

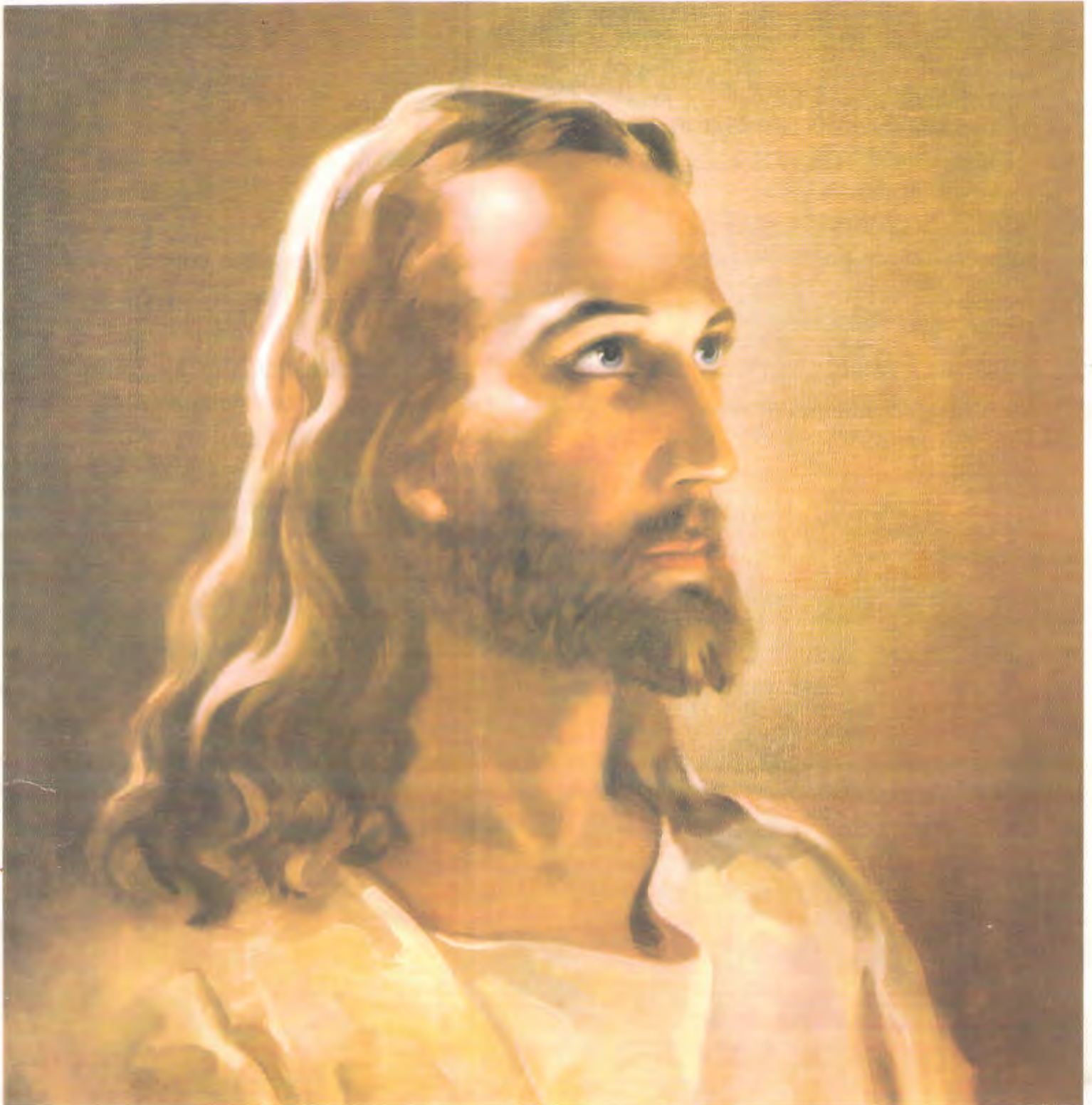
The Canadian-Caribbean Union



Messenger

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EDITORIAL

The Messenger has entered into its fifth year. Every month it has faithfully brought its messages to our people all around the world in every continent. Almost every month new subscribers have been added to its reader's list. When this humble paper was started we had no idea of the popularity it would gain. Also the writers have increased. Many of its articles have been translated to other languages and printed in their local papers. We hope and pray that this paper will continue to be a blessing to our church members, visitors and children.

Satan would like to silence this messenger of God but let us all pray that he may be defeated and that God will gain the victory. Financially we have been supported by free-willing donations, so that this paper has not been a burden to the church. We have received donations so that we have been able to send this free to many who are not able to pay for their subscription. We would like to encourage all the readers to send us articles, reports and pictures so that we may have more variety. Even children can contribute their thoughts and experiences which would be a blessing to all of us.

We are nearing the end, therefore we must increase our efforts to waken our people to see the signs of the times and to lift up the standard of God that none of us would be found wanting. This is not a time to cut down but to increase our publications and to write spiritual messages that are the right spiritual food for us at this time.

The isolated members especially enjoy these messages. By these monthly publications they keep in touch with the rest of the church. May God bless you all richly and we hope to hear from you soon.

THE EDITORS

The Laodicean Message



The City of Laodicea

The city of Laodicea was located in the valley of the Lycus river where the roads of Ephesus and Pergamos joined and continued eastward from the city.

Located in the midst of rich farming country, it was famed for its wealth. In its extensive banking operations were carried on, and there were large markets and one of their main products were high quality woollen goods.

The people of the city were very independent and arrogant.

When the city was destroyed by earthquake in the year 60 A.D. they refused help from Nero and built it again at their own expense.

They had a famous school of medicine where they made famous an eyesalve called collirium, which was sold in all parts of the known world.

Near the city hot springs started a river which had lukewarm water when passing through the city.

They had a stadium with an arena 900 feet long which took 12 years to build.

The famous council of Laodicea was held there in A.D. 364 with 32 bishops present, where Sunday worship was officially established and Saturday as a day of rest was abolished.

The Witness to the Laodicean Angel

The name Laodicea means people of the judgment or the judgment of the people. This time period began in 1844 when the judgment in heaven started, and continues to the end of the world. Jesus is called here the Faithful and True Witness. In the court of justice witnesses are needed when the accused does not plead guilty, which was the case of the angel of the church in this time period. Jesus is also called Amen, which comes from the Greek word meaning: to stay, to support, to be firm, so stressing the idea of utter dependability. The often repeated words of Jesus, "Verily, I say unto you", is translated from the Greek word, "Amen". Further to stress the authority of this Witness, He is called, "The beginning of the creation of God". Since Jesus is not a created being it means that Christ is the Creator of all things.

The message is addressed to the Angel of the church. The word, Angel comes from the Greek word "Aggeloi", meaning literally "Messenger", whether celestial or human. Therefore, the angels of the seven churches are their respective elders and leaders.

The Purpose of the Message

This message is the most startling denunciation of the church which is found in the greatest possible self-deception. Yet this message is a message of love, by which God is trying to arouse His people to see their danger. As God looked upon His people in this time of judgment He found many sleeping spiritually, unprepared for the judgment, without oil in their vessels as the foolish virgins. Self-righteousness was prevailing and formalism and spiritual pride had blinded their eyes to their real condition before God.

This message is the last offer of mercy to the people before the end. The destiny of the church as well as of the individuals depends upon reception of the counsel in it. This message is the message of Christ's righteousness and of justification by faith.

By this message God wanted:

- 1) To open the eyes of the people to see their terrible lost condition.
- 2) To lead them to repentance and to seek help.
- 3) To offer a remedy to their poor spiritual condition.
- 4) To encourage them to overcome.
- 5) To offer them a reward that will richly repay all their efforts.

"I Know Thy Works"

God knows the works and spiritual condition of every person which is so often hidden from themselves. Therefore it is necessary for the True Witness to reveal it to them. They are not found to be hot, neither cold. Hot Christians have a joyous fervour and a heart filled with love toward God. A cold person does not pretend to be a faithful Christian. He is honest in his lost condition.

The Laodicean angel is found to be in a worse possible condition. They are lukewarm, which means half-hearted service, self-righteousness, false security, obedience to the point that is humanly possible without divine power. It can include even fanaticism and an extreme attitude.

"It would be more pleasing to the Lord if lukewarm professors of religion had never named His name. They are a continual weight to those who would be faithful followers of Jesus. They are a stumbling block to unbelievers." Test. Vol. 1, p. 188.

