

The Reformation 

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Happy canvassing group in Streetsville

REFORMATION PART 4



FALSE REFORMATIONS

Where there is something genuine and true there is also imitation and something false. Where there is real money, there is also counterfeit which may look very similar to real money but yet it is worthless. Many people are deceived by counterfeits, accepting it in place of real.

Nowhere is there so many counterfeits as in religion. The hundreds of different churches existing today prove it.

When Jesus spoke about the signs of His second coming, He mentioned wars, earthquakes, famines and pestilence once in Matthew chapter 24, but one sign He mentioned three times because it was so important, in verses 5, 11 and 24. "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets,... and shall deceive many."

Satan is more successful in deceiving people by false religion than by atheism. Naturally people like an easy life and the broad road to walk on. When the standard of God is lowered and the narrow way made wider, then more people like it and the more popular it gets.

If the deception is clear and easily detected, not many will fall into it. But when the deception is very fine and interwoven into truth, many do not see it and will believe a lie.

Whom does Satan try to deceive the most? Is it not the very people in the church of God, and the honest seekers of truth? Therefore he has created many false reformations to confuse the minds of the people that the true reformation of God would not be recognized as it is blended into a group of false ones and does not stand out as the only one.

"I saw that the mysterious signs and false reformations would increase and spread. The reformations that were shown me were not reformations from error to truth. My accompanying angel bade me look for the travail of soul for sinners as used to be. I looked, but could not see it; for the time for their salvation is past." E.W. 45

She did not speak of few false reformations but of many. They may have an appearance of reformation because in some point they are strict but in other points they are wrong and careless. Speaking of the false reformations who have gone from truth to error, Sister White adds that the time of their salvation is past.

The people in these false reformations who never knew the truth before can still be saved.

But why would anyone go from genuine reformation of God into a false reformation? This occurs only when a person loses the Holy Spirit; he becomes blinded and cannot see the spiritual things anymore. Then these false reformations serve a purpose. Those who in the church of God have lost the Holy Spirit do find a place to go which teaches similar doctrines as the church of God and have the same spirit which agrees with their spirit.

Anyone who is led by the spirit of God will see clearly the difference between true and false and will not be confused.

Sister White gives us a warning. "Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it. But the eye of faith may discern that it is diverging, though almost imperceptibly, from the right path." Evangelism pg. 590

These deceptions of Satan appear to be good, but yet they are specious devices of the enemy. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Cor. 11:13-15.

"Satan deceives some with Spiritualism. He also comes as an angel of light and spreads his influence over the land by means of false reformations. The churches are elated, and consider that God is working marvelously for them, when it is the work of another spirit." EW. 260

False reformations have no prophesy to support them. They are normally started by one person whose name is mentioned when referring to his group.

False reformations may have many correct teachings and practices but according to Sister White they lack unity of faith. For this reason they are divided into many groups. Perfect unity and harmony can be achieved only by the influence of the Holy Spirit which they are lacking.

The Pharisees were very strict in Sabbath keeping, tithe paying and fasting yet Jesus called them Children of the Devil (John 8:44)

Nowhere is the lukewarm Laodicean spirit more visible than in the false reformations. Because of being very strict in some point of doctrine, they feel rich and increased with goods and look down at other Christians who do not conform to their standards.

False reformations are the greatest enemies of the church of God, the true reformation. No other church has taken so many members away from the true church of God as false reformations.

"But Satan was not idle. He now attempted what he has attempted in every other reformatory movement - to deceive and destroy the people by palming upon them a counterfeit in place of the true work." G.D. 186

People who are spiritually blinded cannot see the difference between true and false, divine and satanic. Only by the help of the Holy Spirit can we recognize the true church of God.

May the Lord anoint our eyes with the eyesalve that our eyes can be opened to see the difference between true and false. AMEN

Timo Martin



On left is our worker from New Zealand, Tony Soloviev. On right is Henry Andrade. In between are four souls baptized at the conference in Australia.

THE POWER OF THE VOICE

*“Out of the same mouth
proceedeth blessing and cursing.
My brethren, these things ought
not so to be.” James 3:9.*

“The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. Of all the gifts we have received from God, none is capable of being a greater blessing than this. With the voice we convince and persuade, with it we offer prayer and praise to God, and with it we tell others of the Redeemer’s love. How important, then, that it be so trained as to be most effective for good.” COL, p. 335

Yes, the gift of speech is a wonderful talent that God has given to mankind. It has proven to be such a blessing in bringing comforting words to those who are downcast and in bringing words of truth and life to those who are destitute as far as spiritual matters go. Unfortunately, man has also abused this wonderful God-given talent. Many have been bruised and abused much more by the little tongue than any physical abuse that could have been heaped upon them. These wounds that the tongue causes don’t heal as quickly as physical wounds. Also, some of the language you hear from an angry unconverted person is something you don’t want your children to hear.

However, in using this gift of language in the best possible manner, it is important to not only have your words “seasoned with salt” (Col. 4:6) and full of happiness and cheer, (The salt represents the Righteousness of Christ knowing that Righteousness leads to happiness) it is also just as

important to speak in a clear and distinct manner.

IMPORTANCE OF VOICE CULTURE

What is voice culture? It is training the voice so as to speak and read in a clear and distinct manner so that all who hear can clearly understand. Yes, this actually takes training; it does not always come naturally. It doesn’t just happen that some have a clearer speaking voice than others. I have heard some people read, (of all different ages), who use little or no expression in their voice – ignoring the punctuation marks and just rattling words off in a monotone. It is very difficult to understand what they are reading. This is a terrible abuse of the gift of speech. It begins with young people who are not taught how to read with expression. “Voice culture is a study that should find a place in every institution for the education of the youth.” 9MR p. 14. “Voice culture should be taught in your school. Do not lightly pass over this matter, for if the expression is defective, all the knowledge that shall be obtained will be of little use. The cultivation of the voice is of the greatest importance, in order that grace and dignity may be brought in to the impartation of truth.” 2MR, p. 224.

Voice culture is very important for everyone, but especially for those who are called to speak or read in front of the church to God’s people. If the person can be barely understood while preaching a sermon or teaching a lesson, what kind of blessing do the people receive? Some people have never learned the lessons of public speaking so that they can be

understood. Teach the children that “They should not be allowed to speak so fast that they cannot be clearly understood. Every word, every syllable, should be plainly spoken.” 2MR, p. 213.

Perhaps some do not have a good grasp of the English language – how can we expect them to speak clearly enough with the proper emphasis? It all comes with practice and anyone with a sincere desire to serve the Lord will aim for perfection in this regard and they will be duly blessed. If you are excited about the truth, it will show in your voice and in your expression and it will rub off onto other people. I am not speaking of those who don’t know English very well, only of those who are sloppy in their use of the English language. Often those learning English will speak more clearly than those who have grown up speaking the language simply because they have learned the proper way to pronounce the words and make great efforts to speak correctly.

