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**MARY SAT AT JESUS' FEET**



# SEALING

In the Bible many different seals are mentioned. Some of them are literal, others symbolic. A seal leaves a mark in clay or wax, which can signify authority, confirmation, approval, ownership, or genuineness. Letters and documents were sealed indicating the author. The seal normally carried the owner's name and position.

To Abraham the seal of the righteousness of faith was circumcision (Rom. 4:11). This outward sign indicated that he was a child of God. In a similar way for us, especially in the last days the Sabbath will be a visible outward sign, indicating that we are children of God.

Jesus was sealed by the Father (John 6:27). This was done at His baptism by the voice of God and by many miracles. This was a sign of ownership, indicating that He was the Son of God. God's foundation had a different seal as we find in 2 Tim. 2:19.

## **Seal By the Holy Spirit**

At conversion we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Eph. 4:30. "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the spirit in our hearts." 2 Cor. 1:22.

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth the witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. Romans 8:15-16.

This spirit of adoption in us makes us the children of God. It is a seal that God has placed into all His faithful followers. The Holy Spirit in us is called the seal of promise. (Eph. 1:13).

"In the work that was accomplished on the day of Pentecost, we may see what can be done by the exercise of faith. Those who believed in Christ were sealed by the Holy Spirit." BC, Vol. 6, p. 1055. This seal is our title to heaven, but we can lose this seal by grieving the Holy Spirit.

Ananias and Sapphira received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost with other believers and made a promise to sell their house and to give all the money to the church. But later they yielded to the feelings of covetousness and decided to keep some of the money back. By this they lost the Holy Spirit, the seal and they were no more the children of God. (AA, 71-72).

King Saul lost the Holy Spirit because of his disobedience. "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." 1 Sam. 16:14.

## **Sealing by the Third Angel**

"Saith the angel, the third angel is binding or sealing them in bundles for the heavenly garner." EW 89.

Who is the third angel?

"No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women enlightened by the Spirit of God, and sanctified through the truth, proclaim these three messages in their order." LS 429.

Here the people of God are the sealing angel. Those who are enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified will be binding and sealing the people for the heavenly garner.

"Then I saw the third angel. Saith my accompanying angel, 'Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner.'" EW 118.

What is the seal that the third angel is placing upon us?

"While living under and proclaiming the most solemn message ever borne to mortals, presenting the law of God as a test of character and as the seal of the living God, they are transgressing its holy precepts." Test. Vol. 2, p. 468.

"We are to be distinguished from the world because God has placed His seal upon us, because He manifests

in us His own holy character of love." MH 37.

"As Jesus passed into the holiest, and stood before the ark containing the law of God, He sent the third angel into the world." EW 254.

This seal is the character of God in us, and the obedience to the law of God. This is placed on the people by the third angel. The sealing message that the third angel proclaims will prepare them for the next seal which is indelible. This sealing work started in 1844 when Jesus entered the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary and will continue to the end of the time of probation.

## **Indelible Seal**

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Rev. 7:2-4.

Also in Ezekiel we learn of an angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side to whom the Lord said, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done in the midst thereof." Eze. 9:4.

Here the angel of God does the sealing of the hundred and forty and four thousand. This seal we cannot lose anymore. It is an indelible seal.

"What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes can read, for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption." BC, Vol. 7, p. 968.

"This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life." TM 444-445.

"The indelible mark of God is upon them. God can plead that His own name is written there." TM 446.

"They served Him with the intellect and with the heart, and now He can place His name in their foreheads." AA 591.

"If in the families there are those who are refusing obedience to the Lord in keeping the Sabbath, then the seal cannot be placed upon them. The sealing is a pledge from God of perfect security to His chosen ones. (Ex. 31:13-17). Sealing indicates that you are God's chosen. He has appropriated you to Himself. As the sealed of God we are Christ's purchased possession, and no one shall pluck us out of His hands. The seal given in the forehead is God, New Jerusalem. 'I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God.' (Rev.

3:12)." Manuscript Releases 15, p. 225.

### Conditions for Receiving the Seal

"The seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord." The Last Day Events, p. 220.

"The seal of the living God will be place upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character." BC, Vol. 7, p. 970.

"Many hear the invitation of mercy, are tested and proved but few are sealed with the seal of the living God. Few will humble themselves as a little child, that they may enter into the kingdom of heaven." Test. Vol. 5, p. 50.

"Many who have never had the light, they are deceived by their teachers, and they have not received the mark of the beast. The Lord will not withdraw His grace from them." BC, Vol. 7, p. 976. This refers to those who from ignorance keep Sunday while the mark of the beast is forced upon us.

### When Will this Sealing Take Place?

"In a little while everyone who is a child of God will have His seal placed upon him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads: Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads." Rev. & Her., May 28, 1889.

"Image of the beast will be formed and Sunday worship will be enforced before the people of God are sealed. They must pass this test in order to receive the seal of God." BC, Vol. 7, p. 976.

"The decree enforcing the worship of Sunday is to go forth to all the world. In a limited degree it is already gone forth. In several places the civil power is speaking with the voice of the dragon." Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897.

### **Next Event after Sealing**

"Just as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come." BC, Vol. 4, p. 1161.

After the shaking the latter rain will be poured out. EW 270-271, Test. Vol. 5, p. 81.

### **The Final Seal**

There is one more seal that we will receive and this is placed upon us by Jesus Himself.

"Their experience will be one of constant growth, until the Lord shall descend from heaven with power and great glory to set His seal of final triumph upon His faithful ones." Retirement Years, p. 29.

We are living today in the sealing time, but soon it will be finished and many will be like the foolish virgins without the oil in their vessels. Many will be found wanting in their characters. The perfect image of Jesus is not visible in them and the sealing angel will pass by them.

Let us make sure that we will be sealed by the Holy Spirit and that the third angel also will set his seal upon us. The Sabbath which is the visible seal of God we must have, and then we will be able to receive the invisible seal of God upon our foreheads which angels only can see, and finally when Jesus places His seal upon us at His coming the sealing work will be finished.

AMEN.

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# ACHAN

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

At this stage in the history of the world the devil is becoming desperate. His activities are increasing proportionately as the history of this world draws to a close. He is seeking to devour as many as he can. He has succeeded in bringing the majority of the world under his black banner, but there are those few who refuse to follow his way. They are just a small remnant that have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and are so closely connected with their Saviour that they have been able to keep themselves beyond his reach. He is incensed by those few and focusing his attacks on them. He is determined to have the whole world on his side when Jesus comes the second time. He wants to show God that it is impossible for any man to keep His commandments. One of the greatest deceptions that he uses is that Jesus had some advantage over man whereby He was able to live a sinless life but man is not capable of doing so. Into this deception he has led the majority of the Christian world. But there are those few who have kept their robes unspotted from the world, those few who are following the Lamb, “withersoever He goeth.” Those he is attempting to destroy.

He knows where to find them today – in God’s church. He is going out to find any weakness in the members and work on those weaknesses. Has he been successful? We read that, “Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 188. Yes, he has had a measure of success. His deceptions are so subtle though that it is “possible to deceive the very elect.” But of course they won’t be deceived. What about those who have not fully surrendered their lives 100% to Jesus? Yes, they acknowledge the truth is correct, they come to church and pay their tithes and offerings and take an active part in church activities but they have not

made Jesus their personal Saviour. These ones will not stand when Satan comes with his attacks. Only those who are connected to the living vine will be safe; those who have made Jesus their best friend.

Some, who are not fully connected, while giving an assent to the truth, may start to slide in their personal lives. Nothing serious at first – just little things.

For example: **Guarding the edges of the Sabbath.** How strict are we with the hours of the Sabbath? If we start a few minutes late or end just a few minutes early because we have to go out then is that ok? A minute here and there may not seem so important, but one minute will lead to two, and then five; after that it leads to hours. Finally it leads to all of the Sabbath hours losing their sanctity. Yet it started with only a minute.

**Health Reform.** Sister White writes many counsels in the book *Counsels on Diet and Foods*. And it is easy to let a few of these points slide. We may not think there is any harm in eating a cracker or two between meals (she writes that not one morsel should enter our mouth between meals). Or perhaps eating a sweet snack that is not particularly healthful – but it is small. These things that may seem small and of minor importance will lead to bigger things. Indulgence of appetite is very difficult to bring under control again.

There are many other areas in life where Satan tempts us to think that it is just a “little thing” and something not to worry about, but in God’s eyes all sins are big. Every sin, however small it may seem to us, cost the life of His Son. Every sin is horrible in His eyes.

## ACHAN

We will get into the story of Achan now. It is a very well known story in the Bible, but if you don’t know it please read it in Joshua chapter seven. How did Achan end up this way? Was it a momentary slip-up that he made? Was it a momentary

feeling of covetousness that suddenly came over him causing him to act rashly? And why was his whole family punished with him? “It is because they had not been trained and educated according to the directions given them in the great standard of the law of God. Achan’s parents had educated their son in such a way that he felt free to disobey the word of the Lord. The principles inculcated in his life led him to deal with his children in such a way that they also were corrupted. Mind acts and reacts upon mind, and the punishment, which included the relations of Achan with himself, reveals the fact that all were involved in the transgression.” *Child Guidance*, p. 234.

