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Sanctification

Part 2

When does the work of sanctification begin?

"Justification means the saving of a soul from perdition, that he may obtain sanctification, and through sanctification, the life of heaven. Justification means that the conscience, purged from dead works, is placed where it can receive the blessing of sanctification." MS 113, 1902.

Without justification there cannot be sanctification. We can be members in the church of God, and have never experienced true conversion or new birth by the Holy Spirit. Such nominal believers have not entered the process of sanctification. Before we can be justified, there must be a work of reformation going on in the life. Sins must be repented of, confessed and forsaken.

"It is impossible for any to enjoy the blessings of sanctification while they are selfish and gluttonous." Rev. & Her., Jan. 25, 1881.

Often we see professed Christians who have been in the church for many years still unsanctified. They are selfish, seeking positions, without missionary spirit, and also are easily offended. The process of sanctification never started with them because they never cleansed the soul temple of its defilement; and the Holy Spirit will not dwell in a defiled temple.

Outward obedience of the religion is not sanctification. The Pharisees were very strict in following rules yet Jesus called them hypocrites and children of the Devil. Fanaticism and a criticizing spirit are not holiness. An "I am holier than thou" attitude is a satanic characteristic. A man who has a smoking habit may pray for sanctification to take place in his life. But it cannot even begin until he stops smoking. After he stops, then he is sinless in this point, but not holy because of the craving for the cigarettes in him. But, as time goes on, this desire to smoke leaves him and he is being sanctified. By nature he does not want to smoke anymore.

Willful sinning, or sins that we are not fighting against stops the sanctification process. Then begins the opposite--backsliding. Backsliding is a much faster process than sanctification because it is a downward path.

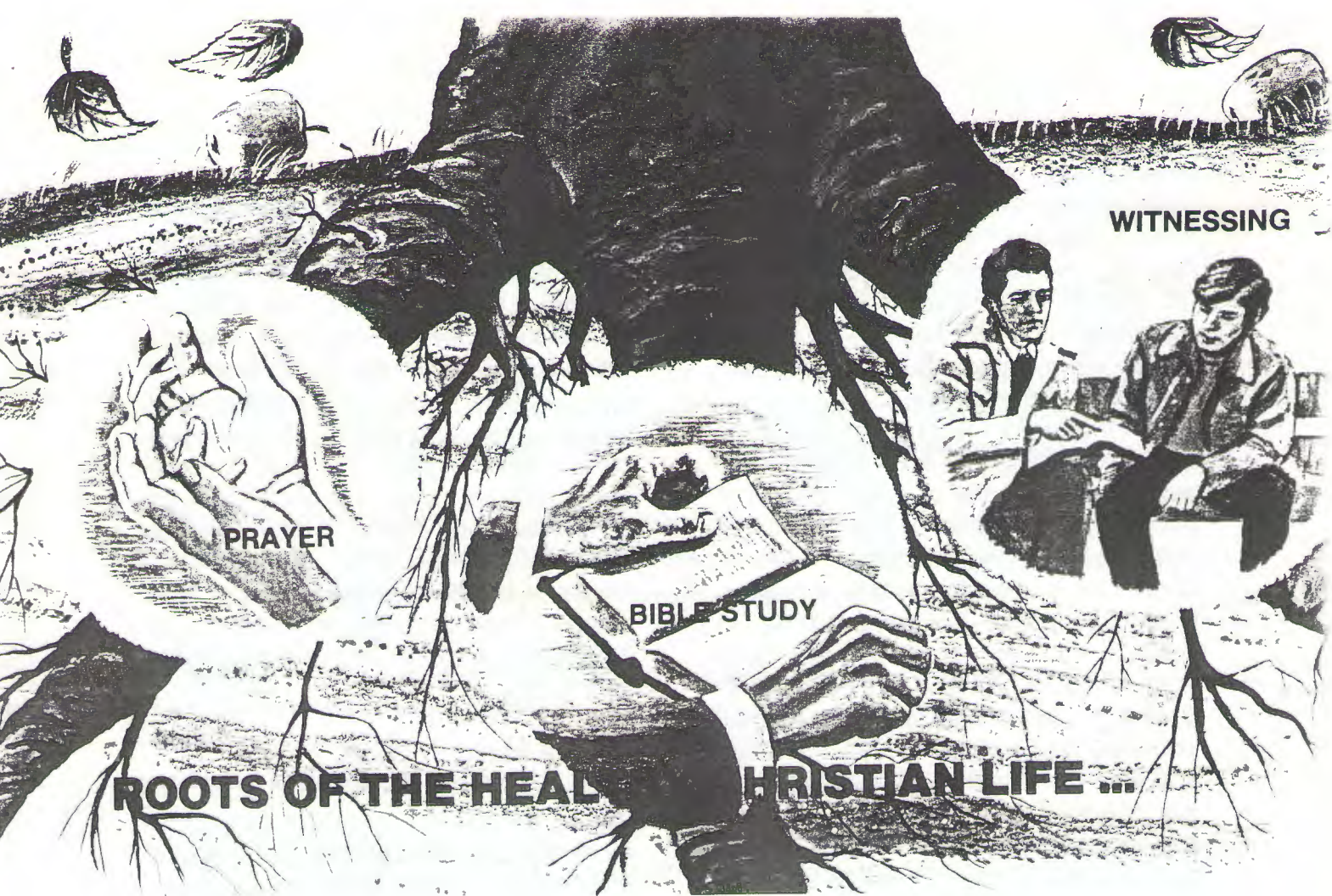
There is also false sanctification which is nothing else but self-righteousness; which, according to the Spirit of Prophecy is the most incurable spiritual sickness. Jesus said that harlots and publicans go to the kingdom before them.