"Because Thou Art Lukewarm I Will Spue Thee Out of My Mouth"

This prophesy has been fulfilled. When this offer of the Heavenly Merchantman was rejected, nothing more could God do for them except to spue them out of His mouth.

"The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you." Test. Vol. 6, p. 408.

"Because Thou Sayest, I Am Rich..."

This means rich literally in earthly goods as well as rich spiritually. This spiritual pride leads to spiritual blindness. Because they do not recognize their need, therefore their sin remains.

"The sin that is most nearly hopeless and incurable is pride of opinion, self conceit. This stands in the way of all growth." Test. Vol. 7, p. 199.

The testimony of the True Witness reveals their true condition to be completely opposed to their own claim. There hardly can be greater self-deception than that of the Laodicean angel. Instead of being rich they are poor. Instead of having need of nothing, they have need of everything. A person whose eyes are open to see their own condition will call themselves the

chiefs of sinners as the apostle Paul did. The closer we come to Christ the worse we feel of ourselves.

"I Counsel Thee to Buy of Me..."

This counsel was extended to the Seventh-Day Adventist leaders at the Minneapolis conference in 1888 by two brothers, Jones and Waggoner. They presented the message of Christ's righteousness and justification by faith. But sadly it was rejected by the majority of the leaders.

"They began this satanic work at Minneapolis. Afterward, when they saw and felt the demonstration of the Holy Spirit testifying that the message was of God, they hated it more, because it was a testimony against them. They would not humble their hearts to repent, to give God the glory, and vindicate the right. They went on in their own spirit, filled with envy, jealousy, and evil surmising, as did the Jews. They opened their hearts to the enemy of God and man, Yet these men have been holding positions of trust and have been molding the work after their own similitude, as far as they possibly could..." Test. to Min., p. 80.

"No more tender calls, no better opportunities could be given them in order that they might do that which they ought to have done at Minneapolis... The time will come when they will be willing to do anything and everything possible to have the chance of hearing the call which they rejected at Minneapolis... Better opportunities will never come, deeper feelings they will not have... God is not to be trifled with." Letter to O.A. Olsen, Sept. 1, 1892.

If Seventh-Day Adventists had accepted this message they would have healed from their spiritual sickness. But now that they had sinned against the Holy Spirit it was too late to change the course of events.

The gold tried in the fire they refused to accept, the white raiment they rejected. Their own garments of righteousness were good enough for them that they felt no need for Christ's righteousness. They were satisfied with their blind condition and therefore the eyesalve was not accepted either.

The Advent people arrived at the borders of the Promised Land, but because of their unbelief and rejection of the counsel by the True Witness they had to return back to the wilderness for many years.

"As Many as I Love"

Until now the True Witness has spoken in the singular form to the angel, but now it changes and addresses anyone among the membership. God loved the faithful members who in the time of World War I remained faithful unto death. The faithful ones had to suffer persecution, while the rest of the church escaped the persecution. This trial caused a shaking and separation in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. The new church was borne into existence. The faithful ones who had been disfellowshipped from the church formed the beginning of the Reform Movement.

"Behold I Stand at the Door"

Jesus departed from the church with the faithful remnant. And now through His messengers Jesus is knocking at the door. If any man hears His voice He has promised to come in to him and have a spiritual feast with him. The Reformers have a duty to call the members of the

Seventh-Day Adventist Church to come out and join the Reform. Then they will hear the voice of Jesus. The Christ's Righteousness message which they had rejected, now will fall upon the ears as sweetest music from heaven.

"To Him that Overcometh"

Wonderful is the promise to the overcomer. To sit upon the throne with Jesus will pay for all the sacrifices and efforts put out in the fight against sin. The standard is high. We must overcome as Jesus also overcame. This means complete victory over sin.

"Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully... I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtained the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action... Let all remember that God is holy and none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence." EW 71.

Our salvation depends on this message to the Laodicean church. Yet many have not seen it important to study and to follow it.

"The testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely discarded. This testimony must work deep repentance, and all that truly receive it, will obey it and be purified." Test. Vol. 1, p. 181.

May God help everyone to heed this message and buy the gold, the white raiment and the eyesalve then with these means the complete victory over sin will be gained.

AMEN

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A VOW OR A PROMISE



A vow or a promise! What is the difference? According to the dictionary we read:

VOW: 1. "A solemn promise, especially one made to God or to some deity; an act by which one consecrates or devotes himself to some act, service, or condition." 2. A promise of fidelity or constancy; as, the marriage vow." 3. A solemn assertion; an asseveration."

PROMISE: 1. "One's pledge to another to do or not do something specified; narrowly, a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act."

According to these two definitions it seems that a vow is more binding than a promise. When we think of a vow we may think of the marriage vow, (as mentioned in the dictionary definition) or we may think of the baptismal vow. Sometimes we make a vow to pay a certain amount of money to God's cause also. These vows we endeavour to keep as well as we possibly can and if we fail in keeping the vow we feel guilty. We feel we have done something wrong. We have sinned before our Father in heaven instead of just in front of our fellow man. According to the above definition we understand that the vow is a solemn promise made to the Lord.

What about a promise? Is it as binding? After all, a vow is considered a "solemn promise". So a vow is a promise made with a little more weight added to it. When we think of just a regular promise we often think of it as made to our fellow man. We may promise to help a neighbour clean out his garage on Sunday. Or perhaps we promise to visit an elderly church member, who is lonely during the week. Then things get busy and we just are simply unable to keep our promise. Of course our neighbour and the elderly church member are rather disappointed but they understand. Things come up. We make promises and break them without much thought of the consequences. A vow we

more often think of as a solemn promise to God. But it is possible also to make promises to God and these are just as binding.

Sister White made an experience one night while travelling on a boat. "A violent storm came up, and we were in great peril. The boat rolled fearfully, and the waves dashed into the cabin windows. There was great fear in the ladies' cabin. Many were confessing their sins, and crying to God for mercy. Some were calling upon the Virgin Mary to keep them, while others were making solemn vows to God that if they reached land they would devote their lives to His service. It was a scene of terror and confusion. As the boat rocked, a lady turned to me and said: 'Are you not terrified? I suppose it is a fact that we may never reach land.' I told her that I had made Christ my refuge, and if my work was done, I might as well lie in the bottom of the ocean as in any other place; but if my work was not done, all the waters of the ocean could not drown me. My trust was in God, He would bring us safe to land if it was for His glory. . . .

"Through the mercy of God we were all landed safe. But some of the passengers who manifested much fear in the storm made no reference to it, only to make light of their fears. One who had solemnly promised that if she were preserved to see land she would be a Christian, mockingly cried out as she left the boat: 'Glory to God, I am glad to step on land again!' I asked her to go back a few hours, and remember her vows to God. She turned from me with a sneer." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 80, 81

It is very common for people to make this kind of promise to God when their lives are in peril. They make promises on condition that He deliver them from the evil before them. It is also common for people to go back on their promises once God has fulfilled His part of the bargain.

Often when those who have served Satan all their lives become seriously ill they make confessions to God. These confessions are not always because they are remorseful for the life of sin they have lived, but they are fearful of the uncertainty before them. As friends and family

see the confession, they rejoice that this person has made their peace with God, are converted and prepared for heaven. We call these death-bed confessions. Some are sincere, but many are not. Only God can judge here and in eternity we will see that God is good and has judged righteously. Should these people recover it will be seen clearly if the repentance was genuine. Do they continue in their lifestyle of sin? Or do they fulfill their promise and turn to the service of the Lord?

FOOLISH VOWS

In the Bible we see the case of Jephthah. He made a promise to the Lord. He promised that if the Lord would give him victory in the battle that he would offer as a burnt offering the first being that would leave his house and come to greet him upon returning home. Little did he realize that it would be his beloved, only daughter. He was terribly grieved when she came to meet him, yet he felt that His promise to the Lord must not be broken. This promise was needless and we can, perhaps, say foolish. He need not have made that promise and God would still have given him victory. Yet, even though it was a foolish promise, he dared not go back on it. Someone could have told him that he need not fulfil that promise because it was made in the heat of a moment and it was not wise, but no, he fulfilled his promise, desiring the favour of the Lord more than the favour of man.

Then we have the case of King Saul. He made a foolish vow when he forbade his soldiers to eat food until the end of the day, after the enemies would be defeated. These soldiers needed food for strength to continue fighting. At the end of the day, these soldiers, faint with hunger, "flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat them with the blood." 1 Samuel 14:32. The foolish vow of King Saul caused his soldiers to commit a grave sin. Can you blame those soldiers who were so weary of fighting?