From this story of Achan we can glean many important counsels. First let’s read from *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 496-498.

The whole nation was held responsible for the sin of Achan, which started with covetousness and yet this sin is one of the most lightly regarded of sins. “The deadly sin that led to Achan’s ruin had its root in covetousness, of all sins one of the most common and the most lightly regarded. While other offenses meet with detection and punishment, how rarely does the violation of the tenth commandment so much as call forth censure. The enormity of this sin, and the terrible results, are the lessons of Achan’s history.

“Covetousness is an evil of gradual development. Achan had cherished greed of gain until it became a habit, binding him in fetters well-nigh impossible to break. While fostering this evil, he would have been filled with horror at the thought of bringing disaster upon Israel; but his perceptions were deadened by the sin, and when temptation came, he fell an easy prey.

“Among church members “in good and regular standing” there are, alas! many Achans. Many a man comes stately to church, and sits at the table of the Lord, while among his

possessions are hidden unlawful gains, the things that God has cursed. For a goodly Babylonish garment, multitudes sacrifice the approval of conscience and their hope of heaven. Multitudes barter their integrity, and their capabilities for usefulness, for a bag of silver shekels. The cries of the suffering poor are unheeded; the gospel light is hindered in its course; the scorn of worldlings is kindled by practices that give the lie to the Christian profession; and yet the covetous professor continues to heap up treasure. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me" (Malachi 3:8), saith the Lord.

"Achan's sin brought disaster upon the whole nation. For one man's sin the displeasure of God will rest upon His church till the transgression is searched out and put away. The influence most to be feared by the church is not that of open opposers, infidels, and blasphemers, but of inconsistent professors of Christ. These are the ones that keep back the blessing of the God of Israel and bring weakness upon His people.

"When the church is in difficulty, when coldness and spiritual declension exist, giving occasion for the enemies of God to triumph, then, instead of folding their hands and lamenting their unhappy state, let its members inquire if there is not an Achan in the camp. With humiliation and searching of heart, let each seek to discover the hidden sins that shut out God's presence.

"Achan acknowledged his guilt, but when it was too late for the confession to benefit himself. He had seen the armies of Israel return from Ai defeated and disheartened; yet he did not come forward and confess his sin. He had seen Joshua and the elders of Israel bowed to the earth in grief too great for words. Had he then made confession, he would have given some proof of true penitence; but he still kept silence. He had listened to the proclamation that a great crime had been committed, and had even heard its character

definitely stated. But his lips were sealed. Then came the solemn investigation. How his soul thrilled with terror as he saw his tribe pointed out, then his family and his household! But still he uttered no confession, until the finger of God was placed upon him. Then, when his sin could no longer be concealed, he admitted the truth. How often are similar confessions made? There is a vast difference between admitting facts after they have been proved and confessing sins known only to ourselves and to God. Achan would not have confessed had he not hoped by so doing to avert the consequences of his crime. But his confession only served to show that his punishment was just. There was no genuine repentance for sin, no contrition, no change of purpose, abhorrence of evil.....

"So long as they can conceal their transgressions from their fellow men, many, like Achan, feel secure, and flatter themselves that God will not be strict to mark iniquity. All too late their sins will find them out in that day when they shall not be purged with sacrifice or offering forever. When the records of heaven shall be opened, the Judge will not in words declare to man his guilt, but will cast one penetrating, convicting glance, and every deed, every transaction of life, will be vividly impressed upon the memory of the wrongdoer. The person will not, as in Joshua's day, need to be hunted out from tribe to family, but his own lips will confess his shame. The sins hidden from the knowledge of men will then be proclaimed to the whole world."

Those that become slack in their observance of the little things are in great danger of becoming like Achan and unless they take care of these little things it may be impossible to take care of them when they become big things.

#### LESSONS FROM ACHAN

So what do we learn from this account of Achan in *Patriarchs and Prophets*? We learn many solemn

truths for the church as well as for the individual Christian. We definitely want to make sure that we are not one of these "Achans."

Achan and the tares in the parable of Jesus (Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43) are very similar. The tares are secret sinners. The rest of the church has no idea that these people are sinners. They look like the rest of the members. They take part in church services, and they look like good Christians, but they have some secret sins they are harboring. In the end they will be found out and dealt with.

In the parable, the enemy planted the tares in the field and likewise, Satan plants tares in the church. They are halfhearted believers from the beginning. Here is where the tares and "Achans" differ. "Achans" have become that way by letting the little things slide. Little by little they have traveled on the wrong pathway. The tares never were converted to begin with but may be church members for awhile – as long as God will tolerate their presence.

And all this is going on in God's church? Can it really be God's church with some of these types of people in it? "The world has no right to doubt the truth of Christianity because there are unworthy members in the church, nor should Christians become disheartened because of these false brethren." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 72,73. The nation of Israel was still God's chosen nation after the experience with Achan, and so likewise God's church today is still God's church with the "Achans" in it. As long as the standard remains the same and the "Achans" are dealt with properly, God's church remains pure.

A common statement we hear from members of fallen church organizations when we point out their false teachings or lack of dealing with open sin is: "But every church has sinners in it. You will not find a perfect church so what makes you different?" These people are

unwilling to carry the cross and are looking for a good excuse. Yes, there are sinners even in God's church, BUT God's church will deal with open persistent sin. The standard of the church is what we are to look to and how it is upheld – that makes the difference between the true church and the false churches.

In the tares as well as in Achan's case we do not see true repentance. The tares don't ever become wheat – they are bound into bundles and burned. Achan confessed but only when it was too late. "Confessions of sin made at the right time to relieve the people of God will be accepted of Him. But there are those among us who will make confessions, as did Achan, too late to save themselves. God may prove them and give them another trial, for the sake of evidencing to His people that they will not endure one test, one proving of God. They are not in harmony with right. They despise the straight testimony that reaches the heart, and would rejoice to see everyone silenced who gives reproof." *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 272.

"I was shown that the manner of Achan's confession was similar to the confessions that some among us have made and will make. They hide their wrongs and refuse to make a voluntary confession until God searches them out, and then they acknowledge their sins. A few persons pass on in a course of wrong until they become hardened. They may even know that the church is burdened, as Achan knew that Israel were made weak before their enemies because of his guilt. Yet their consciences do not condemn them. They will not relieve the church by humbling their proud, rebellious hearts before God and putting away their wrongs. God's displeasure is upon His people, and He will not manifest His power in the midst of them while sins exist among them and are fostered by those in responsible positions." *Ibid*, p. 270. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

So how do we tell an "Achan" from a true follower of Jesus if we have all sinned? It is the spirit of confession. The true followers of Jesus will confess and repent as soon as they recognize their sin. The "Achans" will seek to hide their sins – knowing what they are, hoping that the church won't find out. Only when they are found out will they make confessions – sometimes it is too late.

#### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Recently, at the Youth Conference in Kentucky, this past summer, I had the opportunity to speak with Sister Gretchen Schendel from California. The topic of "the medical profession" came up. Sr. Schendel mentioned the fact that in all of Sister White's testimonies where she speaks of the medical personnel working on Sabbath in hospitals (which is very necessary work), she always spoke in reference to "our institutions" either directly or indirectly, never does she refer to worldly medical institutions. I decided to research this topic when I came home and sure enough she was correct. (See *Testimonies*, Vol. 7 p. 106 and p. 122, *Counsels on Health*, p. 236 – there are more but this is just a few). Sister White is clear when she says that we need more medical doctors, nurses, and our own clinics and sanitariums. Jesus said, it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath. Should our medical workers work on the Sabbath? Yes, of course they can't neglect the sick in their own sanitariums and neither would it be right for them to hire non-members to do their work on the Sabbath for them.

This leads me to conclude that concessions regarding the Sabbath are to be made in "our institutions" alone. Also, for those who have to work on Sabbath and do receive pay, she writes further that the "fee for such labor should be put into the treasury of the Lord, to be used for the worthy poor who need medical skill but cannot afford to pay for it." *Health, Philanthropic, and Medical Missionary Work*, p. 42. If they do

not follow this counsel they are violating the Sabbath and are perhaps "Achans" in the camp. There is no concession made for worldly medical institutions. In them, you cannot reduce your regular activities by a large degree and do only the essentials (as she counsels that you are supposed to in "our institutions.") You must do as your employer expects. You simply cannot reduce your workload by half and keep the Sabbath in the worldly institutions; therefore the concession appears to be made only in our institutions. Even then she writes about how it is dangerous for a person's faith to work Sabbath after Sabbath. For this reason she stresses the fact that the same people should not work every Sabbath. They are to rotate and take turns. Therefore it is a clear violation of the Sabbath commandment to work in a worldly institution on the Sabbath. There are other doctors and nurses who can fulfill the duties just as well as our church members. In "our institutions" we do not want worldly doctors and nurses coming in to fill the places of those wanting to keep the Sabbath but in a worldly institution it is possible to find others to fill the needed positions.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH "ACHANS"

What are we to do when an "Achan" is exposed? Some fallen churches i.e. SDA have given the excuse (for not dealing with open sin and secret sinners that have been exposed) by saying, we can't disfellowship them or discipline them because we have to have mercy on them – we hope that they change.