Anyone who willfully rejects part of the truth will fail in sanctification.

"There is no Bible sanctification for those who cast a part of the truth behind them." Rev. & Her., May 6, 1862.

"Those who dishonour God by transgressing His law may talk sanctification but it is of the value, and as acceptable, as was the offering of Cain." 7 BC 908.

Before the sanctification process can begin in our lives, there must be a true conversion; all known sins must be forsaken. The Holy Spirit must baptize us and have its dwelling in us. Then the lifelong miracle of sanctification will begin and shall be recognized by its fruits. AMEN.



"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
Psalm 1:1-3

The roots of the Christian life do not function automatically. They must be cultivated diligently. Though God is invisible and intangible, there are three concrete tangibles that He has appointed to help to make Him more real to us. These tangibles are three established religious habits, or "exercises," whereby we maintain spiritual strength and vigour.

Our success or failure, in the Christian life depends, to a great degree, upon the way we order our priorities in these three areas. Just as we need food, drink, and exercise - on a regular basis - in order to maintain physical life and health, so we also need three vital, God-appointed "roots" to give us strength and tone to our spiritual life.

1. PRAYER

***"Pray without ceasing" 1
 Thessalonians 5:17***

Prayer is described as the "Breath of the soul" and, for a healthy Christian it is as important as breathing. As our physical bodies will die quickly without air, so our spiritual soul will also die quickly without constant prayer.

But prayer is not as automatic as is the breathing process. It is not an

arrangement where we just play a passive role. God does not operate the prayer "life-line" that connects us to heaven. He leaves the controls of this life-line in our hands. By our own practices - our own neglect - of prayer, we regulate the supply of life-given, spiritual "air" that comes to us!

Prayer in the simplest form is to just stop resisting. We must abandon our self-dependence and give God access to our needs. In this sense it is very much like the breathing process. The air doesn't have to be forced into our lungs. It is there waiting - actually pressing - to come in! So in the same way, to pray, is to let God in - to give Him permission to employ His omnipotent powers to help us when we are in distress. "God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God." *Steps to Christ*, p. 48

To pray is to open the heart's door and let God in. It requires no human strength, only the consent of our will. Will we give God complete access to our needs? That is the one great question to be settled in connection with prayer.

"Prayer is opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him." *Ibid*, p. 47

"There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. There is nothing that can prevent us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God and pleas for divine guidance. . ."

Ibid, p. 50

God has designed prayer that the weakest among us may use it and be richly strengthened. It is not our prayers that move God to save us. He is moved by His own love, ". . . while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. . ." Rom. 5:8 Our prayers simply acknowledge our helplessness and allow God to take control of our lives. We give Him the opportunity to solve the problems that have been troubling us. "If we would but think of God as often as we have evidence of His care for us we should keep Him ever in our thoughts and should delight to talk of Him and to praise Him." *Ibid*, p. 52

2. Bible Study

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4.

Regular Bible study is one of the most urgent and vital means of soul-culture. While prayer is the "breath" of our souls, Bible study is our spiritual food. Both of these "roots" are equally indispensable.

As with prayer, however, we have conscious and complete control over the time and effort we put into Bible study. We ourselves determine the rewards that we receive from this exercise. We get out of Bible study in direct proportion to what we put in. Bible reading is not an automatic, involuntary action; it is not forced. As far as this root is concerned, the success or failure is in our hands.

The systematic memorization of Bible verses is one of the most beneficial forms of soul food. No one can do our in-depth Bible study for us - just as no one else can eat for us, or breathe for us. We are to answer for ourselves before God.

Each must appear individually before the judgement bar of God.

If we neglect personal, frequent Bible reading, we pay the inevitable price in poor spiritual health - starvation. Spiritual realities lose their relevance and clarity for us, and slowly begin to fade. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17. The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." John 17:17. If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will. . . . The truths of the word of God meet man's great practical necessity - the conversion of the soul through faith." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 100

"The words of the living God are the highest of all education. The studied phrases designed to please the taste of the supposed-to-be refined fall short of the mark. Those who minister to the people need to eat the bread of life. This will give them spiritual strength; then they will be prepared to minister to all classes of people. The piety, the spiritual energy of the church is sustained by feeding on the bread that came down from heaven. At the feet of Jesus we are to learn the simplicity of true godliness." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 308

"None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." *Great Controversy*, p. 593,594

3. Witnessing

"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you." Mark 5:19

God's message of salvation never becomes so precious or so meaningful as it does when we attempt to pass it on to others. That is one of the most established laws of the Christian life.

If prayer is the "breath" of the soul, Bible reading is the "food", then witnessing is the "exercise".

The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to win others to the Saviour. A Christian who is not making other Christians is as much a contradiction as a fire that gives no warmth, or a candle that gives no light. We nourish and preserve our Christian faith by giving it away. "And wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing. . . . When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. . . . Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing of humanity." *Steps to Christ*, p. 39

How do we go about sharing Christ? Where do we begin? There is no formal pattern to follow. God sends opportunities unexpectedly. But there is one method that will never fail. Even the most inexperienced Christian can use it and that is to tell of your own experience!!