“The science of reading correctly and with the proper emphasis, is of highest value. No matter how much knowledge you may have acquired in other lines, if you have neglected to cultivate your voice and manner of speech so that you can speak and read distinctly and intelligently, all your learning will be of little profit; for without voice culture you cannot communicate readily and clearly that which you have learned.” EV p. 666.

VOICE TRAINING

It is the duty of the teachers and parents to begin to correct the reading of their children,

especially in reading the Bible. "The teachers in our schools should not tolerate in the students ungainly attitudes and uncouth gestures, wrong intonations in reading, or incorrect accents or emphasis. Perfection of speech and voice should be urged upon every student. Because of carelessness and bad training, habits are often contracted which are great hindrances in the work of a minister who has otherwise educated talent." EV., p. 668.

"Parents should teach their children to speak so plainly that those who are listening can understand every word that is said. They should teach them to read the Bible in clear, distinct utterance, in a way that will honor God." AH, p. 435.

And the students are to not see this training as of little value. "Let all guard themselves against becoming disturbed in spirit because they have to be drilled in these common branches. Students remember that you yourselves will be educators of others. Strive constantly to improve in voice culture and in the ability to speak distinctly. Even ministers often fail in this respect. Not a few lower the voice at the end of sentences, and utter the last syllable or two so indistinctly that they cannot be heard. Such ministers almost invariably fail in any missionary effort they undertake. They cannot bring souls to Christ, because the latter part of their work is defective, just as their expression is defective at the close of sentences." 2SAT, p. 244.

"By diligent effort all may acquire the power to read intelligibly, and to speak in a full, clear, round tone, in a distinct and impressive manner. By doing this we may greatly increase our efficiency as

workers for Christ." COL, p. 335/336.

VOICE CULTURE AND HEALTH

Does reading and speaking properly affect your health? Most definitely. "Voice culture is a subject that has much to do with the health of students. The youth should be taught how to breathe properly and how to read in such a way that no unnatural strain shall come on the throat and lungs, but that the work shall be shared by the abdominal muscles. Speaking from the throat, letting the sound come from the upper part of the vocal organs, impairs the health of these organs and decreases their efficiency. The abdominal muscles are to do the heaviest part of the labor, the throat being used as a channel. Many have died who might have lived had they been taught how to use the voice correctly. The right use of the abdominal muscles in reading and speaking will prove a remedy for many voice and chest difficulties and the means of prolonging life." AH, p. 435. **

"I was taught this lesson when my throat and lungs were so much affected that I could not breathe without suffering. No human friend gave me any hint of what to do in order to improve, but the great Medical Missionary, whom I love and obey, told me what to do. The directions given me, I give you. The importance of voice culture was impressed upon me, and ever since I have tried to impress this upon others. Let our ministers speak slowly, taking in full inspirations of air, and there will be a melody in their voice that is now heard in the voices of but few, because it is hard to change wrong habits for right ones." 9MR p. 13

WORDS OF OMISSION

Words not spoken at the appropriate time are equally harmful as those spoken inappropriately. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Pro. 25:11. perhaps there is someone that needs a little encouragement and you neglect to give it when the Lord gives you the opportunity. This is sin. Or also in the case of a lost opportunity to witness for the truth. These people will be lost at your expense. We must constantly be praying that God will use this talent in us to be a blessing for others. It must not be a talent hidden in the earth.

TONE OF VOICE

There is one another aspect of this gift of language that I want to touch upon. That is in showing annoyance in ones' tone of voice. We should all be able to agree on the fact that speaking in anger is sin, but what about those annoying words we often hear? From the start, again we must educate our children to "Cultivate a soft and persuasive, not a harsh and dictatorial, tone of voice. Give the children lessons in voice culture. Train their habits of speech, until no coarse or rough words will come spontaneously from their lips when any trial comes to them." AH, p. 435. We often hear common swearing coming from the lips of unconverted people, young or old, spontaneously when in a crisis. We need to learn to be calm through every trial and difficulty.

In bringing reproof to our brothers and sisters, our words should be filled with love. "The success of reproof depends greatly upon the spirit in which it is given." 2T, p. 52.

“Be careful in your manner of speaking. Avoid everything in look or gesture, word or tone of voice, that savors of pride or self-sufficiency. Guard yourself against word or look that would exalt yourself or set your goodness and righteousness in contrast to their failings. Beware of the most distant approach to disdain, overbearing, or contempt. With care, avoid every appearance of anger, and though you use plainness of speech, yet let there be no reproach, no railing accusation, no token of warmth, but that of earnest love.” TDG, p. 105. In this spirit, your reproof will have more possibility of being accepted.

ANGER

We just read above that we are to avoid even the appearance of anger. What may not look like anger to us, may look like anger to others. If so, it is us that are in the wrong and we are to confess. Unless, of course, it is righteous indignation that was present in Jesus as He cleansed the temple (although He spoke no angry words in the process of the cleansing). And then there is the case of Moses who seems to have lost his temper when he saw the Israelites dancing around the golden calf. Also, we often read about the “just anger of God.” Or “The Lord’s anger was finally kindled against the wicked inhabitants of the city,” of Sodom. Yes, there is a vast difference in this type of anger. It is not an anger that is vented with shouting. Most sinful anger is caused by selfishness. We are angry because of some wrong done to a loved one or ourselves. Moses’ anger was anger for the cause of God. That is the big difference.

I have often heard it said that we are human and have human

emotions so that it is natural for us to feel angry once in awhile as long as we don’t vent the anger in an inappropriate manner. If we learn to contain the anger, we are fine, but I don’t see this being the case from the following two statements. “Christ treats anger as murder...” OHC, p. 235. “It is a sin to speak impatiently and fretfully or to feel angry – even though we do not speak.” SD, p. 84. So we read here that it is sin to feel angry. Those that are truly converted will never feel this sinful type of anger because they have lost themselves in Christ and their old human nature has been nailed to the cross and it doesn’t matter what others may do to us, we can hide in Christ and find perfect peace and happiness in Him.

IN COMPANY

Often in social gatherings, people get together to just talk. And what is often the topic of conversation? Nothing much, simply talking about whatever comes to mind. This is true with young people as well as older. Sometimes the conversations drift in ways we don’t like, especially if we are in company with unconverted people. We are not to simply withdraw immediately. We have a duty to perform, “Upon every family, upon every individual Christian, is laid the duty of barring the way against corrupt speech. When in company of those who indulge in foolish talk, it is our duty to change the subject of conversation if possible. By the help of the grace of God we should quietly drop words or introduce a subject that will turn the conversation into a profitable channel.” COL, p., 337. Should this not work and we have done our best, then it is best to withdraw because “evil communications corrupt good manners.” 1 Cor. 15:33.