Mat. 18:15-17. Gives the right answer as to how to deal with them. Also if you have *Testimonies for the Church*, please read Volume 3, pp. 265 to 269. While following these steps we have to be careful to do all in the spirit of Christ. "It takes much forethought and wisdom from God to labor successfully for the salvation of sinners. If the soul of the laborer is filled with the grace of God, his teaching will not irritate his hearers,



but melt its way to their hearts and open them for the reception of the truth." *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 263*. We can't simply be harsh and just cut them off. Neither can we simply call a church meeting and start deleting names of members we haven't seen for a long time and we know have fallen into sin. No member should be removed unless the steps of Mat. 18 have been followed. They have to be visited and encouraged.

Some weak souls are thankful for the encouragement by their brethren and turn and repent. Others get angry at being exposed and leave. Those that repent never were "Achans". They were simply weak brethren who are grateful for a helping hand. Those that leave in anger were possibly "Achans". Even after they leave, God still loves them and hopes that they will return.

"And when some were disposed to reject their counsel and separate from them, they would say: "Well, if they want to go off, let them go." While such a lack of the compassion, and long-suffering, and tenderness of Jesus was manifested by His professed followers, these poor, erring, inexperienced souls, buffeted by Satan, were certain to make shipwreck of faith. However great may be the wrongs and sins of the erring, our brethren must learn to manifest not only the tenderness of the Great Shepherd, but also His undying care and love for the poor, straying sheep. Our ministers toil and lecture week after week, and rejoice that a few souls embrace the truth; and yet brethren of a prompt, decided turn of mind may, in five minutes, destroy their work by indulging the feelings which prompt words like these: "Well, if they want to leave us, let them go." Ibid, Vol. 2, p. 18,19. If they were not an "Achan" but simply a weak person they may come back some day.

Yes, God is a God of mercy but what does He do in His mercy? Leave a sinner in His sin? No, He exposes

them and shows them the plague spots in their character, hoping that the person will decide to change. We have to do the same. We can't leave a person alone who is in sin. They have to be spoken to and counseled and then if they refuse to change, follow the steps of discipline outlined in Mat. 18. If we do nothing we are bringing two curses.

1)A curse to the poor sinner who is allowed to think he is ok, while living in sin. Whether he is working on Sabbath or on a barstool he is out of fellowship with God. He cannot be saved in this condition and we have to let them know. He may claim weakness for his drinking, adultery, or other open sin, but he cannot enjoy the privileges of full fellowship with God's church unless he decides to change his ways. With God all things are possible and he can change if he decides he wants to and comes to the Source of all strength in overcoming sin.

2)A curse is brought upon the church of God. "The church as a whole is in a degree responsible for the wrongs of its individual members because they countenance the evil in not lifting up their voice against it." Ibid, Vol. 4, p. 491. "In His dealings with His people in the past the Lord shows the necessity of purifying the church from wrongs. One sinner may diffuse darkness that will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation." Ibid, Vol. 3, p. 265.

Can we judge who is an "Achan"? No, we can't but we can deal with open sin when we see it. If we don't take care of these possible "Achans" in the camp, the whole church suffers. If an "Achan", after being exposed, but not counseled and disciplined by the church, goes to the barstool – the whole church goes to the barstool – If he/she works on Sabbath, the whole church works on Sabbath.

Only the individual knows whether he is an "Achan" or not. In the days of Sr. White, a man named Elder

Canright was quite faithful for many years. After awhile he lost his way and became a bitter enemy of God's church and Sister White. Towards the end of his life he was a miserable wreck. After Sister White died, he cried bitter tears at her gravesite for all he had done against her, acknowledging her as a godly woman. He realized that what he had done was terribly wrong. Someone encouraged him to confess, but he simply said it was too late. How sad for a person to have reached this state.

"The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God. Especially in the closing work for the church, in the sealing time of the one hundred and forty-four thousand who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, will they feel most deeply the wrongs of God's professed people." *Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 266*.

"None are in greater danger than he who feels that his mountain standeth sure. It is then that his feet will begin to slide." Ibid, Vol. 4, p. 560.

We are reaching a stage in this earth's history when the transgression has almost reached its limit. This world is in great confusion. We who know the truth so well, should be earnestly "preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise." Ibid, Vol. 8, p. 28.

If we know we are one of those "Achans" (and only we can know in the beginning stages) it is now time to repent – before it is too late to repent. Better to suffer a little shame and embarrassment now than to lose our eternal life. Heaven isn't worth giving up for anything this world has to offer. It is my desire and prayer that each one will make their decision to follow the Lord all the way today. AMEN Wendy Eaton



# "WHY DO WE WORK"?

***And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;  
Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance:  
for ye serve the Lord Christ. Col.3.23,24***

In this article I want to consider a small, but significant, question about work, "why do we work?" I believe that if we clearly understood why we work and knew that we are working for a good reason, in other words considered our work meaningful, there would be a genuine improvement in the quality of our Christian lives. It would also have a positive impact on a world that is perishing in the darkness of dishonesty and selfishness. The way we conduct ourselves as workers has an impact on everything.

For example, consider the role of teachers in our society. The quality of our teachers, whether secular or religious, greatly affects the quality of our children's lives and has a profound effect on the quality of our future. It was the Knights of Labour who first suggested that a day be set aside to honour those in the workforce.

By the turn of the century the holiday had spread far and wide. Today, many countries set aside a day to salute their workers. It also identifies how much we all depend on one another. We all know that the health of our society is determined to a large extent by the state of employment in our nation. The Bible commands us that: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....." We must put forth every effort to try and improve the way we work, the way we feel about our work, and the effectiveness

of the work we do. When we can do this, everyone benefits.

As I think of all this I am reminded of an article some time ago that came out on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* about a man named Andrew J. Kreiger, who had his fifteen minutes of fame'. The Journal told how this worker at the age of thirty, succeeded in making \$3 million in one year for himself simply by trading currencies; that was his work, a foreign-currency trader. He made \$300 million for his company, and he walked away with a fair share of that for himself. But Andrew J. Kreiger quit. The Journal later told how Kreiger left his work because he had some deep questions about what he was doing. Apparently, even though he had made a fortune, what he was doing didn't make much sense to him. The Journal quotes him as saying, "There's an absence of people [on Wall Street] who think of why they're doing what they're doing. It disturbs me." Andrew seemed to lose his enthusiasm for trading currencies because he couldn't figure out the reason for his work anymore. He was described as a man who would work practically every waking hour, talking on his car phone to and from work, then at home on his computer, as he shook up the currency markets all around the world. He was a very hard worker indeed, but he quit. Interestingly, it was his son who triggered the chain of events that made him stop and take another look at

himself. One day his six-year-old son asked him what kind of work he did. In response, Kreiger had a hard time explaining to his boy what a foreign-currency options trader actually does. When he said that he "bought and sold things," his son did not find that answer very satisfactory. So he asked his dad, "Well, when are you going to do something that helps people, like a doctor or a fireman?" Regardless of whether this child's assessment of foreign-currency options trading is accurate, his question prompted Kreiger to develop some serious "why" questions regarding his work and about how much time he was putting in to earn his \$3 million.

Have you ever asked yourself "why do I work"? Maybe you work just to get a pay cheque along with other benefits such as a pension, vacations, and health insurance. Were it not for these benefits, would you walk away from your job tomorrow? The reason we are in so much trouble these days is that most people are working only for money and the "fifteen minutes of fame" that comes with it, nothing more. They work within these confines. Their work is just a job for them. They long for the day when they can escape from the work force. As a result, for example, in some countries, the medical doctors are doing a marginal job. Before they will provide any treatment to a suffering patient, they want proof that the sick can pay the expenses. Some teachers also are

doing a lot of damage to our children by not taking the extra time to help those children who are having difficulties. Some assembly-line workers are turning out products that have to be returned for repairs the day after you purchase them. Even some preachers are dishonoring the name of Christ; they are working only for profit, praise, and promotion. But the Lord has said: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them." Eze.34:2-6

It is important that ministers, church leaders and every lay-member seriously evaluate the work he/she is doing, in the fear of God. Let us take a look at our lives and consider our work, and ask ourselves "am I doing any work that I can offer to Jesus; am I spending all my God given time just like Kreiger did?" There is very little time to make wrongs right. Jesus said: "... behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Rev.22.12. We must all ask God for wisdom from above that we may improve the way we work for Him. Also we must consider the effectiveness of the work we do for Him because we know for sure that: "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work

abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister".

