

The Reformation 

Messenger

Volume 6, Number 5

May 1999

International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement



LITTLE FOXES
S.of Solomon 2:15

REFORMATION PART 3



PROPHESIED REFORMATION

"Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."
Amos 3:7

No other church in the past has had so many prophecies concerning them as this last Reformation which is to prepare the people for the latter rain. The Bible and the writings of Sister White make sure that no honest seeker of the truth will be left in doubt about the church of God in these last days.

The main prophecy about the last Reformation is found in Revelation 18. When the Seventh-Day Adventists joined in the army in 1914, and by so doing, committed spiritual fornication with the kings of the earth, someone had to continue the preaching of the Advent Message and the Christ Righteousness message which they had rejected.

This message of the 18th chapter of Revelation has been proclaimed by our Reform Movement for the past 85 years. It calls the attention of the Seventh-Day Adventists to the law of God which they have broken and also to the remedy which they rejected in 1888, the message of Christ's righteousness.

The message to the Laodicean church is a prophecy which foretold the events regarding the church of God in the last days. In this prophecy the true condition of the church is revealed and also the fact that the angel (leadership) will be spewed out of the mouth of God, indicating its rejection. Yet it shows a faithful remnant whom God loves and who will go as Christ's representatives to the door of the lost sheep of Israel inviting them to the spiritual supper with Christ, those who overcome sin as even Christ overcame.

Revelation 12:17 is a prophecy of the faithful remnant "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." The Seventh-Day Adventist Church was divided into two companies in the time of the First World War. Now we must find out which side kept the commandments of God and also the testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy.

To illustrate this division, there was a brother named Korpman in Estonia who refused the army service and was sentenced to prison, and the soldier who took him to prison was a brother from the same church who decided to join the army. Which one of these two was a true Adventist?

TIME FOR THE REFORMATION TO BEGIN

It is important to know when this Prophesied Reformation would begin. This is to eliminate the false Reformations which do not begin at the prophesied time.

In 1903 Sister White wrote, "The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. One member working in right lines lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit. There will be no confusion, because all will be in harmony with the mind of the Spirit. The barriers separating believer from believer will be broken down, and God's servants will speak the same things." Vol. 2 page 251

All these descriptions refer to unity in the church. This is the beginning of the reformation. The ending will be the latter rain.

Many Seventh-Day Adventists believe that the time for the reformation has not come yet while Sister White said the time for a thorough reformation was over 90 years ago.

In the book Time and Work she points out more accurately the time for the reformation to begin. "Very soon the strife and oppression of foreign nations will break forth with an intensity that you do not now anticipate.... While these calamities were witnessed among the nations of earth, another scene was presented, - a great reformatory movement among God's people. 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 on in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call. God calls upon these who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see crises before us, and the Lord calls for His laborers to come into line." Time and Work p. 10, 11

According to this testimony we are to look for this reformatory movement to take place in the First World War.

"Sister White told us that a terrible storm of persecution was coming, like a windstorm, that would blow down every standing object. Not a Seventh-Day Adventist was to be seen. They, like the disciples, all forsook Christ and fled. All who had sought position were never seen any more. After the storm there was a calm. Then Seventh-Day Adventists arose like a flock of sheep, but without shepherds. They united in earnest prayer to God, who answered by helping them choose leaders of their number who had never sought position." Spirit of Prophecy Research page 3. Quoted by Will Ross, Boulder, California, 1908.

Many other prophecies have been given by God for us to recognize the last church of God on the earth. Peter and the other disciples were eyewitnesses of Christ. They had heard the voice of God saying "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Yet to prove that Jesus was the Son of God he writes, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your heart." 2 Peter 1:19

Prophecy has never failed. We do well to trust it and to follow it. Many false reformations have come into the world but they do not have the foundation. They have not the prophecy to prove them genuine. God has only one church that He recognizes as His own. And we can find this church through the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Study these prophecies carefully and with prayer that your minds may be fortified to stand the tests before us.

"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive." AMEN

Timo Martin

THE FAMILY OF GOD

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God; I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, I'm a part of the family, the family of God.

"You will notice, we say "brother and sister" 'round here. It's because we're a family and these folks are so near: When one has a heartache, we all share the tears, and rejoice in each victory of this family so dear.

From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King – No longer an outcast, a new song I sing; From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong, I'm not worthy to be here, But, praise God, I belong." By.

William and Gloria Gaither

What a great privilege to be counted as a member of the family of God. That is what church membership entails. You are welcomed into God's family. How many today take the time to contemplate and appreciate all that this means? The King of the Universe calls us His sons and daughters; Jesus calls us brethren. What are we in comparison to these Supreme Beings? Nothing from a human standpoint. We are a speck in the Universe, a dark blot in a perfect Creation – yet what a great privilege is ours.

I want each one of us to consider what we are doing to contribute to this precious family that we have become a part of. When we think of an earthly family today we think of a father, mother and possibly some children. During the first years of a child's life, the father and mother took care of most of the household responsibilities, but as the children grew they participated more and more, according to their ability, in the household chores. Sometimes children grumble and complain at this – and this is, unfortunately, a reflection of their parents' views on these tasks most of

the time. Yet, in each household there are duties to perform by each member of the family and this is true also with our spiritual family.

When you first are adopted into the family you will not be given the largest tasks at hand. Just like the little child, you will be given the simple duties until you are capable of more complex ones.

Things begin to get unbalanced if children, as they reach their teenage years, decide that they no longer want to do their part. It is their parents' duty to clean the house, cut the lawn, cook, wash the car etc. They want to place the whole burden back on the shoulders of their parents. Just the same, things get unbalanced in the church when the individual members decide they no longer want to do their respective duties and want to place them back on the shoulders of the church leaders and ministers.

There are certain duties that church members have that ministers also have. The opposite is also true – ministers have some duties that the regular members don't have, yet they all have their duties. No one is exempt from labour in the family of God. I want to briefly quote a few testimonies concerning the duties of church members as opposed to ministers.

CHURCH MEMBERS' DUTIES

"Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighborhood and know their spiritual condition . . . If every church member had sought to enlighten others, thousands upon thousands would today stand with God's commandment-keeping people." T6 , p. 296.

"The church of Christ on earth was organized for missionary purposes, and the Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means

whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth. Not all are called to personal labor in foreign fields, but all can do something by their prayers and their gifts to aid the missionary work.

"An American businessman who was an earnest Christian, in conversation with a fellow worker remarked he himself worked for Christ twenty-four hours of the day. 'In all my business relations,' he said, 'I try to represent my Master. As I have opportunity, I try to win others to Him. All day I am working for Christ. And at night, while I sleep, I have a man working for Him in China.'

"In explanation he added: 'In my youth I determined to go as a missionary to the heathen. But on the death of my father I had to take up his business in order to provide for the family. Now, instead of going myself, I support a missionary. In such a town of such a province of China, my worker is stationed. And so, even while I sleep, I am, through my representative, still working for Christ.'" T6, p. 29,30

"It requires more grace, more stern discipline of character, to work for God in the capacity of mechanic, merchant, lawyer, or farmer, carrying the precepts of Christianity into the ordinary business of life, than to labor as an acknowledged missionary in the open field. It requires a strong spiritual nerve to bring religion into the workshop and the business office, sanctifying the details of everyday life, and ordering every transaction according to the standard of God's word. But this is what the Lord requires." MYP p. 215.

"To everyone who becomes a partaker of His grace the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, 'Here am I; send me' (Isa. 6:8). Upon the minister of the Word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the

individual Christian whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic – the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end.”

MH p.,148.

“Many who possess real ability are rusting from inaction because they do not know how to set themselves at work in missionary lines. Let someone who has ability lay out before these inactive ones the line of work they could do.” T6, p. 432. And whose duty is it to educate the church members in missionary lines? The answer is in the next section.

MINISTERS' DUTIES

“The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers. Let them learn to work as Christ worked. Let them join His army of workers and do faithful service for Him.” T7, p. 19.

“Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labour successfully. Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received. While the new converts should be taught to ask counsel from those more experienced in the work, they should also be taught not to put the minister in the place of God. Ministers are but human beings, men compassed with infirmities. Christ is the One to whom we are to look for guidance.” T7, p. 20

“It is not the Lord’s purpose that ministers should be left to do the greatest part of the work of sowing the seeds of truth. Men who are not called to the ministry are to be encouraged to labour for the Master according to their several ability. Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their friends and neighbors, they could do a great work for the Master. God is no respecter of persons. He will use humble, devoted Christians, even if

they have not received so thorough an education as some others.” T7, p. 21.

“Instead of keeping the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, let the members of the churches say to the laborers: ‘Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves will carry forward the services of the church. We will keep up the meetings, and, by abiding in Christ, will maintain spiritual life. We will work for souls that are about us, and we will send our prayers and our gifts to sustain the laborers in more needy and destitute fields.’” T6, p. 30.

“Ministers are to be educators who understand and appreciate the needs of humanity. They should encourage the church members to obtain a practical knowledge of all lines of missionary work, that they may be a blessing to all classes of people. They should be quick to discern those who appreciate questions relating to spiritual life, who have tact and ability to watch for and care for souls as those who must give an account. They should assist these to organize the working forces of the church, so that men, women, and youth of various temperaments, in various callings and positions, will take hold of the work that must be done, bringing their God-given talents into most solemn service for the Master.” T6, p. 302.

WHAT DUTIES MINISTERS ARE NOT TO DO

“God has not given His ministers the work of setting the churches right. No sooner is this work done, apparently, than it has to be done over again. Church members that are thus looked after and labored for become religious weaklings. If nine tenths of the effort that has been put forth for those who know the truth had been put forth for those who have never heard the truth, how much greater would have been the advancement made! . . .

“It weakens those who know the truth for our ministers to expend on them the time and talent that should be given to the unconverted. In many of our churches in the cities the minister preaches Sabbath after Sabbath, and

Sabbath after Sabbath the church members come to the house of God with no words to tell of blessings received because of blessings imparted . . .” T7, p. 18.

“How many ministers, while engaged in a good work in which souls are turning to God and to the truth, are called away to settle some church trial among brethren who were wholly wrong themselves and who had a contentious and overbearing spirit?”

“The work of withdrawing men from their fields of labor has been repeated again and again in the progress of this cause. It is a device of the great adversary of man to hinder the work of God.” T5, p. 615.

THE CONCLUSION

The church members are a very vital part of the family of God. They are the workers. Just like in an ant colony or a beehive, it is the workers that keep things running. They do not expect their queen to do all their work for them. It is a joint effort. In God’s family the church members are the ones who do the day to day labour for souls. Often it may seem in some churches that the opposite is true. The members sit idle while the church leader or minister does all the missionary work.

I have often noticed also that those who are most vocal in their criticism of their brethren are those who are doing the least amount of missionary work. Their eyes are not on the work at hand; instead they have time to look at their brethren. If they would take the time to diligently work for the Lord they would not have time to engage in criticism.

