY BUSINESS WOULD SUFFER IF I CLOSED ON THE SABBATH. I MIGHT LOSE MY JOB. I WOULDN'T GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD!

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.

WELL, FOR MYSELF I WOULDN'T CARE, BUT WHAT ABOUT MY FAMILY? WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR ME TO WORK ON THE SABBATH THAN TO LET MY FAMILY STARVE?

"Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:32,33. "Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" Psalms 37:35.

MY FRIENDS WILL LAUGH AT ME AND RIDICULE ME.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you...and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" Matthew 5:11,12. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" John 15:18.

BUT SUPPOSE MY OWN FAMILY DOES NOT AGREE WITH ME? SHOULD I GO AGAINST THEIR WISHES WHICH WOULD MEAN IN SOME CASES A DIVISION IN THE HOME?

"He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me" Matthew 10:37,38. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple" Luke 14:33.

I AM AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND ALL THESE TRIALS. I AM TOO WEAK.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness...when I am weak, then am I strong" 2 Corinthians 12:9,10. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Philippians 4:13.

THEN LORD, WHAT IS THE REWARD FOR BEING FAITHFUL TO YOU AND THE COMMANDMENTS?

"There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting" Luke 18:29, 30. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to

the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" Rev. 22:14.

LORD, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A HOME IN THE EARTH MADE NEW, WILL WE KEEP THE SABBATH THERE TOO?

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord" Isaiah 66:22,23.

THEN, LORD, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. WITH YOUR HELP, I WILL KEEP THE SABBATH.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant" Matthew. 25:21.

WHICH MARK WILL YOU RECEIVE?

The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." - Catholic Mirror, September 1893.

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." - C.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.

"The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is a homage they pay in spite of themselves to the authority of the Catholic Church." - Plain Talk for Protestants, page 213.

"And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a SIGN between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God" Ezekiel 20:20.

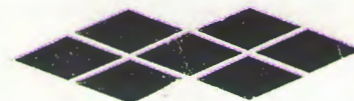
AN OFFER

"I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone to prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible." - Priest T. Enright, C.S.S.R. Kansas City, Mo.

THEY ADMIT THE TRUTH

LUTHERAN CHURCH: "There is no command in the Bible to keep Sunday as a day of rest... Why keep Sunday?... The seventh day is not the first day ... If you tell me the provisions for the Sabbath, Saturday, are bought over to Sunday: then I will challenge you to show me one proof of passage, one word of the Bible to prove this." - **Rev. H. Bielenberg.**

PRESBYTERIAN: "... that the day has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week by some competent authority is not, can not, be proved... There is not the slightest evidence that our Lord or His apostles regarded, or taught others to regard, the first day of the week. Change of the day! How can anyone suppose that the apostles would have taken it upon themselves to make the change" - **Rev. Fraser**