1 Cor.3:14, 15; 1 Cor.15:58, Heb. 6:10.

However, the problem is not just that some of the results of the work are poor or unacceptable. What's worse and even tragic, is that some people don't know why they are working. Even those who call themselves Christians complain about doing simple church duties. Some times it's hard work just to find church members who are willing and ready to do missionary work for just one hour each month. These people don't realise that they lose one of the major joys that human beings can experience. Doing work that one feels is meaningful and important, is one the greatest sources of satisfaction and feeling of fulfillment a human being can have. Jesus expressed this kind of joy when He said "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work... I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 4:34, John 9:4. The God who is the center of Christianity is a working God, and ... "His work is perfect" Deut.32:4. In Isaiah 61:1-3 we read about the reasons why Christ worked. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me *to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of*

*righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."*

Christ showed how he worked for the Father who sent Him. The joy that he experienced in the salvation of the sinners was what sustained him in all His sufferings. This should also be our joy, the focus of our labours and our ambitions.

The Bible is filled with working people. One of the most uplifting experiences a Christian can have is to be part of a church whose members (workers) know that their work is important, that it is contributing a great deal to the well-being of others. Such people are proud in doing what they do. Of course, they welcome their wages, but they are not primarily working for wages. They are working because they know that what they are doing is vitally necessary. The inspired pen counsels us to "... begin to work for those who have not had the light. "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," the Saviour declares, "and, lo, I am with you always." Matthew 28:18, 20.

What we need is a living faith, faith to proclaim over the rent sepulcher of Joseph that we have a living Saviour, One who will go before us and who will work with us. God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments. There needs to be among us a great deal more of prayer and much less of unbelief. We need to lift up the standard higher and still higher before the people. We need to remember that Christ is always at our right hand as we proclaim liberty to the captives and deal the bread of life to hungry souls. When we keep before our minds the urgency and importance of our work, the salvation of God will be revealed in a remarkable manner." 9T p.107. "The character and importance of our work are judged by the efforts made to bring it before the public." HS p.200 "Whatever your duties may be in the various lines of work, always remember that God is the General over us all. You must not withdraw from him to make flesh your arm. We are too much inclined to measure ourselves among ourselves, and compare ourselves one with

another, placing our own estimate upon the importance of our work". SPM p.88.

May the Lord lay our human ambitions in the dust, in order that we may understand and be able to discern whether we are following the unsanctified imaginings of the natural heart or the dictates of the Spirit of God. Self must be abased. God must be obeyed and exalted. Let every soul who fears and loves God, seek for deeper piety. We must have a deeper work of grace, or we shall not be able to endure the test and trial of the conflict coming upon us in these last days.

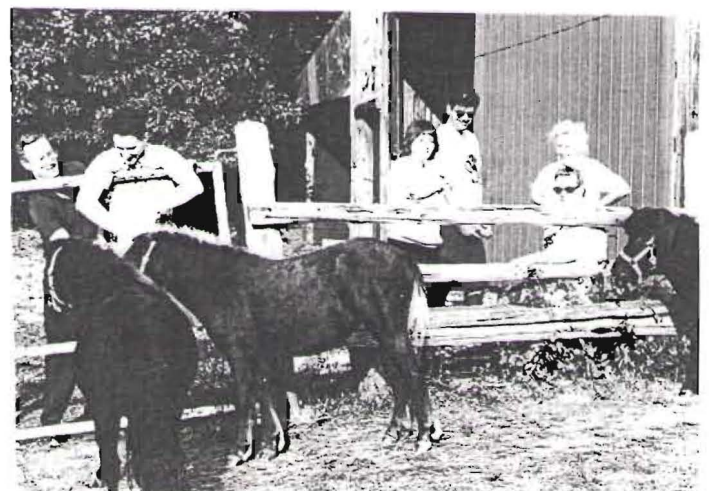
Read again the words in Amos 6:1 and Judg. 5:23 "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and "Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty. May God help us that we would not receive the "Curse of Meroz", but instead pray with the ancient prophet Habakkuk "O LORD, revive thy work...."and may we add 'in our lives', that when time for us will be no more we will be able to say with Jesus: "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. John

17:4. This can only be possible when we clearly understand that the only reason we work, should be to glorify God and to cooperate with Him in the work of seeking and saving the lost. It doesn't matter on our occupation or the skills that we have, whether it is in an office or in a factory, we can glorify God in whatever we do. He has told us that "whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

----Ian Grant



## STREETSVILLE CHURCH PICNIC



# The World Christ came to save.....



“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 Jesus came not into the world to condemn the world, because our hopeless and helpless world was condemned already; He only came to save. Here in this most famous verse in the Bible we see how much God loved the world—He came to save you and I, who believe in Him. But this decision involved a struggle for both the Father and the Son. There was an awful moment when the destiny of our world, you, I, and everyone hung in the balance. (Please read *Desire of Ages* pgs. 690-1.)

Of course, we know now that Jesus did make the right decision, but how strong was the temptation for Him to just let those who had showed so little appreciation or care for His great sacrifice to perish in their sins.

Jesus is calling for you to come to Him today. Jesus wants you to withdraw your affection from the things in this world and follow Him willingly, lovingly—just like the sacrifice was made which bought you and I back from the power of sin. Here Jesus is tenderly calling thee home just like this song says: “Jesus is tenderly calling thee home—Calling today, calling today; Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam Farther and farther away? Calling today, calling today, Jesus is tenderly calling today.”

Jesus loves you so much and wants you to be saved so much—what more could He do than He has already done to prove that love for you? Jesus is calling you to come to Him today. Look upon today as the day He is calling you to respond to His love and serve

Him. I believe this song will touch your heart, if you will just let Him touch your heart, because tomorrow may be too late.

Also we read Revelation 3:20: “Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with Me.” Will we let Him in? “He would not have us stand at this time, amid the perils of the last days, in our own finite strength....It is our privilege to walk in the sunshine of His presence, and to weave into the characters we are forming the golden threads of cheerfulness, gratitude, forbearance, and love. We may thus show the power of divine grace, and reflect light from heaven amid all the frets and irritations that come to us day by day...Then why do we go stumbling along without light?

Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the Word of God, or through His delegated messengers, is a knock at the door of the heart; it is the voice of Jesus, asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, your determination to open becomes weaker and weaker. If the voice of Jesus is not heeded at once, it becomes confused in the mind with a multitude of other voices; the world’s care and business engross the attention, and conviction dies away. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of the time, and of the great eternity beyond.

“Many have so much rubbish piled up at the door of the heart that they cannot admit Jesus. Some have difficulties between themselves and their brethren to remove; others have evil tempers,

pride, covetousness; with others love of the world bars entrance. All this must be taken away, before they can open the door and welcome the Saviour in.

“How precious is the promise, ‘I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.’ Oh, the love, the wondrous love of God! After all our lukewarmness and sins He says, Return unto Me, and I will return unto thee, and will heal all thy backslidings.

“Our work is to open the door of the heart and let Jesus come in. He is knocking for entrance....Will you open the door? Jesus is standing at the door of your heart. Let Him in, the heavenly Guest.” *Our High Calling*, p. 352 The question is: will we open our heart’s door and let Him in?

Here is another song: “Christ is knocking at my sad heart; Shall I let Him in? Patiently pleading with my sad heart; O shall I let Him in? Cold and proud is my heart with sin, Dark and cheerless is all within; Christ is bidding me turn unto Him; O shall I let Him in?”

We read from *Our High Calling*, p. 18: “We should contemplate the love of Jesus, His mission and His work in reference to us as individuals. We are to say, Jesus so loved me that He gave His own life to save me. The Father loves me for He gave His only begotten Son to save me, that I need not perish, but have everlasting life. It becomes us to ascertain upon what terms Christ promises the gift of eternal life. I answer, It is upon our faith.

“The gift of God’s dear Son makes the promises of God ours of a surety.

"How many can say, 'He saves me'? I know that He wants that I should be saved. He looks upon me as of value in His sight, and therefore I know that my thoughts, my words, and my works, all pass in review before Him. Everything that is connected with the purchase of the blood of Christ is of value in the sight of God. By the price paid for our redemption we are under obligation to devote our entire affections to Christ. We are to give God all there is of us; and in giving to God our all, are we to consider that we sustain a great loss?-No, for in giving to Him our talents, we are doubling them. Every gift that He has given to us, when returned to Him receives His blessing, that it may have increased influence in the work of God. Wherever you may be, you are to realize that you belong to Christ.

"The gift of Christ to the world was beyond computation, and no power could compete with God by giving a gift that would bear any comparison to the value of heaven's best treasure. The greatness of this gift was to furnish men with a theme of thanksgiving and praise that would last through eternity. Having given His all in Christ, God lays claim to the heart, mind, soul, and strength of man. Looking upon the treasure which God has provided in the full and complete gift of Christ, we can exclaim: 'Herein is love!'