“The Christian will begin and end the day with God. His speech will not be frivolous or aimless. He does not indulge in idle jesting or malicious gossip. The peace of God rules in his heart.” RH, 11-07-82

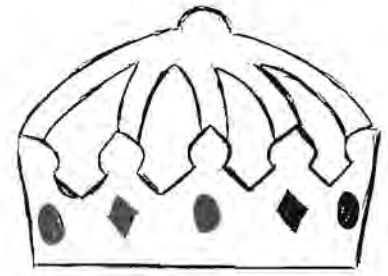
“The religion of Christ is cheering and elevating in its influence. It is above everything like foolish jesting and joking, vain and frivolous chit-chat. In all our seasons of recreation we may gather from the Divine Source of strength fresh courage and power, that we may the more successfully elevate our lives to purity, true goodness, and holiness.” MYP, p. 364.

“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Mat. 12:37.

Remember that every word you speak you will have to meet again in the day of judgement so we should be careful what we say, and how we say it so as to not offend anyone, but also it is important how well we speak the words of truth. Some may be turned away from the truth simply because it was spoken in a lazy, sloppy manner. Let us learn to read the Bible clearly and teach our children, from their infancy, how to speak and read clearly to honour and glorify God. “We may have knowledge, but unless we know how to use the voice correctly, our work will be a failure.” 6T, p. 380. Let us all honour God with our voice in every way and use the opportunity that He gives to us.
AMEN Wendy Eaton

** (this statement was made before modern day P.A. systems were invented and preachers often had to preach to large audiences and unless they used their voice properly – it greatly affected their health, but it can be true today also for those who need to do a lot of speaking.)

Miniseries about some kings of the Bible



PART TWO:

FROM MADNESS TO SALVATION AND RESTORED GLORY *The conversion of King Nebuchadnezzar*

"There are many devices in a man's heart, nevertheless the counsel of the Lord shall stand." Prov. 19:21.

"Yesterday as you have witnessed the foretold event happened," said Daniel the Prime Minister of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon, when he assembled the government for an emergency session. "The king was suddenly struck by the strange madness that had been shown to him in a dream twelve months ago. We had to remove him from the palace. According to the interpretation of the dream, as you all know, the kingdom is to remain and after seven years are past, our great king will again be restored to his throne. Thus we shall keep the empire safe from revolt, we will not tolerate any attempt of insurrection. We all know our duties. Stay everyone faithful to his post." With this the assembly was dismissed and life at the court of Babylon continued pretty much as usual, under the devoted care and vigilant watch of Daniel.

Yes, Daniel feared that this would take place, and he was very sad. He loved the king and for a time had tried his utmost to persuade Nebuchadnezzar to turn from his sinful lifestyle and oppressive rule to righteousness, so that the prophesied evil almost one year ago would not befall him. But it was of no avail, and the inevitable had to come.

What had happened? And why would the Bible tell us about it?

For we find the record in the book of the prophet Daniel. The great God of the universe rules over all and knows all things. Whatever He does has a special reason, that man may learn there is nothing happening "by chance," but is in the wise plan of Him who has so much compassion and love for the children of men.

The story about Nebuchadnezzar is outstanding, extraordinary and fascinating. Significant is the fact that God was so interested in this heathen king of Babylon. How much effort He was putting in to draw this man to Him. Three times God intervened in the life of King Nebuchadnezzar. Two times without lasting results or serious changes. Nebuchadnezzar was a tough case. Finally, the third time it worked, but the measure taken was rather drastic. However, if one looks deeper into it, one sees that it was the perfect and the only cure.

To begin with, we have to go back to the prophet Jeremiah who said that God called "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon My servant" (Jer. 25:9) already in the first year of his reign. Because Israel was rebellious against God and would not listen to the warnings of the prophets but hated and persecuted them, they finally were to serve this king seventy years. (Verse 11).

The ways of the Lord are marvellous. He sends this pagan ruler to invade Israel to come in contact with God's people. There Nebuchadnezzar takes the treasures from the temple and gives order that certain of the royal children and of other nobles be taken to Babylon to be educated there at the court. Here we meet Daniel, who was one of these children and who would be privileged to introduce the king to the God of Heaven.

Nebuchadnezzar was one of the most interesting personalities of the Bible. Unlike other rulers who were merely concerned about their realm during their lifetime, this monarch felt a strong responsibility and care for the future, long after he would be gone. The God of Israel and

Maker of all things who understands and reads the heart of man, would in His kindness grant this heathen monarch a dream that would show the future of the whole world. We are very familiar with the story about this particular dream, the mysterious image and its interpretation found in the book of Daniel chapter two. But the impression about the God of gods and Lord of lords, Dan. 2:47, did not last nor cause any real change in Nebuchadnezzar. As a matter of fact, after some time he made quite a mess of the interpretation concerning the image of his dream. For in chapter three of Daniel we see Nebuchadnezzar setting up an enormous image of gold in the plain of Dura to be worshiped by all people. The place chosen was a great flat area so that all could see the high statue from afar and a great many people could assemble there.

For the dedication, all the princes, ministers and all other high officials of the provinces of the vast empire gathered together to fall down and worship before the golden image at the given sign of musical instruments. Dan. 3:5. Think what Nebuchadnezzar made of the image of the dream. He perverted its meaning and completely misconstrued the interpretation! He applied the entire image to himself, he was not content with being just "the head of gold." Dan. 2:38.

Now he wanted it to be worshiped on the pain of death if refused. This is plain madness for a ruler whose pride and power went to his head to force everyone without exception to adore his supposed divinity! He criminally misused his power to enforce his religion and make it law.

But God in His mercy showed him how perverse his idea was and gave him a glimpse of the "Son of God" (Dan. 3:25), which astonished Nebuchadnezzar tremendously and made him quickly forget his folly. There was no dedication of the image. No, down it came never to be mentioned again.

But as ridiculous the command of worshiping the image was, so extreme was the new decree. For the king who realized that the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was the true God, delivering them out of the fiery furnace, (v. 28), now said: "I make a decree, that every people, nation and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill" v. 29.

Such ideas can only originate in one who has no conception of the mercy, love and holiness of God. How could it even be? For the deities of the heathen are cruel and must constantly be kept at peace through offerings so as not to arouse their indignation. Nebuchadnezzar knew no better and when he learned about the true God and His power, he applied to Him the same attributes of his heathen gods.

"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." Prov. 28:26. God used Nebuchadnezzar as a rod for His people who would not respond to the warnings of the prophets, His "messengers, rising up betimes and sending, because He had compassion on His people... but they mocked and despised His words... until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy." 2. Chron. 36:15,16.

Three times in his reign Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem and besieged it. The second time the temple was robbed of all the remaining treasures and they were carried to Babylon. Also, the persons of the royal household, the best craftsmen and warriors - altogether ten thousand people. (2. Kings 24:13-16). Then came the last siege when Jerusalem was broken up, the king punished and carried to Babylon. After this the captain of the guard Nebuzaradan returned, burned the temple and the houses of Jerusalem. He broke the walls of the city, and

carried the rest of the people except the very poor, to the land of Babylon. 2. Kings 25:1-11.