It is important to think before we make a vow or a promise. We have to consider the consequences. It is much better not to make a promise than to make a promise and not fulfil it.

PROMISES NOT KEPT

Ananias and Sapphira made a promise to the Lord. They promised to sell a piece of land and give the proceeds to the church. They actually made a good promise but they did not keep that promise. They were not as faithful as Jephthah. They went back on their promise and kept some of the money for themselves. The result was disastrous. A promise to the made to the Lord is not to be broken lightly. Although Ananias and Sapphira did not make the promise directly to the Lord but to the church, a promise made to the church of God is like a promise made to the Lord Himself and therefore these two people had a sad ending.

Have we made a promise to the Lord? A promise to go into missionary work? A promise to give something to the Lord in return for a favour we have asked Him for? If we have made such a promise it is a fearful thing to not fulfill this promise. If we break a promise to a friend it is bad enough, but a promise to the Lord is even more grievous. We must be very careful in making promises to friends. We don't need to make a promise when we offer our help. We can always say, "I'd like to help you this Sunday if I am not too busy." We must be careful also in our promises to the Lord.

God keeps all His promises. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might have partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4. Unfortunately man is not as consistent as God is. Some make promises only to obtain a desired object. Politicians are the biggest offenders. We see how many campaign promises they make, only to be broken when they are elected into office. To many of them a promise means very little. It is only words, used to gain a desired position. "Promises are estimated by the truth of the one who makes them. Many men make promises only to break them, to mock the heart that trusted in them. Those who lean upon such men lean upon broken reeds. But God is behind the promises He makes. He is ever mindful of His covenant, and His truth endureth to all generations." *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 942, 943, Ellen G. White.

When these type of people make promises and then break them, they lose credibility with their friends and associates. They have lost much respect and trust, and people may be hesitant to trust them in the future. It is actually the individual that broke the promise that loses the greatest blessing for he has lost the trust of his friends.

Sister White counseled a man who promised to follow the Lord. "You there made a covenant with God, that if He would spare your life to minister still to the wants of your children, you would be for the Lord and Him only would you serve; you would dedicate your life to His glory; you would use your strength to advance His cause and to do good in the earth. Angels recorded the promise there made to God." *Test. For the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 273

When Hezekiah was healed of his illness, he promised to serve the Lord for the remainder of his days. "Restored to his wonted strength, the king of Judah acknowledged in words of song the mercies of Jehovah, and vowed to spend his remaining days in willing service to the King of kings. His grateful recognition of God's compassionate dealing with him is an inspiration to all who desire to spend their years to the glory of their Maker." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 342. Many, like Hezekiah, do keep their promises but there are others who do not. Once their health is restored, they go on completely oblivious of their former promises.

Yes, a promise to God and His church is just as binding as a vow made to Him.

Speaking of missionary work brings to mind a young person that I knew in the church over 10 years ago. He didn't make a promise to the Lord but he felt the Lord pulling on his heart to enter missionary work. He really felt a burden for it. I believe the Lord was calling this young man. Yet he never had the moral courage to step out in faith. He went to several leaders and elderly church members and asked their advice. Should he enter missionary work or not? A dear sister in the faith gave the best advice. She told him that nobody can make that decision for him. He must make it himself. If he feels the Lord calling him then it is a fearful thing to ignore that voice. This young man, sad to say, decided not

to enter missionary work and he ended up leaving the faith shortly thereafter. I state this case because, perhaps some have made a promise to the Lord to go into missionary work, but have lacked the faith to follow through with their promise. There is one excuse after another; the biggest being financial. Perhaps after we pay off a few bills then we can afford to take a cut in pay and work for the church. Well that time will never come. If we have promised, or if we have felt the Lord's calling on our hearts, it is a fearful thing to not follow through.

I have seen so many young people refusing to enter missionary work because they don't feel they can support their families with this employment. At a time in the history of the world when the Lord is looking for an army of young people, so many are seeking worldly gain and prosperity. It is possible to do volunteer missionary work and work at a secular job, but I see very few following even in this line. Most of the burden of the missionary work seems to rest on one or two elderly members of the church. What will happen when the Lord lays these ones to rest? "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." Romans 13:11. "Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness." *Test. For the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 267

Sometimes we have made promises without counting the cost and after a while we see that the promise, if we kept it, would cause us great hardship. "In every business transaction, be rigidly honest. However tempted, never deceive or prevaricate in the least matter. At times a natural impulse may bring temptation to diverge from the straightforward path of honesty, but do not vary one hairsbreadth. If in any matter you make a statement as to what you will do, and afterward find that you have favored others to your own loss, do not vary a hairsbreadth from principle. Carry out your agreement. By seeking to change your plans you would show that you could not be depended on.

And should you draw back in little transactions, you would draw back in larger ones. Under such circumstances some are tempted to deceive, saying, I was not understood. My words have been taken to mean more than I intended. The fact is, they meant just what they said, but lost the good impulse, and then wanted to draw back from their agreement, lest it prove a loss to them. The Lord requires us to do justice, to love mercy, and truth, and righteousness." *Child Guidance*, p. 154 In our everyday business as well as in our religious experience, we must not go back on our promises.

People look for all kinds of excuses to get out of promises they regret making. In Ancient Israel the Pharisees stepped in between man and God. "For a money consideration they excused persons from their vows." *Desire of Ages*, P. 616 No one can excuse us from our obligations to keep our vows and promises to God. No excuse is good enough.

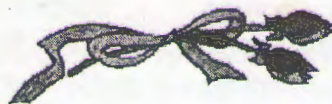
Some make promises to the Lord in meetings when they feel especially impressed by the Holy Spirit. After the meeting when "they are no longer under this heavenly influence, the impression was less forcible, and they began to question and draw back from fulfilling the pledge which they had made. They thought that they had been too hasty, and wished to reconsider the matter. Thus a door was opened by which Satan at once entered and gained control of their minds..... A warning was thus given to all who professed Christ at that time, and to all who should afterward profess his name, that God requires faithfulness in the performance of vows. " *Test. For the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 463

Sometimes the opposite is true, men are more likely to keep promises and vows to their

fellow man because they fear embarrassment or of creating a rift in their friendship. However they regard lightly their promises to God because the consequences are not immediately felt. "Persons who thus pledge to their fellow men do not generally think of asking to be released from their pledges. A vow made to God, the Giver of all favors, is of still greater importance; then why should we seek to be released from our vows to God?" *Ibid*, p. 470.

In conclusion, a promise is just as binding as a vow, whether it is a promise made to a fellow man or a promise made to God. Many times no one will know about the promises we have made to God, except God and us and we will have to face Him in the judgement. It is my wish and prayer that we can all come face to face with our Maker, with a clean conscience, having kept every promise we have made. If you have made mis-steps in the past, don't lament them and keep going over them again and again. Simply confess your sins to the Lord and determine to do better in the future. Today is the day to make things right. Today we must confess our broken promises and unfulfilled duties because the day of the Lord's fierce anger is coming, "when the storm of His wrath will come upon the poor sinner. Then there will be bitter cries and tears, confession of sin, and pleading for mercy, when it will be too late." *Ibid*, Vol 1, p. 81. Let us all make one big promise to the Lord today and that promise is to give our hearts to Him, to serve Him to the very end; to serve Him because we love Him and because He has done so much for us. And let us all pray, "Lord, Thy will be done, and not mine." AMEN

Wendy Eaton



"I saw that many prayed for God to humble them; but if God should answer their prayers, it would be terrible things in righteousness. It was their duty to humble themselves. I saw that if self-exaltation was allowed to come in, it would surely lead souls astray, and if not overcome would prove their ruin." E.W. Pg. 120.

Honouring the Lord



People in the world are honouring their parents, teachers, priests, superiors, sportsmen, actors, and political leaders. But what about the supreme leader of the whole universe? Who is honouring Him in his daily life as his personal Saviour who died for our sins?

What does it mean to honour God? What are the things with which we are to honour God? And how may we do this in our daily life? "Honour the Lord with your valuable things and with the first fruits of all your produce." Prov. 3:9 New World Translation.