This does not mean that each church member is to be a full time missionary, but the responsibility to win souls is equally upon their shoulders as it is on the ministers’ shoulders. Yes, you may conclude that the minister or Bible Worker has more time on his hands since he is employed full time in gospel work, but the responsibility to win souls is equal. While you are at work or school, you may be a witness for Christ, perhaps a

silent witness to start with and as you make acquaintances you may drop a word here and there in due season. We must always have our eyes open to the opportunities the Lord places before us. The minister will never have access to the people in your work place or school as you do. Those people the Lord has given to you to witness to. And those who organize their time wisely may find they have an hour or two now and then for a Bible Study or a little canvassing.

Then where is the ministers' duty different? If all are called to be soul winners, what is the difference? The difference lies in the ministers' duty to the church. The Apostle Paul never stayed very long in one church. He went about establishing churches in new areas and stayed as long as was needed to organize the church and educate the members. He then left for a new area. He often took companions with him and also took the time to revisit these churches he had organized. They were new churches and needed much encouragement.

The same is true with our ministers. They should stay as long as is necessary for the church to be set to action. Sometimes, in difficult areas, it may take longer – it may take many years, but by diligent labour, fruit will eventually be seen. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:8.

These ministers must not only teach the Word, but also by example show the Word. Any minister, church leader or missionary who is not doing this is failing to educate the members in this God-given duty and should seriously think about correcting their errors or leaving their position to someone more capable.

Then in turn the church leaders are to rightly educate the church members after the missionary leaves. What a great army of workers would be produced in each church in this manner. Then there would not be enough room in the church for all of these "worker ants and bees." They will have to leave their hive and go

start a new colony in another city. There are so many cities to reach and why are all the members remaining in the same cities year after year? Are they being taught how to do missionary work?

Consider the church you are in right now and think back in the past year. How many times has your church held missionary training seminars? Ok, how about in the past 2 years? Well maybe 5 years? I hope it hasn't been that long. And of course it doesn't have to be a lengthy seminar – just a few Sunday afternoons will do for instruction in canvassing, Bible studies and various other types of missionary work. And then there is on-the-job training? How many times has your minister or church leaders taken the members out and shown them how to canvass? Or perhaps taken some members to their Bible studies to show them how it is done so that the next time they have a Bible Study contact, they can have the Bible Studies themselves, instead of promptly handing over the contact to the missionary?

In our families, that is how we teach our children. They learn to cook, clean, wash the car etc. by being our helper, by observing and helping us in our work. Then little by little they are able to do more. The same must be true in the church.

If this is not done, it leads to centralization. Instead of being encouraged to go to new areas they all stay in the same hive. They are not all called as full time missionaries, but Sr. White counsels that several families are to go to new areas – resume their former employment and set up a standard for the truth in the new city. Just to have representation in the area and have someone to give the occasional Bible Study in the evenings is what God is asking. Who will heed the call?

These are serious things to consider. Our churches are not just social clubs to meet in every week. They are education centers – preparing missionaries for new areas. God intends His people to scatter all over

the country and not be dependent on the church leader and their fellow members week after week. They have to learn to lean on Christ. Then conference time is when God's children gather from all over the country to share in blessed fellowship and to renew their strength and take encouragement back to their respective fields of labour.

In a family on earth, you don't see all the children and grandchildren living together in the same house. The house would get too crowded. They move out and find their own place to live. In such a manner the Lord calls also for too many members not to crowd under the same church roof. Who is sending out the missionaries? Who is calling them all to remain at home?

"Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" Ezekiel 34:2

Give a family food and they eat one day. Teach them how to work and they eat many days.

Feed the members on Sabbath and they go home full for the week. Teach them how to feed and they go home to feed others during the week.

"If we only knew what is before us we would not be so dilatory in the work of the Lord. We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands. If we make no effort to win souls to Christ we shall be held responsible for the work we might have done, but did not do because of our spiritual indolence. Those who belong to the Lord's kingdom must work earnestly for the saving of souls. They must do their part to bind up the law and seal it among the disciples." T6 p. 331,332.

Yes, we are all privileged to have been adopted into the Family of God and let us do our part and share in the burden bearing with our brethren and sisters.

Wendy Eaton

MINI-SERIES ABOUT SOME KINGS OF THE BIBLE

PART ONE:

“And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom.” 1 Kings 10:24.

When Solomon became king over Israel and was strengthened in his kingdom (2. Chron. 1:1), he and all Israel with him, went up to Gideon where the tabernacle of Moses was pitched, to offer a thousand burnt offerings upon the brasen altar. Verse 3, 5, 6.

The same night God appeared to Solomon and asked him: “What shall I give thee?” v. 7. Then Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge that he might rule wisely and judge his people righteously. And God gave him wisdom and knowledge more than to any other king before him and after him, besides riches, wealth and honor as a special gift, because Solomon did not ask for these things, v. 12.

Then Solomon built the temple of the Lord, and after this his own palace, also being called the house of Lebanon, and finished all after twenty years. 2. Chron.8:1. During those years he walked faithfully like his father David and loved the Lord. He had a wise and understanding heart and his righteous and sound judgment amazed the people insomuch that the nations round about heard of it and his fame reached even the ends of the earth.

Solomon studied nature and made known to his people what he searched out. His thirst for understanding things done under the sun and the works of creation kept him searching and captivated his keen mind.

As long as he did it all in the fear of the Lord – the beginning of wisdom, he was richly blest and increased in understanding and in knowledge. Having a magnificent temple for worship, a luxurious palace to live in, the cities fortified and gold in abundance, beside anything the heart can desire, peace along the borders, and Israel “dwelt safely every man under his vine and his fig tree,” (1. Kings 4:25) - thus there came a time of ease.

Satan has long been looking for an opportunity to enter a wedge to tempt and cause the king who was a thorn in his eyes to turn him from his path of righteousness and following the Lord.

Quite early in his reign King Solomon married a princess of Egypt. She was very beautiful and he loved her. But by doing this Solomon made his first great mistake. Taking a wife from a heathen nation was a direct disregard to the

commandment of God given to Moses for the children of Israel. See Ex. 34:16; Deut. 7:3,4. Thus the door for Satan was opened and he came in with a force that swept Solomon off his feet.

For it was not long until he had married many more women from the surrounding nations “and he clave unto these in love.” 1 Kings 11:2. This pleased Satan well; he had the king in his power. Solomon had neglected to follow the clear divine instruction and relaxed in seeking the Lord. In the time of Moses God had given a charter of rules and statutes for the king that would rule in Israel, of which Solomon was to have a copy. In this charter it says, “He shall not multiply wives unto himself, that his heart turn not away.” Deut. 17:17. “For surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” 1. Kings 11:2.

And sure enough in the end these wives made Solomon worship their gods and even erect places of worship for their idols. Here we may learn that the great wisdom of Solomon did not prevent him from committing such abominations before the Lord. Passion had taken over and blinded his spiritual discernment and

abhorrence for sin, his righteousness was consumed upon the altar of fleshly lust. It is rather shocking and awful to what depth of depravity one can come who so lavishly had been bestowed with divine gifts and favors! May everyone tremble at the sobering fact, that man by himself without the constant protection of heavenly powers becomes a pawn in Satan's hands to be subject to his wiles and temptations. Even the wisest man on earth became his helpless victim, but it was Solomon's own fault. The higher the position, the more vulnerable is one to temptation and in Solomon's case the enemy put forth special effort to ruin the name of this privileged regent with guilt and shame. To multiply wives does not add to the respect of a man, neither adds to the honor of a king, but rather lowers him to the level of a beast.

Besides his hundreds of wives, the king became busy setting his eyes upon the things of the world. He granted himself every pleasure the world could afford and thought it wise to study out "madness and folly." Eccl. 1:17.

Here his wisdom became folly, for the things of the world can never satisfy a mind that has set its affections upon heavenly things. The earthly things are for the carnally minded and are contrary to things spiritual and the mind of God. Solomon lost his spirituality and turned carnal, by his lifestyle he disconnected himself from heaven. Thus he was in the end quite displeased with himself

and his life. He was disappointed and called it all "vanity and vexation of spirit." Eccl. 2:11.

Truly all things carnal are vanity, when one lives only for the gratification of the moment and fleshly desires. This ennobles no one's life or character. Solomon experienced the joy of the Lord in his earlier years. But he drifted away from the source of true happiness and became a very lonely man, though he had hundreds of wives. He reaped what he had sown and even the wisest man and wealthiest king upon the face of the earth was not exempt from this truth and its consequence.

The only one who rejoiced was Satan. He was well satisfied with bringing Solomon to shame and under the displeasure of the Lord. He had nothing to worry about anymore concerning Solomon. So Satan thought!

Solomon said, "there is no new thing under the sun," (Eccl. 1:9), yet he could have been an example to reverse this proverb. He had all the capabilities, privileges and opportunities to do "a new thing under the sun."

What God said to Solomon "there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall arise like unto thee," (1. Kings 3:12), was fulfilled in honor, praise and riches. But there could have been much more. The ambition of a ruler who would use his high estate to honor and glorify the name of

God before all the world. This would have been unique and a new thing done under the sun. The situation for it was perfect, the setting and the time right. "For all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart." 2.Chron. 9:23. There was the opportunity to "declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people." Ps. 96:3.

The fame of this Jewish king amazed the nations and so inspired them that they made the effort to see and hear him for themselves. They would not arrive empty handed, but carefully selected the most precious gifts. In their respect for him only the very best would be good enough to present to this king. (2. Chron. 9:24). When even the rulers themselves would undertake the long, difficult journey to hear the wise proverbs and judgments of Solomon, this monarch was indeed some extraordinary person! Nowhere in all the history of the world had such a thing taken place!

And sure enough Solomon more than satisfied everyone's expectations and curiosity by his brilliant utterances of wisdom that surpassed the wisdom of the world.

Picture with me the scene of such an assembly in the magnificent palace of King Solomon with the ivory throne overlaid with gold and two lions at the steps and six lions on each side of the six steps

leading to the throne. 2. Chron. 9:17, 19. Imagine the grandeur of the throne room where the most beautifully arranged flowers and ornaments graced the eye and exotic birds in gilded cages charmed the beholder. Elegant recliners of rare and costly wood covered with an abundance of luxurious cushions, invited to seat the foreign kings and ambassadors in grand array from far away countries. Cupbearers in colorful vesture gracefully moved to pour refreshing drinks and exquisite wine into golden cups and continuously replaced culinary tidbits on superbly designed golden plates from the richly laden tables to satisfy the most refined palate.

Then for the highlight of the day behold the monarch as he in an elaborately designed robe of precious silk ascends to the elevated throne. Every eye gazes with admiration to the attractive and noble frame of Solomon who now in an imposing regal motion turns to his audience to take his seat upon the throne. A spark of great excitement fills the air, and the assembly spellbound by the glory they behold, awaits with enthusiasm the longed for moment when the king would open his mouth and pearls of sublime wisdom and enlightenment escape his lips!