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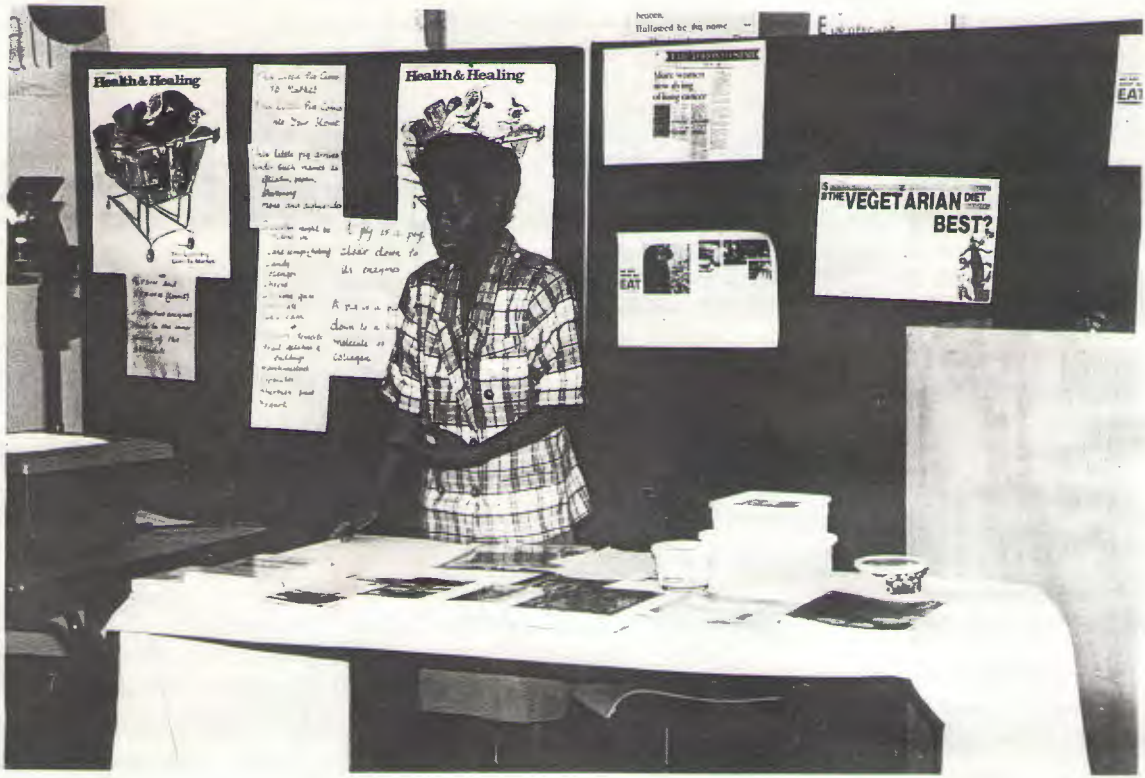
A group of believers travelling to Montreal to help the church



Brothers Ricardo Garcia and Raphael Serrano repairing the roof of the church

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Sister Rose Powell lecturing at Health Fair in Toronto last month



Visitors and members that attended the Health Fair

SPIRITUAL VISION

"And He cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto Him, and besought Him to touch him." Mark 8:22.

This miracle that Jesus performed is one in which the healing was not produced instantly and that is why we should be interested and investigate the why and the how of this surprising event which we will comment in the following passages.

"And He took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town..."
Mark 8: 23.

The blind man was a helpless human being and incapable of reaching the One who could offer him healing but some people brought him to Jesus to ask Him to touch him, because the touch of the Great Physician was known by all as healing and comforting.

The Lord Jesus acts in a very intimate way with the blind man in the manner that He takes him by the hand and leads him outside to be with him. The blind man allows himself to be led by a hand that transmits love, security, confidence and salvation. Bringing him apart from the multitude, the relation between the Saviour and this man becomes closer.

"...and when He spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, He asked him if he saw ought."
Mark 8: 23.

The two of them became even closer. Christ stands before him and spits in his eyes and puts His hands upon them. It's the second time that the Master touches him, the first when He led him and now as He touches him exactly in the imperfect area. Christ acted directly on his eyes that were bad.

And now He asks him if he sees anything, and the most surprising answer is given:

"And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking." Mark 8: 24.

He saw something, but in a confused and strange form because he did not see clearly.

"After that He put His hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly." Mark 8: 25.

For the third time the Lord placed His hands on him, and touches his eyes--this time He didn't ask him if he saw, but only completely cured his eyes.

The Holy Scriptures give details not only that he got back his sight but also that he could see far away and see everything clearly. Now there was neither confusion nor cloudy vision. Everything was seen with perfection.

Each one of us has been or is the blind man of Bethsaida. For proof, we present some parallels between the process of healing and the before and after of Christian life:

- 1 They brought him--means that someone gave us the message and brought us to church.
- 2 They begged Him to touch him--means they prayed and fasted for our conversion.
- 3 Taking his hand--means the first touch of the Lord Jesus is to lead us to Him. He takes our hand to lead us in our first steps in the truth.
- 4 He took him outside of the town--means we must have a personal meeting with Jesus, alone, away from the multitude.
- 5 He spit on his eyes--means saliva is an individual thing of each person, besides it's considered to be a healing agent. Jesus shares with us what is His and we have to receive it as the blind man.
- 6 He put His hands on him--means first He takes us by the hand and then He touches all our ailing parts. The blind man stays there surrendering to Jesus, letting Him do what He wants with him.
- 7 He asked him if he saw something--means the Lord wants to talk to us and know how we feel, think and see our life.
- 8 And seeing he said--means this human being surrendered to Jesus and obeyed implicitly without argument, all of His commands. We should understand that what we see (our ideas, impressions, feelings) is still confused and distorted as the vision of the blind man. Sometimes we see things and people in the wrong way that doesn't correspond to reality and that's why Jesus invites us to analyze ourselves to prove what we see and how we see it.
- 9 He put His hands on him again--means the Lord never abandons us when we trust in His saving hands and He intervenes to correct our faults every time we have wrong ideas in the same way He corrected the vision of this man.
- 10 And He made him see--means after the third divine touch, and seeing for a second time in full trust, obedience and surrender, we can see as God sees.
- 11 He was re-established--means the healing was produced through an internalized process between Jesus and this human being. After we have been together with Him, walking, sharing, and accepting correction, then healing will be perfected.
- 12 He saw far away and everything clearly--means when our relationship with Christ is permanent and close, our spiritual vision grows clearer, with greater distance. In other words, through the divine prism.

Let us pray to meet Jesus as the blind man in Bethsaida. This is my wish and prayer.

Raul Escobar

THE LANGUAGE OF GOD

When God is speaking to men only very few understand. Some may have a vague idea but the true meaning is not clear. Therefore the word of God, the Bible is the most misunderstood book in the world. Jesus said: "that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them." Mark 4:12.

Jesus spoke the greatest language of love. Every word He spoke were meant to save, to heal and to bring happiness to His hearers. Yet because of misunderstanding His meaning they hated Him, tried to kill Him and finally joined in the cry to crucify Him." To them the message of Jesus was a hate message and blasphemy. Do we understand the language of Jesus when He said:

"Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you."

"If you loose your life for my sake you gain it."

"Go and sell all you have and give to the poor."

"If your brother trespass against you forgive him seventy times seven."

"If someone smite you turn to him the other cheek."

"Seek not what to eat or drink or what to put on."

"Unless you forsake all you have you cannot be My disciple."

"Love your neighbor as thyself."

"When men revile you and persecute you. Then rejoice and be exceeding glad."?

Do you understand the meaning of these sayings, or do they sound as meaningless empty words? Can you see divine love and wisdom in them? Are they words of truth and life to you? Unless we become as little children we cannot understand the language of heaven. Jesus said that these words are hidden from the wise and prudent.

Adam and Eve did not clearly understand the words of God and therefore they ate of the forbidden tree and bought death upon themselves. God spoke to Israel, "And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing and make the camp of Israel a curse and trouble it." Joshua 6:18. Yet Achan did not understand it, and therefore he did bring the curse upon Israel and death to himself. God spoke in clear language, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Yet people understand it as "Remember the Sunday to keep it holy." God spoke, "Love not the world". Yet how many Christians love this world, and the things in it. They love the television shows, worldly fashions and ornaments.

Today God is still speaking in clear language that the end is near: the wars, bloodshed, murders, earthquakes, disasters in the air, land and sea, tornadoes and floods are the voice of God telling us to get ready for the coming of Jesus. Yet how many are delaying their preparation thinking that there is still much time to enjoy the world. Have we not seen another mile post on our way; the United States and the Vatican joining in diplomatic ties. Does this mean something to us? The moral pollution, the promiscuous society tell us that what happened to Sodom and Gomorra will soon come upon us.

Today God is still speaking to us, calling us to himself; but soon there will be silence. "And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. Amos 8: 12. My dear friend, learn the language of God before it is too late. The Holy Spirit will be your teacher, and you will have a new revelation of His will. You will understand what you must do to be saved, and not only will you understand His language, but you will also learn to speak it. May the God help you in your study.

Amen

In September's Issue...CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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≈ CURRENT EVENTS ≈

As we read the newspapers we see more and more of the signs of the times fulfilling that which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24. He spoke of wars and rumours of wars, famine, pestilence, increase in crime, the rise of false christs and prophets and so on. There is another aspect that I have been contemplating lately.

