

*The Reformation* 

# Messenger

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## TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

**“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”**

**Jeremiah 30:7.**

Jacob’s night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau represents the experience of God’s people in the time of trouble.

Jacob had deceived his father in order to get the firstborn blessing, and for fear of his life he had fled from his home. After 20 years in exile, he set out to return home at God’s command.

Although he had repented and confessed his sin many times, yet his brother had not forgiven nor forgotten it. On reaching the borders of the land he was filled with terror at the tidings that his brother was on the way with 400 warriors, seemingly with the intention of revenge.

Jacob’s company was unarmed and defenseless, therefore his only hope was in the mercy of God. He did all that was humanly possible to atone for the wrong to his brother. He bowed down to the ground seven times before his brother. He called Esau his lord and gave gifts to him of his herd. Yet all this was not enough for peace with his brother. He needed the Lord’s blessing and protection; therefore he separated himself from the company to be alone in prayer through the night. In the darkness he continued to pray and to humble himself before God. Suddenly a hand is laid upon his shoulder, and thinking that an enemy is seeking his life, he begins to wrestle with all his energy with his assailant.

As the day begins to break, his opponent touches his thigh to put it out of joint. Now Jacob realizes that he has not been wrestling with a mere human but with an Angel of Covenant.

Though disabled and suffering keenest pain he does not turn from his purpose but holds on to this divine resistant and begs for a blessing. His words “I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me,” showed his confidence and perseverance. “He had power over the Angel and prevailed.” Hosea 12:4. Now he was not afraid anymore to meet his brother for the Lord was with him.

Satan kept reminding Jacob of his sin and accused him before the angels of God. Satan influenced Esau to go against Jacob to destroy him.

In the last days Satan will accuse the little company who keep the commandments of God in a similar way. He reminds them of their sins and stirs up the wicked to destroy them.

“As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness will be severely tested. As they review their past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless; that the stain of defilement can never be washed away.” G.C. pg. 618-619.

At the same time the wicked are making plans to put them to death. They are accused of bringing the plagues upon the people. “These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the

earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble." Maranatha pg. 272.

The anguish of God's people is not the dread of imprisonment or death but, similar to Jacob, it is their past sins.

"Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise: 'I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.' Rev. 3:10" G.C. pg. 619

Jacob confessed his unworthiness: "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which thou hast showed unto thy servant." Genesis 32:10. Yet he took hold of the promises of God and said: "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." In his trial he expressed similar faith as did Job, "though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job. 13:15. With such faith we can also endure the time of trouble before us.

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger, --a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. Those who now exercise but little faith are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel conscience. And even if they endure the test, they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have not made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected, they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement." The Youth's Instructor 07, 12, 1904

This time of trouble has a purpose. It is not meant for the wicked but for God's people.

"With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress and have heard their prayers. They are waiting for the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must wait yet a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism. The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work, they are led to exercise faith, hope and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. Yet for the elect's sake the time of trouble will be shortened." G. C. pg. 631.

We cannot escape the time of Jacob's trouble. God in His wisdom and love towards us has designed and planned it for our benefit. Yet we must not wait for the time of trouble to come and then begin to prepare for it. It would be too late. Today is the time to make necessary preparations. Today we must confess sin and change our character to the divine similitude.

May God have mercy upon us that none of us will fail when the time of trouble comes upon us.

AMEN

Timo Martin



# THOSE EXTRAS

Those extras! What do I mean about those extras? Well, when we think of extra, we think of it as something in addition to what we normally have. For example: if we normally have one piece of apple pie for dessert on Sundays and one week mother feels very happy and she decides to give everyone an extra piece, that extra piece often makes a person feel very thankful. It is not something that we normally receive. Or perhaps, as a child, you did your chores very well one week and your parents were so pleased that they gave you an extra dollar for your allowance. In the first example the extra was given not through any merit of the receiver but just because the giver felt blessed. In the second case, the extra is given as a reward for good behaviour.

Does Jesus give us extras? Yes, He does. He has promised us extra blessings. Does he only give the extra blessings as a reward for good behaviour? If we answer "yes", then are we saying we are legalists? Do we say that we are working for our salvation – we are rewarded for our good deeds? This is a difficult question that is plaguing the Christian world today. They are sick with misunderstanding on this issue and don't even realize it. To really study this question you need to understand the Christ our Righteousness message to its fullest. In the days of Sr. White, she says that not one in 1,000 understood this message amongst Adventists. How is it with us today?

A few years ago we studied the Christ our Righteousness message thoroughly through the *Messenger* so it is not my intent to study that in this article. What I intend to study about is the extras. Yes, Jesus gives them to us, but not simply as a reward for good behavior.

## EXTRA MONEY

One extra that Jesus gives is money. He gives us extra money because His church needs it. He gives it to those He sees will be faithful in distributing it to help His cause.

Sometimes people are faithful with the extra money and sometimes they are not. People are often given that extra as a test to see what they will do with it.

There was a lady in Sr. White's day that lamented the fact that she was poor and could not give very much money to the church. How she wished she could give more. She complained about it so much that Sr. White received a message for her from the Lord telling her that God had tested her in poverty and now He will test her with means. Did she prove faithful? No, she bought a house and had so many expenses that she kept putting off giving to the Lord. She gave a greater percentage of her income when she was poor than when she was rich. She could not handle correctly those extras.

Often I have heard people say, "I have paid my tithes and given a few dollars for offering, the rest is mine to spend as I please. God has no claims on the rest of my money." In the time of Ancient Israel they were required to give 25 percent of their income as tithes and offerings. If only 10 percent was tithed that meant 15 percent was offerings. "The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity. On condition of their obedience God made them this promise: 'I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field. . . And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.' Malachi 3:11." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 527

We see many faithful Israelites who were quite wealthy. There was Jesse, the father of King David, the family of the prophet Elisha, and many others. The payment of the 25 percent did not reduce them to poverty at all.

Should we be as faithful as they were and aim to give 25 percent, we may not have as much extra as we think we have. God requires 10 percent; the rest is a test for you.

You may not at once feel the curse of God if you are not faithful in your tithes and offerings, but it will be a sad day to find out that you have robbed God when you face your life record on the judgment day. So, no, it is not enough to only pay your tithes and a small offering and then spend the extras as you please.

While it is important to make sure you also faithfully pay your bills and purchase necessities, what will you do with that extra money you have AFTER all your bills and necessities are paid for? You will not be judged so much concerning what you gave and, how much you gave, as to how you spent what you had extra. If you are faithful with the extra – thinking of God's cause before some luxury for yourself, God will give you more extras. If you are not faithful with the small extra money, He can't trust you with more.

Does that mean that every extra dollar we have we are to put into the treasury of the Lord? No, that would also be a little extreme. We are to have our eyes open to the opportunities the Lord gives us to bless others with some of our extra means. A brother in our church tells of an experience he made picking up a hitchhiker. He felt the Lord impress him to pick this particular man up and after a lengthy conversation he was impressed to give this man, a total stranger, some money to help him get to his destination, which was Alaska. There are many unworthy poor, who are just too lazy to work, but the Lord has worthy poor and He will direct us in helping them.

A sister in our church also tells of one of her relatives who gave large contributions to her church and was very proud about her contributions. She let many people know. Meanwhile this person had relatives who needed financial assistance, but were ignored

by this relative. This is also an extreme position. The Lord puts the poor amongst us to test the wealthy.

Satan can also bless people with extra money and it has proven a curse to the receiver. How do we know if we are receiving the extra from the Lord? If we are truly committed to the Lord and love His cause more than anything else on this earth, our first thoughts will be about Him and how we can be a blessing for His church, then we know God is giving the blessing to us. Remember you will have to answer to the Lord how you have spent every dollar.

### EXTRA TIME

Extra money is one thing people will be called into account for, but there is also the idea of extra time. What about the extra time on your hands? In this day and age, with all these modern appliances, we have much more time on our hands. People can get into the wrong way of thinking with their time also. "I went to church this week and the rest of the week is mine to do as I please." Or "I had my 30 minutes of time with God this morning, the rest of the day is mine." And even getting to missionary work, "I did my canvassing for an hour today, the rest of the day is mine." Does this mean that we are to do missionary work for 24 hours a day, seven days a week? No of course not, but again we will be judged, not so much by what we did during our busy times, but what we did in our leisure times. Our leisure times should be used for recreation in its true sense – to recreate.

"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time. . . . A few moments here and a few moments there, that might be frittered away in aimless talk; the morning hours so often wasted in bed; the time spent in travelling on trams or railway cars, or waiting at the station; the moments of waiting for meals, waiting for those who are tardy in keeping an appointment – if a book were kept at hand, and these fragments of time were improved in study, reading, or careful thought, what might not be

accomplished." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 342, 344

"We must not be inactive or slothful in this work, for we have not a moment to spend without a purpose or object." *Test. Vol. 3*, p. 540.

Jesus is our perfect example. He lived not to please Himself. His life was a life of earnest activity. If we love the Lord we will follow His example, because we love Him and desire to be like Him. Eternal life is not determined by some time clock, where we have to punch in our time that we serve the Lord and then expect a pay cheque – eternal life – at the end of our working life.

Jesus must be living within us. He must be a very real part of our lives. If He is, we will love to work for Him; we will love to talk of Him. We will never get to the point where we are "burned out" with spirituality and must seek for a diversion. We will not want to "punch out" of His service. We can take Jesus with us when we walk through the woods, when we are shopping or at work and we must especially remember Him when it comes to our leisure hours.

Solomon had everything he ever wanted in life. He had plenty of extra money and extra time. Often with extra money comes the ability to purchase more for oneself making extra time available. What did Solomon think of all this at the end of his life? Was he satisfied that he had made it in life? "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit." *Ecclesiastes 2:17*.

In this life, there is no such thing as "this part is God's and this part is mine." Jesus owns everything. He has blessed us with what we have and sometimes gives us extras to see if we will indulge our selves or will think of His cause or the needs of others first and foremost. We are either all for God, or all against God. "There is no room in the church of God for the selfish and ease-loving," *Test. Vol., 5*, p. 370. "Satan lies in ambush, ready to destroy those whose leisure gives him opportunity to approach them under some attractive disguise. He is never more successful than when he comes to men in their idle hours." *Messages to Young People*, p. 215.

Are we expected to give only when we have extras? No! Remember the widow with her two mites. They were not extra but she gave them by faith. This work we leave to the impressions of the Holy Spirit on our hearts and minds. We cannot make rules for others here. We all have to follow the Lord for ourselves.

What we give of our extra time and means is between God and us. As He reveals His will to us it is our duty to listen and obey. It is a fearful thing to ignore the voice of God and keep those extras that He is asking for, to use for our own selfish use.

If we think only of our selves we will eventually start to doubt our relationship with God. It is then that we must go back and find the problem. "There are many who complain of their doubts, who lament that they have no assurance of their connection with God. This is often attributable to the fact that they are doing nothing in God's cause. Let them seek earnestly to help and bless others, and their doubts and despondency will disappear." *Test. Vol. 5*, p. 395.

Living for self is keeping the extras to ourselves. This leads only to spiritual sluggishness. "My brethren and sisters do you desire to break the spell that holds you? Would you arouse from this sluggishness that resembles the torpor of death? Go to work, whether you feel like it or now. Engage in personal effort to bring souls to Jesus and the knowledge of the truth. In such labour you will find both a stimulus and a tonic; it will both arouse and strengthen. By exercise your spiritual powers will become more vigorous, so that you can with better success work out your own salvation." *Test. Vol. 5*, p. 387.

We do not have much time left before Jesus comes and yet there is a great work left to do. Many souls have not heard the last saving message for today. If we would all consecrate our time and energy fully to the cause of God, what a great work can be done.

**"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."**

**Romans 13:11**

Wendy Eaton.



# THE WORD OF GOD

We can find the Word of God only in a book called the Bible. The Bible is a book that, as we read, God speaks directly to us. In spite of the French Revolution, when they tried to destroy the Bible completely, today it is translated into many different languages and dialects, so that everyone can have a Bible to read today. We give thanks to God for the Bible we have today so that everyone can understand that God loves the world and sent "His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"The Bible is second to no other book; it is without a rival. A knowledge and acceptance of its teachings will impart vigor and health of mind. A comprehension of its teachings requires the student to grasp the knowledge of God's infinite will. The Word of God teaches men and women how to become the sons and daughters of God. No other book, no other study, can equal this; the principles it instills, like the power and nature of its Author, are omnipotent. It is capable of imparting the highest education to which the mortal mind can attain...