And now consider what Solomon could have presented to his guests beside his wise proverbs, judgments and songs. Here was the unique situation and opportunity for him to introduce the heathen kings to

the knowledge of the true God. For those knew nothing but to worship idols. This king who had twice been visited by God could have witnessed that He that appeared to him is the living God and Creator of the universe and Maker of the world and man.

He could have opened to them the divine plan of salvation, that God desires all mankind to be reconciled to Him and be His children, and to declare to them the mysteries of the great I AM.

Solomon could have explained the law of God, His judgments, and the Ten Commandments as the sure and best foundation for the government of every nation and the blessings and prosperity by keeping them.

God would have wrought wonderful things in the hearts of the foreign kings and representatives. The Holy Spirit would have moved them to accept the divine invitation coming from the mouth of the devoted servant of the heavenly Majesty, Solomon, who used his exalted position to make the name of the Most High great in the earth.

The world would have been enlightened with the knowledge of the science of salvation, as the heathen turn from ignorance to know the truth and learn their need of a Saviour. This truth would have been preserved through the ages and would prepare many to look for the coming of the promised Messiah a thousand years later.

Had Solomon consecrated himself fully to serve the Lord instead of gratifying his own desires, he would have reaped rich blessings for himself and for his people. His faith would have increased to heights of heavenly bliss with a deeper understanding of the purpose of the temple service and brought him the closest connection with the Redeemer that would have thrilled his soul.

He could have enjoyed a vision of the mission of the true Lamb of God to whom he so often offered thousands of rams for a burnt sacrifice. His heart would have melted in love for his God, who would one day even die for his sins. He would have understood all this and made this mystery hid from the world, the great study of his life.

The truth would have been opened to him that the desire of God is to dwell in the heart of man. That magnificent temple which he built for God to dwell in, was only a model and lifeless substitute for the true home of God - in the living heart of His people. And all this he would have taught his people and to all those kings and high officials who flocked to him to hear his brilliant speeches of wisdom.

The glory of God would have filled the earth. God promised to Solomon "I will dwell among the children of Israel," 1. Kings 6:13, would have come true; Jerusalem indeed would have been a holy city to which all the nations look, the centre of

worshiping the living God of Israel.

What prophets spoke later on about spiritual Israel and Jerusalem - the people of God - could have been a reality in Solomon's time. "I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called the city of truth." "Yea many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord," Zech. 8:3,22.

Jerusalem would have been "a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God." Isa. 62:3. The devotion of Solomon and his faith would have sanctified his character to Christlikeness and made him the most unique king ever upon the earth. It would have inspired his own nation to follow the Lord the same way and cast a holy influence upon the land with untold heavenly blessings for them all. The world would also have received a knowledge of the Sabbath and turned the people to worship the Creator. Thus idol worship would have been checked which so terribly had ensnared all heathen lands and a tide of evil would have been prevented.

All this could have been. Imagine the harvest of souls Solomon would meet in heaven, who would approach him and say: "Because of you we are here. You told us about the living God and taught us His commandments. You brought

us out of darkness to the light of truth and life."

But alas, it was not to be! Satan was very wroth and would not have this particular regent to declare the glorious works and name of the one and only God to the world. He succeeded to bring this great monarch to serve the flesh and to fall into grave apostasy. The life of the king was almost wasted and the legacy of his name marred with a rather bitter taste.

Finally, in his old age Solomon realized his sins and abominations done before the Lord and the people. He abhorred himself and deeply regretted how terribly he had sinned against his God who blessed him with such excellent gifts and privileges. He used them to serve himself rather the great Giver. God loved Solomon very much and He could not let him perish in his sins. The Holy Spirit moved upon the heart of Solomon and brought him into sincere and heart-felt repentance. Solomon was forgiven, but what irreparable damage had he done to himself and to his people! The results and consequences of his doings concerning erecting places for the worship of idols for his wives and engaging himself with it defiled the people and the land, so that the curse of God fell upon it. Future generations felt the complete impact of it. Solomon also failed to educate his own son Rehoboam to faithfulness and obedience to the God of Israel, so that this weak follower of his

throne would be the first to bring the judgments of God to pass!

The example of Solomon led the people to do the same things causing the sin of idol worship to be a constant practice throughout the history of Israel. And God would finally do what He had said to Solomon when He appeared to him, "If you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments... and go and serve other gods, and worship them; Then will I pluck them up by the roots." 2. Chron. 7:19,20.

That Israel became a byword and the people were dispersed throughout the earth and hated by the nations, was a direct result of the abominations done by Solomon. The stone thrown into the lake caused a ripple effect so that the ripple continued to expand till it reached the shore. This is the law of action and reaction.

May the life of Solomon serve as a warning to everyone and thus some good come out of the bad. All that is being done under the sun will, without fail, bring a harvest for either good or bad.

May everyone consider for which harvest he is sowing so that the reaping by and by may be to God's honour and glory.

Amen

By Edda Tedford

“Blessed are they that Mourn.....”

Mike Newby



In the Bible as also in lives, people mourn for different things. In many cases when a mother loses her child, her deep mourning of anguish will break your heart.

Rachel mourned as was fulfilled by the prophet Jeremiah saying: Matt. 2:18 “In Rama was there a voice heard lamentation and weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and they would not be comforted.” This mourning will not be in vain, if these mothers continued to be faithful to God, then they will meet their young martyrs in heaven again.

Jesus mourned deeply as He suffered for someone else's evil faults. Jesus was lashed until His skin was destroyed revealing raw flesh. How much more could He have done to save us.

While the Saviour was with His church, He showed James and John how blinded they were; temperamental-sons of thunder. In Luke 9:51-56 He said; you do not know what spirit you are? What spirit did they have? Was it the spirit of Christ?

So He tells us, the last church, that we are also blinded and cannot see our true condition, so we do not mourn. We do not mourn for our lost condition because we are not aware of it. Rev. 3: 14-18.

1Cor. 3: 16-17. “If a man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.” What is this temple? How do we defile this temple? We can do so by (1) gluttony; overeating of good food (2)drug abuse (3)eating of unhealthy food.

No! we must mourn before God for these sins we commit in our bodies (His temple). Jesus had to suffer great pain and agony for the abuses we commit against this temple of God.

1Cor. 10:10-11. “murmured and complained about their lives, coveting; they were not satisfied with God's blessing and leading. We are blessed and are being led by Christ, but are blinded, not understanding that the only human being that deserved all the good things of life was Jesus. There is not one of us who even deserve the food we eat.

“Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.”

From these two examples given below, we can determine what is the right type of mourning.

1) Matt. 27: 3-4. Having regretted what he did, Judas threw the blood money, saying: “I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood”, but it was too late, the Holy Spirit had left him. His mourning was for the terrible punishment he is to face; because he resisted the Holy Spirit and did not mourn for his sin against Christ.

2) Luke 22: 61-62. “And Peter went out and wept bitterly.” The Holy Spirit enlightened Peter that it was his sin that caused the suffering and death of Jesus. What about us, do you feel this way?

"We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of our hearts that has slighted and grieved the Savior, and brings us into contrition (thoroughly sorry) to the foot of the cross.

By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh: as we look upon Him whom we pierced we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead us to refuse to have anything to do with sin." D.A. pg. 300.

"Such mourning shall be comforted." God reveals to us our guilt that we may flee to Christ; and through him be set free from the bondage of sin, and rejoice in the liberty (freedom) of being sons of God. In true contrition we may come to the foot of the cross and leave our burdens.

"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted."

The Saviour's words have a message of comfort to those who are suffering affliction or bereavement. Our sorrows do not spring out of the ground. God 'doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.' Lam. 3: 33. When He permits trials and afflictions, it is 'for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.' Heb. 12: 10.

If received in faith, the trial that seems so hard to bear will prove a blessing. The cruel blow that blights the joys of earth will be the means of turning our eyes to heaven. How many there are who would never have known Jesus had not sorrow led them to seek comfort in Him.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted. This is repentance. Amen



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LUST OF THE FLESH

Ellen G. White

I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. Vol. 5 : 76.

Soon every possible effort will be made to discount and belittle the testimonies of God's Spirit. Rev. & Her. Apr. 6, 1911

The professed people of God are not all holy. Some are corrupt. God is seeking to elevate them; but these refuse to come up upon a high plane of action. The animal passions bear sway, and the moral and intellectual are overborne, and made servants to the animal. Those who do not control their passions cannot appreciate the atonement, or place a right value upon the worth of the soul. Salvation to them is not experienced nor understood. The gratification of their animal passions is to them the highest ambition of their lives. But nothing but purity and holiness will God accept. One spot, one wrinkle, one defect in the character, will debar them from Heaven, with all its glories and treasures, forever. Solemn Appeal p. 145

Matrimonial Excess

Reference is not now had to those who, though married, seek foreign indulgence; but to those who know their own legal companion only. This will surprise many who are married, because they think themselves entitled to any desired amount of indulgence. Far otherwise. Nature cares nothing, knows nothing about human enactments. Excessive indulgence between husband and wife produces all the consequences shown in the last chapter to result from excessive Amateness. A miserable victim of connubial excess is hardly less miserable than the victim of licentiousness. S.A. p 233, 234

Very much of the nervousness and hysteria so common among women, arises from abuses of the sexual function: in the single life it is often the result of excitement of the sexual organs, induced by reading 'love-sick' novels, and cherishing lascivious thoughts, while in married life it is from the overtaxation of the nervous system by marital excesses. S.A. p 98

"The father was, perhaps, born with strong sexual passions which have never been controlled, and the mother may have inherited similar conditions. They have married without any appreciation of what true marriage is, and too often solely, or principally, for the gratification of the animal passions; for *lust*, and not for *love*! The child is begotten in mere passion! The father transmits his propensities to indulgence, along with the excitement and irritation of the sexual organs arising from those propensities; and not only this, but the sexual passion is indulged during pregnancy, which causes the mother to transmit doubly of the direful ill to the offspring within her womb. S.A. p. 94-95

The foundation of this whole scheme of abuse of the sexual function is laid in the marriage-bed. Children who early fall into the habit of self-abuse, and the young men and women who become libertines and prostitutes, are often not so much to blame as are the parents who, by their excesses in married life, entailed upon them a depraved organization. A Solemn Appeal p. 100

Chapter after chapter has been opened to me. I can select family after family in this house, every one of whom is as corrupt as hell itself. Vol. 2: 360

Vitality Lessened by Sensual Indulgence

“Many parents do not obtain the knowledge that they should in marriage life. They are not guarded lest Satan take advantage of them and control their minds and lives. They do not see that God requires them to control their married lives from any excesses. But very few feel it to be a religious duty to govern their passions. They have united themselves in marriage to the object of their choice, and therefore reason that marriage sanctifies the indulgence of the baser passions. Even men and women professing godliness give loose rein to their lustful passions, and have no thought that God holds them accountable for the expenditure of vital energy, which weakens their hold on life and enervates the entire system.

The marriage covenant covers sins of the darkest hue. Men and women professing godliness debase their own bodies through the indulgence of the corrupt passions, and thus lower themselves beneath the brute creation. They abuse the powers which God has given them to be preserved in sanctification and honor.” Test # 2. page 472.