Israel as a kingdom ceased to exist and the empire of Nebuchadnezzar increased in size and power. Nebuchadnezzar was a very intelligent, ambitious regent, he wanted the best for his land, though he was like any pagan ruler - rough and often cruel to the people. Punishment by death for a slight trespass was the rule and the king did not bother to investigate the justice of a case at times.

And when his mood was fierce, beware! "For the king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion," Prov. 19:12, "And as a messenger of death." Prov. 16:14.

Conquest in war made Nebuchadnezzar bold, hard and fearless and it seemed in whatever enterprise he engaged himself, success was at his side. The borders of his empire enlarged and many different languages were being spoken within his realm.

From the captive Jews the craftsmen like carpenters and artists of wrought iron were employed to display their skill in beautifying the capital and the palace of the king with their exquisite works of art. The best men of the noble seed, Daniel and his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who proved themselves most trustworthy and capable, were given high positions by the king - adding to the excellency and stability of the empire.

The more secure the borders became, the more the wealth of the king increased, and the more glorious the city Babylon grew day by day, the more proud and haughty became the king. He adored his surroundings where beauty on every side enthralled the eyes and senses. Babylon became indeed the glory of all kingdoms, however its very name caused many to tremble who mentioned it, because of the growing arrogance and oppressive power of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Because "all people, nations and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would slew he slew, whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down." Dan. 5:19.

He showed no mercy to the poor. And he had especially been warned about showing mercy to the poor. Dan. 4:27. And as true as "the heavens for height and the earth for depth," so the "heart of kings is unsearchable." Prov. 25:3. Nevertheless, "the king's heart is in the hands of the Lord, as the rivers of water. He turneth it whithersoever He will." Prov. 21:1.

"Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18. The time for God to intervene once more has come. Nebuchadnezzar filled his cup. The stage is set for God to act.

One day when the king was overly pleased with himself and of a rare cordial mood, he invited Daniel, the ministers and other close members of the royal household to a splendid banquet. After gratifying the palate with sumptuous and rich culinary delicacies, the heart light and merry from exquisite wine, the king suddenly arose.

The sun was near the edge of the horizon and one could now without being blinded from the brightness look to the orange colored disk that shed its golden rays upon the glorious city below the palace, and bathed everything in a sea of burnished gold. The rays reflecting on the smooth, soft colored walls of glazed tiles of temples and edifices dazzled the eye with a splendor and beauty that was exhilarating. This was a very special evening indeed. The gods of Babylon seemed to show an exceptional favor to the city and its king!

Now the king directed his steps to the centre of the grand terrace that offered a most excellent view over the city. His frame corpulent and heavy from indulgence to gluttony, turned partly to his guests and partly to the city. With a lavish gesture he stretched out one arm to his adored city, the other he patted on his mighty chest, and with a thrill of total self satisfaction Nebuchadnezzar shouted out: "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" Dan. 4:30.

Nebuchadnezzar hardly finished his proud exclamation, when

the assembled suddenly heard a noise like thunder and sensed great uneasiness. But the king clearly heard a voice from heaven speaking to him in judgment:

"O King Nebuchadnezzar; to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Dan. 4:31,32.

Instantly, a great change came over the king who just uttered such boastful words. His proud head adorned with a delicate jeweled crown tilted forward, so that the golden band fell from his head and with a tinkling noise rolled along the sparkling tiled floor. His mighty figure shook violently and forced him on his knees. Everybody at once arose from his seat. What is wrong with the king? Is he dying?

Then the smitten monarch turned his face and the dignified guests gazed with horror at the scene. The intelligent and handsome face of the king distorted before their eyes into the stupid grimace of an idiot. The eyes bulged out, the mouth open with the tongue forward as trying to utter something, but no word came out, only guttural sounds most unbecoming for a king! The gorgeous royal robe was soon drenched with stains of spittle as the stricken regent sat like a fool on the floor, staring ahead of him. There was not one spark of intelligence or reason on his face.

Now the shock penetrated the perplexed and trembling guests. This must be the fulfillment of the dream the king had had twelve months ago – the same dream which nobody was able to explain save Daniel the Hebrew. Fear fell upon everyone.

"He that hath no rule over his spirit, is like a city broken down without walls." Prov. 25: 28. Nebuchadnezzar was driven from men. He was lowered to a beast and dwelled with the beasts of the fields. He ate grass like an ox. One might argue that eating grass is only for animals, not for a human being. But catch the thought: there is a wise plan

in all what God does. He makes no mistakes!

Look, King Nebuchadnezzar had all his life eaten of very rich and unclean food, heavily laden with spices and offered to idols as well. The meat from his table was most unhealthy, and young Daniel shrank from the very thought of having to eat of it. He determined right from the start not to touch it. Dan. 1: 8.

And we have seen God had a special interest in this king. And to make sure God succeeds this time, He had to take this very drastic course of insanity and put Nebuchadnezzar on a truly "special cleansing fast." (See note below).

Nebuchadnezzar accumulated so much waste in his body, his system became sluggish and was not able to digest the food properly and eliminate the toxins. He became not only corpulent, but if he had continued with his unhealthy eating habits, he would have become very ill and died a premature death. From the unclean blood circulating in his system, his body and his brain were not supplied with sufficient oxygen, which affected his thinking, so that he became narrow minded and extremely self centered. Before the tragedy of a stroke or a heart attack would strike, God had stepped in to save this great king.

To take all sanity from Nebuchadnezzar was again one of the grand mysterious moves of the God Omniscient! Because of this way the divinely ordered cleansing process would be accomplished like nothing else could have done.

The system of King Nebuchadnezzar had to be purified from all the toxins and waste matter and a fast on vegetation would do this just perfectly. Grass has roughage and minerals essential for proper body function and we know how strong grass eating animals are. And the human body was designed for a vegetarian diet - not for eating flesh food.

To undergo such a thorough cleansing, the mind of Nebuchadnezzar had to be dealt with and reason taken away, otherwise there would be no desired result, because of the length of time required. The entire system of Nebuchadnezzar had to be changed before the gentle

influence of the Holy Spirit could even begin to touch the innermost chambers of his soul. A perverted appetite is deaf and dead to the wooing of God's calling.

As Nebuchadnezzar was being put away from the palace, they brought him out into the country, where hills and green meadows would be his home for seven years, along with brooks of fresh clear water. Cattle and wild asses roamed through the fields and sometimes came near the spot where Nebuchadnezzar was sitting in the grass with a stupid look on his face, staring into the air.

His body got wet with the dew or rain and his hair and nails grew to enormous length, so that he became a rather beast-like sight. But the animals did not mind, he was altogether harmless and betimes licked his face and body. He ate, drank and slept by mere instinct, his mind registered nothing.