Giving honour also has another aspect. Consider the account concerning the faithful Jew, Mordecai who on one occasion exposed a plot against the life of King Ahasuerus of Ancient Persia. Later, when the king learned that nothing had been done to honour Mordecai for that good deed, he asked his prime minister, Haman how best to honour the one in whom the king had found delight. Haman thought that such honour would be for him. Yes, most of the people are thinking in this attitude like Haman. But, how mistaken Haman was. Haman said that such a person should be clothed in "royal apparel" and ride "a horse upon which the king does ride". He concluded, "they must make him ride on the horse in the public square of the city, and they must call out before him, 'This is how it is done to the man in whose honour the king himself has taken a delight'." Esther 6:1-9.

In this instance, giving honour to a person

included exalting him publicly so that he would be highly esteemed by all people.

In another occasion, David returned from slaying the Philistines. The women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with timbrels, with songs of joy and with instruments of music. And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands". 1 Sam. 18:6-8.

Similarly, giving honour to God has two aspects: Personally showing Him high regard and exalting Him publicly by sharing in and supporting the evangelical work of public proclamation of His name.

Our valuable things certainly include our life, our time, our talents, and our strength. What about our material possessions? Consider Jesus' words when He saw a needy widow drop two small coins of little value into a temple treasury chest. He said, "This widow, although poor, dropped in more than they all did, for all these (other contributors) dropped in gifts out of their surplus, but this woman out of her want dropped in all the means of living she had." Luke 21:1-4. Jesus praised this widow for using her material assets in promoting the Lord's worship.

Clearly then the valuable things mentioned by King Solomon also include any material possessions that we may have, and the expression "the first fruit of all your produce" carries with it the thought of giving the best of our valuable

things to our living God.

Some 3,500 years ago when the time came for God to provide the temple in the wilderness as a place of worship for the Israelites, the need arose for a variety of precious items required by the divinely given design. The Lord commanded Moses to "let every willing-hearted person bring a contribution for God". Exodus 35:5. The account goes on to relate, "They came, every one whose spirit incited him, the Lord's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments." Exodus 35:21. Their voluntary offerings, in fact, proved to be so much more than was needed for the work that the people had to be "restrained from bringing it in"! Exodus 35:5-6.

Consider another example when the preparations were under way for the construction of the temple, David made a large personal contribution towards the temple that his son Solomon would build. He also issued a call to others to join in, and the people responded with gifts of valuable things for the Lord. The silver and gold alone would be worth about 50 billion US dollars at current values. "And the people gave way to rejoicing over their making voluntary offerings." 1 Chron. 29:3-9; 2 Chron. 5:1.

How can we share in the joy of making voluntary offerings in our day? This question should be analysed in our heart. The most important work going on in the world at this time is that of preaching to gospel to the world. Matt. 24:14; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8.

Our Lord has seen fit to entrust the interests of His kingdom to His people.

Isa 43:10. It is obvious that money is required to finance the work of God's people and what they are doing today all over the world; that is to build and maintain churches and assembly halls, opening branch Sabbath schools, publishing houses, training institutions, distributing Bibles, Bible correspondence courses and publications in various languages.

How are such organizational expenses met? By contributions that are strictly voluntary. Most of the contributions are from individuals like the widow Jesus observed who may have only moderate means. Not wanting to miss out on this aspect of honouring the Lord, they contribute modest sums "according to their ability". And, at times even "beyond their ability". 2 Cor. 8:3-4.

While material prosperity in itself does not lead to spiritual prosperity, yet by generously using our valuable things—our precious time, our strength and our material resources—to honour God brings richest blessings.

In my church also one person is donating his time, strength and his material resources to God's ministry. This is really unrepachable and this is an example to us all. We also can use our time and strength according to our capacity, so that the Lord can multiply our material resources and that He can use us as an instrument in His last work.

It is true that in our spiritual life we are meeting all kinds of problems. We meet challenges, yet our problems keep recurring. David's persisting problem, the Philistines never disappeared. It is reassuring to read that, in the face of all

David's struggles, God did not desert him. With God's help, David was always able to meet the challenges. Our problems may be persistent, but God's grace is persistent also.

Later, through the prophet Malachi, the Lord said, "Test me out, please. In this respect, the Lord of armies has said, "Whether I shall not open to you people the floodgates of the heavens and actually empty out upon you a blessing until there is no more want". Malachi 3:10 New World Translation. The spiritual prosperity that God's servants enjoy today is evidence that god has kept His promise.

God wanted to uplift Saul's life through obedience and sacrifice but King Saul spend his talents and royal resources in the battle field. So, the Lord turned from Saul and became his enemy.

Considering ourselves, the Lord is pleased when we do our part in advancing His interests (Heb. 13:15-16) and He promises to sustain us if we are seeking first the kingdom and His righteousness. Matt. 6:33. With great rejoicing of the heart, we may honour our Lord Jesus Christ with our valuable things. Every day God gives us opportunities to use our talents, and our valuable things to help others. That way the Christian life is a partnership with the Almighty God.

AMEN.

Xavior Chelliah



North American Youth Conference

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Where is God coming from?

How many times you may have asked yourself that question....and gotten all different kinds of answers, right? We serve a wondrous God who wants us to always keep our sense of adventure, delight and wonder in His mercy and truth. Then why do we go through all these worries, doubts and fears? So where is God coming from, anyway? I know far too many Christians that are eaten up with fear and worries due to taking their eyes off God. They feel that somehow God has forgotten them; but what if they could know without a doubt that God was dwelling with them? Psalm 77:6-14 (Thy way, O Lord is in the sanctuary.)

What I'm trying to get at here, is this: the Apostles and Disciples had a reality from which they wrote the Bible, and that reality was the sanctuary-that is where God is coming from as well-do you see what I mean? Exodus 25:8 says that they were to build the sanctuary that God might dwell among them.

The Lord spoke mouth to mouth with Moses and the Lord gave Moses the most precious truth ever committed to mortals-how He is and How He works. He wanted to reveal how He was to His people, in order for them to appreciate something of His character. Better than this, He wanted to actually dwell among them. If you knew that God was dwelling with you, then you probably wouldn't have those doubts, fears and worries, right? Of course not, but what the problem is, is our faith is not strong enough when we have those worries, doubts and fears. And the sanctuary was given to strengthen the people's faith-so they could learn about God through approaching Him and learning how to serve Him in His way in the sanctuary.

Now this doctrine has been one of the main points of attack from the enemies of our faith-primarily because it is so straightforward and stark: this is the way God is, the sanctuary tells us, and we must get our lives right with God if we would be saved at last. The sanctuary tells us that we cannot be once saved, always saved; it tells us that there is no such thing as saving ourselves, and that sin is the problem with us regardless of how we try to make ourselves feel better thinking up self-help programs. Daniel 8:10-14 It also tells us that God is in control of all things in this earth. He even designed that His people suffer disappointment in 1844, at the end of this time period of 2300 days, because they had no concept of the sanctuary. This led them to study deeper about God's

plan in the sanctuary. Incidentally, no one has really been able to come up with another date that makes sense for the end of the 2300 days, other than 1844. As we look at this time period in the light of the rest of the Bible-everything fits into place. (For example, if you put all the dates of Christ's life-his birth, his death-everything fits right into this prophecy.)

The sanctuary is mentioned 126 times in the Bible-many more times than millennium, hell or even tithes. A friend of ours that we studied with a few years ago actually had a book all about the sanctuary. And do you know in this whole book of about 300 pages there was not one reference to the law of God?- The very heart of the sanctuary. Actually, there has been a lot of interest manifest in the sanctuary amongst Christians in the last few years-and why? Perhaps the enemy is getting ready for His last deception, or maybe at least some of this interest has been stirred up by those genuinely looking for the truth of God.

You see, the sanctuary has so many essential truths for our salvation-health reform is there in the Pot of Manna inside the Ark of the Covenant. The Law of God is there in the Most Holy Place. Dress Reform is there in the dress of the Priests. Prophecy is there in the God of prophecy. And you know, salvation is so clearly explained in the sanctuary that even a small child can understand what is necessary to be saved from this practical object lesson of the sanctuary.

For example, let's say that you had just sinned after Passover, but before Pentecost. What were you to do to find forgiveness? Bring your offering to the door of the sanctuary and confess your sins over its head and then kill that poor little animal with your own hand. Then, the priest would collect some blood to offer before the veil of the sanctuary and then you went home forgiven, right?

Right...but was that all there was to it? Yes and No..Now your're probably asking, "What do I mean by that? Where am I coming from?" You see, the sin was actually forgiven, but God allowed some time to go by to see if you were truly sincerely repentant, and He didn't blot out the sin until Yom Kippur, the final Day of Atonement at the end of their religious year. That shows how God does with all sin in the Christian era also, doesn't it? Because Jesus is in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary today, doing the work of judgement-preparing for His second coming. Revelation 22: 11,12. He has to first determine if we are truly sincere in our beliefs and practices, because He can't let anyone into heaven who

hasn't first proved themselves worthy of those streets of gold.