Their Religious Duty

I have been shown that Satan seeks to debase the minds of those who unite in marriage, that he may stamp his own hateful image upon their children. Because they have entered into the marriage relation, many think that they may permit themselves to be controlled by animal passions. They are led on by Satan, who deceives them and leads them to pervert this sacred institution. He is well pleased with the low level which their minds take; for he has much to gain in this direction. He knows that if he can excite the baser passions, and keep them in ascendancy, he has nothing to be troubled about their Christian experience; for the moral and intellectual faculties will be subordinate, while the animal propensities will predominate and keep in the ascendancy; and these baser passions will strengthen by exercise, while the nobler qualities will become weaker and weaker. Test. #2. page 480.

But very few feel it their religious duty to govern their passions. They have united themselves in marriage to the object of their choice, and therefore reason that marriage sanctifies the indulgence of their baser passions. These men and women will one day learn what lust is and behold the results of its gratification. Solemn Appeal pg. 42.

In Sabbath Keeping Families

Sin and vice exists in Sabbath keeping families. Moral pollution has done more than every other evil to cause the race to degenerate... The marriage covenant is sacred, but what an amount of lust and crime it covers! Those who feel at liberty, because married, to degrade their bodies by beastly indulgence of the animal passion, will have this degraded course perpetuated in their children. Vol. 2 : 391.

Debasing Parents Will Face Their Children in the Judgment

When parents and children meet at the final reckoning, what a scene will be presented! Thousands of children who have been slaves to appetite and debasing vice, whose lives are moral wrecks, will stand face to face with the parents who made them what they are. Who but the parents must bear this fearful responsibility? Did the Lord make these youth corrupt? Oh no! He made them in his image, a little lower than the angels, Who, then has done the fearful work of forming the life character? Who changed their characters so that they do not bear the impress of God, and must be forever separated from his presence as too impure to have any place with the pure angels in a holy heaven? Were the sins of the parents transmitted to the children in perverted appetites and passions? Test. # 3 p.568, 569

Self-Abuse

Self-abuse is, probably, the most flagrant violation of the sexual law; the grossest abuse of the sexual function; and it is a practice fraught with the most disastrous consequences to the health, happiness, and even life of the race. It is an evil even more damning than any other to which mankind is subject! Language supplies no words sufficiently strong to express the horrors which result from it! And surely if the evil one, in tempting our first parents, had foreseen that this practice would have been the result of the passions he aroused, he must have been more than satisfied with his ignoble work.

Self-abuse is practiced in almost every country, and by persons of all ages and both sexes. Many children are born with this propensity, and the habit is commenced in infancy, or in early childhood, by handling the genital organs; the friction and irritation giving rise to a peculiar kind of excitement which they are unable to resist. The habit formed at this early age is usually kept up till after puberty, if the system does not earlier succumb to its ill effects. The little, puny, sickly, dwarfed, and diminutive men-and-women-looking children that we sometimes see are many of them examples of this habit. S.A. p.84-85

The least indulgence weakens hope, and is like paddling the canoe *down* the Niagara rapids, instead of towards its banks. Gradual emancipation, like leaving off drinking by degrees, will certainly increase both indulgence and suffering. This is true of *all* bad habits-it is a *law of things*, and especially applicable here. "Now is the accepted time; behold *now* is the day of salvation." Some of my contemporaries advise occasional indulgence. From this I dissent, and *totally* and unequivocally condemn *all* indulgence, every instance of which both augments passion and weakens resistance, by subjecting intellect and moral sentiment to propensity. If you cannot conquer now, you never can. *Make one desperate stand and struggle. Summon every energy! Not once more! STOP SHORT!!* 'Touch not, taste not, handle not, lest you 'perish with the using,' Flee at once to *perfect continence*- your only city if refuge. Look not back towards Sodom, lest you die! Why will you go on to commit suicide? O son or daughter of sensuality! are you of no value? Are you not GODLIKE, and God-endowed, born in your Maker's image, and most exalted both by nature and in your capabilities for enjoyment? Oh! will you, for a low-lived animal gratification, sell the birthright of your nature-all your intellectual powers, all your moral endowments, all your capabilities of enjoyment, and crowd every avenue and corner of both body and soul with untold agony? Behold the priceless gem of your nature! Oh! snatch it from impending destruction. TOTAL ABSTINENCE IS LIFE; animal, intellectual, moral. INDULGENCE IS TRIPLE DEATH! RESOLUTION--DETERMINATION TO STOP NOW AND FOREVER-is your starting point; without which no other remedial agents will avail anything. ABSTINENCE OR DEATH is your only alternative. STOP NOW AND FOREVER, or abandon all hope. Will you 'long debate which of the two to choose, slavery' and 'death'--and *such* a death--or abstinence and life? Do you 'return to your wallowing,' and give up to die?

No! Behold and shout the kindling resolve! See the intoxicating, poisoned cup of passion dashed aside. Hear the life-boat resolution: 'I wash away the stain of the past in the reformation of the future! Born with capabilities thus exalted, I will yet be the man; no longer the groveling sensualist! Forgetting the past, I once more put on the garments of hope, and press forward in the pursuit of those noble ends to which I once aspired, but from which this Delilah allured me. I will rise yet! On the bended knees of contrition and supplication, I bow before Jehovah's mercy-seat. On the altar of this hour, I lay my vow of abstinence and purity! No more will I sacrilegiously prostitute those glorious gifts with which thou has graciously crowned me! I abjure forever this loathsome sin, and take the oath of allegiance to duty and to thee! Oh, "deliver me from temptation!" Of myself I am weak, but in thy strength I am strong. Do thou work in me to "WILL and to DO" only what is pure and holy. I have served "the lust of the flesh," but oh! forgive and restore a repentant prodigal, and accept that entire consecration of my every power and faculty to thee! O gracious God, forgive, and save, and accept, for Jesus' sake; and thine shall be the glory forever. S.A. p 250 - 253.

Amen



SALVATION

"The work of salvation is not child's play, to be taken hold of at will and let alone at pleasure." T2, p. 101.

Getting to heaven is not anything easy in your own strength. In order to get to heaven we must pray and fast and ask for God's help. Far too many people today are putting off opportunities to read the Bible, and by doing this, they are also putting off coming to the Lord. Many people quiet the Holy Spirit's voice by saying, "Sometime soon I will start coming to church and being faithful." This is definitely not the attitude we want. Jesus said, "Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts." Hebrews 3:7,8.

Satan is hurling so many fiery darts at you that the only way to withstand them is to keep your connection with Christ strong. Satan is very smart and knows exactly what your weaknesses are. He will keep putting temptations before you, as long as you keep giving in, he will not let up.

All is not lost though because we have a Father in heaven who sympathizes with us. He even sent his only Son to die for us in order that we might have eternal life. If the weakest sinner calls for help from the Lord, He promises that He will send good angels to chase away Satan and his legions. To think that we have the help and support of Jesus Himself. What a privilege that is. If we keep Christ clear in our minds and are always standing guard for evil, Satan's plans will be utterly defeated.

God is love and He desperately wants you as an individual to be saved. So think thoughts about Christ and sing to His glory and you will soon find yourself striving for the crown of glory in heaven which all the saints will receive.

Richard Eaton .

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

PART 1



The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into... Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now?¹ The education to be secured by searching the Scriptures is an experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation.² The subject is inexhaustible.³ Who can by faith behold the wonderful plan of redemption, the glory of the only-begotten Son of God, and not speak of it?⁴

Jesus said, "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham."⁵ "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment."⁶ "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."⁷

The education and training of their children to be Christians is the highest service that parents can render to God.⁸ To a great extent, parents hold in their own hands the future happiness of their children. Upon them rests the important work of forming the character of these children.⁹ God designs that the families of earth shall be a symbol of the family in heaven. Christian homes, established and conducted in accordance with God's plan, are among His most effective agencies for the formation of Christian character and for the advancement of His work.¹⁰ Therefore, there is a very great responsibility resting upon parents and guardians who have children to bring up. Parents have taken the responsibility of bringing these children into existence; and now what is their duty? Is it to let them come up just as they may, and just as they will? Let me tell you, a weighty responsibility rests upon these parents.¹¹

Parents should instruct their children when they go out, and when they come in, when they rise up, and when they sit down, giving line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.¹² But the teacher of sacred truth can impart only that which he himself knows by experience... they must know what it is to have Christ made unto them wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.¹³ "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."¹⁴

Here is the true test. If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in us, our purposes, our actions, will be in harmony with the will of God as expressed in the precepts of His holy law.¹⁵ The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness.¹⁶ Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and "God is love". 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for "all Thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172), and "love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).¹⁷ His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. This infinite standard is presented to all that there may be no mistake in regard to the kind of people whom God will have to compose His kingdom.¹⁸

Jesus teaches us to call His father our Father. He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 2:11.¹⁹ Parents and children alike belong to God to be ruled by Him.²⁰ The restraint which God's word imposes upon us is for our own interest. It increases the

happiness of our families and of all around us.²¹ In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience.²² God desires from all His creatures the service of love-service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.²³ If Christ dealt with us as we often deal with one another, and with our children, we would stumble and fall through utter discouragement.²⁴

In early times the father was the ruler and priest of his own family, and he exercised authority over his children, even after they had families of their own. His descendents were taught to look up to him as their head, in both religious and secular matters.²⁵ The husband is the head of the family, as Christ is the head of the church; and any course which the wife pursues to lessen his influence and lead him to come down from that dignified, responsible position is displeasing to God.²⁶ The children know the lack of union in their parents, and it has its effect.²⁷ Both parents transmit their own characteristics, mental and physical, their disposition and appetites, to their children.²⁸ Thus in the homes of professed Christians many youth are educated to be infidels. And the parents question why their children are so little interested in the gospel, and so ready to doubt the truth of the Bible... They do not see that their own example has hardened the hearts of their children.²⁹

Parents should have perfect control over their spirits, and with mildness and yet firmness bend the will of the child until it shall expect nothing else but to yield to their wishes.³⁰ They should not control you, but you them, not harshly, not overbearingly, but with firmness and steadiness of purpose.³¹ God Himself, who has placed upon them a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children.³² They must represent His spirit and character in their home life, and show courtesy and kindness to those with whom they come in contact.³³ By a neglect of this trust we prove ourselves unfaithful stewards.³⁴

The whole future life of Moses, the great mission which he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the work of the Christian mother. There is no other work that can equal this. To a very great extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity.³⁵ The Lord had directed that even from babyhood the children should be taught of His goodness and His greatness, especially as revealed in His law, and shown in the history of Israel.³⁶ The mother's work commences with the infant. She should subdue the will and temper of her child, and bring it into subjection, teach it to obey. As the child grows older, relax not the hand.³⁷ The husband should remember that much of the burden of training the children rests upon the mother, that she has much to do with molding their minds. This should call into existence his tenderest feelings, and with care should he lighten her burdens.³⁸ In view of this, how careful should you be in all your words and acts. What kind of seed are you sowing in the hearts of your children?³⁹ The reaping will testify as to what the sowing has been. The slothful worker is condemned by his work.⁴⁰

Children, God has seen fit to entrust you to the care of your parents for them to instruct and discipline, and thus act their part in forming your character for heaven. And yet it rests with you to say whether you will develop a good Christian character by making the best of the advantages you have had from godly, faithful, praying parents.