We are to tell what we have seen, heard and felt of the transforming grace of God. If we have been following Jesus step by step, we will have something to say concerning the way He has led us. We can tell how we, ourselves, have tested His promises, and found them true. And this is the witness for which our Lord calls, and for want of which the world is

perishing.

"The only way to grow in grace is to be disinterestedly doing the very work which Christ has enjoined upon us. . . Strength comes by exercise; activity is the very condition of life. Those who endeavour to maintain Christian life by passively accepting the blessings that come through the means of grace, and doing nothing for Christ, are simply trying to live by eating without working. And in the spiritual as in the natural world, this always results in degeneration and decay. A man who would refuse to

exercise his limbs would soon lose all power to use them. Thus the Christian who will not exercise his God-given powers not only fails to grow up into Christ, but he loses the strength that he already had." Ibid, p. 41

***"As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."
Colossians 2:6,7***



The Bible Study Handbooks are now available from the IMS Publishers

A BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL

AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS OF PLANNING AND AFTER MUCH PRAYER AND STUDY, A BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL HAS BEEN STARTED IN THE TORONTO AREA. FEW SELF-SACRIFICING MEMBERS FROM THE CHURCH FAMILY IN TORONTO, FILLED WITH THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT, ANSWERED THE CALL OF THEIR MASTER. "GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE." MARK 16:15. THIS HAS BEEN GOD'S WILL SINCE THE BEGINNING FOR HIS PEOPLE.

AS THE APOSTLES AND THE EARLY CHURCH ENJOYED THE FELLOWSHIP OF EACH OTHER, NEGLECTING THE GOSPEL CALL, GOD HAD TO SEND PERSECUTION TO JERUSALEM TO SCATTER THEM INTO ALL NATIONS AROUND. ARE WE GOING TO WAIT FOR THE PERSECUTION TO COME OR DO WE OBEY THE LORD'S COMMAND BEFORE IT? THE COUNSEL OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY IS THAT TWO OR THREE FAMILIES MOVE OUT TO NEW AREAS AND START MISSIONARY WORK THERE.

ON THE FIRST SABBATH OF THE YEAR 26 SOULS WERE PRESENT IN THE STREETSVILLE BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL AND DIFFERENT ONES GAVE A TESTIMONY THAT THEY FELT GREAT PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE MEETINGS.

BEFORE THE PROJECT WAS STARTED A SIGN WAS REQUESTED OF GOD. IF THE FIRST MEETING PLACE CHOSEN WILL ACCEPT US WITH REASONABLE COST WE TAKE IT AS A SIGN OF GOD'S APPROVAL. THE FIRST PLACE CHOSEN WAS THE UNITED CHURCH IN STREETSVILLE AND IMMEDIATELY IT WAS OFFERED TO US AT THE COST OF ONLY \$10.00 A DAY. FOR THIS WE HAVE THE USE OF THE CHILDREN'S CLASSROOMS AND THE KITCHEN, BESIDES THE MAIN MEETING PLACE. LATER TO PROVE OUR SIGN WE CALLED SEVERAL OTHER CHURCHES AND NOT ONE OF THEM ALLOWED US IN AT ANY COST.

WHEN THE JEWISH LEADERS TRIED TO STOP THE APOSTLES FROM PREACHING THE GOSPEL PETER ANSWERED, "WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN". ACTS 5:29. IF GOD IS WITH US NO EARTHLY POWER CAN STOP THE WORK. SATANIC FORCES USING HUMAN AUTHORITY MAY TRY TO STOP GOD'S WORK FROM SPREADING OUT TO NEW TERRITORIES, BUT GOD HAS HIS FAITHFUL SENTINELS WHO FEAR NOTHING EXCEPT TO DISHONOUR THEIR MASTER.

MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS MISSIONARY OUTREACH IN THE STREETSVILLE AREA.

Music: Do we manipulate it, or does it manipulate us?

Music, music, music, the world is alive with the sound of music. It's nearly impossible to imagine a day without music of some kind reaching our ears, almost as if it were part of a master plan to insure we listen to some melody. From the alarm clock radio as we start our day to being put "on hold" during a phone call with piped in music, music is everywhere. It isn't just the AM/FM radio or TV stations that intrude upon our ears, the entire advertising industry has been programming music for years to manipulate buying behavior to enhance selling power. For example, Ronald Millman of Loyola University, provided conclusive evidence that slow music increases sales. A supermarket's receipts increased 38.2% when slow, low-volume, easy-listening music drifted through the aisles than when similar but faster music was played. When questioned at the store's exit, 33% of the shoppers did not know if music had been playing while another 29% flatly denied its presence. A similar study associated with Muzak, the main retailer of this kind of music, showed that shoppers remained in the aisles longer and purchased more product. The sales dropped with the playing of faster beat music or when none at all was played. Muzak boasts a 17% productivity increase in factory output, a 13.5% increase in clerical performance and a 53% reduction in staff turnover at airline reservation counters. Much other research tells us of mental, social or religious

manipulation through accepted and known means or more subtle, psychological methods. This research continually underlines the fact that music bypasses the rational or thinking center of our brain to go directly to the emotional or feeling center of our brains. This could explain why music is so influential to our moods and therefore manipulative of our ability to reason and trace from cause to effect.

Surely, music has added a lot to our world. Music can move us to tears, provoke us to fight, excite us to dance or woo us to love. It can inspire our most exalted religious feelings or ease our loneliest moments. It has become an art unto itself. Unlike the other arts like painting or sculpture, music doesn't usually resemble anything else in the world. But according to intriguing recent research the orderly progression of music communicating harmony and melody is very like the changes in the electrical patterns of the brain cells, the growth of tree rings and of course the beating of our own hearts. We probably enjoy music so much because it not only reflects the natural workings of our bodies but may also serve as one of the deepest and most natural links we have with our Creator.