"Everything is provided for us to be saved, but we have to choose today. We have to make the decision today to get away from the world in our thoughts, because the world hated and killed our Saviour. But we are not of the world John 17:16. Jesus made His decision to save the world and He showed His love for the world in unmistakable terms when He died upon the cross.

"As Satan seeks to break down the barriers of the soul, by tempting us to indulge in sin, we must by living faith retain our connection with God, and have confidence in His strength to enable us to overcome every besetment. We are to flee from evil, and seek righteousness, meekness, and holiness....

"It is time for every one of us to decide whose side we are on. The agencies of Satan will work with every mind that will allow it to be worked by him. But there are also heavenly agencies waiting to communicate the bright rays of the glory of God to all that are willing to receive Him.

"It is ours to choose whether we will be numbered with the servants of Christ or the servants of Satan. Every day we show by our conduct whose service we have chosen....

"Dear young reader, what choice have you made? What is the record of your daily life?" *Our High Calling* p. 15

"For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.' Psalm 71:5 Jesus calls to every wanderer, 'My son, give me thine heart.' Prov. 23:26....The youth cannot be happy without the love of Jesus. He is waiting with pitying tenderness to hear the confessions of the wayward, and to accept their penitence. He watches for some return of gratitude from us, as the mother watches for the smile of recognition from her beloved child. The great God teaches us to call Him Father. He would have us understand how earnestly and tenderly His heart yearns over us in all our trials and temptations...

"The young should be constantly growing in grace, and in a knowledge of the truth. The Creator of all things, with whom are all the treasures of wisdom, has promised to be the guide of their youth. He who has conquered in

their behalf all the powers of evil asks for their homage. There can be no higher knowledge than the knowledge of Him whom to know aright is life and peace; no purer, deeper affection than the love of our Saviour....

"There are temptations on every hand to ensnare the feet of the unwary. Ungodly, corrupt youth exert a strong influence to lead others into forbidden paths. These are among the most successful agents of Satan....The lovers of the world will often approach under a garb of friendship, and attempt to introduce its customs and practices. Let every true soldier stand ready to resist these allurements....

"Satan attacks us at our weak points; but we need not be overcome. The assault may be severe and protracted, but God has promised help for us, and in His strength we may conquer...The precepts and promises of God's word will arm you with divine power to resist the enemy....Satan will be baffled and defeated when he finds the heart preoccupied with the truth of God. We need also to be often found at the throne of grace. Earnest, persevering prayer, uniting our human weakness to Omnipotence, will give us the victory." *Our High Calling*, p. 14

Jesus knows that in the world it is very hard to be pure, but He promises to be a Guide to the youth. To retain our connection with God and have confidence in His strength, to enable us to overcome every besetment, we must have a living faith.

Our next subject will be about living faith. Amen.

By Nada Stefanovich,  
Australia



# "Now Faith is the Substance of Things Hoped For"

Hebrews 11:1

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "He that is Holy, He that is true, the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness." Rev. 3:7, 14. August 7<sup>th</sup> is a special day for me. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994, I died and was buried in a watery grave, my sins washed away. I had been attending the Seventh-Day Adventist Church tent meetings held on Grandriver Ave, in the city of Detroit.

After the completing of these meetings, the pastor presented to the church those who had been baptized during the meetings. He requested that the members choose one of these "babes in Christ" to be their spiritual instructor, for "no man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness." GC 610. I remember returning to my seat alone.

And it came to pass, "there was a man sent from God", who preached, among other things, that the SDA church has blasphemed the Holy Spirit for which there is no forgiveness. He also admonished us to be as the noble Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures" and the Testimonies daily, "whether those things were so." Acts 17:11. The following Sabbath was beautiful, bright and lovely outside. But inside the

church, it was cold and gloomy. Most of the members who greeted me with a "Happy Sabbath" didn't appear to be very happy. Even the elders testified of their spiritual condition, "within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Matthew 23:27.

Attempts to gain information from them about the Reform Movement were practically ignored. But when I urged a fellow member to ask about the 1888 message, he answered, "O, you mean the curse." A curse?! Then I said, "what need I" any further witness? For I myself "have heard of their own mouth." Luke 22:71. I considered that day as my last as a member of the SDA church. Several weeks later, I received a packet containing the Reformation Study Course. And on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994, I "fulfilled all righteousness" and became a member of the family of God, by joining the International Missionary Society, Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement. "God does not compel any to believe. They can choose to rely upon the evidences He has been pleased to give, or doubt, and cavil, and perish." 1T, 377.

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." "For this day is near, even the day of the

Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen." Joel 2:1; Eze. 30:3. On the front page of the Detroit News, July 7, 1998 the Pope "warned Catholics to dedicate Sundays to celebrating God" and that "a violator should be 'punished as a heretic'." There was also an article in the Detroit Free Press, July 8, 1998 which reads, "In October, 150 clergy from many denominations plan to gather for a conference on "Sabbath rest..."

"The Christian world will learn what Romanism really is, when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power... Throughout the land she is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. She is stealthily and unsuspectedly strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is soon to be given her." GC 581.

"The time of trouble such as never was, is soon to open upon us... It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. And now, while the precious Saviour is making an atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ." GC 622-623.

"Before the flood, God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction.

As the time of Christ's second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event." PP 102. "Such a messenger must be holy. He must be a temple for the indwelling Spirit of God. In order to fulfill his mission, he must have a second physical constitution, and mental and spiritual strength. Therefore it would be necessary for him to control the appetites and passions." "All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God, must learn the lessons of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher powers of the mind. This self-discipline is essential to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and to practice the sacred truths of God's word. For this reason, temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ's second coming." DA 43,44 (paperback edition).

"As the time of their probation was closing, the antediluvians gave themselves up to exciting amusements and festivities... Do we not see the same repeated in our day? While God's servants are giving the message that the end of all things is at hand, the world is absorbed in amusement and pleasure seeking. There is a constant round of excitement that causes indifference to God and prevents the people from being impressed by the truths which alone can save them from the coming destruction." PP 103. "Says the Apostle Peter, 'There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after



their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming" For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning.' 2 Pet. 3:3,4. Do we not hear these very words repeated, not merely by the openly ungodly, but by many who occupy the pulpits of our land?" PP 102. "The end will come more quickly than men expect." GC 631.

"Every position of truth taken by our people will bear the criticism of the greatest minds; the highest of the world's greatest men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Now we seem to be unnoticed, but this will not always be. Movements are at work to bring us to the front, and if our theories of truth can be picked to pieces by historians

or the world's greatest men, it will be done." Evangelism 65. "If you live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, you will not be found unprepared." Rev. & Her., April 26, 1892.

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Mark 11:22. ""And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." James 1:6. "For yet a little while, and He shall come, and will not tarry." Heb. 10:37. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Rev. 22:20, 21.

Chester Cosby, Detroit

"The prediction that Church and State would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God has been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been, the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third angel's message produces an effect which it could not have had before." GC 607.



## Testimony from a Dear Sister-ready to be baptized into the Reform message

This is a personal testimony from a dear Adventist sister outside of Calgary who awaits baptism. Sr. Kathleen has made many deep experiences in Adventism. She has worked for years with little financial support at various different "Independent Ministries" in British Columbia. Praise God that the Holy Spirit has touched her heart that she can now discern between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.

Dear Canadian-Caribbean Union Messenger:

Since you are asking for reports and articles I will attempt to write out some thoughts of my recent experience in deciding to join with this movement, as briefly and succinctly as possible. (Hymn: "I'm pressing on the upward way") Perhaps it will rejoice the hearts of the messengers of God who worked hard to convince me that this message of revival and reformation is a reality and needed at this present time.

I must say that these brothers had to wait long as I did not see at once that I must 'come out' of a fallen church myself, as well as attempt to call others out. Although my heart has been deeply pained at the discrepancies I have seen for years in the Seventh-day Adventist church, I still love her and her people; but it seems I must make a move, take a stand. Nothing I have said or done for years has made much impression, it seems. The plot to de-rail her has been too deeply laid.

So now I hope that my decision to leave and join with, I hope, a people who are "few, poor, and a terror to evil-doers" may shake up and wake up some of the dear members I was associated with. I have put my hand to the plow and cannot look back.

Satan would either have us in the ice of indifference or the fires of fanaticism so I must watch and pray much more intensely and constantly than before. I am girding up for the battles ahead that I must fight.

As I see work that has been neglected I take hold of it, but sometimes I go out from under God's control and go too far. "Help me, dear Heavenly Father, to do boldly the work I am to do, and leave what is not for me to do."

We want the work to go quickly and I think it will close like fire in the stubble. Already, I see God's Spirit preparing hearts in various and speedy ways. My younger brother seems right now to be following the track God led me through 23 years ago when I left the world behind; with smoking, alcohol, drugs, Satan's music, bad friends, etc., etc. These things are now also losing their

appeal and hold on him, and I am seeing him advance daily. My heart is almost afraid to hope for too much, but God will take over the controls (as we allow) so I do rejoice, trembling.