Notwithstanding all the anxiety and faithfulness of parents in behalf of their children, they alone cannot save them.⁴¹

Parents, do not neglect the work waiting for you in the church in your own family. This is your first field of missionary effort. The most important work you can do is to place your children on the Lord's side.⁴² The knowledge of God as revealed in His word is the knowledge to be given to our children. From the earliest dawn of reason they should be made familiar with the name and the life of Jesus.⁴³ Every failure on your part to give them proper instruction, and show them the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the final result of a sinful course, is marked against your name.⁴⁴ "And there is no respect of persons."⁴⁵

"Many children will rise up in judgment and condemn their parents for not restraining them, and charge upon them their destruction."
1T, 219

¹ Steps to Christ, p. 45*

² Christ's Object Lessons, p. 9*

³ Gospel Workers, p. 251

⁴ Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, p. 43*

⁵ John 8:39

⁶ Genesis 18:19

⁷ Galatians 3:7

⁸ COL, p. 79*

⁹ 1T, p. 393

¹⁰ 6T, p. 430

¹¹ 2T, p. 359

¹² 1T, p. 390

¹³ COL, p. 9*

¹⁴ Matthew 18:3

¹⁵ SC, p. 31*

¹⁶ PP, p. 34

¹⁷ MB, p. 18*

¹⁸ COL, p. 136*

¹⁹ MB, p. 103

²⁰ 5T, p. 548

²¹ 1T, p. 310

²² COL, p. 25*

²³ PP, p. 34

²⁴ 1T, p. 388

²⁵ PP, p. 141

²⁶ 1T, p. 307

²⁷ 1T, p. 157

²⁸ PP, p. 561

²⁹ COL, p. 11*

³⁰ 1T, p. 218

³¹ 2T, p. 78

³² PP, p. 308

³³ Sons and Daughters of God, p. 60

³⁴ COL, p. 79*

³⁵ PP, p. 244

³⁶ DA, p. 69

³⁷ 1T, p. 390

³⁸ 1T, p. 307

³⁹ 2T, p. 79

⁴⁰ COL, p. 29*

⁴¹ 1T, p. 402-3

⁴² 7T, p. 11

⁴³ 8T, p. 320

⁴⁴ 1T, p. 399

⁴⁵ Colossians 3:25

*paper edition

ABORTION

Few are aware of the fearful extent to which this nefarious business, this worse than devilish practice, is carried on in all classes of society! Many woman determines that she will not become a mother, and subjects herself to the vilest treatment, committing the basest crime to carry out her purpose. And many a man, who has 'as many children as he can support,' instead of restraining his passions, aids in the destruction of the babes he has begotten.

The sin lies at the door of both parents in equal measure; for the father, although he may not always aid in the murder, is always accessory to it, in that he induces, and sometimes even forces upon the mother the conditions which he knows will lead to the commission of the crime. Ellen G. White. Solemn Appeal.

"Let these sayings sink down into your ears"...

Why is it that man gets himself involved in many troubles? If we listen but don't comprehend, and especially if we have knowledge but don't apply it to make it wisdom we find our selves in many difficulties, and some times the worst of all difficulties, the ones without a solution. Worldly people would seem to find a solution to some problems, but what about the unsolved ones? What do they do with those that were not solved? Well, since pride often blinds men's judgement by making man refuse God's infallible word they have to live with those unsolved difficulties.

The ear is one of the most important, if not *the most* important of man's organs *"Vibrations of air molecules moving-through the air are received and translated into messages that the brain recognizes as sound by a complex organ--the ear. The ear has two important, but different, functions: hearing and sensing the body's equilibrium, or balance. The mechanisms for these processes are located within a hollow space in the skull's temporal bone."*

After reading this encyclopedia entry about the ear, we better understand how it functions. Now if the ear has to do with how we keep our balance, we see that we could easily lose our balance and fall as a result of having faulty ears. Wouldn't that be the same result if we shut our ears to the voice of the Holy Spirit?

"Just before His crucifixion, the Saviour said to His disciples: 'I will not leave you comfortless, I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. 'When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.' " John 14:18, 16; 16:13; 14:26.

"Christ has made provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the light of heaven, possessing the glory of Immanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace. There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God . Christ said as he taught His disciples to pray: 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.' " Doesn't it happen many times that we find our selves falling into temptations when we fail to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? But who is really to blame. The voice of God is still the same, it's just that my ears have become stopped. Heb.3.7 says, 'Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts...' " 8 T. p.19

There is a story of a young man who served in the military as a drummer some time around the late eighteen hundreds . He did his duty with great zeal and enthusiasm. As he played the drums the soldiers were more encouraged to fight. The sound of the drums was what kept them going, believing that they were still in control of the battle. At the end of the conflict, the general asked the captain in charge of the battlefield, "How did you all manage to win a difficult, unpredictable battle with such few casualties?" The reply came from the Captain: "It was because of the faithful drummer boy. He encouraged us in fighting as we heard his drums play." Likewise is the work of the Holy Spirit, that continues to encourage us more and more, as we face every days battles. **Satan rejoices when God's people become dormant failing to hear the voice of the Spirit that tries unsuccessfully to warn them against his (Satan's) traps.** "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

It was lack of hearing which brought God to write His commandments in tables of stone, so man would not forget them, because they didn't sink into the ears of the Patriarch's descendants. The people of Israel had said at the foot of Mt. Sinai, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do," but they didn't let those sayings sink down into their ears, so it was necessary then to write down those commandments in stone and now more than ever it is necessary for man to let those words sink down into his heart, if he would win heaven at last. "God's word sinks into the ears when we accept in our hearts His holy precepts putting them into

action. Jesus said in John.14.15,16: " If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." A son our daughter that really loves his father doesn't need to have repeated over and over again that which is wrong. Love manifests itself in perfect obedience."

1 T p. 416

"The law of God will be satisfied with nothing short of perfection, of perfect and entire obedience to all its claims. To come halfway to its requirements, and not render perfect and thorough obedience, will avail nothing. The worldling and the infidel admire consistency and have ever been powerfully convicted that God was of a truth with His people when their works correspond with their faith." "By their fruits ye shall know them. Every tree is known by its own fruits. Our words, our actions, are the fruit we bear. There are many who hear the sayings of Christ, but do them not. They make a profession, but their fruits are such as to disgust unbelievers. They are boastful, and pray and talk in a self-righteous manner, exalting themselves, recounting their good deeds, and, like the Pharisee, virtually thanking God that they are not as other men. Yet these very ones are crafty, and overreach in business deal. Their fruits are not good. Their words and acts are wrong, and yet they seem to be blinded to their destitute, wretched condition." 8T.p.19

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their **ears are dull of hearing**, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their **ears**, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your **ears**, for they **hear**.

"For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to *hear* those things which ye hear, and have not *heard* them. *Hear* ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one *heareth* the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that *heareth* the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that *heareth* the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that *heareth* the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Matthew 13:15-23

God spoke to Adam face to face and today He speaks to man through His living word, the Bible. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit we can come to the full understanding of His word. Man can not justify himself in the day of judgment when he is condemned to eternal death, when today he has at his reach the way to eternal life through God's word. But unless the heart is like the good ground, God's word will not have any effect.

Aren't we familiar with this saying: See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil..? Today it may seem as if it is impossible to avoid seeing or hearing evil sometimes but at least we must avoid responding to that evil by speaking evil. "Who among shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil." Isa.33.15 That which we see and hear needs to be pure and holy as much as we have control of our circumstances. We can only maintain our spiritual balance as we behold Him, who speaks to us through His word.

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength; and ye would not.... Yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers; **And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it**, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. Isa.30.21

By George Williams



Current Scene

Seventh-day Adventist Leader Resigns over Financial Queries

Washington --

"Religion: Robert S. Folkenburg says controversy over a lawsuit filed against him and other church officials after a failed land deal was 'detracting from God's work.'

"The international head of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, dogged by questions about his financial ties to a Sacramento investor, resigned his post Monday after nearly a decade at the top of the 10 million-member church.

"Robert S. Folkenburg, the son of missionary parents and president of the fast-growing denomination since 1990, told associates that the controversy over his financial dealings was "detracting from God's work."

"Folkenburg, 58, had become entangled in a messy lawsuit filed last August by Sacramento businessman James E. Moore, who alleges that Folkenburg and other Adventist officials cheated him and a charitable trust out of \$8 million in promissory notes in a land deal in El Dorado County.

"He was visibly shaking,' said Mario Ochoa, a top executive with the Adventist relief agency, describing Folkenburg as he made his announcement Monday during a specially called meeting at the church's world headquarters in suburban Washington, D.C.

"I think everybody listening had a sense of sadness over this whole thing, but we respect his motivation. He said it was for the good of the church,' Ochoa said. 'What he did made sense.' " "The church's executive committee secretary, G. Ralph Thompson, was named acting president until a permanent replacement can be agreed upon in March."

Any Christian leader knows that he cannot become "entangled in the affairs of this life" but rather is to give himself to the preaching of the word. Unfortunately, the nominal SDA church has given itself to huge investments in the world such as insurance companies, banks and land which gives rise to scandals like the Davenport affair and this current one with the failed land deal of Robert Folkenburg.

It is interesting that calls for reformation in the pen of inspiration are joined to these counsels to avoid scandal and any reproach from the world. Of course, the preaching of the cross is an offense to those who will not be "hewed and squared by the prophets" and as such there are many in this kind of spiritual condition that will do anything to spread false reports, accusations and create scandal against God's appointed messengers. This makes it even more necessary for us to be circumspect and scrupulously honest in all our moral and financial dealings.

"He who has Christ abiding in his heart will so order his conversation as to bring no dishonor or reproach on the sacred truth of God. He will give no occasion to its

enemies to blaspheme, will not be filled with self-confidence, but his confidence will be in God. He will not be revealing inconsistencies that are not in harmony with the precious truth of sacred origin. He will not be found going to extremes and furnishing scandal to be circulated far and near in the most exaggerated form. He must be a man that holds communion with God; a man that prays and does not pray in vain: 'Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.' " Psalm 17:5 *E.G. White 1888 Materials* p. 475

"These are but a few of the abuses which cry out against Rome for redress. All shame is laid aside, and one object alone incessantly pursued: money! Evermore money! So that the very men whose duty it is to teach the truth, utter nothing but falsehoods, and are not only tolerated but rewarded; because the greater their lies, the greater are their gains. This is the foul source from which so many corrupt streams flow out on every side. Profligacy and avarice go hand in hand. Alas! It is the scandal caused by the clergy that plunges so many poor souls into everlasting perdition. A thorough reform must be effected." *GC 1888 version*, p. 149

"Finalization of the United Religions Charter"

"The charter for the United Religions Organization is presently undergoing its final review. The completed charter will be officially adopted at the annual meeting of the United Religions that will be held in June of 1999. This will pave the way for the signing of the United Religions Constitution on June 26, 2000. This document will be signed in the same hotel and in the same room in which the United Nations Charter was signed on June 26, 1945."