So the years passed. And meanwhile a most dramatic change had taken place in the body of the desposed king. The wobbly, heavy layers of fat had melted away and the muscles of the body renewed with strong new tissue. He had coughed up masses of mucus from his lungs and they became clean and healthy. The bloodstream purified from all poison now began to flow through the veins and arteries with fresh oxygen, invigorating the brain and life forces. The eyes before cloudy from layers of hardened membranes, became bright and sparkling. The staring, stupid expression disappeared. The transformation was complete!

Then one morning Nebuchadnezzar woke up and looked straight into the clear blue sky above and he was most astonished. He saw white, puffy clouds passing over him and considered this a most wonderful sight.

Where was he? He could not remember ever seeing the sky so blue and beautiful in all his life. He sat up and saw the cattle feeding in the grass nearby and the rolling hills in the distance. There was no palace in sight, nor a trace of the city anywhere. "What is this? How did I get here?" Nebuchadnezzar thought.

Then he noticed the long beard, the thick hair covering his body

and the extremely long nails on his hands and feet, the rugged clothes on his body and a great terror befell him. "What happened to me," he cried out, "where am I?"

And all of a sudden it struck him like a thunderbolt. His memory was sharp as a bell, "this is the judgment of God. I remember the voice of the angel!"

Now he felt tears coming in his eyes and before he knew it they streamed down his face and a strange, unknown warmth entered his heart. His mind being crystal clear and with a newly awakened conscience he felt an immense weight of guilt coming over him. He saw all the wickedness of his life sharp before him, his injustice and arrogance. His conscience condemned him mercilessly. He never had such convictions before and instead of pushing them from him he dwelled on them with increasing intensity. A terrible sorrow and remorse filled his heart. How could he make such a mess of his life that such judgment had to come over him to drive him from his throne and people!

He completely accepted the justice of the divine sentence, though with a great pain in his heart. With deepest earnestness he acknowledged that the God of heaven is the Ruler of the kingdoms on earth, and He gives it to whom He will. (Dan. 3:32).

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy understanding." Prov. 9:10.

But God, out of love let Nebuchadnezzar come to this point, so that His Spirit could move upon his heart and Nebuchadnezzar responded with his whole being. The stony cold heart had died away and under the gentle influence of the Holy Spirit Nebuchadnezzar received a new heart of flesh. With a sorrow coming from the bottom of his anguished soul, he fell to the ground and his frame shaking from weeping, he poured out his guilt in deeply felt repentance.

All heaven watched closely! because this was the moment God was waiting for so long! For this moment God had put Nebuchadnezzar through this great humiliation of insanity to bring him to the point of repentance. Now all the angels joined in a most glorious song, so that the heavens rang

for the joy that one sinner had repented of his sins (Luke 15:7). God had won the victory over this heathen king and embraced him in His everlasting arms. Nebuchadnezzar will be His child forever.

Now a wonderful peace came over the penitent one and the terrible burden upon his mind lifted. Nebuchadnezzar felt a new life and strength entering his whole being that made him jump for joy. All the things around him had suddenly a new fresh look. The grass was greener, the sky more blue and the whole scenery was breathtaking. Birds were singing in the trees, for the first time he heard their lovely song. "In this beautiful nature I have spent seven years, and I have not noticed it at all!" thought Nebuchadnezzar, "but God has opened my eyes and now I see. He has made all these lovely trees and hills - what a great God He is! I am but a worm, but He had compassion on me to show me His wonders, signs and power! Yes, this is the true God, and the only One worthy to be worshiped. I will serve Him with all my heart!"

He ran through the meadow singing for joy and enthusiasm. He came to a little body of water and bathed himself. He tore off the unsightly long nails and tied the wet hair together. While he so happily roamed through the fields exploring the surroundings he was being watched, but he did not notice it. He picked berries from the shrubs along the hillside and it seemed to him as though he had never tasted anything so delicious. He strolled along the hills and was astonished at the beauty of the land.

"What a wonderful country I am living in - I never knew that. How blind I was, that I have missed all this my whole life!" he must have said to himself.

Some days later Nebuchadnezzar suddenly heard music and saw a procession of horses and chariots coming towards him. During the long time of the king's strange illness, he was not at all forgotten. From time to time somebody was sent to see where Nebuchadnezzar was, but he never realized it. And when the seven times were expired, everything in the palace

and in the city was made ready for the return of the great king.

It was hard to tell who was more astonished and happier of the two parties. Nebuchadnezzar to see his faithful ministers and princes and servants, as they came out to him, or them when they set their eyes on their king, who looked so entirely different!

It was not the wild hair and the rugged clothes he wore, it was his whole appearance. They saw a slim and trim man before them who radiated health and vitality. His bearded face had such a gentle expression, with soft kind eyes that captivated every beholder with greatest amazement, for this was beyond anything they would have ever expected to see. This was a brand new Nebuchadnezzar altogether!

The old Nebuchadnezzar existed no more, the new one became a just and great monarch who ruled righteously and executed mercy and justice. He had learned that "the king that faithfully judged the poor, his throne shall be established for ever." Ps. 29:14. God kept His promise. Nebuchadnezzar was established in his kingdom and excellent majesty was added to him." Dan. 4:36.

And Nebuchadnezzar praised and extolled the "King of Heaven whose works are Truth, and His ways judgment: for those that walk in pride He is able to abase." Verse 24. Nebuchadnezzar brought honor to his God in a heathen land. He faithfully witnessed of the great power God had wrought in his life.

By Edda Tedford.

Note: The expression "special grass cleansing fast" for Nebuchadnezzar was given by a medical missionary and I considered it a most appropriate and excellent thought, thus mentioned it here.





The Plan of Salvation

Part 2

Now will I sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved touching His vineyard...ⁱ God claims the whole earth as His vineyard.ⁱⁱ The work of creation was a manifestation of His love.ⁱⁱⁱ Our Father in heaven is the source of love, of wisdom, and of joy.^{iv} The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the final overthrow of rebellion and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God's unchanging love.^v

The things of nature are an expression of God's character; by them we may understand His love, His power and His glory.^{vi} The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character.^{vii} He who set the starry worlds on high and tinted with delicate skill the flowers of the field, who filled the earth and the heavens with the wonders of His power, when He came to crown His glorious work, to place one in the midst to stand as ruler of the fair earth, did not fail to create a being worthy of the hand that gave him life... Though formed from the dust, Adam was "the son of God."^{viii}

Above all lower orders of beings, God designed that man, the crowning work of His creation, should express His thought and reveal His glory. But man is not to exalt himself as God.^{ix} God designed that man should be openhearted and honest, without affectation, meek, humble, with simplicity. This is the principle of heaven.^x The law of God is an expression of His very nature; it is an embodiment of the great principles of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth.^{xi} Love to God is the very foundation of religion.. Open apostasy would not be more offensive to God than hypocrisy and mere formal worship.^{xii}

Before this earth was called into being, God's law existed.^{xiii} God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law.^{xiv} They were hedged about by the precepts of His law, the everlasting principles of truth, justice, and purity. Obedience to these principles was to be their protection, for it would save them from destroying themselves by sinful practices.^{xv}