"Why should not this book--this precious treasure--be exalted and esteemed as a valued friend? This is our chart across the stormy sea of life. It is our guidebook, showing us the way to the eternal mansions, and the character we must have to inhabit them. There is no book, the perusal of which will so elevate and strengthen the mind as the study of the Bible. Here the intellect will find themes of the most elevated character to call out its powers. There is nothing that will so endow with vigor all our faculties as bringing them in contact with the stupendous truths of revelation. The effort to grasp and measure these great thoughts expands the mind. We may dig down deep into the mine of truth, and gather precious treasures with which to enrich the soul. Here we may learn the true way to live, the safe way to die." *Our High Calling*, p. 31.

We see here that the Word of God is a source of courage in our lives. We need God's Word to give us direction in our lives, to reveal to us the way to go. "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16. These directions mean everything to us for they form the standard to which every son and daughter of Adam must conform. We are required to make the will of God paramount in our lives and to have the faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

"Take the Word of God, and kneeling before God, ask, What has God spoken to me from His Word? **Wait before the Lord to learn the way in which you are to go.** . . . You may learn of the heavenly Teacher, His meekness and lowliness of heart. In His strength be steadfast, and stand in opposition to all that is displeasing to God, and encourage all that is right, and pure, and true. Live a life that Jesus, your heavenly Father, and the angelic host can look upon with favor. . ." *Our High Calling*, p. 206.

If you study the Word of God with a sincere desire to get help, the Lord will fill your souls with light. The Bible is the book to study. "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39.

"The Book of books has the highest claim to our reverent attention. We must not be satisfied with superficial knowledge, but must seek to learn the full meaning of the words of truth, and to drink deep of the spirit of the Holy Oracles. To read a certain number of chapters daily, or commit to memory a stipulated amount without careful thought as to the meaning of the sacred text, is a work of little profit. . . . Some portions of Scriptures are, indeed, too plain to be misunderstood; but there are others whose meaning does not lie upon the surface, to be seen at a glance. Scripture must be compared with Scripture; there must be careful research and patient reflection. And such study will be richly

repaid. As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the Word of God as for hid treasure, find truths of greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker." *Our High Calling*, p. 205.

**Also we have to know that the Bible is its own interpreter.** With beautiful simplicity, one portion connects itself with the truth of another portion, until the whole Bible is blended in one harmonious whole. Light flashes forth from one text to illuminate some portion of the Word that has seemed more obscure. The Word is the treasure house of truth. We have to look for the truth as for hidden treasures. "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." Proverbs 23:23. The truth is precious, it has wrought important changes upon the life and character, exerting a masterly influence over words, deportment, thoughts and experience. "Truth refines the taste and sanctifies the judgment. It elevates and ennobles, and is silently and constantly doing its leavening work till the whole being is cleansed and made a vessel unto honour, under the operation of the Holy Spirit, to make the receiver of truth fit for the society of pure and sinless angels. . . ." *Our High Calling*, p. 34.

Jesus prayed for His disciples: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17. It is through the truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we are to be sanctified – transformed into the likeness of Christ. And in order for this change to be wrought in us, there must be an unconditional, wholehearted acceptance of the truth, an unreserved surrender of the soul to its transforming power.

But, "What is sanctification? It is to give one's self wholly and without reserve – soul, body, and spirit – to God; to deal justly; to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God; to know and to do the will of God without regard to self or self-interest; to be heavenly-minded, pure, unselfish, holy, and without spot or stain." *Our High Calling*, p. 212

Our characters are by nature, wicked and perverted. So we have to be changed. Our life must be completely changed. "Let none feel that their way needs no changing. . . . None can walk safely unless they are distrustful of self, and are

constantly looking to the Word of God, studying it with willing heart to see their own errors, and to learn the will of Christ, and praying that it may be done in and by and through them. They show that their confidence is not in themselves, but in Christ. They hold the truth as a sacred treasure, able to sanctify and refine, and they are constantly seeking to bring their words and ways into harmony with its principles." *Our High Calling*, p. 212. The truth must find an abiding place in our heart.

It is not enough for us to hear the truth only. God requires obedience from us also. "Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28. "We who claim to believe the truth should reveal its fruits in our words and character. We are to be far advanced in a knowledge of Jesus Christ, in the reception of His love for God and for our neighbor, in order to have the sunlight of heaven shining in our daily life. Truth must reach down to the deepest recesses of the soul, and cleanse away everything unlike the spirit of Christ, and the vacuum be supplied by the attributes of His character who was pure and holy and undefiled, that all the springs of the heart may be as flowers, fragrant with perfume, a sweet-smelling savor, a savor of life unto life. It is truth enshrined in the soul that makes one a man of God." *Our High Calling*, p. 33.

*When the truth, as it is in Jesus, molds our characters, it will be seen to be truth indeed.* As Christians we have pledged ourselves to fulfil the responsibilities resting on us, and to show to the world that we have a close connection with God. We have a message to bear to the world. It involves a cross. "God's people are to reflect to the world the bright rays of His glory. But in order for them to do this, they must stand where these rays can fall on them. They must cooperate with God. The heart must be cleansed of all that leads to wrong. The Word of God must be read and studied with an earnest desire to gain from it spiritual power. The bread of heaven must be eaten and assimilated, becoming part of the life. Thus we gain eternal life. Thus is answered the prayer of Christ, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." *Our High Calling*, p. 213.

We must answer God's calls and go spread the message to the world. God gives to us the message and it is our duty to give it to others. As professing children of God, we are under solemn obligation to seek and to save the lost. **God wants you to associate with believers and unbelievers that you may help all to a fuller knowledge of the truth.** There is a work to be done for our Master and we must prepare for that. The preparation is to "Take your Bible and present yourself before your heavenly Father, saying, 'Enlighten me; teach me what is truth.' The Lord will regard your prayer, and the Holy Spirit will impress the truth upon your soul. It is of the greatest importance that you continually search the Scriptures, storing the mind with the Word of God, for you may be separated from the companionship of Christians, and placed where you will not have the privilege of meeting with the children of God. You need the treasures of God's Word hidden in your heart, that when opposition comes upon you, you may bring everything to the Scriptures. . . ." *Our High Calling*, p. 37

We know that the world is perishing for want of truth, pure, unadulterated truth. Christ is the truth. His Words are truth. The truth is to be partaken of every day. The acceptance of the truth will make every receiver a child of God, an heir of heaven. Also in the Word of God is a prescription for every spiritual ailment. It points out the disease, and prescribes the remedy. Every duty that God requires of our hands is made plain. None will err from the right path who meekly and honestly take the Bible as their guide, making it the way of their counsel. We have a battle to fight, because Satan is continually seeking to influence human minds by his subtle arts. Satan wants to deceive every one with lies.

We can overcome only by believing in every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God. We must know what is written in order that the sophistry and enchantments of Satan may not defeat us. Let us understand that the truth will triumph when the Spirit of truth cooperates with the humble Bible student. How precious the thought that the Author of the truth still lives and reigns. Ask him to impress your minds with the truth. Your searching of the Scriptures will then

be profitable. Christ is the Great Teacher of His followers, and He will not leave you to work in darkness.

The youth are important in the plan of God also. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple." Psalm 119:130. I feel a special interest in our youth who are interested in the truth. . . . I am anxious that you should press your way forward and upward in order that you shall reach the standard of Christian character that is revealed in the Word of God. Let the Word of God be your guidebook, that in everything you may be molded in conduct and character according to its requirements. . . .

"The only way in which the Christian will be able to keep himself unspotted from worldly influence will be by searching the Scriptures and by obeying the Word of God to the very letter. Satan is playing the game of life for every soul, but no one needs to be overcome by his deceptive reasoning. Those only who consent to his sophistry will be deceived by his counsels. But if the truth of God regulates the life, it must be planted in the heart. The truth will produce true beauty in the soul that will be revealed in the character. But if this result is attained, it will be because the truth is cultivated and cherished.

"The Bible is to be your standard; the living oracles of Jehovah are to be your guide. You are to dig for the truth as for hidden treasures: you are to find where the treasure is, and then you are to plow every inch of that field to get the jewels. You are to work the mines of truth for new jewels, for new gems, for new diamonds, and you will find them.

"As the true seeker after the truth reads the Word, and opens his mind to receive the Word, he longs after truth with his whole heart. The love, the pity, the tenderness, the courtesy, the Christian politeness, which will be the elements in the heavenly mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him, take possession of his soul.

"Let the youth be taught to love the study of the Bible. Let the first place in our thoughts and affections be given to the Book of books, for it contains knowledge which we need above all other." *Our High Calling*, p. 204.

God bless you and guide you into His truth. Sister Nada Stefanovic, Australia





# FALSE RELIGIOUS UNITY OF ECUMENISM

By Eldér Gary Foster, USA

While a student at a Southern Baptist Seminary I had a very interesting experience. The list of approved authors that was given for one of my Old Testament classes were all Catholic theologians. It seemed very strange to me for a Protestant seminary to have its students to use only catholic writers for research, but the Professor stated we could use no other theological point of view in any research. Peter Kreeft, a Catholic writer, speaks to Protestants, "beloved lovers of Christ, for the sake of the world, come home." and asks that over 500 years of division be put aside between Protestants and the Roman Catholic Church and for them to join together to reconvert the world. (National Catholic Register, April 24, 1994.)

March 29, 1994 a historic agreement between evangelicals and Catholics was signed. The document called, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium," was signed by Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship; Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ; Pat Robertson of the Christian Coalition; Father John Neuhaus of the Institute on Religion and Public Life who was instrumental in formulating the statement; the heads of the Home Mission Board and Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention who are the United States' largest Protestant denomination; and Cardinal John O'Connor of New York. These were just some of the thirty-nine (39) who did sign the document. Since this document was not "officially" signed by any denomination shows the thinking of unity and working together by evangelicals and Catholics, and demonstrates a trend in our present world toward togetherness. This remarkable document calls for the recognition of one another as Christians and to stop evangelizing each other's members.

TIME February 24, 1992 p. 28-35 reveals that in 1982 President Reagan and Pope

John Paul II met in the Vatican Library for fifty minutes to begin one of the greatest secret alliances of all time. The operation was centered on the nation of Poland, the United States, and the Pope working together to bring down communism. "One of his earliest goals as President, Reagan says, was to recognize the Vatican as a state and make them an ally." TIME, February 24, 1992, p31.

This same TIME article reveals the following: secret bank accounts that gave the Solidarity trade union its strength; close cooperation between CIA and American Labor Unions and the local priests and the labor experts in Poland; the close connection between Reagan and John Paul II as they brought down the communist government. Why was this clandestine operation with a religious power? Was this the reason why President Reagan, early in his term, agreed to recognize the Vatican as a civil government and send our first ambassador to the Vatican? Did the Vatican make any demands on the U.S. to support its church teaching? The answer is yes. In the same TIME magazine was another article: "The U.S. and the Vatican on Birth Control," in which William Wilson, the first ambassador to the Vatican, states he reluctantly agreed to an outright ban on the use of any U.S. funds by either countries or international health organizations for the promotion of birth control or abortion. Wilson explains, that the U. S. aid programs around the world did not meet the criteria the Vatican had for family planning. So American policy was changed when the Vatican did not agree with the U.S. Because of this, pressure was placed on the U.S. to have the teachings of the Vatican replace present policy. This is an example how Catholics and Protestants through their ecumenical influence have changed and influenced American policy around the world.

Why is the power of the ecumenical

movement growing so strong today when only a few decades ago major Protestant churches would never have dreamed of the agreement signed March 29, 1994? The main reason for this turn around is that the teachings which make Protestants unique have been abandoned. Some of the beliefs that have been tossed on the garbage heap of history by these once conservative churches are:

1. The Bible and the Bible only
2. Divine inspiration of scripture
3. Divinity of Christ
4. Virgin birth
5. The resurrection
6. Bible foundation of morality

With these basic areas of belief removed "any thing goes," "after all we are going to the same place," "all we need is love". These statements take control of the Protestant churches and move them toward strong ecumenism. As the Protestants move away from the basic principles of the Protestant reformation, the move is toward the Catholic Church and its teachings, thus the Vatican becomes more and more involved in the world politics. The fact that the Vatican can pressure the United States to change a policy should cause great concern for all citizens.

The United States, "shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions." Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 451.

"The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side." -The Great Controversy p.565-566.

"Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution." The Great Controversy,

p.564.

Revelation chapter 13 pictures a religious power that received a deadly wound and that wound was healed. Further it states that another beast coming up out of the earth caused the world to wonder after the first beast power. The first beast is the Vatican who received a deadly wound in 1798. The second beast is the United States that caused the world to worship the beast. This prophecy "will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy." The Great Controversy, p 579.

The spirit of "mixing truth and error together" has ever been an abomination to our Heavenly Father. God is very specific in His requirements and what He expects from us in worship to Him. We cannot combine His ways and mix human traditions and expect Him to honor our worship. The story of Cain and Abel reveals that God will not accept our worship if not carried out as He has commanded. Abel carried out exactly what God had spoken, however Cain decided to offer his best fruits and vegetables on the altar.