"Ratification of the International Criminal Court"

"Since 120 nations at the Rome Conference voted to adopt the International Criminal Court Statute, it seems certain that the required ratification by 60 national parliaments will be easily obtained. This means that the World Criminal Court will probably begin operation in 1999. Every person on earth would then be vulnerable to prosecution and conviction before this world court system without the protection of our long-cherished constitutional safeguards and the Bill of Rights.

Prophecy Update Jan/Feb. 1999

In 1987, Mikhail Gorbachev instituted Perestroika, and he said, 'We must extirpate [eliminate] all forms of religious exclusiveness.' He and the Pope met together. In Nazi Germany, Hitler and the Pope met together. In Germany during the Second World War, Rome worked with the state to divide the world and to conquer.

June 10, the Wisconsin Supreme Court rules that taxpayer money may be used for low-income students in Milwaukee to attend religious schools. (Now, for the first

time in the history of the U.S., people in Wisconsin – like those in Europe 400 years ago under religious tyranny – pay a 'religious tax' which is funneled mainly to entities of the Roman Catholic church). In a landmark decision, the court argues that Milwaukee's 'voucher program,' which allows disadvantaged children to attend private schools (mostly Catholic) tuition-free, 'has a secular purpose' and therefore doesn't breach the first amendment's separation of church and state. This was fought by civil liberties and religious groups as unconstitutional and very dangerous – but the wall of separation of church and state is starting to crack – as the conference of Catholic bishops, and 'protestant' religious forces unite amid stupendous crisis – leading to the long-expected fulfillment of Revelation 13 in the future passage of a national Sunday law. Other states are now eager to follow this precedent, as the wall of separation – which our forefathers suffered and died to build, starts to collapse. "Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been – the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third angel's message will produce an effect which it could not have had before." GC 605,605.

June 3, a train in Germany – traveling 125 miles per hour – veers off the track and crashes into a road bridge, which falls on top of passenger cars. 101 people are killed and 80 injured in the worst train crash in Germany's history.

"No scientific theory can explain the steady march of evil workers under the generalship of Satan. In every mob wicked angels are at work, rousing men to commit deeds of violence....The perversity and cruelty of men will reach such a height that God will reveal Himself in His majesty. Very soon the wickedness of the world will have reached its limit....The terrible reports we hear of murders and robberies, of railway accidents and deeds of violence, tell the story that the end of all things is at hand. Now, just now, we need to be preparing for the Lord's second coming....The tempest is coming and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent. Confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing.

Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near!

"In the last scenes of this earth's history war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love Him." LDA 23,24

July 17, a powerful undersea earthquake triggers a 23 foot wave that sweeps away entire villages in Papua New Guinea. Eight days later, the government reports 1,500 are dead, 2,000 missing, and thousands homeless.

"I heard someone say, 'We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon.' Others, with agonized voices, said, 'You knew! Why then did you not tell us? We did not know!' On every side I heard similar words of reproach spoken.

"In great distress I awoke. I went to sleep again, and I seemed to be in a large gathering. One of authority was addressing the company, before whom was spread out a map of the world. He said that the map pictured God's vineyard, which must be cultivated. As light from heaven shone upon any one, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were kindled in many places, and from these lights still other lights were to be kindled.

"The words were repeated: 'Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under the foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.' Matt. 5:13-16.

"I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world.

"Then this map was removed and another put in its place. On it light was shining from a few places only. The rest of the world was in darkness, with only a glimmer of light here and there. Our Instructor said; 'This darkness is the result of men's following their own course. They have cherished hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil. They have made questioning and faultfinding and accusing the chief business of their lives. Their hearts are not right with God. They have hidden their light under a bushel.' "

"If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have

heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us.

"Putting our trust in God, we are to move steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness, in humble dependence upon Him, committing ourselves and our present and future to His wise providence, holding the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end, remembering that it is not because of our worthiness that we receive the blessings of heaven, but because of the

worthiness of Christ, and our acceptance, through faith in Him, of God's abounding grace." 9 T 28,29

With these words Sr. White has shown us the foundation of Reformation: "moving steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness, in humble dependence upon Him, committing ourselves and our present and future to His wise providence...." And these two maps show clearly the difference between God's church before and after the 1st World War.

By Jerry Eaton

Vatican may ask forgiveness for past

VATICAN CITY. Vatican theologians have finished the draft of a major document in which the Roman Catholic Church will officially seek forgiveness for its past errors, possibly including the Inquisition and its treatment of Jews. The Vatican said its International Theological Commission will meet to work on a document "on the relationship between the church and the errors of the past."

Theologians will review a working draft of a document ordered by Pope John Paul, who wants the church to seek forgiveness as part of celebrations marking the millennium.



FAVOURITE HORSES



"Kathy, get away from my horse!"

"Blackie isn't your horse, Andy. He's Mr. Grant's. Anyway, you got to ride him yesterday. I got here first today!"

"Forget it!" he snapped. "You just picked him because you knew he was my favourite."

"Now don't start scaring the horses," said Mr. Grant. "They get skittish when people argue like that around them." He carried a polished leather saddle towards Blackie's stall. "Andy, why don't you let your little sister ride Blackie? You can take Ransom."

Andy gave his sister one last disgusted stare and trudged to Ransom's stall. He wasn't thinking how grateful he should be to the Grants for even letting him ride. He was still too angry with Kathy for that. The Grants were old friends of his parents. This week the whole family was visiting the Grants and their old riding stable. The stable wasn't much to look at – it used to be a tobacco shed. There weren't more than two or three spots in it where you could stand in a rainstorm and not get wet.

Andy pulled extra hard on Ransom's saddle cinch to make sure it was on tight. Then he hunted for a bridle.

"Ready to go?" called Mr. Grant. "Kathy and I are all saddled up."

"Sure. Come on, Ransom." As he led the horse out of the stall, Andy stayed well away from the horse's feet. Ransom was known to step on any stray feet he could reach.

Though tired and dirty from his day's work, Mr. Grant had agreed to take Andy and Kathy on an evening trail ride.

They rode along a wooded trail that wound up a steep hill. At the top the trail opened up into a meadow. From there it was easy to see where the Grants lived. The sun was sliding down behind the highest ridge to the west. It cast a soft orange light that made the valley seem even more dreamy and beautiful than usual. Trotting through the fresh evening air almost made Andy forget that his sister was on Blackie. Almost. Kathy could not keep Blackie from stopping to munch on clover, so the other horses had to slow to a walk.

Their parents met them when they reached the bottom of the trail. They helped them walk the horses into the stable. "How was the ride?" asked Mom.

"Great!" said Kathy, and she told about the sunset and ride through the clover-filled meadow. Just rubbing it in, thought Andy.

"Do you mind if we greenhorns ride with you tomorrow?" asked Dad.

"Can we leave Kathy behind?" asked Andy. "We always have to go slow because of her."

"Is something the matter between you two?"

"No, Dad," sighed Andy. Mr. Grant felt awkward. The two children had been fighting most of the day, and he didn't really know what to do about it.

"I've got some news that will brighten your day tomorrow," he said. "I've got a new horse coming in the morning. His name is Pharaoh. He's a nice-looking buckskin horse."

"Can I ride him first?" begged Kathy.

"Sure, you get to do everything first. I'm surprised you let anyone else ride with you," muttered Andy.

"Isn't that enough fighting for one day?" asked Mom.

"No reason to fight anyway," said Mr. Grant, letting the horses out for the evening. "We'll have to let Pharaoh get used to his new friends before we let anyone ride him."

"Can't I ride him just once?" pleaded Kathy.

"Quit being a brat," scolded Andy.

Mr. Grant closed the gate behind him as they walked toward the house. "No, I'm afraid life is pretty rough for a new horse. We'll leave him be. If you want to see him brought in tomorrow, you'll have to be up early. Join me around seven by the side pasture."

As Mr. Grant left, Dad turned to Andy and Kathy. "If all you're going to do is fight with each other all day, you could just as well do that at home."

"Sorry," said Andy. "Getting along isn't always easy."

The next morning Andy woke up to a low, rumbling sound. At first he paid no attention to it. Suddenly he sat up. "That's a truck! It must be the new horse!" He jumped out of bed and pulled on his clothes. He bounced down the steps two at a time and raced out the back door. The grassy path had his feet soaked with dew by the time he reached the others. He was the last of the family to get there.

"Just in time, Andy. Here he comes," said Mom. The horse looked almost golden as it backed out of the trailer. When the head finally

appeared, Andy could see the horse had a white mane and face. It strained at its halter, eyes wide in fear.

"Wow! I think I like that one as much as Blackie," said Andy.

Mr. Grant patted the horse and spoke to it in low tones until it quieted down. Andy could see that the other horses were inching closer to the gate trying to get a closer look at the new arrival. Mr. Grant shooed them away with his hand and opened the door.

"Good luck, friend, you're going to need it," he said. He pulled the creaky gate shut behind the horse.

"Why did you wish him good luck, Mr. Grant?" asked Kathy.

"Watch," was all he answered. For a few minutes the new horse paced nervously along the fence. Gradually several of the other horses came close to him. Pharaoh backed off, staring at them. Suddenly Blackie plunged in after Pharaoh with his teeth. Both horses gave out high, piercing whinnies. Pharaoh turned and kicked Blackie who twisted around and tried to do the same to Pharaoh.

"Why are they fighting?" asked Andy.

"That's what usually happens with a new horse. It takes horses awhile to get used to each other," said Mr. Grant. "I suppose they want to show each other who's boss. And they get angry because they think other horses will get in their way."

"Blackie, please stay away from Pharaoh," said Kathy. But a second quick clash between the horses was so fierce and sudden it made her jump.

"I don't even like to watch," said Andy. "It wouldn't even be so bad if they weren't

my favorite horses. Look at that! They're being just awful to each other." Blackie led two other horses in a charge that sent Pharaoh bucking into a corner by the fence.

"Now you know how your father and I feel," said Mom softly.

Kathy and Andy both turned. "Oh, you mean because we fight," said Kathy.

"Yes," replied Mom. "You are our favorite people. And you're so much more valuable to us than the horses are to you. When you can't get along it makes us feel terrible."

"As you said yourself, Andy, it's not much fun to watch," said Dad.

"I guess we were kind of being like Blackie and Pharaoh," said Andy. "We were being pretty selfish. Every time we got into each other's way we started fighting."

"Will Blackie and Pharaoh always fight?" wondered Kathy.

"No," replied Mr. Grant. "After a few days or maybe a couple of weeks they'll learn to get along. Each will find out that the other really isn't as terrible as he thought."

"Why does it take us so much longer than horses?" asked Andy.

"Often it takes adults even longer than kids," said Dad. "Just one look at the newspaper shows how hard it is for them to get along. War, crime, and arguments all the time."