We all were created with a mind, body and spirit. These different parts of us are called different things by different people-but let's keep things simple. We all have an animalistic or lower nature that we can choose to follow or keep in control. Only our higher, spiritual nature which appreciates and clings to beauty, truth and love can control our very powerful urges such as procreation and appetite which are of the lower nature's realm. (In fact, for the best areas of life to be brought into balance and harmony with our purpose for being on planet earth the lower nature must be continually held in subjection to the higher nature.)

Today in the religious world, we see much so-called Christian rock or more subtle, contemporary Christian music. This music

attempts to marry the best of worldly, secular music with the message of Jesus Christ: the restoration of God's pure image in fallen man. In this music there are the same driving kind of rhythms and beats that one associates with parties, dancing and lust, but the lyrics are such that we are supposed to think about holiness, purity and righteousness-what a contradiction! Now the lower nature gets the message that to indulge itself is alright as the higher nature is tricked into believing that all is well because of the cloak of religious lyrics thrown over. The church therefore starts to send out mixed messages to the world and the young are led through the music to accept a form of religion while denying God's true power to overcome sin in our lives. "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them." 2 Tim. 3:1-5, NIV. It appears that we have fully come to the days mentioned in the Scriptures as the last.

This process, which has gained so much momentum in the last half of the 20th century, actually is defined quite clearly in the Bible as going on even in ancient times. One of them is Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, which is recorded in the third chapter of Daniel. You may remember that Nebuchadnezzar had seen a dream of the world's empires being broken by Christ's Second Coming to this earth and he must have felt sad that his kingdom too would be broken. So he decided to set up a huge statue like he saw in his dream and provide a key element which would spur all of the multitude gathered to fall down and worship this statue, the symbol of man's power. That key element was music. "Whoever does not

fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up." Daniel 3:6,7, NIV. Only three young Hebrew captives had the presence of mind and courage to resist: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Daniel 3: 16-18, NIV. When we think of worldly music today, what a worthy example for imitation! Yes, it is nothing new for the powers that be in this world to use music to manipulate the minds of the masses. It is also not a new thing for the people of God to resist the rhythms and messages of the world's music.

Long ago, the people of Israel as a nation had great temptation assail them through music. Isn't it the same with we Christians today who are trying to "be in the world but not of the world?" "When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, 'There is the sound of war in the camp.' Moses replied: 'It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear.' When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. He said to Aaron, 'What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?' "Do not be angry, my lord,' Aaron answered.

'You know how prone these people are to evil. They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" Exodus 32:17-25, NIV. Here we see Aaron not being able to take a strong stand against rebellion and apostasy, so he was led on by the people into new depths of depravity and despair. Could there be any parallels in the religious world today?

There was also superficiality in worship music, even in Bible times. What did the Lord have to say to this problem in Amos' time when complacency and presumption had very nearly made extinct true heart-service in worship? Please see Amos 6:1-7. "*Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.* But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings, forty years in the desert, O house of Israel? You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, the star of your god-which you made for yourselves. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,' says the Lord whose name is God Almighty." Amos 5:23-27, NIV.

We are told in the Bible that the music must exalt the message-what could be more simple or plain? "Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:16-20, NIV. **The**

message and harmony of godly music is very soothing and helpful for our spirits.

To contrast godly music and its effect let's see what the effect of the wrong kind of music was when it touched John the Baptist's life. "Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, for John had been saying to him: 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet. On Herod's birthday the **daughter of Herodias danced for them** and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, 'Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.'" Matthew 14: 3-8, NIV. Yes, there have been many occasions that song has helped, along with lust and wine to bring God's people to destruction. The book Pilgrim's Progress describes this very well. It was in "Vanity Fair" that Faithful met his demise through the mob being inflamed with their headlong pursuit of pleasure in music, dancing and drinking. *What appeals to and stirs up vanity, mockery and hatred better than "earthly, sensual and devilish" music?* James 3:17,18.

It was only fairly recently that the opinion has been formed in our society that music plays a much more significant role in shaping our moods and even our thought patterns. The old adage, "music soothes the savage beast" is well known by all. But could it be turned around? **Could we say today that music could also be used to create savage beasts?**

Ponder this: if, during this last period of man's history, music has moved steadily forward out of the elementary role of mere entertainment, then to what role has it escalated? Has control become a vital element in today's music? Has the recent high focus on the effects of music by the scientific

community, advertising industry and religious community been without reason? Considering these things, it is hoped the reader will be stimulated to thought, aroused to conviction and through exposure to sound and light, be given a new heart in which is written God's law. "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." Ezekiel 36:25-27, NIV. "The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have my law in your hearts: Do not fear the reproach of men or be terrified by their insults. For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations." Isaiah 51:3-8, NIV Here, the order, melody and harmony of Godly music are equated with God's law, which makes sense because true music must follow a progression and rhythm based upon law.