God accepted the worship of Abel, but the worship of Cain He refused to accept. Cain became angry and killed Abel. It still matters when we worship God to do it His way and not attempt to place on our altars what was not asked for.

What if Cain said to Abel, "we don't need to have two altars, let's place our sacrifice together on one altar." Would Abel's offering have been accepted by God? Mixing true and the false together makes all false. That kind of unity must be rejected on the basis of "truth combined with error makes all untruth." I'm sure that Cain was just as sincere as Abel. Cain's prayer was just as beautiful and the fruit on the altar was the very best from his garden. However, it was not the sacrifice God required.

The story of Nehemiah illustrates how God views the spirit of unity with those that are not following the directions of God. In

Nehemiah chapter 13 Eliashib the High Priest had permitted Tobiah to occupy an apartment that was connected to the Temple. Nehemiah returned from Persia "learned of the bold profanation and took prompt measures to expel the intruder." PK, p. 670.

"Greater contempt for God could not have been shown than to confer such a favor on this enemy of God and His truth." PK p. 670.

"God's servants are to resist sternly any deviation from righteous principles." E.G. White Material 1888 p. 1592, 1593.

The Bible teaches in 1 John 2:3-4 "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Jesus teaches that true ecumenical unity is based on the truth found in the Bible. (John 19: 6-26).

Jeremiah 2:23 speaks of the betrayal of Israel in leaving the ways of God and going after Baalim. Israel began to slowly practice Sun-god worship, yet they did not see anything wrong with what they were doing. While confessing to still be God's people God points out they are polluted with Baalim.

Have things changed today? We still have plenty of religion with altars that contain man's traditions, ideas and ways. The cry is for unity, and after all aren't we going to the same place? As we refuse to sacrifice with them on their altars of worship it is easy to condemn and judge us, when we only are carrying out what God has spoken to us by His Word.

Let's look at some of the history of the ecumenical movement: In 1958 G.C. Berkouwer, Dutch reformer, released a new book in which he warns the Protestants of the world to cling to the Bible and not to lapse into the arms of Rome. The book is titled Recent Development in Roman Catholic Thought. January 25, 1959 Pope John XXIII announces his plan to call for a council.

1962-1965 Vatican II council meets and makes great advances in the concept that the church of Christ "subsists" in the Roman Catholic Church. The council affirms that all baptized Christians "are brought into a certain, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church." A review of The Catholic Moment: The paradox of the Church in the Postmodern World, by Richard John Neuhaus, p. 292.

At Vatican II Pope John XXIII called Protestants "separated brethren," the idea of unity became a strong reality within one generation.

In 1966 the Charismatic movement moves into the Catholic Church and then explodes into the Protestant churches.

In 1968 the Seventh-day Adventist church joined an important arm of the World Council of Churches (WCC) called then "World Confessional Families," now called "Christian World Communion." Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement, Eerdmans, 1991 p 919, 157.

For many years the SDA Church has been seated on the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC. The Faith and Order Commission serves the churches by leading them into a theological dialogue as a means of overcoming obstacles to, and opening up ways towards the manifestation of their unity given in Jesus Christ." Ibid. p. 411, 919. By 1977 B.B. Beach, representing the SDA Church at a consultation meeting of Secretaries of World Confessional Families held in Rome, gives a gold medal with Catholic symbolism on it to Pope Paul VI on May 18, 1977. Review August 11, 1977. In 1982 President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II met in the Vatican library and made a secret agreement to work together to bring down communism in Poland. TIME Feb. 24, 1992 p. 28-35. Also in 1982 Seventh day Adventists, along with the Roman Catholic church, and 186 other theologians, approved a document calling for unity of the churches in the areas of baptism, Eucharist, and ministry. This was one of the most significant documents ever produced by WCC. "Some communions

have adopted one common response, Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army and Seventh day Adventist,..." Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, 1982-Responses, Faith and Order Paper NO. 149. 1990: Report on the Process and Geneva, Switzerland: WCC Publications, 1990 p. 14. The WCC, in 1985, declares in the book, The Church is Charismatic, that the charismatic movement has the potential of penetrating churches that so far have been resistant to the ecumenical movement. In 1991 Pope John Paul II calls for the enforcement of worldwide Sunday Laws. He calls for all governments to enforce existing Sunday laws or pass new ones. Encyclical, "Centesimus Annus," released in May, 1991.

1994 (March) forty leading Evangelicals and Catholics signed a document, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" (ECT). Ralph Reed, Executive Director of the Christian Coalition said, about ECT "This is the wave of the future. It is a significant coalition to the future of American politics as the unification of blacks and Jews during the civil rights struggle."

The foundation of the cry for unity today is LOVE for Jesus. Love is more important than truth, love is more important than the plain teaching of Jesus. The sound of this ecumenical call is powerful and like a piper draws many to follow. This call has a warning from Ellen White and comes to us on the platform of belief in Christ. "They professed to accept Jesus as the Son of God and to believe in His death and resurrection, but they had no conviction of sin and felt no need of repentance or of a change of heart." G.C. p42.

Since Vatican II it has been the main line Protestant churches that have extended the arm and hand of ecumenical idolatry.

Where are we headed? "There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces... In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah." SDA Bible Commentary: vol.7 p983.

In the final conflict the whole world will be divided into two camps. One camp will be those that keep the commandments of God, which observe the Seventh day Sabbath, the other will have the mark of the beast, which keep Sunday. These two days of worship significantly represent two great loyalties, two systems of government, two opposite life styles.

Revelations 12:17 gives two characteristics of the last church "they keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ". Keeping of the Sabbath is the institution given by God which most distinguishes His people as His worshippers. Just as Sunday is considered by the Papacy as her mark of authority. "Sunday is our mark of authority... The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

The ecumenical movement will attempt to control the morality of our society, by choice or political power. When the church attempted this before it was called the dark ages. May God grant us wisdom and understanding in His ways and give us the strength to be obedient to them.

Note...The battle is in the arena of ideas and Biblical truth and never literal hate of those who disagree. Our weapons are prayer and presenting the Word of God.

**"The burden of the work has been left largely with those who are labouring under salary. But this is not as it should be. The great missionary field is open to all, and the lay members of our churches must understand that no one is exempted from labour in the Master's vineyard." RH October 22, 1914.**

## A NEW AGE MOVEMENT?

We are entering an age of rapid changes and an age of perilous times. We know that this is a time also of signs of the end.

We are to be prayerful and watchful in such circumstances and read more fervently to guard the cherished truths we know. We must also be more aware of the spirit of prophecy and its signs, along with biblical scriptures.

In Vol. 1 of Testimonies to the Church, pages 116-118, we find under "Opposers Of The Truth", sister White mentions the case of Stephenson- Hall, who had visions of the Age-To-Come, but subsequently were wrong; deceptions, falsehoods, and misrepresentation were practiced by the "Messenger party", under the cloak of religion with corrupt hearts. The "church of God should move along as though there were not such a people in the world" she says, and further, that "we must save the children of God from deception."

She states also, that "efforts should be made to show those who are unchristian in life their wrongs," and further, "If they do not reform, they should be separated from the precious and holy, that God may have a clean and pure people that He can delight in." Also, "let your works show that you are God's peculiar people, and that you have a peculiar work, to give the last message of mercy of the world."

In Vol. 5 of Testimonies to the Church, page 241, Sister White goes on further to say, "Diligent heed should be given to the instructions of God's word. Let every manifestation of animosity or unkindness be checked; let every root of bitterness be removed. When trouble arises between brethren, the Saviour's rule should be strictly followed. All possible effort should be made to effect reconciliation; but if the parties stubbornly persist in remaining at variance, they should be suspended till they can harmonize. Upon the occurrence of trials in the church let every member examine his own heart to see if the cause of trouble does not exist within. By spiritual pride, a desire to dictate, an ambitious longing for honor or position, a lack of self-

control, by the indulgence of passion or prejudice, by instability or lack of judgment, the church may be disturbed and her peace sacrificed. Christians should regard it as a religious duty to repress a spirit of envy or emulation."

In Vol. 3 of Testimonies to the Church, pages 428-29, we read on, under "Authority Of The Church". "The word of God does not give license for one man to set up his judgment in opposition to the judgment of the church, neither is he allowed to urge his opinions against the opinions of the church. If there were no church discipline and government, the church would go to fragments; it could not hold together as a body. There have ever been individuals of independent minds who have claimed that they were right and that God had especially taught, impressed, and led them. Each has a theory of his own, views peculiar to himself, and each claim that his views are in accordance with the word of God. Each one has a different theory and faith, yet they all claim to be led of the Lord. The word of Inspiration is not Yea and Nay, but Yea and Amen in Christ Jesus."

Paul says, "separate from opposers of the truth," Rom. 16:17, and "avoid them for they cause divisions," v. 18. Only by "obedience is there hope, by word and deed" Rom. 16:19, 25, 26. He says, also, "hearts of innocent are deceived" Rom. 16:18 (influenced). We can heed... "in multiple counsel there is safety" Prov. 11:14, and beware of a "haughty spirit" Prov. 16:18. Follow the example of Jesus who did not live to please Himself Rom. 15:1-3. Read on to Acts 20:19 "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and trials; which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews." And, "Except that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me." Acts 20:23, and in v. 24, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Furthermore, in v. 28, "Take heed, therefore, unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Our attitude should be "improved by a closer walk with God." EGW 4T pg. 405 (GW 91).

"Even though your intentions may be the best, they are not always accepted by God as best" (MH 473). Our "actions reveal our motives; teachers are too often controlled by selfish motives" (5T 103, CT 233), and even "angels look and record our motives" (4T 351, CH 412). "Church members should faithfully examine their motives critically, faithfully, prompting your actions, for God sees, reads, know, weighs, searches and records men's motives" (3T 512). So, get into the habit of "examining and cultivating your motives, for life's motives must be in harmony with God's will, and His Law, and love to God and fellow man". "This motive is the most powerful motive...to honor God." (CG 558, COL 399).

"God overrules all for accomplishment of His purpose" (PK 536). "God's purpose is to manifest principles of His Kingdom through His people" (6T 9), and finally, "God's purpose is overruling where all appears to be disappointment and confusion" (Ed 305).

Paul saw his mistaken zeal and cried out: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" Paul must receive instruction in the Christian faith and move understandingly. (3T page 430).

#### What wilt thou do?

With a New Age Movement, Age-To- Come, One World, comes new theories, postulates, and light that beseech and plague us. "We are to pray for divine enlightenment, but at the same time we should be careful how we receive everything termed 'new light'. We must beware lest, under cover of searching for new truth, Satan shall divert our minds from Christ and the special truths for this time. I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to lead minds to dwell upon some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to our salvation. This is made the absorbing theme, the "present truth", when all their investigations and suppositions only serve to make matters more obscure than before, and to confuse the minds of some who ought to be seeking for oneness through sanctification of the truth." EGW Preach The Word, p. 4-1891.

"Satan hopes to involve the remnant people of God in the general ruin that is coming upon the earth. As the coming of Christ draws nigh, he will be more determined and decisive in his efforts to overthrow them. Men and women will arise professing to have some new light or some new revelation, whose tendency is to unsettle faith in the old landmarks. Their doctrines will not bear the test of God's word, yet souls will be deceived. False reports will be circulated, and some will be taken in this snare. They will believe these rumors, and in their turn will repeat them and thus a link will be formed connecting them with the archdeceiver. This spirit will not always be manifested in an open defiance of the messages that God sends, but a settled unbelief is expressed in many ways. Every false statement that is made feeds and strengthens this unbelief, and through this means many souls will be balanced in the wrong direction" (5T p. 295).

What should be our attitude to those claiming to have New Light? - "Cling close to your Bible, for its sacred truths can purify, ennoble, and sanctify the soul. You must hold the truth and teach it as it is in Jesus; else it is of no value to you. Before the light of God's truth let human opinions and ideas and human wisdom appear as they are in the sight of God, - as foolishness... EGW Letter 21 1888. Sister White writes further, "Take your Bible, and in a kindly spirit weigh every argument that he presents and show him by the Scriptures if he is in error. When you do this without unkind feelings, you will do only that which is your duty and the duty of every minister of Jesus Christ. Letter 21 1888 (CW p. 50-51).

"If God has to communicate New Light He will let His people know it" (EGW EW p. 124). We must study the truth for ourselves. No living man should be relied upon to think for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject to one another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth.

"God has not passed His people by, and chosen one solitary man here and another there as the only ones worthy to be entrusted with His truth. He does not give one man new light contrary to the established faith of the body. In every reform men have arisen making this claim. Paul

warned the church in his day, "Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." The greatest harm to God's people comes through those who go out from among them speaking perverse things. Through them the way of truth is evil spoken of.

Let none be self-confident, as though God has given them special light above their brethren. Christ is represented as dwelling in His people; and believers, as "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner-stone.