There is not a commandment of the law that is not for the good and happiness of man, both in this life and in the life to come.^{xvi} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which he Had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and

sanctified it: because that in it He rested from all His work which God created and made.^{xvii}

...And He looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.^{xviii} From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate.^{xix} From the beginning Satan has portrayed to men the gains to be won by transgression.^{xx} From the beginning it has been Satan's studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself.^{xxi} It was pride and ambition that prompted Lucifer to complain of the government of God, and seek the overthrow of the order which had been established in heaven. Since his fall it has been his object to infuse the same spirit of envy and discontent, the same ambition for position and honor, into the minds of men.^{xxii} All he claimed was that he wanted to bring in a better order of things, to make great improvements.^{xxiii} So those who are deceived by Satan look upon God as hard and exacting... His law they regard as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they are glad to escape.^{xxiv} It is true that Satan's path is made to appear attractive, but it is all a deception.^{xxv}

It was tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all these evil as the result of God's work of creating him.^{xxvi} He has suggested doubts to their minds, and, instead of repelling them at once, they have reasoned and parleyed with the archdeceiver, and listened to his reasonings, as though charmed by the old serpent.^{xxvii} "Why," said the artful tempter, "when God knew what would be the result, did He permit man to be placed on trial, to sin, and bring in misery and death?"^{xxviii}

Thus saith God the Lord, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein,^{xxix} "Is it not lawful for Me to do what I will with Mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?"^{xxx}

Nay, but O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? What if God, willing to shew His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction. And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory.^{xxxi} Would God good that we had never been born?

What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise.^{xxxii} Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth

also the law. For sin is the transgression of the law.^{xxxiii} If you choose sin, and refuse to separate from it, the presence of God, which consumes sin, must consume you.^{xxxiv} However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil.^{xxxv}

The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience.^{xxxvi} He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render him voluntary service.^{xxxvii} And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve.^{xxxviii} Then cried they all again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber.^{xxxix} And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance in riotous living.^{xl}

The fall of man filled all heaven with sorrow.^{xli} Jesus wept.^{xlii} Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.^{xliii}

In the plan of redemption there are mysteries that the human mind cannot fathom, many things that human wisdom cannot explain.^{xliv} Yet it is possible for us to see all that we can bear of the divine compassion. This is unfolded to the humble, contrite soul.^{xlv} Amen.

Chester B. Cosby

ⁱ Isaiah 5:1
ⁱⁱ COL 130
ⁱⁱⁱ 5T 739
^{iv} SC 5
^v PP 33
^{vi} 8T 263
^{vii} COL 43
^{viii} PP 44
^{ix} 8T 264
^x 1T 114
^{xi} SC 31
^{xii} PP 523
^{xiii} MB 48
^{xiv} PP 49
^{xv} COL 123
^{xvi} MB 48
^{xvii} Genesis 2:1-3
^{xviii} Isaiah 5:2
^{xix} DA 22
^{xx} PP 720

^{xxi} 5T 738
^{xxii} PP 403
^{xxiii} 5T 502, 503
^{xxiv} COL 83
^{xxv} MB 139
^{xxvi} SC 9
^{xxvii} 1T 377
^{xxviii} PP 331
^{xxix} Isaiah 42:5
^{xxx} Matthew 20:15
^{xxxi} Romans 9:20, 22, 23
^{xxxii} SC 24
^{xxxiii} 1 John 3:4
^{xxxiv} MB 62
^{xxxv} PP 421
^{xxxvi} SC 22
^{xxxvii} PP 34
^{xxxviii} Joshua 24:15
^{xxxix} John 18:40
^{xl} Luke 15:13
^{xli} PP 63
^{xlii} John 11:35
^{xliii} 2 Timothy 2:19
^{xliv} 8T 326
^{xlv} COL 50



DAVID VS. GOLIATH



Brethren have you ever given serious thought to the battle that took place between David and Goliath? Picture this, a strongly armed giant, apparently invincible and a warrior since his youth, against a seemingly helpless youth without any knowledge or instruction in the art of war. What will be the outcome of this encounter? Logic seems to say that it will obviously be the defeat of the Hebrew youth. Let us step back into history for a moment and see what occurred in this struggle between the giant and the youth.

Two armies can be seen drawn up in array, both vigilant and watchful, waiting for the final results of this encounter. The victory of either side will determine the well-being of one and the captivity of the other.

Goliath casts a contemptuous and scornful glance upon the youth, never dreaming that this would be his last battle. The giant, with a burst of anger went down to meet the enemy and put an end to his adversary.

David went forth with a calm, serene spirit, firmly trusting in the King of heaven. Onward with complete assurance that the victory would be his, he went out to meet Goliath.

So what happened? David gained the victory over his antagonist. David is delivered from his oppressors and there is great joy in the heavenly host.

Goliath, with all his armor prepared for war and his great height, seemed unconquerable to the Hebrew armies. In contrast lay David with his rod and

slingshot in hand. He appeared to be an easy prey for the giant.

Nevertheless, David possessed a weapon that was more powerful than any Goliath had ever used. The youth had learned to use this armor in his early childhood when he took care of his father's herds. 1 Samuel 17:31

This was an implicit trust in the protecting care of God towards His children. This faith was the secret weapon that gave him the victory.

Furthermore, have you ever thought seriously about the battle that is before us?

Goliath symbolizes:

The World- full of pleasures, luxuries and vices that weigh down the majority.

The Devil- A powerful adversary that never rests in his struggle to destroy us.

The Flesh- slave of sin ever since Adam separated from our Creator. It is impossible for the flesh on its own to do good.

David (man in his fallen state) represents our case. Incapable of doing any good, he is called to encounter Goliath, something that not one of us can avoid. We have to face him whether we want to or not. Our destiny will depend upon the result of this struggle. The choice is ours, we can be delivered from sin forever, reconciled anew in the presence of the Lord and His holy

angels; Or, continue being slaves of sin and the devil knowing that we shall lose eternal life. Our happiness or shame depends upon our decision.

Shall we continue facing the enemy with our own armor? Even with the full knowledge that we shall lose the struggle? Or shall we use the armor that Christ places before us to be able to defeat the giant? Ephesians 6:11-18.

Remember brother, you are the only one capable of determining the outcome of this conflict for good or for evil. You can overcome the adversary in the name of the Lord just as David overcame Goliath.

Each morning before facing a new day, engrave these verses upon your mind and heart. Phil 4:13, Prov. 3:5-6, Psalm 37:5 & 34

Always keep in mind that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them." With this thought David went out to meet Goliath knowing that he would be delivered from the powerful warrior. Through implicit faith in God and the use of heavenly armor, David obtained deliverance for his people and saved his own life.

You can also do likewise. Christ has enabled you through His power to overcome in all ways. He has prepared the way so that your feet will not stumble as you reach the encampment of the Lord.