"Since God loves us so much, I bet that makes him just sick to watch those things happen too," said Andy.

Mr. Grant was smiling as he leaned against the knobby fence. "The funny thing about it is that the horses have all they need. If they weren't so busy kicking each other, they

could be having fun running around and eating their fill."

Andy laughed. "I'll bet we would be having a much better time this week if we weren't so busy being selfish."

"From now on let's try to find out just how good a time we can have," suggested Dad.

"Yes," said Kathy. "We can do better than a couple of horses."

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling to him." 1 John 2:10

I know it hurts when we don't get along. It hurts you, our parents, and us. Help us to remember that when people, especially family, get in my way, it's because I haven't left room for them in my heart.



Sister Marina Cleri
London, England

AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

Pilgrim Pines Camp, Yucaipa, CA

July 6 - 11, 1999

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25

You are all cordially invited to attend the American Union Conference in California.

The Lord has richly blessed us with wonderful facilities in midsummer, the most difficult time of the year to obtain a camp. Much time and energy has been expended in locating this camp, but the *success* of this conference now depends upon *you!* The blessings the Lord is preparing are only for those who make the effort and come.

Our spiritual life is under attack daily, making our need for Christian fellowship greater than ever before. How many more conferences will we still be permitted to attend? Are we ready to meet the storm that is soon to break upon us? Many people are speaking about the Y2K problem and the implications it may have for mankind. Might this be the beginning of the "little time of trouble" that Sr. White warns us about? No one knows for sure, but one thing we do know-Jesus is coming soon!

At the board meeting held last month, prices for this conference were set as follows: **(Please note that the camp charges a higher per-day price for part-time attendees than it does for those who attend the whole conference!)**

	<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>
Adults	\$175.00 (total)	\$44.00 per day
Children (ages 4-9)	\$87.50 (total)	1/2 of per-day price
Infants (ages 0-3)	(Free)	(Free)

(Note: These prices include all meals and lodging. Check-in time is 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6, and the first meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. that evening.)

Individual meals (with-out accommodations):	Breakfast	\$6.50
	Lunch	\$8.50
	Dinner	\$8.50

Day use *only* (without meals or accommodations): \$8.00 per day

A few semiprivate rooms (with private or shared full bath) are available at an additional cost of \$6.25 per person per night (ages 4 and up, double occupancy), and \$12.50 per person per night (single occupancy). Linens cost an additional \$7.50 per person. For those who may be experiencing financial difficulties, a few tents will be allowed at \$10 per tent per night, plus meals.

Recreation:

Hiking, ping-pong, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes-there is a variety of recreational opportunities available at Pilgrim Pines Camp. Recreation, true to its name, re-creates and tends "to strengthen and build up.... It affords refreshment for mind and body, and thus enables us to return with new vigor to the earnest work of life." (*Education*, p. 207)

Climate:

Although temperatures at this time of the year can climb into the 90's, a breeze, we are told, keeps the weather very comfortable without the use of air conditioners. At night the temperatures can drop down into the 60's, so a sweater or light jacket may be needed.

Convenience:

The camp is located only forty minutes from the Ontario Airport, which makes it very convenient for those persons who will be flying to the conference.

We were very happy that we could reserve this camp for five nights instead of the usual three. We look forward to a time of spiritual refreshing and pray that each of you will be there!

<p>ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON, PLEASE!</p> <p>Name <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Miss _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code _____</p> <p>Phone _____ Date of birth _____</p> <p>Arrival Date _____ Time, if known _____ Airline & flight # _____</p> <p>Manner of travel (car, plane, bus) _____</p> <p>I need accommodations for the following nights:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sun. & Mon. (for delegates only) <input type="checkbox"/> Tues. <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. <input type="checkbox"/> Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> Sabbath</p> <p>Total price: Adults: \$175 for 5 days (\$44 per day for fewer than 5 days); Children ages 4-9: 1/2 price; Infants 3 years old and under: Free. To request a semi-private room at an additional \$6.25 per night, please check here: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Note: This registration form must be received no later than Monday, June 15, 1999. Please mail it with your check payable to: S.D.A. Church Reform Movement, Attention AU Treasurer, P.O. Box 24621, Sacramento, CA 95824</p>	<p>REGISTRATION FORM</p> <p>AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE (July 6-11, 1999)</p>	<p>Please check all boxes that apply:</p> <p>Male <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Single <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Married <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Adult (9+) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Child (4-9) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Infant (0-3) <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Vol. 4:647. "Obedience to fashions is pervading our Seventh-Day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people of God. All exhibitions of pride in dress which is forbidden in the word of God, should be sufficient reason for church discipline."

Vol. 1:137. "As soon as any have a desire to imitate the fashions of the world, that they do not immediately subdue, just as soon as God ceases to acknowledge them as His children. They are children of the world and darkness."

Vol. 4:68. "There is terrible sin upon us as a people, that we have permitted our church members to dress inconsistent with their faith."



INQUISITION ARCHIVES OPENED TO SCHOLARS

Toronto Star Newspaper:

ROME (Reuters)-The Vatican permitted scrutiny of one of the most notorious periods in Roman Catholic church history yesterday, opening up the archives of the department once known as the Inquisition and showing that even the Bible was once blacklisted.

Scholars now will be able to study cases such as that of the astronomer Galileo, condemned by the Inquisition for claiming the Earth revolved around the sun, and Giordano Bruno, a monk burned for heresy in 1600 in Rome's Campodei Fiori Square.

Vatican officials say the secret files, dating between 1542 and 1902, will yield few juicy secrets-the church officially rehabilitated Galileo in 1992, for example. But the archives do contain some surprises.

Opened alongside the Inquisition archives was the infamous Index of Forbidden Books, which Roman Catholics were forbidden to read or possess on pain of excommunication.

They showed that even the Bible was once on the blacklist. Translations of the holy book ended up on the bonfires along with other "heretical" works because the church, whose official language was Latin, was suspicious of allowing the faithful access to sacred texts without ecclesiastical guidance.

The Index of Forbidden Books and all excommunications relating to it were officially abolished in 1966.

The Inquisition itself was established by Pope Gregory IX in 1233 as a special court to help curb the influence of heresy. It escalated as church officials began to count on civil authorities to fine, imprison and even torture heretics.

It reached its height in the 16th century to counter the Reformation. The department is now called the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which controls the orthodoxy of the Catholic teaching.

Its head, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, declared the archives open at a special conference and recalled how the move stemmed from a letter written to the Pope some 18 years ago by Carl Ginzburg, a Jewish-born, atheist professor in Los Angeles.

"I am sure that opening our archives will respond not just to the legitimate aspirations of scholars but also the church's firm intention to serve man, helping him to understand himself by reading without prejudice his own history," Ratzinger said.

Cardinal Archille Silvestrini, a senior Vatican figure, told the Italian newspaper La Repubblica earlier this month, "Opening the archives is an act of courage toward serious scholars.

"Everyone thinks about Giordano Bruno, and it's right to talk about him. But there are also other, less famous cases, which need to be investigated."

"Everyone thinks about Giordano Bruno, and it's right to talk about him. But there are also other, less famous cases, which need to be investigated."



Report from the South Pacific Field

With great joy I read the invitation to the Australian Field conference and since I was planning on taking some vacation time in Fiji anyway, I saw the leading of the Lord in the timing. In fact, the Lord also opened the way financially because initially the airline had said it was going to be over twice as much money to fly on to Australia from Fiji, but then they changed to say it would only be a little bit more.

The Mission field in Fiji is promising indeed because the people respect the Bible and missionary work. This is one of the main reasons I was motivated to vacation in Fiji. The potential is great but there is much need for patient persevering effort in Fiji since the people there have such a "form of godliness." Most everyone is Methodist since the Methodist missionaries were the first to come to Fiji, but nearly all the churches are represented there. There are SDAs, backslidden SDAs, and independent SDAs as well as all the usual mix of Pentecostals, Baptists, etc. Because of the large Indian population, there is also a sizable group of Hindus.

After becoming acquainted with several of the groups there, I decided that holding some public meetings would be a good way to reach out to them all and to revive and strengthen our church there. There were about ten visitors from outside our church at these meetings. Some of these were independent SDAs who didn't think the SDA Reform church ever did any kind of public evangelism. So these meetings were a testimony to them and to the world.

We had a Healing and Prophecy Seminar over 4 nights. The Health topics included: How to have a healthy body, How to have a healthy mind, How to have a healthy soul and, A healthy family – is it possible? The spiritual topics included: What's Behind the New World Order?, The mysterious mark in the right hand or forehead – coming soon?, Spiritism – is it affecting your family?, and Was Jesus a Legalist? Praise the Lord that these meetings established more of a public presence for our church in Fiji. Also, there was one dear soul, Br. Joe Williams was accepted into fellowship during my time in Fiji. Let us pray for him, our other church members there, Sisters Frances and K'tty and our on-going work in Fiji.

I arrived in Australia to be greeted by our faithful missionary and former General Conference President, Brother Henry Andrade. We spent the next couple of days preparing for the conference by purchasing food and preparing the grounds and church for the conference. (Of course, the spiritual preparation of prayer, meditation and heart reflection was taking place as well.)

Soon, believers started to arrive from all over Australia and New Zealand. Brothers Tony Salaviov and Ernie Gale from Christ Church, New Zealand, Sr. Lily Svich from Melbourne, Br. John Altwein and Ernst Bidlingmaier from Woolgoolga and the Dammasch family from Queensland, Sr. Jenny Nalder and her family from Port Macquarrie and all the believers from the Sydney area. Br. Henry Andrade opened the conference Thursday evening with the topic "If any man thirst.." Are you seeking for the things of this world to satisfy you? If so, you will be disappointed and empty in the end but if you allow Jesus to fulfill you then all will be well. Jesus promises that, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him

that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. Br. Tony Salaviov followed. When God created man, He created man in His image. By sin we lost this image. We must hunger and thirst for this image to be restored in us and it will be returned. It is only by faith that we can enter into this kind of experience.

On Friday morning, Br. Jerry Eaton spoke on the topic, "What is the Dark Picture Satan is trying to present to you?" So often, this life presents us with many negative pictures that we must rise above by faith if we would be happy or saved at last. Br. Tony Salaviov followed speaking about how to overcome sin in our lives and without this needful preparation we cannot meet Jesus when He comes. We cannot worry ourselves out of God's hand, but must be patient with Him and ourselves in the process of salvation. We spent the rest of Friday afternoon in Sabbath preparation.

Br. Ernie Gale opened the Sabbath with a personal testimony on how the Sabbath has been such a blessing for him even though his family is not united with him his faith. He also expressed thankfulness to God for uniting him with God's church. Br. Henry Andrade followed with a deeply moving topic: "The Latter Rain – the only way to receive it." We will be happy and rejoice to prepare for the Latter Rain if we are truly the Lord Jesus' possession.