That which Br. D calls light is apparently harmless; it does not look as though anyone could be injured by it. But, brethren it is Satan's device, his entering wedge. This has been tried again and again. One accepts some new and original idea which does not seem to conflict with the truth. He talks of it and dwells upon it until it seems to him to be clothed with beauty and importance, for Satan has power to give this false appearance. At last it becomes the all-absorbing theme, the one great point around which everything centers; and the truth is uprooted from the heart. He is not a man who will entertain what he believes to be special light without imparting it to others; therefore it is not safe to give him influence that will enable him to unsettle other minds. It is opening a door through which Satan will rush in many errors to divert the mind from the importance of the truth for this time." (CW p. 45-47).

Sister White in speaking to a brother about false revelations, said, "How is it, my brother, that you have taken up these communications and presented them before the people weaving them in with the testimonies God has given Sister White? Where is your evidence that these are of God? You cannot be too careful how you hear, how you receive, how you believe. You cannot be too careful how you talk of the gift of prophesying, and state that I have said this and

that in reference to this matter. Such statements, I well know, encourage men and women and children to imagine that they have special light in revelations from God, when they have not received such light. This I have been shown, would be one of Satan's masterpieces of deception. You are giving to the work a mold which it will take precious time and wearing soul labor to correct, to save the cause of God from another spasm of fanaticism... (2SM p. 86).

When a doctrine is presented that does not meet our minds, we should go to the word of God, seek the Lord in prayer, and give no place for the enemy to come in with suspicion and prejudice. When a brother receives new light upon the Scriptures, he should frankly explain his position, and every minister should search the Scriptures with the spirit of candor, to see if the points presented can be substantiated by the Inspired Word. (GW 302-303). "The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, to meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." (2 Tim. 2:24,25).

We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God's word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God. (2SM 161). Amen.

Dr. John S. Theodorou, Athens, Greece

"Through the medium of influence, taking advantage, of the action of mind upon mind, he (Satan) prevailed on Adam to sin. Thus, at its very source human nature was corrupted. And ever since then sin has continued its hateful work, reaching from mind to mind. Every sin committed awakens the echoes of the original sin."  
RH April 16, 1901.

# THE REAPERS

One day, during the month of November, while I was driving down the highway, at a rate of approximately sixty mph, but in need of the speed of seventy, I was thinking, this is not what I want to do! "I must be about my Father's business!" Luke 2:49. This has been my desire for more than a year. I often imagine myself wearing a crisp shirt and tie, or even a suit, and having a suitcase in hand filled with Bible lessons with a corresponding book, such as Christ's Parables – Christ's Object Lessons, Christ's Miracles – Ministry of Healing, and Steps to Christ, just to name a few. I'd be walking door to door, searching for "the lost sheep of the house of Israel," and turning "the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Matthew 10:6, Luke 1:17.

But no! I'm over a hundred miles from home working for someone else. And there seems to be no way to escape. An escape I have been planning and hoping for daily. A plan I've rolled and turned over and over again and again in my mind. My brain was cramped, perplexed, and confused, and bound by chains with human hands. Darkness was all around me. I was looking for the Light to lead me, and listening for the voice to tell me, "This is the way, walk ye in it." But all I heard was a roaring engine. Isaiah 30:21.

Then I turned on the radio. I was not listening for the lyrics that promote lustful and perverse thinking, nor was I looking for the images produced by the constant reporting of crimes, murders, rapes, and tragedies. I was seeking some Christian network that I haven't heard in a long time. I had tuned them out because of their misleading doctrines and teachings. Even their prayers had become an abominable thing. However, they handle "the Words of Life" which I needed to hear. The speaker I found on the radio was talking about Moses.

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible." "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for the just shall live by faith." "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast." "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" Hebrews 11:24, 25, 27; James 2:22; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8,9; James 2:20; 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Then the speaker asked an astonishing question, "Where were you five years ago?" Amazing! Five years ago, I moved to Detroit, Michigan. I was an unemployed drunkard and druggie who lived with a father who I'd only seen a handful of times during my childhood, and whom I knew even less. I'd had fifteen different employers and eleven different job titles. Of them all, the most fulfilling one was when I babysat my one-year old niece for about three months. This reminds me of what Sister White wrote about Enoch. "After the birth of his first son, Enoch reached a higher experience; he was drawn into a closer relationship with God. He realized more fully his own obligations and responsibility as a son of God. And as he saw the child's love for its father, its simple trust in his protections; as he felt the deep, yearning tenderness of his own heart for that first-born son, he learned a precious lesson of the wonderful love of God to men in the gift of His Son, and the confidence which the children of God may repose in their heavenly Father. The infinite, unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of his meditations day and night' and with all the fervor of his soul he sought to reveal that love to the people among whom he dwelt." Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 84.



I began to dream of finding "a virtuous" and God-fearing woman. The two of us would become "one flesh" and create a son or daughter after our "own image", and we would live happily ever after. Somebody pinch me. "For in much wisdom is much grief" and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." "Jesus was the Man of Sorrows, enduring hurt and anguish such as no language can portray. His spirit was torn and bruised by the transgressions of men. He toiled with self-consuming zeal to relieve the wants and woes of humanity, and His heart was heavy with sorrow as He saw multitudes refuse to come to Him that they might have life. All who are followers of Christ will share in this experience." Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing.

"Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:2.

Later that day, I received a letter from an organization of writers and instructors who guaranteed "by the time you finish the program, you'll complete at least two stories or articles that are suitable for submission to an editor." "Thousands of periodicals" are "looking for fresh, new, freelance material." Then I thought, "Me, a writer?" What would I write about? "Let those who gain such an experience in working for the Lord write an account of it for our papers, that others may be encouraged. Let the canvasser tell of the joy and blessing he has received in his ministry as an evangelist. These reports should find a place in our papers, for they are far-reaching in their influence. They will be as sweet fragrance in the church, a savor of life unto life. Thus it is seen that God works with those who co-operate with Him." 6T, p. 336.

"As the Holy Spirit opens to you the Truth, you will treasure up the most precious experiences, and will long to speak to others of the comforting things that have been revealed to you. When brought into association with them, you will communicate some fresh thought in regard to the character or the work of Christ. You will have some fresh revelation of His pitying love to impart to those who love Him and to those who love Him not."

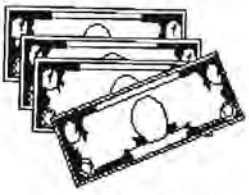
"God has ordained the canvassing work as a means of presenting before the people the light contained in our books, and canvassers should be impressed with the importance of bringing before the world as fast as possible the books necessary for their spiritual education and enlightenment. This is the very work the Lord would have His people do at this time. All who consecrate themselves to God to work as canvassers are assisting to give the last message of warning to the world." 6T, p. 313. "When those who know the truth will be laborers together with God, the fruits of righteousness will appear." 9T, p. 40.

"The message will be carried, as was the midnight cry of 1844, not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God... The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence; yet many whose minds have been impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them... Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side." GC, p. 613.

"And blessed by His glorious name for ever: And let the whole earth be filled with His glory: Amen, and Amen." Psalm 72:19.

**"And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." John 4:36.**

By: Chester Cosby, Detroit, Michigan



## THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

God has implanted the desire for success in the heart of every normal human being. Student, mechanic, teacher, sportsman, doctor, politician, cinema actor, ministers – all strive to prosper in their chosen field of activity. “That man is a success” or “she certainly has done well” are rather common drawing-room clichés.

What is this elusive quality of “success”? For some success is measured by the accumulation of money. A material fortune, however, could hardly be set as a standard, for many rich men are failures and many poor men very evidently succeed. True, a successful man is not slothful in his work and business; but we cannot reckon his accomplishments by the size of his bank account.

In a way Mahatma Gandhi was one of the most successful leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At his death his possessions consisted of 2 rice bowls, 1 spoon, 2 pairs of sandals, a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, his eye glasses and old fashioned pocket watch.

What would you think of a baseball player who played 7 seasons without hitting the ball in fair territory? One of the best players of all time, Mickey Mantle, did the equivalent of that. His walks and strikeouts add up to more than 3,400 trips to the plate – 7 seasons’ worth.

Dipping into the Middle Ages, we think of St. Francis of Assisi. During his lifetime this man of poverty exerted an influence over the entire Christian world – rulers, prelates, artists, businessmen and he equally affected labourers.

Some one has said that St. Francis was the most successful poor man who ever walked the earth.

Again what would you think of an inventor who failed 100 times in his experiments? Thomas Edison, perhaps the greatest inventor in American history, spent many long months failing before he found a filament that would stay lit in his incandescent light.

David Livingstone was buried among the great of England in Westminster Abbey – not because of what he accumulated but because of what he gave in service.

Ah Friend, the yardstick of true success is not how much a man accumulates or produces for himself, but how much he contributes to the welfare, the development and the prosperity of others.

The lesson behind these experiences is full clear. We have to look beyond failures and keep persevering. If you want this real joy of a successful life, then develop your God-given talents in service to others!

At the same time, I cannot think of a better example of someone who persevered despite apparent failure than the apostle Paul. His list of failures would lead most of us to quit. For one, the people in a church he found in Corinth stumbled badly. For another, he went to prison numerous times. Throw in the shipwrecks, beatings and betrayals. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. And you could have a real picture of defeat. Yet Paul’s ministry is remembered for its unmistakable success.

Let’s learn to look past our failures. Because of God’s mercy, we need not lose heart. (2 Corinthians 4:1)

The success of ten rises out of the ashes of failure – Thank you – Amen.  
Xavior Chelliah



# A DRAGON IN YOUR HOME?



Key Text: Psalm 101:3 "I will set no wicked things before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

## Monitor lizards:

Among the many islands of Indonesia, there is a small group of islands called Sunda. It is here that one of the strangest animals on earth lives. The Komodo dragon, discovered only in 1912, is the largest member of the Monitor Lizard's family of about 30. It can weigh from 220 lb. to 300 lb. and can reach up to 10 feet in length.

With its sharp claws, short powerful legs, spiky tail, and fierce looks, the Komodo dragon is a real life dragon. When cornered, it will puff up its body, hiss, flick its forked tongue menacingly and strike violent blows with its tail and claws, causing serious injury. The teeth can make deep wounds.

The Komodo is a dangerous and voracious predator. It will eat almost any animal it can kill, wild boar, deer, small buffalo, other Komodo Dragons, and occasionally man. Though the Komodos can move quickly, they can do so only over short distances. So they hunt by ambush, waiting motionless in a place where animals are in the habit of passing. It leaps forward and grabs its victims by one leg, then rips it open with its sharp teeth. If an animal gets away after being bitten by a Komodo dragon, it will probably die, because the dragon's saliva can cause a deadly infection.

In spite of its size, the Komodo can also climb trees. It has an appetite that is astonishing. It is capable of completely devouring a goat within ten minutes and a 100 lb. boar in a quarter of an hour. It can swallow more than its own weight in a single meal, and then it does not eat for several days.

How would you like to have one of these in your home?

Many of us do and don't know it! Television. You may say: "What a dumb comparison!" But is it so?

We are discovering that television has been altering moral values and stifling the mind's thought processes. Yet, TV has now become such a part of life on this planet, it is hard for most of us to remember that humans used to live without it.

Is television responsible for the changes in the world? To a certain extent yes, for the moral decay among society, definitely yes.

## **The Effect of Television on the Morals of Man**

Our argument for television is that neither the Bible nor Sis. White says anything against television.

"There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements." 4T 653.

"The true Christian will not desire to enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater...or indulge in any other bewitching pleasure that will banish Christ from the mind...No Christian would wish to meet death in such a place. No one would wish to be found there when Christ shall come."...MYP 398.

"There is an abundance of theatrical performances in our world, but [even] in its highest order it is without God." Ibid., p. 5.

Television is nothing more than a theater in the home.

But we say: "We will watch the news, documentaries, educational and inspirational programs only." But then what happens? Control over the little box gradually slips. We do not realize that repeated exposure has gradually blurred the lines of distinction between good and evil.

**Discourtesy** – Does television breed discourtesy? Many times guests are forced to compete with the TV. Children who have questions—that may never be asked again—are treated rudely by parents who are "glued to the box."

**Laziness** – Does television breed laziness? While the fascinating hours streak by, work is left undone.

**Hypnotic Effect** – Research shows that television can no longer be considered a casual part of daily living. It has been discovered that things happen so fast on TV, that people often do not understand what they are seeing. The average viewer misunderstands one-fourth to one-third of what he watches. With little time to pause and think about what is taking place, a mild hypnotic effect is created. This is a highly suggestive dreamlike state. What we view and hear is making a strong impression on our mind, making it easier for us to believe and accept whatever enters our brain.