Obedience is the key to spiritual growth, isn't it? But what is the key to obedience? To me, it is conviction. The realization that you are understanding something about the God of eternity, because everything fits together. He is a God of order who would have us follow Him in an orderly way. My life before Christ had been anything but orderly, but as I started to read Desire of Ages, it was like I could see it all so clearly. God had been there all along...and conviction dawned on me, because it all fit together perfectly. My life of scarlet, my sin and woe, cover with His life, whiter than snow was the prayer of my heart. Or all I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife, but He made something beautiful out of my life because of what He did on the cross of Calvary. I'm sure that's how the early Adventists felt in studying the sanctuary and seeing it all fit together.

Let me tell you something that not many people are familiar with in this subject of the sanctuary-even some of us who have been studying this for years. Most of the enemies of our faith try to say that Jesus went directly into the Most Holy Place when He went to heaven. **But the only place that the Holy of Holies appears in the New Testament is in Heb. 9:3-all the other references are actually referring to the 2-apartment sanctuary.** (Hagia Hagion is for Holy of Holies in Greek, Ta Hagia for two-apartment sanctuary, as in Heb. 9:8 and 10:19. Please refer to a Greek Interlinear to verify this fact.)

Who can give an accurate account or interpretation of Revelation 10, a perfect description of the disappointment of God's people in 1844, without the sanctuary? Who can explain Rev.12, a perfect overview of the plan of salvation contrasting those who keep the commandments of God with those who do not, without the sanctuary? Who can show the meaning of Rev.13, showing the mark of the beast as compared to the Sabbath of the Lord without the sanctuary? or Rev. 14, the Three Angel's messages calling God's people out of the fallen churches to the light of the judgment and Christ's soon coming without the sanctuary? It is impossible without that key doctrine of the sanctuary, because the sanctuary explains them all and is just like a cornerstone that they all draw from.

The key to understanding is obedience to those points of truth that the sanctuary brings out. Prophecy takes on a completely different meaning when we see it in the light of the sanctuary. Of course you know what is laid out in the center of the sanctuary, right? The cross of Calvary. (The straight line from the altar

of sacrifice, brass laver into the holy place and the cross beam formed by the golden candlestick and the table of showbread.) And you may picture the sanctuary as a cross, because we are called upon to suffer as we exalt present truth.

There are so many religious nomads out there that will worship their own knowledge, or their own faith but they won't come to the place of accepting the cross in the sanctuary. If they keep in their way of making self the center, even with a religious guise, they will come short of the righteousness of Christ and salvation.

This relationship of knowing the righteousness of Christ will be seen in our willingness to learn, repent and be open to new truths-the very essence of the sanctuary truth. Very often we lose it in our spiritual lives because we do not understand what God is doing by all of this that we're going through; we don't understand where God is coming from. We turn our eyes on other people and compare our lives with theirs and we think that they are leading such happy lives and that they are so consistent. That's what Asaph, the Recorder said about the wicked as well. Psalm 73:12-19. You see, he had to go into the sanctuary to understand what God wanted him to do; to see where God was coming from. The wicked are going to be destroyed and never be again-so why fret about them? It is especially in the sanctuary that we behold the conviction of sin, righteousness and see the judgment to come that Jesus talked about.

I can see a direct tie between Isaiah 8:14 and Daniel 8:14. Here we see unmasked the two great errors upon which Satan is hanging his own plan for the last days. Spiritualism and Sunday sacredness in the senseless mummery of the mass are direct counterfeits of the sanctuary. The mass actually exalts both things, doesn't it? But God said that His name alone would be exalted in the earth and His people alone would be saved. The sanctuary freely proclaims this truth; so no matter what we know or how talented we are, if we don't personally know the life of victory through Christ in His sanctuary we will not be saved. Daniel 12:1,2 May God grant that we will not be found wanting in that day when Christ shall say, "It is finished."

He is coming again for those who have purified their souls in obedience. *In the light of the sanctuary we see the same light that shone so fiercely from the cross of Calvary.* May the Lord help you and I to understand a little something of God's character through His sanctuary truth that we may look for and hasten Christ's second coming. Amen. By Jerry Eaton



Current Scene

Republican leaders take notice as Dobson threatens to bolt party

Associated Press, Colorado Springs, Feb. 16, 1998

Republicans are questioning some of their values after James Dobson, leader of the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family, challenged the GOP stand on such issues as abortion and arts funding.

In a Feb. 7 speech to the Council on National Policy, a group of about 300 conservative political and religious leaders, Dobson threatened to leave the party if changes aren't made.

"Does the Republican Party want (conservative Christian) votes, no strings attached? Is that what they want?" he said. "If it is, then I'm gone. And if I go, I will do everything I can to take as many people with me as possible."

People who monitor Dobson and the conservative Christian community, including leaders in the Republican Party, believe he will follow through on this threat to leave the party.

"He's threatened this before, but I think this time he's more serious than ever," said Barry Lynn, director of the Washington based Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Leaders in the state and national Republican parties have taken notice of Dobson's speech, but maintain their party has room for differing views.

"We have a pro-life plank in our platform, but we welcome pro-choicers," said Christ Baker, executive director of the Colorado Republican Party. "For us to proceed lockstep is unrealistic."

But Baker was quick to add Dobson has legitimate concerns, saying that sometimes "as a party we want their support but we don't want anything else."

The political pressure that Dobson and other religious leaders are starting to exert on governing authorities is an indicator of how they are already "plugged in" to the mode of politics (e.g. trying to make it against the law to sin.) The Bible says, "Cursed are ye, when you follow a multitude to do evil," and yet this is the very thing that politics and politicians are all about-gaining the support of the population for their political goals. Also, Dobson and most other evangelical leaders have already said that they would accept the Pope as head of all the Christian church, (the main politician in the religious

world). The Pope is much more expert and accomplished at putting political pressure on governments than leaders like Dobson-thus one of the reasons that Protestant leaders are uniting with him. And the U.S. is already starting to take its place as the Pope's main supporter through those same religious authorities.

Spiritism in Adventism

Land Marks, March 1998

"The Adventist Review took a random survey of 1738 Adventists (printed in the October 30, 1997 edition); twenty-nine percent of those polled said they attend celebration churches right now... There are hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist churches that have started on the pathway of the charismatic movement." Some of those celebration churches have not reached the point of apostasy that the early ones (started about 10 years ago) have, but they certainly have begun the pathway and we can be certain that Satan will bring them more and more into the full-fledged charismatic movement as he is able.....

"The whole presentation has been subtle. _____overheard a dialogue at the General Conference session where men who were obviously supportive, and maybe leaders in the charismatic movement, were stating that the word 'Celebration' had now acquired a negative connotation and that perhaps we should not use the term. But no matter whether it is called Celebration or not, it is still the intrusion of Satan's charismatic movement. Leaders and laity alike - souls have been forewarned. The counsel is clear.

"The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought

into our camp meetings.” Selected Messages, vol. 2, 36.

“Some rejoice and exult that they have the gifts, which others have not. May God deliver His people from such gifts. What do these gifts do for them? Are they through the exercise of these gifts, brought into the unity of the faith? And do they convince the unbeliever that God is with them of a truth? When these discordant ones, holding their different views, come together and there is considerable excitement and the unknown tongue, they let their light so shine that unbelievers would say: These people are not sane; they are carried away with a false excitement, and we know that they do not have the truth....God has provided means to correct the erring...[God’s people are to appeal to any of those in the fallen churches to be united on the platform of truth] “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word. That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” Testimony for the Church, Vol. 1, Pgs. 418-419

As nominal Adventism more closely imitates the lukewarm Christianity of today, the half-converted see no reason to not become more like the churches in doctrines as well as practices. We can expect more and more of this to happen within the fallen SDA church, that underlines our need to appeal to any of the faithful and sincere to “come out of her My people, to receive not of her plagues”-whom definitely includes the confused, yet Reform-minded ones within the “independent ministries.”

Premier Clark Slams MAI (MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT)

The Advocate, April 1998

“The more people know about it, the less they’ll like it. Because it’s been negotiated largely in secret, there’s not a lot of information out there, so we’ll try to talk to people and engage the citizens,” Premier Clark told an audience of environmentalists, special interest groups, community leaders and some party faithful at a recent meeting in Vancouver.