How are we to understand what's

going in music today? We know that Satan, the great arch-enemy of all mankind does not come to us in obvious form, but rather as "an angel of light". 2 Cor. 11:14. He apparently knew and used music very well in the heavenly courts before being banished due to rebellion in his heart. We read in Ezekiel 28:13-15 "the workmanship of **thy tabrets and of thy pipes** was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." And that he is "the god of this world" 2 Cor. 4:3,4. This being the case, we can readily conclude that it is Satan, not God, who has the most control of the world's airwaves. We are told in Scripture that we are to "sing with the spirit, and....sing with the understanding also"; in other words, our minds and very natures must perceive the balance between the music and the lyrics. 1 Cor. 14: 15. There has to be harmony between the two or our spirits and minds could become confused. It is Satan's stock in trade today to lead the world to believe that Christians are nothing but hypocrites and he will succeed if God's people look like, act like and sound like the world.

So dear reader, the appeal is to you - ask God for guidance and grace to sing to His honor and glory. Even here on this earth, we can and should make "melody in our hearts to the Lord" in thanksgiving for sending His son, Jesus Christ to be the basis of our science and our song. Seek to put aside all that is not glorifying to Him and He will lead you to those heavenly courts in which there is music that nothing on this earth has yet come close to..."But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor. 2:9.

By Jerry Eaton

NEWS NOTES

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Revelation 13:11, 12

I am sure that we are all familiar with this Bible verse. We have heard it repeated over and over again. We know that some time in the future, the Papacy and the United States of America will fully unite and in this bond of unity will create a persecuting power against God's remnant church. How fast is this fulfilling? How closely are they united today? Will it be before the end of the century before this persecution comes? Only God knows the end from the beginning and only He can tell how soon all this will come to a climax.

I am sure we all remember well, almost 8 years ago when the communist power was broken in Eastern Europe. At first it caught the Western World by surprise, but since that time we see that there was a definite plan in process to bring this about. Two great powers were working throughout the 80's to create this collapse. In *Life* magazine, dated Dec. 1989 it was said that, "The rush to freedom in Eastern Europe is a sweet victory for John Paul II." "In private meetings with heads of state, back room consultations with dissident groups and persistent propagandizing for his crusade against tyranny, he (John Paul II) has helped bring about the greatest policy change since the Russian Revolution." Ibid.

How closely were the United States and the Vatican working at that time? "The Pope was privy to secret U.S. intelligence reports in the 1980s as he conspired with the CIA and President Ronald Reagan to overthrow the Soviet empires, according to a new biography.

"William Casey, Reagan's CIA director, regularly visited the Vatican and would show the Pope spy satellite photograph's reports from electronic eavesdropping in the Soviet bloc and even accounts of high-level White House meetings, it says.

"In return, the Pope would brief Casey on what his church sources were reporting about political activities in the eastern bloc." *Vancouver Sun*, September 14, 1996.

In 1980, after the Pope had held his famous Mass in Poland (in 1979), he was visited by William Casey who handed him "... a single remarkable photograph taken by one of America's spy satellites hundreds of kilometres above the earth." *Reader's Digest*, p. 206 (October 1996) After John Paul II studied it he realized that it was a picture of himself. "Since the moment the American satellite had photographed the Pope in Poland, Casey and Reagan firmly believed that there was a potential third superpower in the world - the 44-hectare Vatican city-state - and that its monarch, Pope John Paul II had at his command a remarkable arsenal that might tip the balance of the Cold War.

"In a meeting that wouldn't be revealed to the world for another decade, Casey - by using that photo and, more to the point, by making available to the Pope the intelligence the satellite technology provided - helped seal an alliance between the Holy See and the Reagan Administration." Ibid, p. 206

"Meeting alone without interpreters, two of the most powerful men on earth discussed a radical proposition: that the collapse of the Soviet empire was inevitable." Ibid, p.213

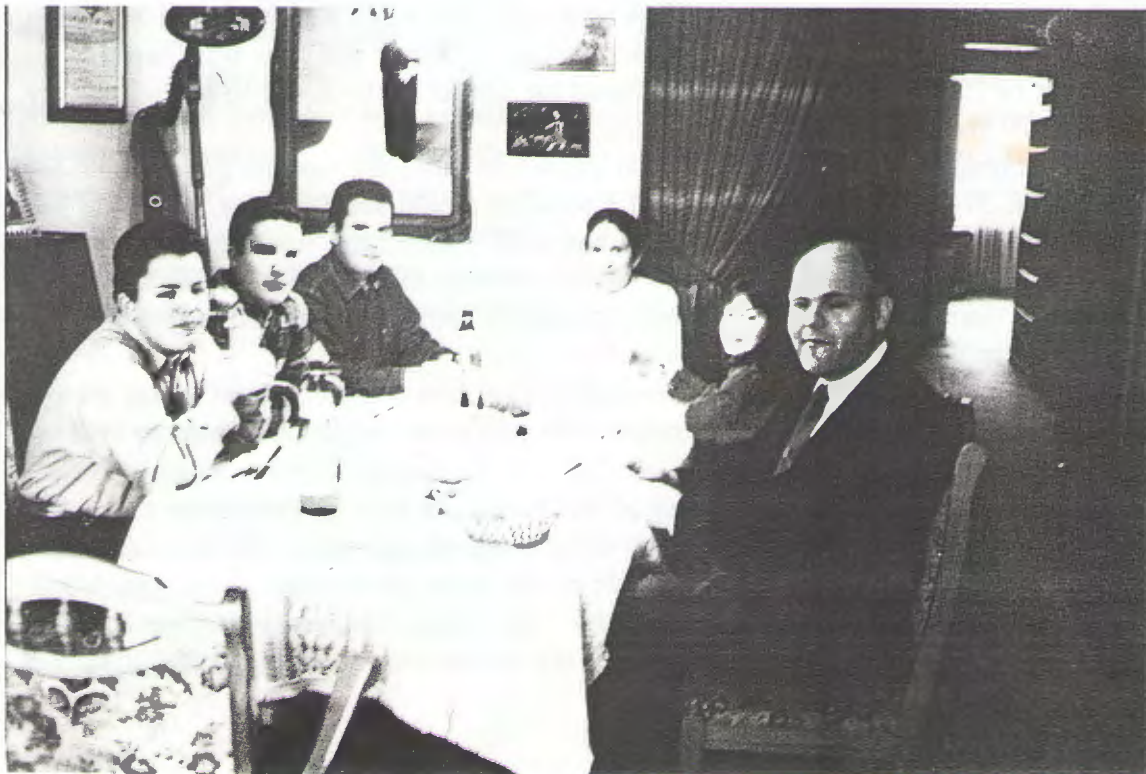
Then in 1989, "The communist dominoes were tumbling."