**Thought Process** – Through imagination people abandon their thoughts to the action on the screen. Fantasy becomes reality and reality becomes vague. TV prepares people for emotional feeling responses, rather than thinking responses. "Couch potatoes" produce "mashed brains," unable of performing basic responsibilities. With a weakened mind, many have difficulty paying attention to a teacher or a sermon or even a conversation. What better way for Satan to capture souls than through the powerful impact of the screen?

**Habits** – Researchers are admitting that television is a habit. Can we not admit that it is addicting? Habits are formed by repetition of any activity until it becomes automatic—good or bad, helpful or destructive.

**Waste of Time** – We have been given but a few fleeting moments of time on this planet. Do we really want to waste this precious commodity by watching others on a screen? Do we want our children to be exposed to violence, impure language and morals, fictitious outer space creatures, and comics that have nothing to do with real life?

"Of no talent [God] has given will He require a more strict account than of our time. The value of time is beyond computation. Life is too short to be trifled away. We are admonished to redeem the time. But time squandered can never be recovered. We cannot call back even one moment. The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being coworkers with God in His great plan of redemption." COL 342.

**Copy-Cat Reaction** – Research indicates that one of the worst aspects of television is that people copy what they see. Should we keep "looking unto Jesus we obtain regular and more distinct views of God, and by beholding [good or evil] we become changed." COL 355.

**Distorts Our Vision** – Television distorts the way people look at life and what they expect out of it. It teaches that all problems can be resolved quickly, which leads to frustration or depression. "Television suppresses and replaces creative human imagery, encourages mass passivity, and trains people to accept authority [without question]. It is an instrument of transmutation, turning people into their TV images. Television produces such a diverse collection of dangerous effects—mental, physiological, ecological, economic, political effects

that are dangerous to the person and also to society and the planet—that it seems to me only logical to propose that it should never have been introduced.” —*Jerry Mander, Four arguments for the Elimination of Television, pp. 348, 349.*

### **Take Your Stand Today**

“It seems that television has been the most influential instrument in lulling Christians to sleep about decency and purity. While speaking at a deacons’ retreat of a solid biblically based church, I noticed that several made a quick exodus from the dinner table Friday night. They were excitedly talking about getting back to their rooms so they wouldn’t miss the next episode of ‘Dallas.’ As you probably know, ‘Dallas’ is rated as one of the loosest serials on prime-time television. Its plot is woven with adultery, unfaithfulness, greed, and violence. To me, that was symptomatic. It said something about our sensitivity to moral purity. How many Christian housewives are hooked on afternoon ‘soaps,’ where there is now more explicit sex per hour than on primetime evening television? Perhaps we have deceived ourselves into thinking that we can be observers without it affecting our talk and lifestyle. We are becoming dangerously open to the input of immorality and ungodliness. Tragically, this input soon shows up in output. As they say in computer programming, “Garbage in, garbage out.”

We must ask ourselves: “Is TV or video watching worth the destruction of my family or myself? Am I willing to lose my eternal life and that of my family for the ‘box’?”

Is it not time for true Christians to take a stand before it’s too late? If we begin, others will follow.

Do any of us long for the quiet life of not too long ago when reading a book was amusement and a way to relax? Picture a family talking by the hearth about the day’s happenings, while working on a craft or hobby. Has this way of life become extinct? Do we prefer the noise and fast-paced life of today?

If we want to make it to the kingdom of God, we need silent time to talk with each other and God. The devil’s work thrives on noise. If he can keep us from doing much thinking, he can control our lives and hinder family togetherness. Besides, the extreme excitement and artificiality of TV does not prepare children for becoming adults. As teenagers they become sullen quarrelsome and rebellious to parents. A preoccupation with pleasure, and new thrills, as well as a desire to explore forbidden and dangerous things, are the results of TV viewing.

The secret to breaking a bad habit is to replace it with a good habit. And don’t overlook the power of prayer. Pray in faith about the new habit you want to begin. Then study the life of Christ and other Bible characters in their moments of victory. “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”—Romans 8:13.

“Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.” —Ezekiel 20:7.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” —1 Corinthians 10:31. “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” —1 Thessalonians 5:22.

While pleasure lovers are still crowding the theaters, probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided for life or death. Solemnly there comes down to us the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” —Luke 21:36.



# A STRANGER ON EARTH

Let's read the question in Judges 17:9: "Where do you come from?" Do we come from Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Greece, Germany? Do we still relate to the geographical location, climate, architectural style and culture of a certain nation? Do we still identify ourselves with the music, the national custom, the language, the tradition, the handcrafts, the food, the habits of any country? When we happen to be living or spending some time somewhere else, do we miss the sound of the guitar, the mandolin, the violins, the drums, the accordion or the taste of ketchup, garlic sauce, corn waffles, stuffed cabbage or vine leaves, pasta, paella, borscht, etc? Does our soul crave for mangos, avocados, olives, dates, coconuts, etc? Do we still adorn our walls with things that show we are globetrotters and enjoy showing people the pieces of popular art we collected on our pilgrimage? Do we identify ourselves with the flag or the emblem of any nation in this world? What is the colour of our flag: red, white and green, or red, yellow and black, or maybe with blue and white stripes and a sun on the top left hand corner? Is the sound of a certain familiar language sweet to us independent from the words pronounced or the tone in which it is spoken? Do we maybe feel some satisfaction to know that our country offered to the world a Beethoven, a Bela Bartok, a Tolstoy or Dostoevsky, a Socrates or Aristotle, a Michelangelo or Leonardo, a Goya or Picasso without stopping to consider whether we shall meet any of these famous men in Paradise?

When we travel home and cross that imaginary line drawn by man, that is called the border, which is guarded by soldiers in different coloured uniforms, who just a few meters from each other

utter words that are incomprehensible to one another (reminding us of the consequences of the attempt to build the tower of Babel), does then our heart jump with a special emotion, saying in every beat what a 5 year old child, who had been brought up with the longing for the fatherland she had left as a baby, screamed with tears in her eyes, as she crossed the border between Germany and Poland some years ago: "Polska, Polska!" Do we also say: "Romania! Romania! Italy! Italy! Columbia! Columbia!"

As we hand the passport, do we try to make sure the officer notices that we have a right to be there because that was our birthplace. And maybe not sure that the document is enough of a testimony, we utter a few friendly words or make a familiar joke to confirm it; forgetting that very soon, by the grace of God, our names will be in the computers of every "granitza" and we shall have to find other points to cross that border without being seen?

Maybe, as we cross the border, we have the secret hope of meeting the ideal partner, in the belief that many people have, and that is expressed in a Greek proverb which is translated more or less like this: "A shoe from your own place, even if mended," meaning that it is important for the two parts of a couple to belong to the same culture and have the same mentality, forgetting that in Him there are neither Greeks nor Jews because "we have the mind of Christ." And as we travel along and continue to see the same landscape we left behind, do we experience a sense of protection, security, belonging? In our soul is there a feeling that makes us declare, "Home, sweet home?" Do we long to reach our destination as soon as possible, and get

a glimpse of the Danube, climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, go up to the Acropolis, walk along Independence Street, sit on a bench on Constitution Square, go to the Belvedere and admire the city lying at our feet as when Jesus was led by the devil to a high place and shown and offered authority over all the kingdoms of the world?

Each one of us, in his own heart and mind, was certainly answering these questions. But I would like to remind you what the conviction of our heart was when we made the vow to follow Jesus, what the real longing of our souls is, even if we haven't yet discovered it, and what the gloominess of our face sometimes is due to.

Let's turn to our Bible and allow the word of life to speak for us and tell us what the real answer is to our initial question: "Where do you come from?" "I am a stranger on earth", says David in Psalms 119:19. "For our citizenship is in heaven", says our brother Paul in Phil. 3:20, and at the same time reminds us of what our ancestors in the faith felt. "And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country." Hebrews 11:15, 16.

Regarding our origin and passport, John explains quite clearly, that we are not born of blood any more, but of the Spirit: and our Father is God, whom, as we know, lives in heaven. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12,13. "Therefore, our citizenship is in heaven." Phil. 2:20. Since that is the case "set your affections on the things above, not on the things on the earth." Col. 3:2.

Considering this, our attitude towards food should really be one of Job. "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food". If we dare present ourselves to the Lord in sincere prayer, the answer we shall surely receive from Him, is the one He gave to the prophet Ezekiel, "And He said to me: 'Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.' So I ate and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness." Ezek. 3:3. So, as we are longing for the things above, our diet will be the closest to the original one, to the food that has been set on that long table that is awaiting us in heaven, so nicely described in Sister White's vision in EW, p. 19. "I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit." Our longing is that very soon we may be in the heavenly city in which we shall see: "In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruit, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Rev. 22:2.

What about the language that we speak? Don't we know that: "Though I speak the tongues of men and of angels, but have no love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal?" 1 Cor. 13:1. If we have acknowledged that this is what our speech has become, let us long for His promise: "For then I will restore to the people a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord to serve Him with one accord." Zeph. 3:9.

And which is really the flag that represents our country? "His banner over me was love". Song of Solomon 2:4. The "blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel", as the testimonies describe it, red because of the price paid for our redemption, the blood of

Christ's sacrifice as an ultimate testimony of that love.

Let us not forget that our only home, the only place we are really all longing to reach, the only place where we shall feel completely "at home" and have absolute rest, is there where there won't be other people suffering around us: The holy city. "The city is laid out in a square... the construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst... (Rev. 21:16, 18-20). These are the same precious stones that Christ carries on the breastplate, as He officiates as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary--those stones that represent each one of our characters, as members of spiritual Israel and parts of its twelve tribes, those stones that say that some of us are as hard a topaz, as Simeon who had slaughtered a whole population, and whose tribe was considerably reduced, not because of war but because of promiscuity with the harlots of Midian. Others are as transparent as an amethyst, as Issachar who was of a quiet spirit, self-sacrificing, meek, with clear discernment. (1 Chron. 12:32). These same gems will be seen in the walls of the city as a perpetual reminder of the protection we had in Christ, as He carried us on His breast and interceded for us. "The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." Rev. 21:21. These pearls will be perpetual reminders of the big treasure we found when we found the gospel, for which, as the merchant in the parable, we sold all

we had to purchase it. And the pure gold of the streets is a reflection of the faith that made it possible for us to be there. It is in that city that we shall not only hear the music but join in the singing that expresses the deepest feelings of our hearts. "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." Rev. 5:9,10.

Let us remember also that the costume we shall be wearing in our eternal home has nothing to do with the heavy long black Macedonian vests with red trimming, the woolen multicoloured embroidered blouses seen on the women in the markets of Central and South America or the sex-appealing flamenco dresses of the nice looking Andalusian women, but our national costume; the one we long to wear, the one which has not even one thread of human effort but which was completely woven in heaven, is well described by the evangelist of the Old Testament. "For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness." Is. 61:10. And as the Israelites upon this earth had to dress differently from the heathen that surrounded them, so do we.

Since our "citizenship is in heaven" the words on our lips, as we see the chariot of fire coming to bring us home and cross the border between our known world and the one we just see with the eyes of faith, will be, "Behold, this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us." Is. 25:9. And since we know that our permanent dwelling places are "glorious houses that have the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold", each with a golden shelf to



place our glittering crowns on, we shall take heed to the Lord's warning through the prophet Haggai. "Is it time for you to dwell in your paneled houses and this temple lie in ruins? Haggai 1:4, and will follow the example of the father of our faith, "By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents..." Hebrews 11:9.

There is an enormous work to be done. Many people are teaching, preaching, and warning. Many souls have been instructed in the prophecies (Daniel 2 & 7, the 2,300 days, Revelation) treasures that prove that God's church is the depository of the true doctrine. Many of them know about the 12 tribes of Israel, their origin and further development. They accept the Sabbath and even join us on that holy day to listen to the many promises God has given us. But do we show them our faith so that they may accept Jesus, so that they may believe we trust in those promises? So that they may see we are in sweet expectation of His imminent coming? Do we demonstrate in our talk, in our daily life, when we speak about our plans, that we are neither Greeks nor Jews, that we

are pilgrims and strangers on this earth? Can we say together with Paul, "I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ?" Phil. 3:8. To Jesus' words, "I am coming" can we say, from the bottom of our hearts, together with John, "Amen. Come Lord Jesus?" Come, not because I am ready, not because I reflect Your character, not because I am perfect, but just because "My soul longs for you like a thirsty land," (Psalms 143:6), because "My soul thirsts for you, my flesh longs for you..." (Psalms 63:1), because "as the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Psalms 42:1,2, because You, my Maker are my husband (Isaiah 54:5), and "Apart from you I have no good thing." Psalms 16:2. "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

Teresa Corti  
Greece



*CHILSHAH ASENATH*



# REVEALING TRUTH (Series 1)

Questions many are asking, are, When is Christ coming? Why has Jesus not come? Others are formulating their own conclusions by watching and listening to the media. Given to God's peculiar people, **Revealing Truth**, Series 1 is presented by the following subtitles—History Repeated, Redemption Among Humanity, God is Calling, and Your Commitment.