“The MAI is a proposed agreement that purports to place countries in more attractive positions to lure investment and supposedly to compete in the international marketplace. There are

presently twenty-seven Industrial countries, Canada included, that are currently negotiating this accord at the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France. They will meet in May for the signing of this agreement, that the vast majority of Canadians know absolutely nothing about, but which will adversely affect the well-being, independence and sovereignty of our nation! [Though they failed to reach agreement in May, the talks are still continuing. Editor]

“Our federal government has been totally negligent and arrogant in the intentional secrecy and deception that they have employed in this matter. The MAI is not a group of countries gathering to negotiate more employment for the masses, a better standard of living for all, while at the same time discussing the ways and means to protect the environment; they are meeting and negotiating to agree to what extent that these foreign companies can enter this country and ignore our laws”

According to the few facts that have leaked out from those on the inside circle, these large multinational corporations will not have to respect Canadian trade agreements, nor the minimum wage. They can freely import and employ any foreign workers, paying them only what they were getting in their own country, if MAI passes.

Free-trade agreements are preparing the way for one world economy all over the world and the next logical step for them to take is a free-labour agreement (to exploit labourers). Finally, it is just one more step to come behind one government. Systematic shipping off-shore of Canadian and American jobs, using our tax dollars, in order to pave the way for this one-world economy/government is well-known and documented by programs like *60 Minutes* and *20/20* (the TV news-magazines.) Every one has to be on the same basic level for one-world church and one-world government to work.

Just by the fact that they could get so far in negotiating this agreement between sovereign nations, shows how far the influence of big business and other even more sinister forces have gone to undermine our rights and freedoms, while preparing for a global marketplace. Where is the concept of morality, decency and fairness within this global marketplace? (The Pope has spoken much about the global marketplace recently.) It is obvious that in this global marketplace there will not be the respect for the sovereignty of nations and the rights of individuals, which is paving the way for the Mark of the Beast. By Jerry Eaton



Upon All the Pictures of Desire?

"And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.(pictures of desire, margin)"
Isaiah 2:16

In this degenerate age in which we live, what is Satan's special object of attack? Of course, the family. He knows if he can get the family, he's got the church and if the church goes, society goes as well.... Of course, our society is so sex saturated today specifically because Satan's attacks are so fearsome today. Does God have no answer for this?

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety: not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array: But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." 1 Tim. 2: 9,10. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands: that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (behavior) of the wives: While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel: But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands." 1 Pet. 3:1-5.

Does God mean to say that something simple and apparently inconsequential like this can make the difference for our society? Yes, that's exactly what I understand He is saying. The key is dress reform, which was specifically given by God to guard the family. The battle is really for the mind, isn't it? "God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. 'Marriage is honorable'; it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man's social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature." Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce p.13.

A special line of Satan's attack today is pornography. The addictive nature of pornography is well documented by many Christian ministries over the past 20 years or so. For example, Ted Bundy was interviewed on Death Row by James Dobson before he was executed for committing multiple murders. The reason he gave for his crimes? Addiction to pornography. Any addiction has the elements of excitement, whether physical, mental or emotional, and the corresponding low, with increasing tolerance and demand for more excitement with decreasing satisfaction; thus the ever-increasing need for more excitement. And this well-documented information about the pornography addiction is very good for us to focus upon for awhile in this study.

We need to uplift dress reform, as we seek to restore individuals and families. "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness though the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate (depraved) mind, to do those things which are not convenient (appropriate)." Romans 1:24-28

Part of dress reform-and its logical conclusion is to address sexual behavior.

"Many parents do not obtain the knowledge that they should in the married life. They are not guarded lest Satan take advantage of them and control their minds and their lives. They do not see that God requires them to control their married lives from all excesses. **But very few feel it to be a religious duty to govern their passions.** They have united themselves in marriage to the object of their choice,

and therefore reason that marriage sanctifies the indulgence of the baser passions. Even men and women professing godliness give loose rein to their lustful passions, and have no thought that God holds them accountable for the expenditure of vital energy, which weakens their hold on life and enervates the entire system. The marriage covenant covers sins of the darkest hue. Men and women professing godliness debase their own bodies through the indulgence of the corrupt passions, and thus lower themselves beneath the brute creation. They abuse the powers that God has given them to be preserved in sanctification and honor. Health and life are sacrificed upon the altar of base passion. The higher, nobler powers are brought into subjection to the animal propensities. Those who thus sin are not acquainted with the result of their course.

"Could all see the amount of suffering that they bring upon themselves by their own sinful indulgence, they would be alarmed; and some, at least, would shun the course of sin that brings such dreaded wages. So miserable an existence is entailed upon a large class that death would be preferable to life; and many do die prematurely, their lives sacrificed in the inglorious work of excessive indulgence of the animal passions. Yet because they are married, they think they commit no sin.

"Men and women, you will one day learn what is lust, and the result of its gratification. Passion of just as base a quality may be found in the marriage relation as outside of it.- RH Sept. 19, 1899.

"Many professed Christians who passed before me seemed destitute of moral restraint. They were more animal than divine. In fact, they were about all animal. Men of this type degrade the wife whom they have promised to nourish and cherish. She is made an instrument to minister to the gratification of low, lustful propensities. And very many women submit to become slaves to lustful passion; they do not possess their bodies in sanctification and honor. The wife does not retain the dignity and self-respect which she possessed previous to marriage. The holy institution should have preserved and increased her womanly respect and holy dignity; but her chaste, dignified, godlike womanhood has been consumed upon the altar of base passion, it has been sacrificed to please her husband. She soon loses respect for the husband, who does not regard the laws to which the brute creation yield obedience. The married life becomes a galling yoke; for love dies out, and frequently distrust, jealousy, and hate take its place.

"No man can truly love his wife when she will patiently submit to become his slave, and minister to his depraved passions. In her passive submission, she loses the value she once possessed in his eyes. He sees her dragged down from everything elevating, to a low level; and soon he suspects that she will as tamely submit to be degraded by another as by himself. He doubts her constancy and purity, tires of her, and seeks new objects to arouse and intensify his hellish passions. The law of God is not regarded....

"The wife becomes jealous of the husband, and suspects that if opportunity should offer, he would just as readily pay his addresses to another as to her. She sees that he is not controlled by conscience or the fear of God; all these sanctified barriers are broken down by lustful passions; all that is godlike in the husband is made the servant of low, brutish lust....

"When the wife yields her body and mind to the control of her husband, being passive to his will in all things, sacrificing her conscience, her dignity, and even her identity, she loses the opportunity of exerting that mighty influence for good which she should possess, to elevate her husband. She could soften his stern nature, and her sanctifying influence could be exerted in a manner to refine and purify, leading him to strive earnestly to govern his passions, and be more spiritually minded, that they might be partakers together of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

"The power of influence can be great to lead the mind to high and noble themes, above the low, sensual indulgences for which the heart unrenewed by grace naturally seeks. If the wife feels that in order to please her husband she must come down to his standard, when animal passion is the principal basis of his love, and controls his actions, she displeases God; for she fails to exert a sanctifying influence upon her husband. If she feels that she must submit to his animal passions without a word of remonstrance, she does not understand her duty to him nor to her God. Sexual excess will effectually

destroy a love for devotional exercises, will take from the brain the substance needed to nourish the system, and will most effectually exhaust the vitality. No woman should aid her husband in this work of self-destruction. She will not do it if she is enlightened, and has true love for him.

"Let God-fearing men and women awake to their duty. Many professed Christians are suffering with paralysis of nerve and brain because of their intemperance in this direction. Rottenness is in the bones and marrow of many who are regarded as good men, who pray and weep and who stand in high places, but whose polluted carcasses will never pass the portals of the heavenly city.

"Oh, that I could make all understand their obligation to God to preserve the mental and physical organism in the best condition to render perfect service to their Maker...." Quoted from Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce p.110-113 The unbalanced nature of sex today is well known in our sex saturated society. And here we have some of the reason that people become so unbalanced. Any sexual activity which is unnatural (which cannot reproduce) leads to imbalance, (e.g. obsession, cravings, desire for more excitation,etc.-in short, addiction.)

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind."1 Cor. 6:9 "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine." 1 Tim. 1: 10.