I will need help and counsel from persons of experience, as I seek in earnest to apply Isaiah 58: 1,6,7. I expect there will be much misunderstanding of the stand I am taking. But every one of us is free to choose how and where and when and who he shall worship. May God help me to lovingly and wisely and intelligently maintain this narrower way which is full of such joy and peace.

Already, many burdens are rolling off my shoulders and I feel as I did 23 years ago when I first met my Saviour. I have been praying that God would revive my first love experience, but I never guessed He would do it this way. I'm very glad!!

There are some differences; more experiences have come my way, and now I know that the future is not all roses without thorns as I did in my naivete and ignorance. I expect this will stir up Satan and only our Sovereign Creator and Redeemer knows what is ahead and how to deal with each trial as it comes. I have heard the saying that "the devil only lets us off easy if we let him off easy." So the battle must be pressed to the gate, day after day.

God has stirred me up now, and I hope never to settle back down until all who want to come are found and safe under Jesus' wings. I welcome communication from anyone.

Gratefully, in Christ,

Kathleen Ross

R.R. 2,

Olds, A.B. , T4H 1 P3

P.S.

And please, please dear new brothers and sisters, let's not let the standard down. My heart will break within me if this church also goes into apostasy.

P.P.S.

For years I have regretted being baptized inside, in a small baptismal. I have wished to be re-baptized in a running river. Now it looks like my wish will come true. Plans are underway to be re-baptized late August or early September.



**Baptism of Sister Kathleen Ross on September 8<sup>th</sup> in  
Olds, Alberta**



## Current Scene

### Dies Domini: the Pope is ready for a Sunday Law

Quoted from the Pope's encyclical letter, (now posted on the Internet):

1. *"The Lord's Day-as Sunday was called from Apostolic times-has always been accorded special attention in the history of the Church because of its close connection with the very core of the Christian mystery. In fact, in the weekly reckoning of time Sunday recalls the day of Christ's Resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death, the fulfillment in him of the first creation and the dawn of 'the new creation'. It is the day which recalls in grateful adoration the world's first day and looks forward in active hope to 'the last day' when Christ will come in glory and all things will be made new."*

(That was section one of a 95 page dissertation that is meant to encourage all Christendom to keep Sunday-the obvious sign of the Roman Catholic Church's power-and claim to unity and primacy in the Christian world. Once the dissertation gets to sections 64 through 67, the letter suddenly refers to the need for government legislation.)

64. *"For several centuries, Christians observed Sunday simply as a day of worship, without being able to give it the specific meaning of Sabbath rest. Only in the*

*fourth century did the civil law of the Roman Empire recognize the weekly recurrence, determining that on "the day of the sun" the judges, the people of the cities and the various trade corporations would not work. Christians rejoiced to see thus removed the obstacles which until then had sometimes made observance of the Lord's Day heroic. They could now devote themselves to prayer in common without hindrance.*

*"It would therefore be wrong to see in this legislation of the rhythm of the week a mere historical circumstance with no special significance for the Church and which she could simply set aside. Even after the fall of the Empire, the Councils did not cease to insist upon the arrangements regarding Sunday rest. In countries where Christians are in the minority and where the festive days of the calendar do not coincide with Sunday, it is still Sunday which remains the Lord's Day, the day on which the faithful come together for the Eucharistic assembly. But this involved real sacrifices. For Christians it is not normal that Sunday, the day of joyful celebration, should not also be a day of rest, and it is difficult for them to keep Sunday holy if they do not have enough time.*

65. *"By contrast, the link between the Lord's Day and the day of rest in civil society has a meaning and importance which go beyond the distinctly Christian point of view. The alternation between work and rest, built*

*into human nature, is willed by God himself, as appears in the creation story in the Book of Genesis rest is something "sacred" because it is man's way of withdrawing from the sometimes excessively demanding cycle of earthly tasks in order to renew his awareness that everything is the work of God. There is a risk that the prodigious power over creation which God gives to man can lead him to forget that God is the Creator upon whom everything depends. It is all the more urgent to recognize this dependence in our own time, when science and technology have so incredibly increased the power which man exercises through his work*

*"Finally, it should not be forgotten that even in our own day work is very oppressive for many people, either because of miserable working conditions and long hours-especially in the poorer regions of the world-or because of the persistence in economically more developed societies of too many cases of injustice and exploitation of man by man. When, through the centuries, she has made laws concerning Sunday rest, the Church has had in mind above all the work of servants and workers, certainly not because this work was any less worthy when compared to the spiritual requirements of Sunday observance, but rather because it needed greater regulation to lighten its burden and thus enable everyone to keep the Lord's Day holy. In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical Rerum Novarum spoke*

*of Sunday rest as a worker's right which the State must guarantee."*

We note the reference to every Sunday being Easter, another pagan holiday which the Papal power has "Christianized" from the pagan world. If every Sunday is Easter, and thus many Christians and Adventists are participating together in Easter Sunrise services-to where are they headed? Can we not say quite openly now that it is all heading back to the Roman Catholic Church?

Inspiration has told us that God's people in the time of the end will be an unknown people to the Protestants and the Catholics-this tiny group of people who will fear only sin and the deceptions of fallen human nature-proclaiming the inroads of the Papacy and the fearful results of compromising the law of God in order to win approval politically. Are you ready to give the Loud Cry? Because this Pope must have everything in place behind the scenes to go forward religiously and politically with the Sunday Law in the United States. And we know that soon after that the Universal Sunday law will pass around the world. May the Lord help us to give the trumpet a certain sound and uplift the word of God in its pure form-because in so doing we will cause the final shaking.

## **Falwell to keep Speaking at Moon Events**

From *The Christian News*, June 8, 1998 "Jerry Falwell's Liberty University recently disclosed that insurance tycoon A.L. Williams is the unnamed benefactor who provided \$15 million to settle Liberty debts. The announcement came in part to counter rumors that self-proclaimed messiah Sun Myung Moon had been the anonymous

benefactor. Liberty has received financial support from Moon-related enterprises, and Falwell says he addressed several events where Moon has been in attendance, including a Uruguay meeting in 1995. He said: 'I preach for the Moonies, the Mormons, the Catholics, the Jews, the Buddhists and I'll preach in hell if they promise to let me out.' He says he does not compromise truth, and added: 'I go a lot of places other preachers won't go as long as I don't have to restrict my message.' This sounds like Billy Graham as he embarked on the apostasy path. [Beverly LaHaye, Robert Schuller, Gary Bauer, and Ralph Reed spoke at a 1996 Moon-sponsored Family Federation for World Peace event.] The Bible says, Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness and sin not, for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." 1 Cor. 15:33, 34."Don't bring the hire of a whore into the house of God." Deut. 23:18 Sun Myung Moon, with his dubious, cultic forms of missionary endeavor and fund-raising, has got lots of money with which to influence those for whom truth is no longer essential. Perhaps you have even been approached by a representative of Moon, as I have, to get you to attend one of their "unification events." At these all-expense-paid events you get to dialogue with other Christian leaders all about unity. Of course, one better not discuss the Sabbath or related truths, especially prophecy fulfilled in the current movements of the Papacy or else there would be cries of "disunity and divisiveness." It is only the truth that unifies, something which every "unity" type church seems to ignore in favor of political power. "We are to unify, but not

on a platform of error." MR 15, p.259

## **The Power of Prayer**

*The Toronto Star*, April 5, 1998

"We have vastly underrated the role of spirituality in human health. We've sold out to materialism and underestimated the majesty of the human spirit and its role in the way the physical world behaves..."

"Nonetheless, new findings from the National Institute for Health Care Research in the United States show that doctors are less likely to be believers than their patients and are unlikely to pray with them, even if asked.

"Yet a 1994 study in the *Journal of Family Practice* found that 77 percent of patients interviewed said doctors should consider their spiritual needs.

[This Doctor] "cites a Gallup poll that reports that 5 percent of Americans admit to praying for harm to come to others...." The article "points to Christian extremists who bomb abortion clinics and to conservative God-fearing Christians who endorse the death penalty."

Is our judgment-bound world just about to the place of no return? To where we should no longer pray for it? 1 John 5:16 Perhaps we should only pray for the ones that will respond to the power of the word of God, because spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

Many are trying to use the power of prayer, without loving the God of all power, through Whom alone we can have true power, pardon or peace. Only God's people who will uplift the power of love, rather than the love of power (even if that power is undeniable) will be able to receive the Latter Rain and give the Loud Cry. May the Lord bless you and I with the insight and care to pray to Him for the power to live a godly life and be ready for Christ's Second Coming.

By Jerry Eaton

## BUY NOW, PAY LATER



One hot summer day, George was heading to the beach. He expected it to be crowded but the sight that met his eyes was ridiculous. There were colourful beach blankets spread all over the sand like a huge quilt. You could barely see any sand at all. The roped-in swimming area was live with wet heads, waving arms, splashing water, shouts and laughter.