**Revealing Truth's** only theme is the scriptures and the testimonies. Proceed with prayer and the discernment of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord abundantly bless you.

## HISTORY REPEATED

"It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness; He desired to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there, a holy, happy people. But "they could not enter in because of unbelief." (Heb. 3:19). Because of their backsliding and apostasy, they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the promised land. In like manner, it was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed, and his people should remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God. As they refused to do the work which he had appointed them, others were raised up to proclaim the message. In mercy to the world, Jesus delays his coming, that sinners may have an opportunity to hear the warning, and find in him a shelter before the wrath of God shall be poured out." GC88.458.001

"Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the

land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people. Lightness, vanity, love of ease and pleasure, selfishness, and impurity are increasing among us. There is need now of men who are firm and fearless in declaring the whole counsel of God; men who will not sleep as do others, but watch and be sober. Knowing as I do the great lack of holiness and power with our ministers, I am deeply pained to see the efforts for self-exaltation. If they could but see Jesus as He is, and themselves as they are, so weak, so inefficient, so unlike their Master, they would say: If my name may be written in the obscurest part of the book of life, it is enough for me, so unworthy am I of His notice." 5T.160.002.

"Satan is working that the history of the Jewish nation may be repeated in the experience of those who claim to believe present truth." 2SM. 111.

## REDEMPTION AMONG HUMANITY

"And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.

"And at the season he sent to the husbandmen, a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard. And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty. And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled.

"And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.

"Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son.

"But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours. And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard.

"What shall therefore the Lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.

"And have ye not read this scripture; the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" Mark 12:1-11.

"Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

"And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; and over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

"Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was

not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing.

"Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:1-12.

### **GOD IS CALLING**

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 1Pet. 1:21.

"Men of clear understanding are needed now. God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see a crisis before us, and the Lord calls for His labourers to come into line. Every soul should now stand in a position of deeper, truer consecration to God than during the years that have passed." 2SM 400:3.

"I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call. My brethren, the Lord is speaking to us. Shall we not heed His voice? Shall we not trim our lamps, and act like men who look for

their Lord to come? The time is one that calls for light bearing, for action. 'I therefore beseech you,' that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." 2SM 402:1.

"The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. The principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same. The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.

"No truth is more clearly taught in the Bible than that God by his Holy Spirit especially directs His servants on earth in the great movements for the carrying forward of the work of salvation. Men are instruments in the hand of God, employed by Him to accomplish His purposes of grace and mercy. Each has his part to act; to each is granted a measure of light, adapted to the necessities of his time, and sufficient to enable him to perform the work which God has given him to do. But no man, however honoured of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the

great plan of redemption, or even to a perfect appreciation of the divine purpose in the work for his own time. Men do not fully understand what God would accomplish by the work which He gives them to do; they do not comprehend, in all its bearings, the message which they utter in His name." GC 343.001-002.

### **YOUR COMMITMENT**

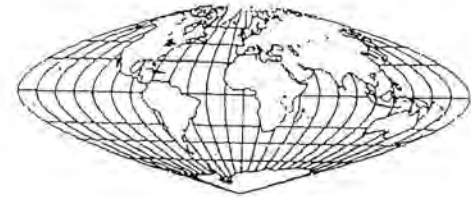
"When the power of the truth is felt in the heart, when the principles of truth are brought into the daily life, there will be a great movement of reform in the Battle Creek church." 8T 086.001 (Insert your church name)

"The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding." GC 148.004.

Presented by:  
Br. Richard Lapensee  
Montreal, Canada



## CURRENT SCENE



### **Laughing Revival Creating Ecumenical Hodgepodge, From** [www.slipperpros.com](http://www.slipperpros.com)

"The laughing revival, also known as Toronto Blessing and the Pensacola Outpouring, is creating an ecumenical hodgepodge wherever it goes.

"The same thing is happening in the Philadelphia area. [And now in many other areas of North America and the world.] The February 1997 issue of Charisma magazine contained an article entitled "Spiritual Renewal Stirs Greater Philadelphia Area." This describes the laughing revival type movement which is occurring in some churches in that part of North America. Randy Clark, a pastor associated with the John Wimber Vineyard movement, got caught up in the "Toronto Blessing" in 1994 and he is carrying the spirit to other areas. In the fall of 1996 he came to Philadelphia for a "30-day emphasis on multichurch, multid denominational and multiracial reconciliation." It is interesting that the charismatic Laughing Revival has exactly the same goals as the Promise Keepers movement. We believe the same last-days spirit of apostasy motivates both movements.

"The "revival" meetings have been conducted in the 9,000-member Deliverance Evangelistic Church, a black congregation in the heart of Philadelphia. An advisory committee, known as Renewal and Reconciliation, was formed from 15 participating churches. Leaders include Rabbi David Chernoff of Congregation Beth Yeshua, Jim Tortorici of St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church and John Maher of St. Mary's Episcopal church.

"In nearby Delaware, charismatic evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne has brought the Laughing Revival to the Victory Christian Fellowship in New Castle. Other churches are being influenced with this sensational, false and fanatical movement by pastors and church members who attended the Howard-Browne meetings."

Many famous motivational speakers and pastors are now also supporting this movement

as of God. For example: David Yonggi Cho, the famous Korean pastor of the world's largest church in Seoul says that this is the last days revival that was supposed to happen in the outpouring of the Latter Rain. What a travesty of the truth, for the fruit of this movement is all about a lack of self-control and giving one's soul into the hands of any passing spirit. The Bible says that "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4: 1 Self-control or temperance is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:23 Thus, this so-called revival is actually a tool in the hands of Satan to bring about a political, ecumenical brand of religion which is exactly the kind of religion in which the Papacy will flourish. There is much stated by pastors of large churches now about "church growth" which always involves giving the people what they want: music which will appeal to the fallen human nature, programs that will entertain and only superficially inform, and nothing said about repentance or overcoming sin. This focus on outward sensation and emotion is just the logical conclusion of the charismatic movement. The Roman Catholic Church has said that the charismatic movement is their revival.

**"Prayer and Schools- resurgence of spirituality" is going where?** From *Time*, June 8, 1998

This recent article reported favorably about "prayer clubs" being formed to pray on high school and college campuses and how much popularity they are enjoying now. In fact, some Christian leaders are hailing how the young are making a real difference in their schools when they pray for their peers. We do not take any issue with praying anytime or any place, but it is the idea of forcing others to pray and institutionalizing something which should be personal and individual. Jesus said, "when ye pray, be not as the hypocrites that love to pray on street corners to be seen of men." Matt. 6:5

*Time* magazine which itself is owned by the Roman Catholic Church and thus proclaimed the Pope “man of the year” a couple of years ago, is reporting more and more on religious issues and now will even speak positively on prayer in schools - when they never used to have this attitude. Whereas a few years ago, the media were very negative to religious issues, now many media outlets have come around to the position that prayer in school is to be desired. But who is to pray what prayer? In places where the Buddhist, Sikh or Muslim students are in the majority should it be one of their prayers? What would the Lord’s Prayer mean to someone who did not even know Christ as a personal Savior? Something that is said mechanically, with no meaning, becomes a mockery of what the Lord intended. This is a highly-charged political issue which many nominal Christians are using as a bridge to bring church and state back together so that our society may become a godly one once again. But what it really amounts to is plugging into the papal agenda and allowing the “man of sin” to rule once again. The Papacy has always pushed this same brand of religion - force the conscience, insist on a nominal profession of religion and reject the Truth as it is in Jesus.

**“Nukes...They’re Back.” [India detonates its first Atomic bomb]** from *Newsweek*, May 25, 1998

“Nuclear crises don’t usually come as complete surprises. Nations hungry to acquire the power of mass death will steal and cheat and lie to achieve their ambition, but millions are spent on high-tech spying to divine the telltale signs well before any nuclear adventurism occurs. Not this time. Before firing off five nuclear explosions last week, India deliberately concealed its specific test plans and misled the rest of the world. But no one was paying attention anyway, even when the signs of India’s intentions were there to be read. The shock runs up our spine because it happened when the age of nuclear terror seemed over. Now the spectre is back. Which country will show off its atomic prowess next? Pakistan is certainly tempted. Is another frightening, nation-wrecking arms race brewing? Will we ever devise effective ways to control the nuclear beast?

“A few optimists hope India will follow the example of China and France, two countries that conducted underground tests, then signed the test-ban treaty. [Prime Minister] Vajpayee has stopped short of promising that India’s tests are over, but he has hinted that he may now adhere to “some” of the treaty’s provisions. Burned by India’s artful dissimulations, says James Steinberg, Berger’s deputy, ‘I don’t think we’d necessarily take whatever they say as gospel.’”

Everyone else gloomily girds for a new arms race. “Other countries will see this as an open invitation to try to acquire the technology,” warns Defence Secretary William Cohen. Clinton is especially hurt at the nuclear breakout: a cherished presidential legacy, significantly turning back the nuclear clock, will not be handed on. He’d devoted considerable energy to corralling Russia’s strategic weaponry, denuclearizing the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakstan, and containing North Korea’s atomic program.

“Not only Clinton but the entire planet is facing a hard truth. There is little that can stop nations willing to swallow international condemnation in order to obtain weapons of mass death they deem vital to their national security or just their national prestige.”

As the superpowers scramble to impose sanctions economically and politically on India for its bold act we are reminded of Jesus’ prophecy about men’s hearts failing them for fear of those things coming on the earth. Now, with more and more bombs available to smaller and smaller countries, this prophecy surely is true. Rather than the world becoming a more stable and secure place as it was supposed to be after the “Cold War” ceased, there is even more instability. The Western powers’ attitude toward India exploding the bomb shows us they are willing to make concessions to keep the balance of nuclear power basically the same. Even the politicians are frightened by the nuclear monster rearing its ugly head once again – but there isn’t much they can do about changing that fact. Thank God that He still has His angels stationed at the four corners of the earth holding back the winds of all-out war until we have received the final impression of God’s seal and given the Loud Cry to the earth. Rev. 7:1-4

By Jerry Eaton



# NEW YEAR'S GET-TOGETHER

December 31<sup>st</sup>

The members and visitors from three churches came together in Streetsville to receive the New Year.

Brother Martin spoke about the past year and its blessings and failures. He then directed the thoughts to the coming new year. We have much to expect to happen this year and our eternal life may depend on how we spend this year.

Later, various speakers expressed their thoughts and many solemn counsels and proposals were made. We all together decided on the following proposals that were made by members and visitors.

Christina: We should give everyone's telephone numbers to all and take the time to call each other for encouragement.

Rosario: Let us read the Bible and Testimonies this year more than before.

Hulda: Let us put our love towards each other into action. Words are not enough.

Julio: We must grow spiritually this coming year and I want to be baptized.

Carmen: We need to change our lives in this new year.

Candelaria: We need to obey all the commandments of God.

Sanrino: Let us do missionary work every day.

Mike: Let us make this a year of forgiveness to each other.

Radek: We need to get together as a church more often.

Ricardo: We need to print more literature and teach members how to distribute it.

Sesciah: We need more faith so that we can move mountains.

Everyone agreed with these proposals and in the end, each member, child and visitor gave their testimony. Let us strive and pray that in the end of this year none of these are neglected, but we all see the necessary preparations for the end being done in each one's lives.

AMEN

# MISSION: OLDS, ALBERTA

By Jeffrey Ho

There was a Mission trip recently from Vancouver to a small town called Olds, just outside the city of Calgary, Alberta. The three of us: Jerry Eaton, Florence Price and Jeffrey Ho went on this trip from December 28 to January 3. This is my testimony:

There was excitement among us the day of our departure from Vancouver. We were going to visit a dear sister of ours: Sr. Kathleen Ross, who is quite diligent in the Reform Movement truth. It is usually a 10 to 12 hour drive to Olds in good weather conditions. But since this was our first time travelling in winter, we expected our trip to be a little trickier because of the snowy conditions. And as it was, the longer we drove, the worse the road conditions became. Though our ride was a little rough, we still expected to arrive in Olds without any delays. But unexpectedly, halfway on in our trip, Satan put something against us. There was an avalanche right ahead of us on Highway 1. That really stumped us. As we heard the reports on the radio, the delay and cleanup was expected to take between 16 to 18 hours at first. Then a little later, it was to be between 2 to 3 days. But finally, it was delayed indefinitely. We eventually found out that the reason for the indefinite delay was that three cars were trapped in the avalanche, and we assumed the snow plowers did not want to risk plowing straight into the cars at such high speeds. This was very discouraging to all of us; we could not go anywhere. There was no way in the world I was going to go back home; that would defeat the purpose of this trip. We could not let Satan discourage us like this. We could not let him win. So the three of us prayed to our Lord God, asking him to help us, asking him to direct us out of this situation so that we could find our way to Olds. When we all got our minds back together, we were forced to drive around looking for a motel to stay in. What really troubled us was that the unknown is such a terrible thing. Waiting for something to happen, while we could not do anything; hoping that the main highway would soon clear up. But the motels in our area were all filled. Instead of wasting time looking for a motel, at the last moment we decided to drive to a nearby gas station to buy a map, looking if there was any other way to get to Olds besides the main highway. And there was! Even at the cost of having to travel another estimated 12 hours by going back through several cities to take another route, we said, "Let's do it!" And praise the Lord, because he led us safely through the winter night, kept us awake and alert, and we arrived in Olds the following morning without any problems. Now we could resume our mission. With Sr. Kathleen's generous hospitality, we were able to stay comfortably at her place for the whole time there.