"Secret vice is the destroyer of high resolve, earnest endeavor, and strength of will to form a good religious character. All who have any true sense of what is embraced in being a Christian know that the followers of Christ are under obligation as His disciples to bring all their passions, their physical powers and mental faculties into perfect subordination to His will. Those who are controlled by their passions cannot be followers of Christ. They are too much devoted to the service of their master, the originator of every evil, to leave their corrupt habits and choose the service of Christ.-Child Guidance 445,446 Quoted from Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce P.121

"...Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts.....And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell thee shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty. Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war." Isaiah 3:16,17,24,25...

Jesus came to set the captives free. You don't have to stay in bondage to lust. Throw out your pictures of desire. Get connected with God and if it His will, He will help you to get connected in purity, truth and real love to a person of the opposite sex. Trust in the Lord to help you to stay temperate and balanced in your marriage relationship or simply in the way you relate to sex before, during and after marriage. Heb.4:15 Jesus was tempted on every point like we, yet without sin.....Jesus loves us just like we are, accepts us just like we are and yet, because He loves us unconditionally (which love is so high and broad to stimulate us to a better course) He will lead us to Himself in every area of life. If we have made mistakes, (and who hasn't?) in this regard, we can accept the love and mercy of God to cover our imperfection and give us hope and a way out of enslavement to our own pictures of desire-internal or external.

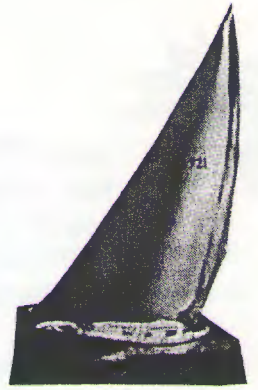
It is of utmost importance to overcome the enemy in this regard. In this degenerate age in which we live, God's people need more than ever before to uplift the way of purity, peace and freedom through the truth. May God help us as a people to give the trumpet a certain sound in relation to dress reform, the sanctity and purity of the marriage relation and how Jesus is coming for His pure bride, His church.
AMEN

By Jerry Eaton



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Tom's Difficult Decision



Tom couldn't believe his eyes. He stood in front of the poster and blinked. It couldn't be true! But that is what it said. In big, bold letters the poster unmistakably announced that the boat race would be held on Saturday.

Tom turned and walked slowly down the street. How could they do this to him? Everyone knew he wouldn't race on Sabbath. He had definitely remembered to tell the race master that he would enter only on the condition that the race date be changed. The officials had promised faithfully that they would honour his request. Why had they announced it this way?

Tom hurried to the courthouse building where, only a few days before, he had signed his boat and his team for the big Flag Day races. There just had to be a mistake. They had promised him so definitely.

When at last Tom was allowed to see the master of the races he bowed politely and explained his problem.

"You know, sir, that when I signed up my boat and crew you promised me the races would be on Friday. I signed up only on the condition that we not race on Saturday, for you know, sir, my crew and I keep the Seventh-day Sabbath as written in the fourth commandment. We worship on Saturday."

"Yes, yes, I am quite aware of that." The officer arranged the papers on his desk

as he spoke. "But when our committee discussed the matter we felt that Saturday would be a very much more convenient day for everyone else and that we would have a much larger crowd. We felt quite sure that when you and your crew understood that, you would conform and make it easier for everyone else."

Tom shifted uneasily from one foot to the other. "I am sorry, sir. My crew will not be able to race on Saturday. Please withdraw our names."

The officer stopped shuffling his papers and looked straight at Tom. "Now look, Tom, you are an intelligent boy. Your crew has won every race for the past five years. No other entry has a chance against you. If you withdraw you and your boys will give up a good money prize, to say nothing of the honour that winning will bring to your school. I beg you to reconsider. Ask your priest to grant you forgiveness for this 'sin,' and make the race interesting for all of us."

Tom's brown eyes dropped to the floor. A struggle raged in his heart. If his team won the race – and there wasn't much doubt about that – they would again have a considerable amount of money to give to the mission school. The race wouldn't be until the afternoon, so he and his crew could still go to Sabbath School and church and then hurry down for the race. They would actually be doing the mission school a favour, for the prize money was quite large and the

publicity for the school would be good. But Tom knew he couldn't do it. He couldn't expect the Lord to be with them if they were breaking His commandments.

"I'm sorry, sir. I must withdraw from the race." Tom turned quickly and ran down the steps as fast as he could go, afraid that he might change his mind.

The boys were, of course, very disappointed that they would not be able to race their longboat. But each silently thanked Tom for his decision, for they knew he had done the right thing.

A few days later the teacher at the mission called to Tom as the boy passed his house. "Look, Tom. See what the newspaper has to say."

Tom turned from the road and walked to the mission house. The teacher laid his hand on the boys' shoulder. "Our school won't be racing, but you've certainly given us some good publicity." He handed Tom the paper.

Tom looked at the news article, and a broad grin spread over his face. It wasn't like winning the race, but at least the paper was telling why the champion racers would not be competing this year.

A few days later the teacher again called. "Come, Tom, see what you have stirred up now."

An even broader smile swept over Tom's face as he read this article. "Everybody in town is worked up," the teacher laughed. "You really have them talking about us. They are clamoring for the date to be changed. Ah, Tom, you have really put us on the map this year."

The next time Tom was in town he went straight to the place where he had first seen the announcement of the races. To his great joy, a line had been drawn through the date, and a new date had been written above it - Friday! On joyous feet Tom ran to the courthouse to sign his boat up.

Oh, yes, they won! But the biggest victory was the one Tom won in his heart.



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Our dear brother Ehud(Ed) Unger passed away on June 14, 1998 after a lengthy illness.

For several years Brother Ed was our leader in the Hamilton church, faithfully fulfilling his duties until the end.

May God comfort those left behind with the hope that we will all soon meet again on resurrection morning.

ICE CREAM



Everyone loves a delicious, cold, ice-cream cone on a hot summer day. It is so cool and refreshing. Unfortunately the commercial ice cream of today is not as pure as it was when it was first invented.

The making of a type of cool ice cream-like dessert dates back to the time of Nero, emperor of Rome. He hired runners to dash off to nearby mountains and bring back snow! To this was added honey and fruit juices to create what was really a first century A.D. form of sherbet.

It is recorded in history that Marco Polo brought a recipe back from his travels to China in the 13th century. Milk was substituted for the snow that Nero enjoyed. Only the wealthy could afford it, since the freezing process was so difficult.

Then in 1846, Nancy Johnson invented the crank and paddle freezer for making home made ice cream. Jacob Fussell is the father of the mass-produced ice cream. In 1851, Fussell, a Baltimore milk dealer, found himself with a bankruptcy-threatening oversupply of cream. Fussell turned the surplus into ice cream, selling it at an unheard of bargain, 25 cents a quart. Soon he completely gave up the milk business to concentrate on ice cream. By 1899, the American ice cream industry was making 5 million gallons a year. Today, the average American consumes 24 quarts of ice cream a year.

In the early days, before mass production, ice cream was made of whole eggs, milk and sugar. It was laboriously cranked in an old farm freezer, and a serving of ice cream was only an occasional family 'treat' which didn't do much harm.

Today, in this mass-producing, synthetic age, it is another matter entirely. There are now more than 1400 flavourings, colours, stabilizers, and emulsifiers available to the commercial producer of ice cream – an array of possible ingredients that would have made those old-time ice cream makers (who

used primarily cream, sugar and a few flavourings) dizzy.

Ice cream manufacturers are not required by law to list the additives used in the manufacture of their product. Consequently, today most ice creams are synthetic from start to finish. Ice cream makers are giving us a wide variety of delicious flavours. But are they fit to eat?

There is hardly any ice cream flavour that doesn't have a chemical substitute. Some of the artificial flavors are potent poisons, powerful enough to cause liver, kidney and heart damage. When you see "artificial flavour" as an ingredient are you not curious as to what this ingredient is? The manufacturer does not have to say what it is beyond the fact that it is an artificial flavour.

The Polly Ann parlor in San Francisco has pioneered vegetable-flavoured ice creams, offering spinach and tomato among its 275 flavours. Top seller, though' is American Rose, which its promoters say "tastes like a rose smells."

Federal Regulations

Some ice creams contain natural flavourings; some contain a mixture of natural and artificial flavours; and some are entirely artificially flavoured. In the ice-cream business, as well as by Federal regulation ice cream is labeled as follows:

Using the ingredient vanilla as an example.

Category I; is a naturally flavoured ice cream. The label reads, "Vanilla."

Category II; is a combination of natural and artificial flavours; the package reads; "Vanilla flavoured."