George dropped his towel upon the grass and threaded his way through the blankets. He had only walked three blocks from his home and already sweat was sliding down his face, stinging his eyes. Most of the kids he knew were already in the water. He was looking for his best friend, Jim. After awhile he spotted Jim diving near the orange rope. There was no sense trying to yell to him with all that racket, so George waded in, staying clear of splash fights.

Jim was so busy diving that he wasn't paying attention to anything else. George decided to give him a surprise greeting. He crouched low until his chin was touching the water and crept closer. Then he jumped up, grabbed Jim's shoulders, and pulled him under the water. Smiling, he was away through a crowd of girls before Jim could get him back.

But Jim had just been taking a deep breath for another dive when George dunked him. He came up coughing and choking so hard that George was afraid he might be in trouble. When Jim finally cleared himself of the water he had swallowed, he whirled around in anger.

"Oh, no! Now he's really going to be mad," thought George, and he swam underwater towards the shore. He kept his eyes open to make sure he didn't bump into any legs. For about a minute he hid behind some smaller boys who were seeing how high out of the water they could jump. Then he got up and walked toward Jim.

"Hi, Jim. Sorry I'm late," he called.

"Who pulled me under?" demanded Jim.

"When? Come on, I just got here."

"Are you sure you didn't dunk me, George?"

"I don't know anything about it," answered George.

Jim could not wear his glasses in the water, so he had a hard time seeing who else was around. He squinted until he picked up the blurred form of someone he knew. "I know who it was. I am sure it was Paul Armstrong."

"Why don't you just forget it," said George, trying to lead him back to the orange rope. "What were you diving for?"

Jim brushed him away. "You're real tough, Armstrong!" he sneered. "Run away and hide after you dunk me. Sissy!" George wished he could keep Jim quiet. Paul was another good friend. This thing had already gone too far and looked like it would get worse. But George didn't want Jim mad at *him*, and it was getting too late for an easy explanation anyway.

"What are you crying about now?" shouted Paul. The more Jim accused him, the angrier Paul became. It took a stern warning from the lifeguard before

the two backed away from each other. George followed Jim back to the beach. Jim stomped over to his towel and shook the sand out with an extra snap.

"Maybe he really didn't do it," insisted George. "Can't you let it go, just once?" But Jim didn't say anything more on the way home.

After that, Paul and Jim avoided each other as they would a skunk. Paul was furious at being called names when he hadn't done anything and Jim refused to believe Paul. George was the most miserable. He missed being able to ride bikes with the two of them. One wouldn't come over to the park to throw the football around if the other was there. And even though the hot weather lasted through the week, neither of George's friends would go down to the beach. George felt like a criminal when he was around either of them. He knew it was all his fault. He wished they would just forget the whole thing, but there didn't seem to be much chance of that. There were a few times when he came within a word or two of confessing to Jim. But he always backed off when he remembered the names Jim and Paul had called each other and thought of how *both* his friends would be mad at him.

George sat in his bedroom for quite some time trying to figure it all out. "I can't believe it," he thought. "All I wanted was to have a little fun. That lie was supposed to fix up the trouble, not make it worse."

Later he went out into the kitchen where he saw his mother and father both kneeling on the tile floor by the sink. Dad had his head

poked under the sink and Mom held a rusty wrench and a rag.

"I've got to do something about this problem of mine," George said. "It would sure help if you could talk me into it."

Dad's head reappeared and he sat on the floor looking at George. "That shouldn't be too hard to do as long as you want to be talked into it."

George then told his parents the whole story. "We've got to figure out how you got into this mess," said Mom.

"I've been thinking it was just bad luck," said George. "That little lie came out so fast I didn't even think about it."

"Isn't that true for most bad habits?" asked Dad. "You do things you don't mean to without thinking about them."

"Do you think my lying has become a bad habit?" asked George. "I admit I tell some small white lies now and then, but it's usually something very small. Most of the time no one knows about the lie and it doesn't hurt anyone."

"Even harmless lies can start forming the habit," said Mom. "When you start thinking that lying is sometimes a good choice, it makes it easier to do."

"Do you mean we should always tell the truth even if it hurts someone's feelings?" asked George. "Like when they ask you if you like something they did and you really don't?"

"Hmmm," said Dad. "That's different. I'm not sure how to explain it though."

"We don't want to be cruel. Did you lie to Jim to protect his feelings?" asked Mother.

"No," answered George. "It just seemed the easiest way out of a bad situation."

"It certainly seemed like it at the time, didn't it?" said Dad. "I think I know the feeling. Your

mom used to ask me to fix something around the house, and I usually said I would. Then I forgot about it. If she asked me about it later and I was feeling guilty about not having fixed it, I would even tell her I had already done it. I guess it seemed like the easiest way to get out of a situation I didn't like. But the few minutes of rest I gained by lying weren't worth the price."

"The price of lying often ends up being steeper than it seems at first," agreed Mom. "The trust of someone you care about is an awful lot to give up. It takes so long to build up trust. Yet we seem to willingly risk it when we lie, just to buy time."

"Sort of like a 'buy now, pay later' deal," said George. "Only it's something we can't afford."

"Right," said Dad. "We can't afford to give up a happy marriage or a close friendship. You know, Mom and I were able to build up something good out of that old sore spot about repairs. Now we usually fix things together. That way we help each other get it done and don't make excuses."

George peeked under the sink to examine their work on the leaky pipe. "Very professional job," he smiled.

"That's the only type of untruth I'll accept," laughed Dad.

George straightened up to leave as his parents clanged their tools back in the toolbox. "It is pretty easy to lie," he said, "but I'm not sure I can afford it. Guess I better take care of the bills I already owe."

George finally got his friends together by the old lifeguard tower. The white paint was peeling off the tower in ragged scrolls where they leaned against it. Jim and Paul were uncomfortable and mostly watched

their own feet as they dug their toes into the sand.

"I know you're both going to think I'm a creep," said George, "but I was the one that dunked you, Jim."

Paul and Jim stared at George in disbelief.

It was George's turn to stare at his toes. "When I saw how mad you were, Jim, I thought I could get out of it. I really didn't feel like getting into an argument. Then when you suspected Paul, well, I didn't know how to patch things up."

"You really made me look like a fool," said Jim, as George slowly backed away. "Paul, from now on I wouldn't trust George if he signed a confession in blood."

"I'm sorry," said George. "Please give me another chance."

"I'll tell you what he really needs, Jim," said Paul, "A good dunking!!"

"Good idea," said Jim. "Here I was making such a big deal out of nothing."

As George's friends dragged him towards the water George put up enough of a struggle to make it a challenge for them. "One splash in the water," he thought. "All things considered, that price would be a bargain."

***"Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." Ephesians 4:25.***

We can't afford to lie – to give up one of the best tools that the Lord has given to us for getting along with others – trust. It is very important to understand how valuable trust is.

# Health Update



## Fluoridation in the News

Recent studies have shown that dental fluorosis may be associated with bone changes and low IQ. The finding by Chinese researchers that fluoride intake is associated with low IQ has been confirmed in the United States where animal studies showed neurological damage. Studies show a positive relationship between living in a fluoridated community and Down's Syndrome (Mongolism), cancer (especially a rare bone cancer) and increased fractures of the hip.

There is evidence of decreased birthrates in fluoridated areas. Animal studies prove that fluoride lowers sperm count. These adverse effects are supposed to be avoided by the establishment of tolerable upper intake levels. The FNB/NIH study states these are "set to protect the most sensitive individuals in the healthy general population."

This is nonsense! The upper intake level for infants is almost double the daily amount known to cause skeletal fluorosis. The upper intake levels for ages nine to 70 and over is sufficient to cause crippling skeletal fluorosis in 10 to 20 years!

Fluoridation of 75 per cent of the US population by the year 2000 is American government policy and Canada is traveling the same road. Mandatory fluoridation bills have been passed by a number of states and Canadian provinces.

Most bureaucrats and academics, both in the United States and Canada, have based their careers (and funding) on this thrust to fluoride. The general public, including professionals, have been propagandized for more than 50 years about the benefits and safety of fluoridation and do not have the resources to investigate the claims. Fluoridation provides a way in which industry, especially phosphate fertilizer manufacturers, can take a waste product (hydrofluosilicic acid) from the smoke stack scrubbers and dump it directly into community reservoirs, thereby circumventing the expensive process of hazardous waste disposal. At the same time, they are turning a profit. By Richard Foulkes, MD

## Europe Approves-But Resists

In response to pressure from the US government and multinational companies, the European Commission has approved genetically engineered crops such as transgenic corn and soy from the United States for import into Europe. However, imports to Europe have been effectively on hold because several individual countries, including Luxembourg and Austria, have banned these products.

Since Canada has not segregated its genetically modified canola from unmodified versions, Canadian canola has not been allowed into Europe either. Canadian export of canola to Europe, which was \$180 million in 1996, is nothing for this year.

## Bt Toxin kills Beneficial Insects

Researchers at the Swiss federal research station Zuerich-Reckenholz were alarmed to find that *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) toxin from transgenic plants "jumped over" a food chain to kill useful insects. Transgenic corn containing the Bt toxin gene not only killed European cornborers (insect pests), but also killed the larvae of green lacewings, beneficial insects that feed on the cornborers.