Prior to the trip, I had prayed so much that God would lead us to the people he wanted us to talk to, and that He would soften those people's hearts. This is the most important quality in people; that their hearts would be soft, and their minds open to the truth. If people don't have any of these qualities, there is no hope for them, unfortunately. All the time we were there, we went to all the people that Sr. Kathleen knew, and we all spoke with them, shared testimony

experiences, and shared literature with them. The power of the Lord was certainly working in those people's hearts. Many of them were very open to our spiritual conversations and that was very much a blessing to us. In fact, quite a few of them were Adventists and saw the corruption and apostasy in the Adventist church. Four people come into my mind. The first were twin brothers: Doug and Dale. They were indeed searching for the truth. They humbled themselves to the point of admitting that they indeed needed to search more for the truth. A truth that they could defend their faith by and a faith that will not fail them; a faith that is holy in all circumstances. "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Rom 7:12. The second were an elderly couple: Jean and Elmer. They also realized the apostasy in the Adventist church and were spending Sabbaths at home since leaving the church. They too were also searching for the truth, and again, a truth that would not fail them, and when they heard of the Reform Movement message, their hearts totally changed around and they were so happy with joy, realizing that there was a genuine truth in this world and that they can finally live in peace with the truth. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The Ten Commandments are the basic foundation of our Christian lives. And if you can defend your faith upon every aspect of the commandments, then you have finally fulfilled your status as a true Christian, fulfilling your love to Christ. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. Please pray for those people and all the people that we got in contact with, that the truth may be sowed in their hearts and minds, and that they may be inheritors of eternal life.

Brothers and sisters in the faith: these are the type of people that we need to pray that God will lead us to, or them to us, who are earnestly searching for the truth, those who have such soft and open hearts as these people did. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22,23. Remember, we have to further God's kingdom, and these are the types of worshipers that God needs, like the woman at the well. Let's pray earnestly, even though there is not much time left in the history of this world, that God by His mercy and patience, will still give His servants the time to finish our work here on earth. Also pray that these types of people will be brought into our lives, so that we may share with them the good message of God's love. I cannot wait until the day that I can finally repeat the words of our Lord when He was on the cross, "It is finished," and be a part of the body of Christ, who have received the latter rain and given the Loud Cry and go home for time and eternity to be with Jesus.

Satan may try to put obstacles in our way, but if we constantly look to Him who has loved us and died to save us from this dark present world, then we can be assured of a place in that home where there will be no more parting and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

AMEN



# THE JOYFUL CHRISTIAN



Some Christians walk around with long faces. They grudgingly pay tithe, come to church, and do other Christian duties. They say, "If this is what I have to do to be saved I guess I will do it." In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we read that, "God loveth a cheerful giver." Jesus looks upon the sad giver and says, "This is not the service I want." He wants people, who keep the commandments, to do it out of love for Him, instead of just because we have to, to be saved. Jesus wants us to be joyful Christians. The Lord loves it when we sing songs of praise to Him and do everything He asks us to do happily. If being a Christian is going to make us sad and gloomy, it means that we still would love to do the things of the world. Then it is not worth being a Christian. If we do everything God commands us to do happily He will open the windows of heaven and give us hundred-fold more than what we have given to Him.

Our Lord and Saviour wishes we would ask more of Him. He would happily give us strength for our daily trials. Just a word from the weakest, sincere soul will bring Jesus to his side. We serve an all-powerful God who will spend much time for one soul, even when He is very busy. Even though He had so many other planets that didn't sin, to make Him happy, Jesus still decided to come to Earth (the only planet that did sin) to save mankind. If we are true Christians we will receive joy from the knowledge that Jesus died for us. A true Christian will also regularly talk to his best friend, Jesus. He will love Jesus more than any human being. After all that the Lord has done for us we have much to be thankful and happy for.

Richard Eaton

## CONSOLIDATION OF THE PUBLISHING WORK

### Selections from Testimonies to the Managers and Workers:

"There must be no confederacy to ignore the individuality of the publishing work on the Pacific Coast. Let not our brethren attempt to submerge the identity of the Pacific Press in the publishing house at Battle Creek, thinking to increase the strength of both. The Pacific Press has been led to depend too largely upon Battle Creek; its managers should have discerned the talents to be found on the Pacific Coast, and would have shown true wisdom in securing all the ability possible in order to make their work a complete whole. Let the Battle Creek publishing house and the Pacific Press regard each other as sister institutions. In cooperation they can exert a healthful influence upon each other, but not in consolidation. These institutions are not to become merged into one...." pg. 16

"I can not see wisdom in the policy of having all our periodicals combined in one paper or magazine. Each of our periodicals has its own place, and is to do a specific work. Let our brethren inquire, Has the necessity of this work, and its object, changed? If you think so, then wherein?..." pg. 22

"The present is a time of special peril. In 1890 and 1891 there was presented to me a view of dangers that would threaten the work.... Propositions which to their authors appeared very wise would be introduced, looking to the formation of a confederacy that would make Battle Creek, like Rome, the great head of the work, and enable the office of publication there to swallow up everything in the publishing line among us. This is not God's wisdom, but human wisdom. Those matters have been coming up again and again in different aspects, but this policy of consolidation would, if adopted, result in marring the work. God would have His work move firmly and solidly, but no one branch is to interfere with or absorb other branches of the same great work. From time to time for years, in the past, God has been pleased to give me special light on these points. I was shown that the small periodicals, as well as the larger ones, are to come forth from the publishing houses and be scattered like the leaves of autumn to answer the wants of the cause in its growth and extension..." pg. 22



*Scatter them like autumn leaves;*

## **THE PRINTED WORD**

**I**n the past, Noah warned the world through his words. By the words of Noah the people were tested to see if

- (i) they would accept God's love and care for them, in wanting to save them.
- (ii) They were warned that to continue in disobedience would lead to their destruction.
- (iii) Those who heard these messages were tried and proved; for there followed seven days of calm before the destructive storm (the flood).

In this last time the word of God is doing a similar work of warning, testing and proving as Noah did for 120 years. "The publications which go forth... bear the signet of the eternal. They are being scattered all through the land and are deciding the destiny of souls." *Life Sketches*, pg. 205-206.

Why was the Bible written down by Moses? We as men have been degraded, not only in physical stature, life force but in mental vigor as well. Adam stood some 2 1/2 times taller than normal men today, his memory was tremendous as were the antediluvians. Even in the times of Isaac and Jacob, the testimonies declare that these men were still of impressive form, stature and physical strength with great minds to remember (memories). The Bible events were passed on by word of mouth to each descending generation of God's people. Today we are 'like grasshoppers' in comparison to the men of old. Our memories, moral and physical strength are the worst, in this earth's last generation; hence Moses wrote down the word of God.

### **THE PRESENT:**

"The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work as John the Baptist (Elijah) did for the church of God. By startling messages of warning, God's prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. Through him, God called backsliding Israel to repentance. *By his presentation of the truth he exposed popular delusions.* In contrast with the false theories of his time, truth in his teaching, stood forth as an eternal certainty. "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt 3:2. was John's (Elijah's) message. *This same message through the publications from our printing houses is to be given to the world today.*

One of the great falsehoods "Life after death" in its many forms continue to charm and deceive souls from almost all religions. Upon closer investigation it is found that this lie which was first told to Eve "you shall not surely die" is held fast by the majority of world religions as a fact. We the 'Elijah' of this time must take before the world tracts and flyers and spread them 'like autumn leaves'; to enlighten the earth with the truths of God.

We read in Rev. 18 about the angel who came 'down from heaven having great power and the earth was bright with his glory.' "In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes

down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory.” Test. #7 pg. 139-140.

When we can we should have some tracts, even correspondence cards etc. as we travel on our way through our daily life; in the country, in the city, at play or at work. We never know who we may meet, who might find an interest in our tracts and flyers. Another source of curiosity in Ontario, Canada is vegetarianism. “Elijah” must encourage the people to a better way; the right arm, ‘the entering wedge’ must be used. We also as a people should take heed also to the warnings, admonitions and encouragement given us by our dear Friend.

We rebuked and admonished as follows: “you are not as a people doing one twentieth part of what might be done in spreading the knowledge of truth. Very much more can be accomplished by the living preacher and with the circulation of papers and tracts than by the preaching of the word alone without publications.” Publishing Ministry pg.44. The printed page and the spoken word will go through the earth with or without our help. We must also prepare ourselves as we carry on this work, and be like minutemen in the Master’s cause.

There is no need for us to worry “God will make many willing to read. Why? It is true there will also be many who refuse to see or hear anything upon present truth. But we should not even think these cases are beyond hope, *for Christ is drawing many to himself....* you should go forth with your hands filled with proper reading matter, and your heart filled with the love of God.” Evangelism. pg. 159.

Many times these silent messengers are the only preachers of truth that the people hear. In the time of Ellen White and in our own time small groups have become churches because of tracts and flyers. Upon getting hold of a tract on present truth, one individual shared it with others in the same area. The truth to be spoken of in our tracts and flyers has to be specific as is noted in the testimony of the prophet: “I was shown that the truth once published now will stand, for it is the truth for the last days... numberless words need not be put on paper to justify what speaks for itself and shines in its clearness.” She went on to give an example of one church that came into existence only because of the tracts speaking for themselves.

All these doctrines of the truth are to be ‘spread like autumn leaves’ in the form of our flyers, tracts and publications and it will have results. The scriptures state that the Lord’s word never goes out and comes back fruitless. It is also now, very soon in the near future that those who have read our tracts and publications will join us during the latter rain. These will be amongst the thousands who will stand with the people of God through the seven last plagues and in the presence of Jesus when He comes.

It is my desire that the publications, tracts, flyers and Bible study cards not be given to us in vain by the Lord.

AMEN

Br. Mike Newby



## JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

"Come on, Bill. Hurry up," Ross called back to his hiking partner. *Of all the smart kids that were at the Yoho River Camp, why did he get stuck with Bill? Bill, who couldn't climb ropes, couldn't swim fifty yards, and couldn't even make the grade with an axe because he got too tired. If a person didn't have the stamina to complete, why come to a camp like this?* Ross wondered.

Their assignment was to hike eight miles to the lodge at the foot of Twin Falls, pick up a note proving they'd reached there, and return before dark by a different route.

But Bill had held them back, and it was almost two o'clock when they reached Twin Falls.

High across the other side of the valley a sheer cliff towered, and over the edge, a pair of waterfalls tumbled side by side for a dizzying fifty feet or more. The sun behind the mountainside illuminated the spray with a back light that made it look like a thousand diamonds tossed into the air.

Ross forgot his irritation for a moment as he watched. Then for the first time he noticed the large black clouds that loomed up behind them. The sunshine disappeared and great drops of rain spattered on them. Quickly they ran to the shelter of the lodge. By the time they received their proof-note, it had stopped, but dark clouds threatened more showers,

so they took their yellow plastic raincoats out of their backpacks.

Ross didn't want to wait any longer. They were already later than he had planned, and he figured the rain could make the trail difficult to find.

Badgering Bill to hurry, Ross set off down the new trail. The raincoats hampered them as they walked, and raindrops dripped off the bushes down their necks. To add to their misery, thick mud clung to their boots, making them heavy and unwieldy. Here and there the trail disappeared in a sea of mud. Rain-soaked leaves bowed low, hiding the way ahead.

Late in the afternoon the showers turned to a steady drizzle, but Ross was too busy watching for the trail to care. He was sure they were moving in the right direction but he hadn't seen the trail for 20 minutes.

"Do you think we've missed the trail? Bill called from behind.

Ross stopped and Bill almost slid into him. "Let's take a look at the map," Ross said. He didn't like to admit it, but he was a little worried.

Bill pulled off his backpack and began to hunt through it. "It's not here," he said, in a small voice. "I think I left it at the lodge."

"Thanks a lot!" Ross snorted. Just when they really needed it!