Sabbath morning, Sr. Marlene Reed led out in the Sabbath School. The new lesson was all about the Latter Rain and afterwards Br. Eaton presented that same topic from a different angle with the message: "That the children of Israel go forward, or a personal preparation for the Latter Rain." The motto of the conference was "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness," so Br. Eaton discussed how to find motivation in Christ to make this kind of experience.

After lunch, the young people gave us many Bible games, songs, testimonies and spiritual encouragement. Also, two young people were asked the baptismal questions in order to be ready for their baptism the next day.

Br. John Altwein closed the Sabbath with beautiful words of penitence and praise. He asked the questions, "What does the church expect from Christ," and, "What can we expect from Him?" Br. Altwein showed from the Bible and Testimonies the wondrous and very necessary answers to these questions.

Sunday morning started very early for us at the conference because the baptism was scheduled for 7 a.m. The early start was necessary due to the crowds that form so quickly at this beautiful riverside park where we had the baptism. The Holy Spirit was working so tremendously at this conference that two more established souls, who had not been baptized into God's church or had not been baptized in a natural free-flowing stream, decided to completely fulfill God's requirements together with the young people being baptized.

After going back to the church, we had the new member acceptance ceremony, the Lord's Supper and our final farewell testimony sharing. The Lord touched each heart with a wondrous portion of the Holy Spirit as we parted company to go back to our respective Fields gladdened, refreshed, and more ready to bear the cross for the Lord. May God richly bless our work in the South Pacific and grant that all the new souls and the older ones as well, may prove faithful to the end.

By Jerry Eaton



CURRENTS ARE CURRENT!

Long before vitamins were discovered Europeans turned to black currants to relieve sore throats. Surprise, surprise. These berries are loaded with vitamin C.

CURRENTS ARE IN

- Take advantages of the short currant season which runs through July and August.
- Black, red and white currants are not related to the “other” currants, which are tiny, dried grapes
- Currants are a type of berry that grows in small clusters or bunches.

MAIN PLAYERS

- The most common currant in Ontario is the black currant. It is slightly larger than red and white currants and has a purplish-black skin. Black currants actually belong to a different species than the more closely related red and white currants. Black currants have a distinct fragrance and robust flavor.
- Red currants look like shiny, red rubies and store longer than black currants.
- White currants are the sweetest of the bunch. They are translucent, varying in color from cream, to off-white to a buttery yellow.

BUYING & STORING

Check your box of currants carefully before buying. Look for juice stains at the bottom, indicating split or squashed currants. Fresh currants should have a gleaming color and firm, taut skin. Store in the fridge, loosely covered with paper towel or vented plastic wrap.

TIPS

- Currants are easy to freeze. Stem, wash and dry thoroughly. Place on a baking sheet and freeze until solid. Transfer to a freezer bag.
- To make the chore of stemming easier, slip a fork under the currants and pull.

CURRENTS WAYS

- You can eat currants fresh, but they can be very astringent.
- Currants are full of pectin and make good preserves. Consider jellies, jams, and relishes.
- Treat currants like other berries; they go into pies, flans, and puddings. Pair them up with other berries to add sweetness.
- Black currants are often used to make juice and syrup.

HEALTHY BENEFITS

Currants, especially black ones, are rich in anthocyanins, a powerful phytochemical belonging to the flavonoid family. Research shows that anthocyanins can fight urinary tract infections, strengthen the walls of the small blood vessels and act as an anti-inflammatory to relieve sore throats and rheumatoid pain.

THE RAW POTATO JUICE CAN CURE THE DISEASES



IT'S THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS:

The raw potato juice can cure the following illnesses and disorders: stomach ulcers, duodenal ulcers, gastritis, stomach/intestine disorders, stomach cancers, chronic C-type hepatitis, liver diseases, heart diseases, angina pectoris stenocardia, waist ache, irregular heart beat, asthma, throat cancer, pollen allergy, lung cancers, malignant skin swelling, chronic pancreas infection, kidney diseases, anemia, gallbladder, diabetes, hypertension, constipation, diarrhea, constant fatigue, allergies, arteriosclerosis, aging, mental pressure, gout, tonsillitis, stokes, eczema, shoulder stiffness, ect.

HOW TO TAKE THE JUICE:

1. A person should drink 200cc of the juice every time. The time to take it: 60 to 30 minutes before a meal.
2. We should drink the juice two times every day (one serving in the morning and one in night time).
3. We can add the following juices into the juice: green leaf vegetables, honey, lemon, carrot, ginger, barm.
4. Two weeks after we have taken the juice regularly, our aches and pains will be relieved.
5. For the people without any aching part, they will have a better appetite after they drink the juice regularly.
6. We can drink the juice regularly for a long duration without any side effect.

THE THINGS THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF:

1. When we prepare the potatoes, their green skin parts and sprouts should be cut off. However, we do not need to peel them.
2. We should drink the juice while it is fresh. Please do not let it stand to long.
3. Do not take too much of the juice in one time, otherwise, the following may occur: throat dryness, dilation of pupils, "atropine" poisoning, etc.

WHY THE JUICE HAS THESE OUTSTANDING THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS?

Why the raw potato juice has these outstanding therapeutic effects?

In order to strengthen our immunity system, our body needs the vitamin B6 and pantothenic acid. The juice does not cure our illnesses directly; it does so indirectly by strengthening our immunity.

There are three kinds of white blood cells in our body:

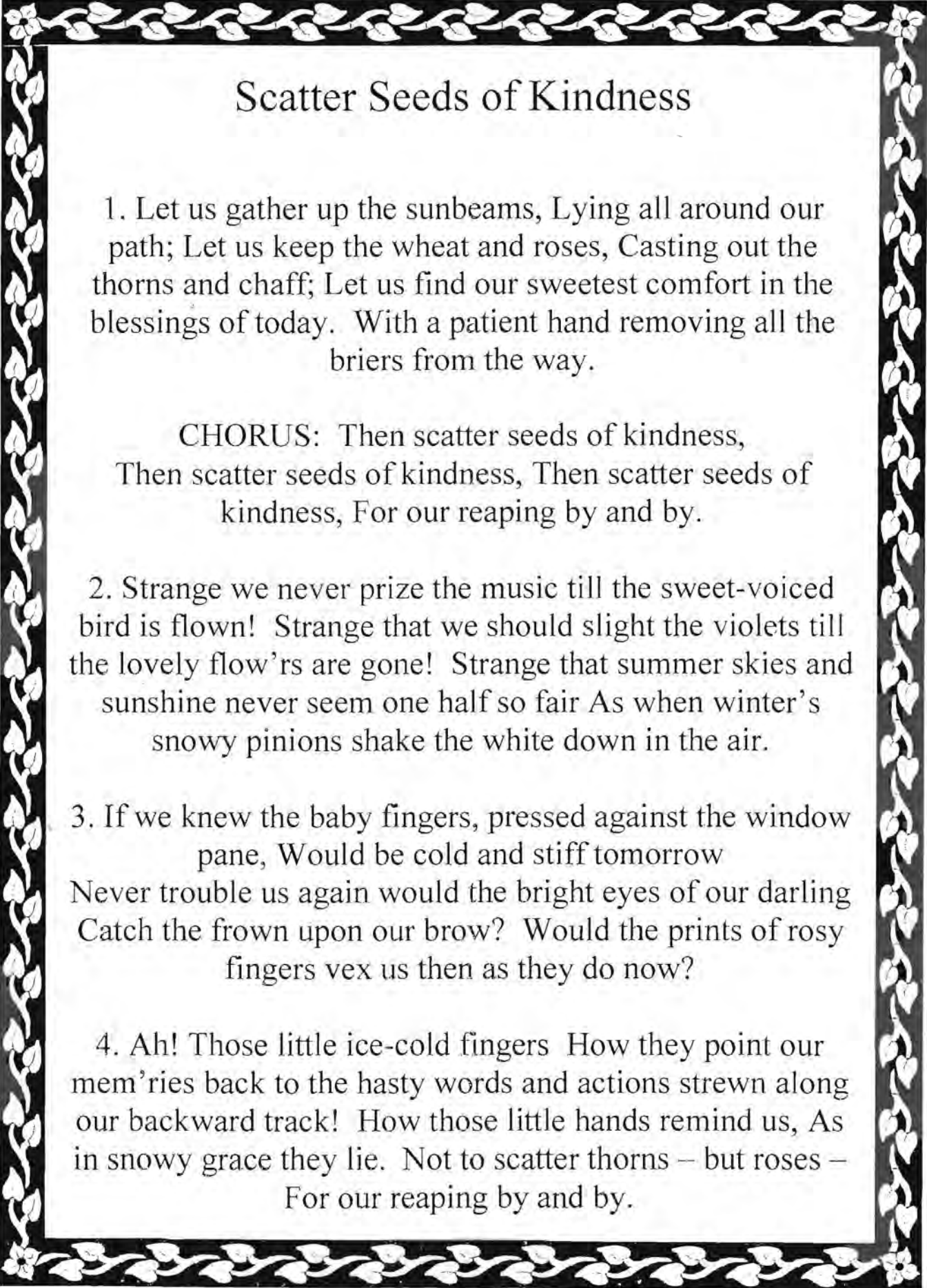
1. Lymph cells: About 30% of white blood cells are lymph cells. If we have some abnormal cells in our body, the lymph cells can grab them and secrete dissolving enzymes to destroy them.
2. Medium round cells: About 66% of white blood cells are medium round cells. The main function of these cells is engulf bacteria. One such cell can take in 5 to 25 bacteria.
3. Singular cells: About 6% of white blood cells are the singular cells. When they reach our lymph glands, they will be 5 times larger. One such cell engulf 100 bacteria. In addition, they attack our cancer cells.

The scientists performed the following experiment: they fed the white mice with potatoes and rice. They got the following data: there is 0.05g of vitamin B6 in 100g of rice; there is 0.95g of vitamin B6 in 100g of potato. After the mice were fed with the rice, the pantothenic acid in their livers was about 0.28; on the other hand, the potato fed mice, had 0.77g of the pantothenic acid in their livers.



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Scatter Seeds of Kindness

1. Let us gather up the sunbeams, Lying all around our path;
Let us keep the wheat and roses, Casting out the thorns and chaff;
Let us find our sweetest comfort in the blessings of today.
With a patient hand removing all the briers from the way.

CHORUS: Then scatter seeds of kindness,
Then scatter seeds of kindness, Then scatter seeds of kindness,
For our reaping by and by.

2. Strange we never prize the music till the sweet-voiced bird is flown!
Strange that we should slight the violets till the lovely flow'rs are gone!
Strange that summer skies and sunshine never seem one half so fair
As when winter's snowy pinions shake the white down in the air.

3. If we knew the baby fingers, pressed against the window pane,
Would be cold and stiff tomorrow
Never trouble us again would the bright eyes of our darling
Catch the frown upon our brow? Would the prints of rosy fingers
vex us then as they do now?

4. Ah! Those little ice-cold fingers How they point our mem'ries
back to the hasty words and actions strewn along our backward track!
How those little hands remind us, As in snowy grace they lie.
Not to scatter thorns – but roses –
For our reaping by and by.



Jesus and Children of Many Nations