"When others tried to credit the Pope with the downfall of communism, he would say: "I didn't cause this to happen. The tree was already rotten. I gave it a good shake, and the rotten apples fell." Ibid, p. 214

"Despite John Paul II's declining health, the last years of his pontificate have been characterized by a burst of activity. And though his hand is increasingly weary as he raises it to bless the faithful, it points to a wider horizon." Ibid, p. 217

With these two great powers working so closely together we can see the power that they have had in the recent past. These two master minds were able to throw down communism by their plots and schemes. What else do they have in mind for the world? This plan was 10 years in the making. I wonder what their agenda is for the next 10 years? They do seem to have quite a bit of control in the world at present and are looking for ultimate control - "...a wider horizon.." - which the Bible points out in Revelation 13 will happen. As we read these news articles we can see that it is not far distant in the future. The USA, with the threat of economic sanctions, can have quite a few of the nations bend to their will. The final events of this world's history will be rapid ones and many who are not prepared will be caught off guard.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Romans 13:11, 12.



Lunchtime with the Cabrera Family

Good-Bye to a Dear Sister-Anna Turcan Vancouver, B.C.

We gathered to say good-bye to our dear Sister in the faith, Anna Turcan on January 6, 1997. She lost her final battle but she won the war of life. She put down the torch that she was carrying only momentarily, and I'm sure if she saw you, she would ask, "won't you take up that torch yourself?" What torch am I speaking of? The one that the Apostle Paul mentioned at the end of his life when he said: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." You see, Sr. Anna knew what the true struggle of life was all about, not just the struggle to keep body and spirit together, nor the struggle to triumph over one's physical enemies. But the struggle of the Christian: the war against sin, self and Satan. Yes, Sr. Anna was a fighter and a survivor in this war.

She was born Anna Pecnicova in March 1915 at Lalich, Vojvodina, Yugoslavia. She was the youngest of 2 sisters and 1 brother. She not only outlived them all but she was also the oldest of all her siblings. Her husband was a man named John. Sr. Anna did her best to love John, but unfortunately he was very hard and abusive so after about 30 years of married life together, she was led to leave him and come to a better life in Canada.

Anna arrived in Vancouver in 1968 where she met Milan Kasabasic and Sr. Maria Rolih. Milan studied the SDA Reform message with her and she was baptized in September of 1971. Sr. Anna faithfully shared the gospel in the house-to-house ministry for almost 20 years.

Everyday for the last 20 years or so she would faithfully visit her good friend, Sr. Maria Rolih. It was at Maria's house that I so often would see Sr. Anna. She said she loved to see me eat, (I guess because she had such a hard time enjoying her food, she really was happy to see others enjoy their food.) During the time that Br. Zdrauko was living at Sr. Maria's house she would talk with him of spiritual things and her living hope of Christ's soon coming.

Wherever there were spiritual blessings and burdens to be borne, Sr. Anna always seemed to be there. For example, whenever there was someone baptized into our church, she always seemed to be there.

In fact, one of the happiest times of Sr. Anna's life here in Vancouver and in the message of the Advent of Jesus, was only about a month ago when she partook of the Lord's Supper with the rest of God's people at the home of her dear friend, Sr. Maria Rolih. I should mention that she was always very happy whenever our church group would come and sing for her. The visit before last to her nursing home, seemed to be the

most happy I have ever seen Sr. Anna. I believe that it was for this happiness that she lived.

We all, I am sure, have learned to speak respectfully of the dead and maybe we even lavish praise upon them. But what kind of world would we live in, if we took all of this respect, praise and gifts and lavished them upon our friends and loved ones while they were still living? What a different world we would live in!

Yes, Sr. Anna put down the torch she was carrying only for a moment. I believe that torch was especially shown in her hope of Christ's Second Coming. If we pick up that torch she has laid down, we will be able to say with all the faithful in that day : "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him and He will save us." We will meet Anna again if we are faithful to this heavenly calling as she has been. 1 Cor. 15:51-57.