Category III; all artificially flavoured and the label reads; "Artificially flavoured vanilla."

These Ratings identify the category of each ice cream.

Artificial Flavourings

Natural vanilla, in the form of pureed vanilla beans or vanilla extract, is more expensive than the artificial vanilla, causing manufacturers to choose the cheaper alternative, or at least a combination of the two. Do you wonder what the artificial vanilla is? There is a chemical called **Piperonal** that is often used in the place of vanilla since it has a vanilla flavour. This chemical is used to kill lice. **Vanillin** is also a chemical used to produce a vanilla flavour. It is made from the wastes of wood pulp and has no relationship to the vanilla bean.

Benzyl acetate: is a synthetic chemical that imparts a strawberry flavour. According to the Merck Index, an encyclopedia for chemists, it warns that this substance can cause vomiting and diarrhea. It is also a nitrate solvent.

Ethyl Acetate: is used by many manufacturers to give their products a pineapple flavour. It is also used as a cleaner for leather and textiles and its vapours have been known to cause chronic lung, liver and heart damage.

Aldehyde C17: is used to flavour cherry ice cream. It is an inflammable liquid that is also used in anilene dyes, plastic and rubber.

Butraldehyde: is used in a nut-flavoured ice cream. It is one of the ingredients in rubber cement.

Diethyl glucol: is the same chemical used in anti-freeze and paint removers. Because it is cheap it is used in ice cream as an emulsifier instead of eggs. According to the Merck Index, it is sufficiently toxic to cause liver and kidney damage.

Chemical additives such as **propylene glycol** (the anti-freeze constituent), **glycerin**, **sodium carboxy methylcellulose (a cellulose)**, **monoglycerides**, **diglycerides**, (both of which are probably from animal sources) **disodium phosphates**, **tetrasodium pyrophosphate**, **polysorbate 80**, and **dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate** are all permitted by law. Most of these additives are used as "stabilizers" and "emulsifiers". Stabilizers make ice cream

smooth; emulsifiers make it stiff so it can retain air.

Then there is the case of air. Air is pumped into commercial ice cream to increase its volume. Two batches of ice cream, weighing the same, but containing different amounts of air, will take up different amounts of space. The batch with more air naturally appears greater in quantity. Since ice cream is sold by volume it is possible to make a little less ice cream and fill a lot more packages. But air does more than alter the ice cream's volume. It affects taste. Each manufacturer has his own formula for the amount of air that makes the best ice creams. It is possible for ice cream to contain as much as 40 – 60% air. Too little air makes a heavy ice cream. Too much air makes a foamy ice cream. By law, a gallon of ice cream must weigh at least 4.5 pounds. Home made ice cream and the natural ice creams on the market are heavy and weigh about 7 to 8.5 pounds per gallon.

The next time you are tempted to eat a delicious banana split from a commercial producer, think of it as a mixture of oil nitrate solvent, antifreeze and lice killer, and you won't find it so appetizing.

So what is the solution? Is it abstinence from ice cream? That was a difficult decision for me to make since I have always loved ice cream. I now have children who love ice cream. For the busy person, there are natural alternatives at the health food stores that often taste quite well. However the best solution for my family has been to make my own. It is a simple procedure. You need an ice cream machine (which you can find at a good price if you look around – by the time you have used it a dozen times it will have more than paid for itself.). It is cheaper for us to make our own and we find that the homemade version tastes superior. I have fooled many people who could not believe there were no dairy products in the ice cream. The procedure is not too difficult either. The whole process takes me one hour (including clean up) and I have a gallon of 'ice cream'. Also I have been able to share this recipe with several of my Christian friends who

have many food allergies, with Dairy products as a big offender.

Here is my recipe:

(Also found in *Vegetarian Cooking – A World of Difference*. – page 96)

Tofu Strawberry Ice Cream

2 lbs. Soft tofu
1 cup soymilk
1 cup fructose and 1 cup honey
Or two cups honey

1 1/3 cups oil
1/4 cup lemon juice
50 oz. Strawberries

Blend all ingredients in blender.
Freeze in an ice cream maker and serve.

To make one gallon of ice cream I have to take
1 1/2 times this recipe. You may use any fruit you like.
You can add a few bananas since they are creamy. A

favourite flavour for us is Pina Colada. I use a whole pineapple, about 5 bananas and creamed coconut, and again 1 1/2 times the recipe. You may add as much fruit as you want, 50 oz. is just the minimum.

Information was compiled from: *Ten Talents*, page 124, and 125.

And from the Internet on the web page: <http://www.godsplan.com/icecream.html> By Wendy Eaton

Report from the Jamaican Field

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14.

The Annotto Bay church took the message to the streets of Annotto Bay. A lovely stage setting was placed in the square of the town of Annotto Bay, decked with lovely flowers, a podium and chairs. Chairs were also placed around the stage for people to sit on. People flocked to hear how they can prevent high blood pressure or how to treat and control high or low blood pressure if they have these conditions. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 2. A practical nurse and a herbalist was on the spot to test the people’s blood pressure and give them advice.

After this wonderful demonstration, their thirsty souls were watered by a wonderful message presented by Br. George Gowie on Christ’s Second Coming. “Behold He cometh with clouds and every eye shall see Him.” Rev. 1:7. Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today, He has no feet but our feet to lead man in His

way, He has no tongue but our tongue to tell man how He died, He has no help but our help to bring man to His side.

What if our hands are busy with other work than His? What if our feet are walking where sin’s allurements are? What if our tongues are speaking of things His lips would spurn? How can we hope to help Him and hasten His return? Jesus, our Lord and Master, before thee we bend and pray that Thou wilt help us to serve Thee till life’s end, use us and all our power, our best to Thee we bring, O take us and make us true servants of our King.

Seminars for Montego Bay and Annotto Bay were also held on doctrinal issues such as music, health, 3rd angels message, sealing, marriage, divorce and remarriage, church organization, evangelism. A seminar will also be held in the Kingston church.

AMEN

Marline Campbell
Jamaica



BROCCOLI



Trivia

- The name broccoli comes from the Latin word "brachium" which means branch or arm.
- Broccoli wasn't widely grown in North America until the 1920s when Italians began immigrating to California.
- Broccoli is often called calabrese in Europe, named after the Italian province of Calabria where this variety was developed.

Shopping Know-how

- Look for firm, crisp plants with deep colour.
- The more slender the stem, the better. Thick stems are fibrous and woody. Avoid ends that are dry, cracked or hollow.
- Fresh broccoli should have a sweet, mild smell, not one that is strong and cabbage-like.

Storing

- Store broccoli in an open plastic bag or a sealed, perforated plastic bag.
- Broccoli stored too long converts its sugar into fibre. That is why winter broccoli is never as sweet as summer-fresh broccoli.

Nutrients

- Broccoli is often hailed as one of the healthiest foods you can eat.
- It's an excellent source of vitamin C, a good source of beta carotene and folic acid, and a significant source of calcium.
- Broccoli is rich in such phytochemicals as bioflavinoids and indoles which help protect against cancer.
- Broccoli is low in calories; only 40 calories per cup, cooked.
- Broccoli is high in fibre--2.5 grams of fibre in one cup--and contains natural laxatives.

Frozen Broccoli

- While the texture and taste is better in fresh versus frozen, don't ignore frozen broccoli, which offers convenience and comparable nutrient intakes.
- Frozen broccoli usually consists of florets, only. Florets are higher in beta

- carotene than the stalks, so you'll get more beta carotene with frozen broccoli. Unfortunately, you'll also get more sodium when you buy frozen, twice as much as fresh.
- Frozen broccoli may contain more nutrients than an old head of broccoli that has languished in your fridge.

Stem Strategies

- Many cooks cut off the florets and toss the stems in the garbage or compost. But peeling is all a stem needs to taste great. Serve raw with a dip, or brown bag them with carrot and celery sticks. When cooking with florets, peel and cut stems on the diagonal into coins and they'll cook in the same time as florets. If cooking broccoli florets with long stems attached, cut an "x" at the bottom of the peeled stem to help speed up its cooking time.

Augustus
Ratneiyya
from
Montreal





FLOWERS,

*Wherefor, wherefor were they made,
And dyed with rainbow light,
All fashioned with supremest grace,
Upspringing day and night?*

*Our outward life requires them not,
Then wherefor had they birth?
To minister delight to man;
To beautify the earth:*

*To comfort man-- to whisper hope,
Whene'er his faith is dim;
For who so careth for the flower
Will much more care for Him!*