Another insect pest, the African cottonworm, survived after being fed the Bt corn. However, beneficial green lacewings that fed on the cottonworms died. Bt corn and potatoes, which are already on the market in Canada, are genetically engineered to contain the Bt. Toxin throughout the plant in order to deter insect pests.

## Ladybugs Threatened

Recent studies at the Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI) found that potatoes genetically modified to deter aphids also damaged beneficial insects. The transgenic potatoes used snowdrop lectin (a plant protein) as the pest-resistant gene to suppress the aphids' feeding, growth and reproduction. The aphids that ate the biotech potatoes were then fed to ladybugs, which naturally feed on the aphids. Consequently, the number of fertilized ladybug eggs



that failed to hatch was almost three times higher. Female ladybugs that fed on these aphids also only lived half as long as normal.

## **Misleading Beans**

Albert Heijn, the biggest Dutch retail grocery chain, was found guilty of misleading advertising in promoting that biotech soybeans have the same quality as standardized soybeans. Following complaints filed by the Dutch Natural Law Party, the Advertisement Code Commission in the Netherlands decided that Albert Heijn was guilty of false advertising and asked the company to stop making the misleading claims. Albert Heijn is part of the multinational retail chain of Ahold, which subsequently filed an appeal. The Appeal Commission recently came to its decision and again found Albert Heijn guilty of false advertising.

## **Farmyard Freaks**

By manipulating a gene related to muscularity, scientists recently produced a genetically engineered Belgian Blue bull with 20 per cent more beef than normal and weighing three-quarters of a tonne. Such animals engineered for increased muscle/meat content typically do not have the bones to support their own flesh. Hulking Belgian Blues can scarcely walk. Other genetically engineered animals include fast-growing pigs with painful joints because their legs are tiny compared to the rest of the body; fast-growing chickens that suffer from heart disease and whose bones are so feeble they break on contact; and turkeys that are so fleshy that they cannot physically mate, and require artificial insemination.

## **Biotech Cotton Failure**

In Mississippi, farmers could lose millions of dollars due to the failure of biotech herbicide-resistant cotton. Over an area of several thousand hectares, cotton plants have shed their cotton bolls, or produced small malformed bolls. Cotton plants from non-altered varieties were not affected. Legal proceedings by the farmers against the manufacturer are in progress.

## **Co-Op Begins Biotech Labeling**

Shutoken is a large consumer's cooperative union in Japan. It includes 14 co-operatives in the Tokyo area that are now labeling foods as free of genetically engineered ingredients. So far, this system covers 17 major items, including Japanese mainstays like miso, tofu and shoyu. Plans are already under way to greatly expand the number of foods carrying the special biotech label.

## **Scientists Urge Ban on Biotech Soybeans**

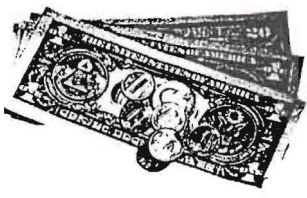
In a press release last October, scientists urged world governments to "use whatever methods available" to ban Monsanto's genetically engineered "Roundup Ready" soybeans from their markets.

The plea came from members of the Working Group on Biosafety of the UN-Convention on Biological diversity. The scientists were calling attention to evidence that the herbicide Roundup (glyphosate), when sprayed on legumes such as beans, has been shown to increase the plants' normal levels of estrogenic hormones, posing a potential danger to humans.

"Young children are especially susceptible to elevated levels of estrogens," the scientists warn.

The finding of increased estrogen content in genetically altered soybeans is particularly alarming because elevated estrogen levels in the body have been linked to dysfunction in reproductive, endocrine and developmental processes. For example, exposure of males early in life to estrogens or estrogen-mimicking chemicals (xenoestrogens) may produce stunted sexual development. In both males and females, increased estrogen has been implicated in cancer. Reduced sperm count has also been linked to estrogenic compounds.

"Thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed." Leviticus 19:19 Because of man's manipulation what kind of biotech horrors await us? What kind of results will there be long-term from some of these things? No one knows, but from the advance billing-it can't be too good. Every time mankind has arrogantly assumed that he can control nature, rather than trying to understand God's laws in nature, and cooperate with them, he has made grievous and costly mistakes. May God keep His people from the pestilence that stalks at noonday, that none of these plagues may come nigh our dwelling. Please read Psalm 91.



# TITHES

Ellen G. White

Every man should freely and willingly and gladly bring tithes and offerings into the storehouse of the Lord, because in so doing there is a blessing. CS 67.

Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systemic benevolence to enrich Himself, but to be a great blessing to man. Test. Vol. 3, 405. It has ever proved that nine tenths are worth more than ten tenths. Test. Vol. 3, 546.

To have your name on the church book does not make you a Christian. You are to bring your gifts to the altar of sacrifice, cooperating with God to the utmost of your ability, that through you He may reveal the beauty of His truth. Withhold nothing from the Saviour. RH, Dec. 10, 1901.

To defraud God is the greatest crime of which man can be guilty; and yet this sin is deep and widespread. RH, Oct. 13, 1896.

Men whom God has made stewards are so infatuated by the riches of this world that they do not discern that by their selfishness and covetousness they are not only robbing the Lord in tithes and offerings, but robbing themselves of eternal riches. Test. Vol 2, 653.

They have thought it gain to rob God by retaining all, or a selfish proportion, of His gifts as their own. But they meet with a loss instead of gain. Their course results in the withdrawal of mercies and blessings. By their selfish, avaricious spirit, men have lost much. RH, Dec. 8, 1896.

I saw that some have excused themselves from aiding the cause of God because they were in debt. Had they closely examined their hearts, they would have discovered that selfishness was the true reason why they brought no freewill offerings to God. Test. Vol. 1, 225.

Whoever appropriates to his own use the portion that God has reserved, is proving himself an unfaithful steward. He will lose not only that he

has withheld from God, but also that which was committed to his as his own. RH, Feb. 4, 1902.

When God's bounties, so richly and abundantly given, are withheld from Him, and selfishly bestowed upon ourselves, God's curse, in the place of His blessing, will surely be experienced. MYP 306.

They withheld the Lord's money and hindered the work which He designed to have done. God was not honoured by the use made of His entrusted goods. Therefore He let the curse fall upon them, permitting the spoiler to destroy their fruits and to bring calamities upon them. Test. Vol. 6, 390.

To rob God in tithes and offerings is a violation of the plain injunction of Jehovah and works the deepest injury to those who do it; for it deprives them of the blessing of God, which is promised to those who deal honestly with Him. Test. Vol. 5, 644.

God blesses the work of men's hands, that they may return to Him His portion. He gives them sunshine and the rain; He causes vegetation to flourish; He gives health and ability to acquire means. Every blessing comes from His bountiful hand, and he desires men and women to show their gratitude by returning Him a portion in tithes and offerings—in thank offerings, in freewill offerings, in trespass offerings. PK 707-708.

God's plan in the tithing system is beautiful in its simplicity and equality. All may take hold of it in faith and courage, for it is divine in its origin. GW 223.

Brethren and sisters, if the Lord has blessed you with means, do not look upon it as your own. Regard it as your trust for God, and be true and honest in paying tithes and offerings. RH, Dec. 17, 1889.

AMEN



This youth seminar and conference held in Barinas, Venezuela yielded sweet peace. The place, a pasture beside a river was complete with cows. The sister who gave us use of her place has been a member for about two years. One hundred youth and youth leaders had only a large tent. Other temporary shelters were made with materials at hand. The subjects studied included; Church history, Music, Homiletics and Prophecy. Through our studies and youth leaders seminar, difficult questions were asked and through the working of the Holy Spirit and the study of the Word, some encouraging answers were uncovered. The participants praised the Lord for His revelations. All were humbled as we realized that God yet lives and speaks to His humble children.

Larry watts

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## *He Died for Me*

*Three crosses stood grimly, side by side,  
On the hill of Calvary;  
On each a suffering man had died,--  
Two for crimes, the other for me.*

*Like a lamb, they led Him out to die  
From shades of Gethsemane:  
He uttered no moan, no bitter cry;  
'Twas love that moved Him to die for me.*

*On the central cross they nailed my Friend,  
To languish in agony;  
He bore it all to the bitter end--  
O wonderful love, He died for me.*

*"If Thou art the Christ," they, taunting, said,  
"Come down from the cursed tree."  
He heeded no jeering word they said,  
But bowing His head, He died for me.*

*Like a wandering sheep, I had gone astray,  
But all my iniquity  
My God laid on Him that awful day,  
When, bearing my sins, He died for me.*

*Oh, thanks for the love that brought Him down!  
Love fathomless like the sea.  
His brow was pierced by a thorny crown,  
That a crown of life might be given me.*

*My brother, behold Him crucified  
On the cross of Calvary;  
Thy ransom see in that crimson tide;  
Oh, freely it flowed for you and me.*