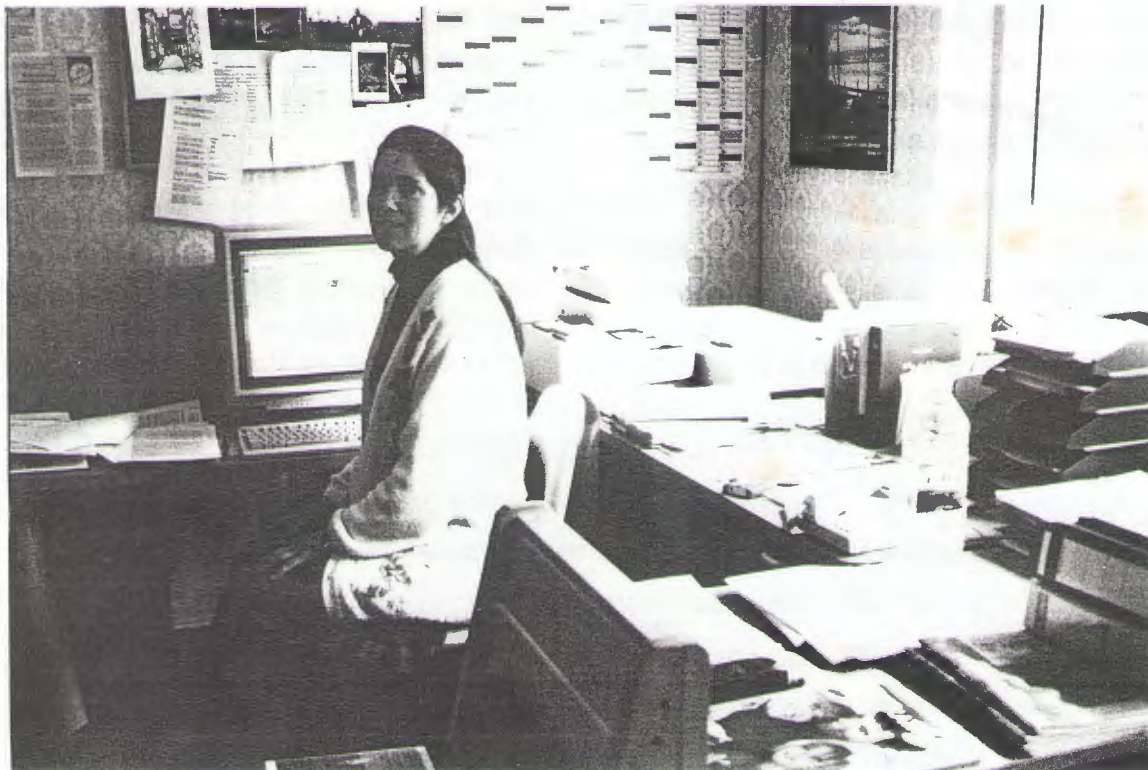
Sr. Anna may not have been able to do much active missionary work these last few years but she certainly gave herself to the ministry of prayer. I believe this is where the power of the gospel is anyway.

Let me show you the lyrics of another song, because I don't think my Sr. Anna would have it any other way. And as you read the words of this song, please remember the ones in your life that are unappreciated, perhaps unlovely and unnoticed and remember what you just may owe them.

"I was the one with all the glory while you were the one with all the strength, Only a face without a name, not much did you complain. I want you to know I know the truth, I would be nothing without you. You were the wind beneath my wings."

by Jerry Eaton, for the

Vancouver Church



Sister Barbara Watts at work

A Visit to the General Conference

On December 26th I arrived in Frankfurt, Germany and met Brother Cabrera at the airport. After a two hour drive we arrived in the beautiful city of Mosbach. The General Conference headquarters is a large building with three floors and a basement with offices for different departments. Several translators are working daily to prepare material in different languages for world-wide use. In the building there is also a sanctuary for church services.

On Sabbath the sanctuary was filled with believers and I had the privilege of presenting a sermon on the topic of God's providence.

The financial department has to deal with a complicated system of different currencies and needs from various countries. After spending one week auditing the financial books I realized the great need in different parts of the world and I would like to make a special appeal to our members to support this work of the General Conference. I would encourage all of us to be generous in the Week of Prayer offerings and special quarterly Sabbath School offerings. We all have local needs but our work is also to care for needy mission fields in different countries and to break into new territories. The heavy responsibility that rests upon the brethren of the General Conference needs our support and prayers. I am thankful for this visit because I now have a better understanding of how our church organization at different levels is all interwoven together as one great family of God.

On New Year's Day Brother Cabrera took me back to the Frankfurt airport in the company of his wife and his daughter.

After arriving in Toronto the local church duties were waiting to be taken care of but my heart feels a burden for the whole world.

Timo Martin

"I saw that Satan bade his angels lay their snares especially for those who were looking for Christ's second appearing and keeping all the commandments of God... The more means the followers of Christ devote to His service, the more will they injure our kingdom by getting our subjects. As they appoint meetings in different places, we are in danger. Be very vigilant then. Cause disturbance and confusion if possible. Destroy love for one another. Discourage and dishearten their ministers; for we hate them." EW, 266-267.

On Being a True Christian

“Jesus knew their thoughts and said unto them, every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” I have established eight rules which to make my local church participation effective—perhaps these may help you too:

1. When there is one Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Reform Movement in your area, please join in it and attend there regularly. Nothing is more ineffective than itinerant members who visit everywhere yet do not stay long enough at any one church either to receive good or do good.
2. Support the church program with your generous financial contributions. In addition to returning the tithe, give your share toward Sabbath School offerings and church expenses. You would not think of withholding your expenses for gas for your car, or your light bill, or your car insurance, or your food and clothing; well, the church has bills to pay, too and you are the living church.
3. Adopt a definite branch of church work. It is always easier to have a genuine interest in something of which one is a part.
4. Strive for peace, unity and purity in the church. Have no part with factions, cliques, or offshoot groups bent on criticizing and thereby weakening the church program.
5. Invite neighbours, family members, and good friends to visit your church every Saturday (Sabbath). This is the finest missionary work you can do to spread the gospel in nearby communities.
6. Flee from hypocrisy, and be not a stumbling block. Rather, abide by God’s church standards and rules—for your sake and for the sake of upholding church fellowship. Christ’s community must present a united front to the world—in this way those sincere ones in the world can get a proper idea of what being a Christian means.
7. Lift others up by your example of gentleness, kindness, patience, love and willingness to serve.
8. Forge on toward the summit—eternal life—for this is the main theme of every Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Reform Movement.