Most of us in North America have heard of the terrible tragedy in Waco, Texas. The leader, David Koresh, was previously a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church. The S.D.A. church made sure to let the public know that he was no longer their member. They tried desperately to clear their name before the world. But yet, while doing missionary work, we tell people that we belong to the S.D.A. church, and before we even get to the "Reform" part, they are asking about Waco. People are still making the connection between the S.D.A. church and Waco.

There are many "independent" Adventist organizations in North America now. Some are still loosely connected with the church, and others have been disfellowshipped but still consider the S.D.A. church the church of God. They collect the tithe for themselves and are perhaps preaching a purer message than the main body of the S.D.A. church. They also point out the many sins of the S.D.A. church as a major part of their ministry in hopes that the church will clean up her act. Some have just written the S.D.A. organization off as a hopeless cause and are going out on their own. But while these independents have severed their connection with the nominal Adventist church why have they not joined with God's true church? Many have been contacted by our people over the years and turned a deaf ear to Reformation on an

organizational basis. And what do we see starting to happen to them now? One example is, Bob Trefz, who was preaching a straighter testimony for awhile has suddenly come out and stated in the Jan/Feb 1995 issue of "Let Freedom Ring", a publication put out by his independent ministry in South Dakota: *"The final attack and murder of the Branch Davidians took place on April 19, the very selfsame day as Lexington and Concord, which, 218 years before, had sounded the beginning of the war for independence and liberty. The government terror, using hundreds of military personnel against the Weaver family, murdering members of that family, and then the terror at Waco, signaled the drive by the Papal New World Order to use psychological warfare through the media to dramatize the need to disarm the American people so that persecution can be established, and all that Protestantism has accomplished may be undone"*. He goes on to say that every good S.D.A. should carry a weapon so that what happened in Waco will not happen to us today. In other words, we must protect ourselves by human strength of arms. His viewpoints in the magazine were very similar to those held by the Michigan Militia, the organization that is allegedly responsible for the Oklahoma bombing.

Now comes the latest major tragedy in the USA--the bombing in Oklahoma. Who is responsible? A few men have been taken into custody and the case is being investigated. There was a rumour that perhaps there was a connection between the bombing and the Waco tragedy since it occurred on the 2nd anniversary after the Waco disaster. The Michigan Militia has also been in

question with their anti-government policies. The latest we hear is that the authorities in South Dakota came looking for Bob Trefz and he has gone into hiding. Is there a connection between these? I do not know, and I am not trying to speculate but it certainly is apparent many of the Adventist independent organizations are getting more and more aberrant.

What could be more simple to discern than that the theocracy of Israel was different than the dispensation we have today? In which Jesus has stated, "Love your enemies... put up your sword into its place, because all those who take the sword shall perish by the sword... My kingdom is not of this world, or else my servants would fight...". And yet, spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Only the wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and discern between those who serve God and keep His commandments and those who do not.

What I am trying to say is that from the looks of it Satan is creating animosity in the world against Seventh-Day Adventist off-shoots (or independents), because of their false doctrines and actions. Could the Seventh-Day Adventist Reform church be classified with all the other off-shoots and be hated by the world? We do not know what Satan is preparing for God's people; we just have to be aware, be awake, and know that the final hours of the earth's history are about to unfold. All of those who refuse to link up with God's true family of believers in these last days will be deceived by the distractions of the enemy. May God help us to give the Loud Cry and truly preach the straight testimony, by our words and actions.

Wendy Eaton

My Friend

Because you are my friend,
I wish you lovely things...
Small blossoms pink as sunrise
And birds on soaring wings.

I wish you loveliness at dawn
A sunset's golden hue,
A baby's smile, a little stream...
All these are wished for you...

Oh, may your dreams be peaceful,
As fair as any rose.
As golden as the lovely flame
of candleshine that glows.

Because you are my friend
God bless you every hour
And give blessing radiant.
As earth's most fragrant flower.

Anonymous