"We'll have to keep moving in this direction then," he

said. "With this weather, it will be dark in an hour."

The thick undergrowth had ripped their raincoats in so many places that they no longer protected them from the rain. But they plodded on, getting wetter and colder. And still they couldn't find the trail.

Ross began to get alarmed. Getting lost in this kind of country could be serious. It was almost dark now, and fear gripped him. He looked around desperately, wondering which way to go. He began to move off again when he noticed Bill wasn't following.

"Come on!" Ross yelled at him, furious now. But Bill shook his head.

"It's almost dark and we're lost," he said, stating the obvious in a calm voice. "One of the first rules of survival when you're lost is to stay put. We should find ourselves some shelter and stay right here. That way anyone looking for us will have a chance to find us."

Ross knew he was right and he was irritated. "If it hadn't been for you, we wouldn't be in this mess now!" he said bitterly.

But Bill didn't answer. "Listen!" he said suddenly. Ross listened. He couldn't hear anything.

"It's the river!" Bill shouted excitedly. "Listen!"

Ross listened again. Sure enough, what he had taken to be the rain on the leaves was the sound of a rushing river.

"Come on," Bill exclaimed.

"Let's get down to the river." And he dashed off, leaving Ross to follow.

*What's so special about the river!* Ross thought. Ahead of him, Bill forced a way through the bushes until he stood on a rocky bank, outlined against the foaming river.

Ross clambered after him, but as he reached the rocks, his muddy boots slipped and his legs shot out from under him. His arms flailed wildly, and the next second he landed hard on the rocks. A shooting pain ripped down his right leg and he lay there moaning.

"I think I've pulled a muscle," he said through clenched teeth, fighting waves of nausea as the pain tore at his leg.

"Here," Bill shouted in his ear above the roar of the water. "Lean on me. I see a small cave on the rocks over there. Think you can make it?" Very slowly the two boys moved through the gloom.

The cave wasn't very roomy, but an overhanging ledge kept it dry. Ross sank back against the wall. He must have stayed there several minutes before he became aware of Bill moving around.

"What are you doing?" he asked. Bill had emptied his backpack and then eased Ross's pack off his back.

"We can't be far from camp now," he said, "but you'll never make it. I'm going to make you as comfortable as possible." He folded the packs to make a cushion and tucked them behind Ross's back. "Now, I'll go and get help."

"Go and get help!" exclaimed Ross, suddenly angrier than ever. "How do you think you're going to find your way back to camp now? We couldn't even

find the trail in the day light!" he exclaimed.

"It's not so difficult," Bill said simply. "I'll follow the river."

Ross's mouth dropped open. Follow the river! Why hadn't he thought of that?

But Bill was busy again. He had taken off his ragged plastic raincoat and was tearing it into long strips. "I couldn't get any wetter," he explained, "so I'll tie these strips to the trees down by the river and they will serve as markers for the rescue party."

He moved out into the darkness and a few minutes later he came back grinning. "That should do it," he said. "You can almost see them in the darkness, and with the big flashlights the rescue parties have they couldn't miss them."

Ross's teeth were beginning to chatter. Bill glanced at him. "The sooner I get help the better," he muttered. "Now don't you move. I'll be back with help in no time."

The next minute he was gone. Lying there in the darkness, Ross had plenty of time to think. Who would have thought Bill could be any help in an emergency. He certainly used his head. He'd always been told that there was more to wilderness survival than physical fitness. Now he wished he hadn't been so impatient. He hoped Bill would be okay, out in the forest alone.

He began to drift in and out of sleep.

Much later he stirred uneasily. The pain in his leg felt like a red-hot needle. Everything seemed unreal. Lights flashed in front of his eyes, among the trees. The lights became brighter and closer. Dark figure moved towards him. At last help had come.

"Where's Bill?" Ross asked immediately.

"He's resting. He'll have to go into town for a check-up in the morning," a gruff voice answered. It was the camp director.

"Is he all right?" Ross asked anxiously. "I wouldn't have made it without him."

"He seemed okay," the director replied, "but we're not taking any chances. He had a serious illness a year ago. He was a fine woodsman before that. Never missed a camp. He begged us to let him come on this one, and we did, even though we knew he hadn't completely regained his strength."

Ross felt guilty. So *that's* why Bill couldn't do any of those things.

In no time at all he was wrapped in warm blankets and carried on a stretcher, back to camp.

Bill was waiting for him. "I couldn't rest until I was sure they'd found you," he explained.

"They came straight to the spot," Ross said from the stretcher. "I guess they couldn't miss your markers. Thanks," he added, "Thanks for everything. I'm sure glad it was you I went with on the hike."

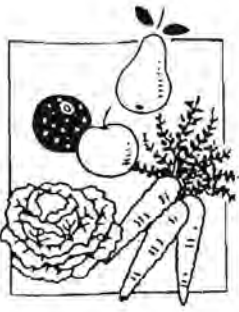
Bill grinned. "We'll do it again," he said, "when your leg is better. Only this time we'll do it right."

"You bet!" Ross exclaimed, "and there isn't anyone I'd rather go with!"

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother?"

Romans 14:10.

*Forgive me, Father, for misjudging others, for jumping to conclusions, for being too full of myself to see others clearly.*



# ***EAT YOUR VITAMINS***

## ***Getting nutrients from food better than taking supplements***

Debating the merits of eating vitamin-rich foods versus taking nutrients in supplement form is a hot topic. Chances are, if you think you're not getting the vitamins your body needs each day, you probably aren't.

If you don't eat a well-balanced diet that includes plenty of vegetables and fruit, you might miss out on some important vitamins. Very few Canadians get close to eating the 5 to 10 servings per day of vegetables and fruit recommended by Health Canada. That's unfortunate, because these foods offer so much in the way of vitamins, which we need for good health. Low intakes of vegetables and fruit can be blamed for many nutrient deficiencies.

Beta carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E are all called antioxidants. Dark orange vegetables and fruit such as sweet potatoes, carrots, squash, apricots and papaya, and dark green vegetables such as spinach, kale and broccoli are loaded with beta carotene, the plant form of vitamin A. Oranges, grapefruits, lemons, limes, sweet peppers, strawberries, kiwifruit, broccoli, brussels sprouts, tomatoes, guavas, mangos and most juices (not fruit drinks) are high in vitamin C.

## **FREE RADICALS**

Vegetable oils, whole grain cereals, wheat germ, nuts and seeds, dried apricots and leafy green vegetables are sources of vitamin E. The antioxidants help destroy the free radicals that exist in our bodies which get disease processes started.

Beta carotene, vitamin C and E have been found to provide some protection against cancer and heart disease. They may also play a role in slowing down the progression of several chronic diseases associated with aging, such as cataracts and Alzheimer disease.

Antioxidants appear to protect against heart disease by lowering the risk of atherosclerosis (fatty build-up in the arteries). Vitamin E particularly in supplement form, has been shown to have the most impact on reducing the risk of coronary heart disease. Researchers are currently trying to see if foods containing vitamin E can provide the same protective effects.

## **PROPER GROWTH**

The most consistent relationships are the protective effect of vitamin C and beta carotene in cervical cancer and a possible protective effect of vitamins A and C in breast cancer.

Supplementation with beta carotene seems to offer no preventive benefits against cancer. For those at high risk of lung cancer, beta carotene supplements might be harmful.

Another important vitamin is folic acid, a member of the B vitamin family. Folic acid is essential for proper growth and functioning of the nervous system and bone marrow. It is also involved in making amino acids, blood cells and nervous tissue. Folic acid has been found to prevent neural tube defects (malformations of the brain and spinal cord) in the fetus. Folic acid deficiencies can be quite common, so it's wise to eat foods rich in folic acid every day, especially if you are planning to become pregnant.

Spinach, broccoli, green peas, brussels sprouts, oranges, orange juice, cantaloupe, and dried peas, beans and lentils all provide folic acid.

Who needs supplements?

Most people who eat a well balanced diet and consume a variety of foods based on Canada's Food Guide To Healthy Eating shouldn't have to take supplements. Some individuals, however, can benefit from them:

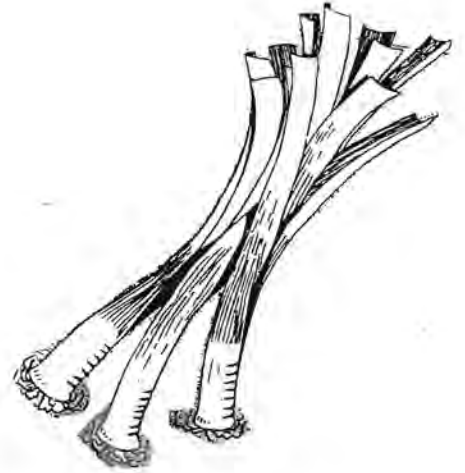
- Infants who are exclusively breast-fed and individuals who have a limited exposure to sunlight, such as the elderly, may need a vitamin D supplement.
- Children or adults who must exclude an entire food group from their diet (for example, milk products) may need to take a supplement (such as calcium).
- Pregnant women may need to take a supplement that contains folic acid. A multivitamin may also help ensure that they get an adequate amount of other vitamins and minerals, such as calcium and iron.
- Older folks who have poor food intakes or those who get a lot of infections may be at risk for nutrient deficiencies. A multivitamin may be required to improve their nutritional status.
- Children and adults who simply don't eat well may want to take a multivitamin as nutritional insurance.

You are better off getting nutrients from foods rather than a bottle.

If you rely on pills rather than food such as vegetables and fruit, you'll miss out on trace vitamins, fibre and other substances that also offer health benefits. Supplements won't provide you with the energy you need to get you going, either.

If you do decide to take supplements, discuss your needs with your physician or a registered dietitian first. When taking a supplement, follow the recommended dosage. More does not mean better. There are potential negative effects from getting too much of some vitamins and minerals, including vitamin A and D, B6 and fluoride.

# Leeks



## How to choose them

- Look for crisp bulbs and fresh looking leaves.
- The smaller the better. Choose leeks under one and a half inches in diameter. Big fat leeks tend to be woody and tough. Some specialty stores carry pencil-thin and tender baby leeks.

## Storage

- Leeks will store for a week or more in a plastic bag in the crisper of your refrigerator.

## Sandy situation

- Leeks are grown in sand or sandy soil. That's why so much sand lurks in their interiors. To avoid a gritty mouthful, wash leeks carefully.
- If you are serving leeks whole, trim off the fibrous roots and the green, bitter leaves. Starting an inch from the bottom of the bulb, make a lengthwise cut to the top. Soak leeks in water for a few minutes then fan out the leaves and wash under running water.
- If you are using chopped leeks, de-sanding is a breeze. Simply chop, and rinse well in a sink full of water.

## Don't overcook

- Leeks turn to mush when overcooked. To avoid this nasty occurrence, watch them carefully as they cook. Cook until barely tender and remove from heat. When preparing leeks for salads, rinse under cold water after they're cooked.



### Culinary creations

- Leeks are not as loved in Canada as they are in Europe. While most of us know of leeks' role in the classic chilled soup vichyssoise, few of us have tried leeks in all their glory. Consider roasting leeks whole in the oven like asparagus: toss with a little olive oil, oregano and salt. Roast in a 350F oven until tender. Try shredding them raw for a salad.

### Team it with leeks

- Leeks go very well with lemon, dill, savory, parsley, marjoram, oregano, olive oil, mushrooms, tomatoes, and potatoes.

### Nutritional bonus

- Leeks contain a surprising amount of nutrients: vitamin C, iron, folacin, and traces of calcium and niacin.
- Leeks supply more vitamins and minerals than an equal-sized serving of onions or scallions. One cup of raw leeks contains only 57 calories.

### Trivia

- France grows more leeks than any other country. In Ontario, leeks are hand harvested.
- Got a nosebleed? Hippocrates, father of medicine prescribed the leek for a bloody nose.

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*Dear Friend:*

*How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I care about you. I saw you yesterday, as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me, too. I gave you a sunset to chase your day and a cool breeze to rest you—and I waited. You never came. It hurt me—but I still love you because I am your friend.*

*I saw you sleeping last night and longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight upon your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk.*

*I have so many gifts for you! I try to tell you in blue skies and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in leaves on the trees and breathe it in colours of flowers, shout it to you in mountain streams, give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you in warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest need in your heart.*

*Ask me! Talk with me! Please don't forget me. I have so much to share with you! I have chosen you and I will wait for you. I love you!*

*Your friend,  
Jesus*



Streetville young people presenting a New Year's program.

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Brother George Williams from Montreal with his wife Olga on their wedding day in Tallinn, Estonia , Sunday Nov. 1, 1998. Brother Vladimir conducted the ceremony. George and Olga met each other in Holland during the General conference and after one year of correspondence they found that they had common ideas in regard to christian faith and principles and decided to join their lives in marriage. May God bless George and Olga.