By Xavier Chelliah

LEFTOVERS

Jesus said: "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." John 6:12

Another writer has said: "[T]here should be careful study that the fragments of food left over from the table be not wasted."

WAYS TO USE LEFTOVERS:

1. Cold string beans, cauliflower, cooked dry beans, and asparagus may each be made into a lovely vegetable salad.

2. Rice and tomato make a tasty combination.

3. To cooked garbanzos, add a few leftover soy noodles or make into a salad.

4. A small amount combined with another food often is sufficient for a meal, as rice and peas will supply a good breakfast dish; (for example: oats and tomatoes, Tofu and peas).

5. At home, we often gathered up fragments as cereal, cold potato, any kind of legume-beans, lentils, dab of carrots and suchlike and mixed them together, seasoned with sage, thyme, garlic and onion, soy sauce and oil, or nuts and olives to make a delicious loaf or mold into patties. We called this "The Review of Reviews."

6. Salads can seldom be saved except in tight containers, as a glass jar. These salads even then should not be kept more than one meal, unless of the type that can be frozen.

7. One thrifty housewife canned her leftovers, thus giving her a small amount for emergencies. Do not store too long.

8. Better than canning leftovers, freezing is the one way of saving the fragments.

9. Leftovers make delicious sandwiches. Try an eggplant, add lemon juice, mash, add garlic and onion powder or favourite herbs - delicious. Also try mashed cold-bean sandwich.

10. DO NOT store foods in aluminium vessel. Always use containers with tight-fitting lids to preserve food value. Do not store or bake food in aluminium wrapping; it is too risky!

Try this experiments. Cook rhubarb or fresh tomatoes in a discoloured aluminium pan. They will accomplish more in five minutes than you could by scrubbing for an hour. Where did the dirty aluminium go? - into the food.

Taken from: *Fruits or Vegetable... Which?*, p. 95 By M. Charlotte Holmes, M.D.

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THE TIGER SALAMANDER

The world's largest terrestrial (land dwelling) salamander, the Tiger Salamander, is found throughout most of North America from high mountains to low desert areas. It lives in moist areas near water and underground in the burrows of small mammals. They lay their eggs in calm waters such as ponds and lakes. The young, called larvae, resemble tadpoles but grow legs soon after hatching and have large feathery gills on the sides of their neck.

There are several races across North America and the western races often exhibit a condition called neoteny, where the larvae do not transform into the adult land form, but remain in the water reaching reproductive maturity while in the larval form. This condition is caused by the salamanders environment where the land areas around their pond or lake are inhospitable for a salamander to live.

There is a lesson in this for us who are striving for transformation from sinful characters to a character like Christ's. Just as the salamander larvae's environment prevents it from transforming into a terrestrial adult, so our environment can prevent us from attaining spiritual perfection. The place we live, where we work and who we associate with constitute our environment and strongly influences our Christian experience.

Ellen G. White wrote, "We should choose the society most favourable to our spiritual advancement, and avail ourselves of every help within our reach; for Satan will oppose many hindrances to make our progress toward heaven as difficult as possible. We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surrounding what they should; but we should not voluntarily expose ourselves to influences that are unfavourable to the formation of Christian character. When duty calls us to do this, we should be doubly watchful and prayerful, that, through the grace of Christ, we may stand uncorrupted." *The Adventist Home*, page, 131.

Let us therefore strive to place ourselves in the best environment possible so we can more easily obtain, through the Holy Spirit transformation into Christ's likeness.

"Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise." *Ministry of Healing*, page 492

GOD CARES

NO STOREHOUSE NOR BARN HAVE WE,
AND WINTER SO CLOSE AT HAND,
WITH THE CHILLING SHADOW OF WANT,
CAST DARKLY OVER THE LAND;
AND COMETH WITH MORNING LIGHT
A DEEPER AND DARKER DREAD,
THAT HARDER AND FIERCER WILL BE
THE STRUGGLE FOR DAILY BREAD.

NO STOREHOUSE NOR BARN HAVE WE,
THE FLUTTERING BIRDS OF THE AIR;
NO VOICE TO MAKE KNOWN OUR WANTS,
WITH HUNGER OUR ONLY PRAYER.
YET GOD FEEDETH US DAY BY DAY
AS THE LIGHT OF THE MORN COMES ROUND,
AND NEVER WITHOUT HIS LEAVE
SHALL ONE OF US FALL TO THE GROUND.

O SAVIOUR! I HEAR THY VOICE
IN THESE HAPPY BIRDS OF THE AIR,
WHO SOW NOT, GATHER, NOR REAP,
YET LACK NOT A FATHER'S CARE.
THEY TRUST TO A GUIDING HAND,
WHICH FEEDETH THEM DAY BY DAY;
WHAT WANT THEY WITH STOREHOUSE OR BARN?
AND ARE WE NOT BETTER THAN THEY?