Don't disappoint Him! Remember that Christ has won the battle for you and is willing to help you in all things so that you may come forth victorious and triumphant. Always remember that the Lord is your shepherd and nothing will be out of your reach to overcome Goliath. May the Lord help us so that we may be able to comprehend our great necessity and accept His help without reserve as we approach the camp of battle full of faith knowing that we shall overcome. AMEN

J. Hidalgo



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CHRISTIANS IN THE JUNGLE

Far away from the big cities, even from civilization, among giant trees, poisonous snakes, scorpions, and powerful rivers, in the forests close to Brazil exists a breathtaking place called Canaima. The roaring waterfalls, the "tepuyes" with their vertical stony walls, the wildlife in their natural condition, make an extraordinary landscape that overtakes your soul and makes you feel your own smallness and the greatness of God's creation. This is the tropical jungle. In some places the thick forest is interrupted by open lands called "calcetas" or savannas which are covered by a short grass and rows of palm trees that follow a stream of water. It is very common to see wild flocks of parrots, papagayos, or monkeys that make a great noise in the trees.

Settled in this environment, a branch of the ancient Carib tribe has survived the harshness of the tropical forests and still remain today with their old customs and practices.

This tribe calls itself "Pemon" (people). They are spread throughout the southeast region of Venezuela and are divided in four families: Kamaracoto, Arekuna, Taurepan and Akawayo. Usually they live in small communities or villages which are separated by long distances. So if they want to visit some relative or to trade with the people of another village, they have to do it through dangerous rivers with treacherous currents. Even though they are used to walking without rest for hours, they prefer to travel by rivers, no matter the risks. A few months ago the older son of a couple that is a member of the church was taking two miners from one place to another through the Caroni river; in that area which they were

travelling by, there are many violent and dangerous rapids. When they were just passing by one of the rapids, the canoe sunk in the violent waters with all the goods they were carrying. The two miners drowned. Emilio, our Indian brother, almost died too. He hardly could survive and had to swim with all his strength. He spent the whole night in the forest near the river until someone rescued him the next day.

This is not an uncommon occurrence. There have been many tragedies like this. Even tourists have suffered accidents like the miners as mentioned before.

The Reform message came for the first time to Canaima in 1986. Since that time the Venezuelan Union has been supporting the work with occasional visits to the church. In 1990 pastor I was sent to work in this place for 2 years. After 1992 the church was visited periodically by different ministers in the Union.

Last year I was sent again to work among the Indians with my family. During the last few months there have been two church conferences and six new members added to the flock of the Lord. There are currently 33 baptized members.

In the area new fields have been opened. A day's journey from Canaima, by trails and rivers, there is another village called "Las Babas". In this place the work started when myself and my family, together with other church members, were visiting the community. The people were first afraid and distrustful of the visitors because they had been misinformed in regard to the reformation message. When we were at the captain's

(the chief) house, my daughters started to sing some hymns in their native language. The people were amazed to hear white girls singing in their own dialect. Then I took advantage to speak about Jesus Christ's second coming since some people gathered around. So the chief's family and another group agreed to receive Bible studies. Since that time, they have been keeping meetings for a weekend every month. Usually, 40 people are gathered each time we visit.

Plans are to ordain a minister from the same tribe. It would be beneficial to them because right now they are preached to in Spanish and must be translated into their native language. Even in this matter the Lord has shown His great blessings. The Venezuelan Union, by my recommendation, has sent a native Bible worker there so that he can help and assist me and later be ordained as a pastor.

In Canaima around 60 people gather every Sabbath. (Christians in the jungle) I recently finished giving a music theory course and a basic theology seminar. Just now they are having classes about revelation prophesies. Every day at 5:30 in the morning the brethren come to the church to learn about prophesy. It is expected that 3 souls will be baptized at the next church conference in June 1999.

May the Lord bless His people in the jungle.

Your fellow and co-worker in the vineyard of the Lord,

P. Neptali Acevedo



New believers in Venezuelan Jungle.



Current Scene

Why? After a murderous rampage in Colorado, America confronts the alienation that grips so many teenagers - How parents, kids, and schools can spot trouble - and head it off, from *U.S. News and World Report*, May 3, 1999. "In a whole lot of ways, this is the worst so far. The death toll, the easily made bombs, the possible conspiracy, the lunatic fringe fueled by a nihilistic teen culture, the sadism. And all the signs that it was coming had been brewing for a good long time. More than any of the five school massacres in the past 19 months, the killing of 12 students and a teacher at Columbine High School last week was preceded by a series of grim indications that something was wrong - terribly wrong - with Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. But no one took them seriously. 'These things don't just happen,' says Mark Greenberg, an authority on violence prevention at Penn State. 'These boys gave signals to their peers or others.'"

"Six months ago, the sheriff's department warned the school district about rising violence. School officials said the report was exaggerated. 'That report was right,' says Jefferson County Commissioner Pat Holloway. 'But they said there weren't any problems, and we took their word for it.'"

School officials had some reason to think they didn't have much to fear. If a criminologist was to predict where adolescents might be murdered in the United States, one of the last places he would pick is an affluent high school like that in Littleton, Colo., where one of the assailants shows up in a BMW. Statistically speaking, white kids are less at risk for homicide than black kids, suburban kids less than urban, wealthy less than poor. And kids in school are less at risk there than almost anywhere else. In fact, fatal school shootings are down in recent years. And by broad measures, school violence hasn't risen much for decades. The University of Michigan's annual violence survey shows that 12th graders were about as likely to report being injured with or without a weapon in school in 1976 as in 1996.

"This exaggerated sense of safety and invulnerability makes it harder for school officials to recognize and weed out dangerous kids. 'People were saying, 'I can't believe it happened here,' and that's just why it happened,' says Northeastern University Prof. Jack Levin. "People in Boston, New York, or Los Angeles would never say it can't happen here. Folks in the big cities have responded....But these [suburban] communities have

felt immune to big-city problems. They didn't prepare for this onslaught, and now they are playing catch-up."

"The rash of school shootings has been a singular, if persistent, phenomenon. One somehow seems to spawn another. (Last week's killings sparked many copycat incidents, from students arriving at schools in black trench coats to bomb threats and an actual bomb found at a Pennsylvania high school.) But there are patterns. Starting with Pearl, Miss., on Oct. 1, 1997, **all the shootings were by white males in nonurban schools. All were kids trying to fit in - kids ridiculed by their peers. Angry kids.**

"And now the clumsy groping for explanations. How could such evil have grown in ones so young? Could it have been stopped? Surely it is a rare and complicated convergence of factors. Still, experts see some common threads in the spate of shootings: These adolescent boys can't manage their emotions. They feel rejected, enraged, jealous. They are kids who never learned how to solve problems. Combine that with easy access to guns, parents who may have too little time, as well as movies, video games, and music that toast violence, and the result can be lethal. 'The vast assortment of slasher and gore films on video contribute to a climate of media violence different from that studied over the past four decades,' Harvard University's

Sissela Bok argues in a 1998 book, *Mayhem*. "So does the proliferation of video games offering players the chance to engage in vicarious carnage of every sort. These sources bring into homes depictions of graphic violence, often sexual in nature, never available to children and young people in the past."

"But as much as the culture of violence, the Colorado shootings illuminate a more solvable problem: that of teachers and parents and students who don't pay enough attention. 'What I'm about to say, I don't think America wants to hear,' says Scott Poland, a school psychologist who led crisis teams at past school shootings. 'We have a number of troubled children who have a history of bullying, are fascinated with guns, violence, and bombs, have been teased, or [are] outcasts. It's time to end the culture of silence.'"

"'We need to watch and take care of our children,' Michael Shoels sadly told other parents."

"And listen to them, as well. 'You have to take your children seriously, know when they're in trouble' – or feel them out if they seem to be, says Deborah Zarin, the American Psychiatric Association's deputy medical director. Do you know how they're spending their time – and with whom? What movies and videos they're watching (the shooters reportedly watched *Natural Born Killers* repeatedly), the music they're listening to? Make a habit of

getting to know their friends – and their friends' parents. And know their role models, who they want to be like and why. Adolescence is time of identity formation."

If parents suspect trouble, they should immediately talk to school officials; teachers, principals, guidance counselors, coaches. They may need to talk to their pediatrician, other kids, other kids' parents. And mostly, their own children. 'If kids are trying to avoid spending time with you, you have to be somewhat pushier. Find ways of connecting with them. The risk of under treatment is enormous....There are measures parents can take to try to prevent their troubled teens from turning violent – or suicidal.

Some key warning signs that kids may have crossed from run-of-the-mill teenage weird into a danger zone: slipping grades, depression, dropping school activities, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, increasing isolation, a new gang of friends parents don't know. One clear giveaway professional help is needed: if kids show a fascination with firearms or other means of destruction, including books, videos or music on suicide. 'No qualifiers. Get an evaluation.' The same goes for kids making serious and multiple threats to hurt or kill someone. If it's gotten to that point, parents should also call in the police.

"We have introduced forms and amounts of media

violence beyond anything achieved in other countries. According to the American Psychological Association, the average child will witness at least 8,000 murders on TV by the time he or she leaves elementary school, along with more than 100,000 assorted other acts of violence.

"A growing number of experts say that a more effective deterrent to teenage violence may be curbing a practice that has long been considered just another schoolyard rite of passage. The practice is bullying – the teasing, harassing, and occasional mild violence inflicted by the supposedly powerful against the presumed powerless. And more and more, psychologists say, the problem is not just bullies but the victims of bullies as well. Because bullying is so often an underlying cause of school violence, the National School Safety Center now calls it 'the most enduring and underrated problem in American schools.' Not surprisingly, a study shows, children who are identified as bullies at age 8 are three times as likely as other youths to break the law by age 30. Bullying also leaves its mark on the 1 in 4 kids who says he is a victim: As many as 8 percent of schoolchildren miss a day of class monthly for fear of being bullied. And in a nationwide survey, 43 percent of children said they were afraid to go to a bathroom for fear of being harassed.

“Teachers do a poor job of handling bullies, according to a nationwide poll of students. And perhaps for good reason. ‘Sending a bully to the principal is basically like saying you don’t have control of your classroom,’ says teacher Trish Mumford of Rehoboth Beach, Del.

“But one school, coincidentally next door to Littleton, is trying a bully-intervention program that is serving as a model for 300 schools nationwide. At Highline Community School in Aurora, it is now against the rules for a student to watch a fellow classmate being bullied without intervening or seeking help. Largely as a result of the program, says counselor Paul VonEssen, misconduct reports at the school have been cut nearly in half.”

“In these days when vice and crime of every form are rapidly increasing, there is a tendency to become so familiar with existing conditions that we lose sight of their cause and of their significance. More intoxicating liquors are used today than have ever been used heretofore. In the horrible details of revolting drunkenness and terrible crime, the newspapers give but partial report of the story of the resultant lawlessness. Violence is in the land. And yet, notwithstanding the many evidences of the increase of crime and lawlessness, men seldom stop to think seriously of the meaning of these things. Almost without

exception, men boast of the enlightenment and progress of the present age.” ST, 11-20-07

“We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime’ at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, it is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud. Every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. Who can doubt that satanic agencies are at work among men with increasing activity to distract and corrupt the mind, and defile and destroy the body?”
CH p. 25

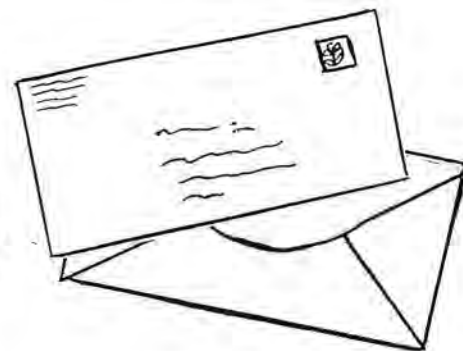
Truly, we have fully reached that time which the pen of inspiration describes here. And much more than intoxication with liquors are corrupting the human mind and soul – now there is much more intoxication and corruption with violent video games, and fascination with demonism, death and destruction. Now we have fully reached that time when we must pray for all of our children in public schools to be kept from the evil.

With the prevalence of guns, drugs and immorality amongst the young, it makes us wonder if the “powers that

be” are allowing a state of anarchy, violence and perversion to exist in society so that when the time comes, they will be able to do anything in the name of the emergency. And with what all the churches are doing in dialoguing with the papacy, it is certain that they are talking about how they must do something soon to bring back God into society. When they say that Sunday is a part of morality, decency and one of the things to keep children safe in school, then we know that the Protestant authorities will be making the “image to the beast.” Then it is that God’s people will be looked upon as malefactors, as lawbreakers, when we reject the traditions of men, in favor of the commandments of God. (In fact, couldn’t we say that so many of the traditions of a morally bankrupt society are so empty and meaningless now that the youth are looking for just more and more of the world, the flesh and the devil to complete them? And that this is precisely why the message for this time of the sanctity of the family, marriage and life itself is caught up with and intertwined with the Ten Commandments?)

May the Lord help us to call sin by its right name whether in the educational system or out of it, that we may be part of God’s solution to these horrible crimes, rather than a part of Satan’s ongoing problem. By Jerry Eaton

SHARING



It was summer time and Darrel was on holidays from school. Usually he spent his days busily running around with his friends so that he rarely saw the rest of his family, except at meal times. But today the action was slow. Everyone he knew had some other plans and he was alone. He sat in the large living room chair staring out the window, watching the trees sway in the breeze.

"There must be something to do," Darrel thought. But the longer he lounged in the chair, the lazier he felt. Suddenly he heard his mother's footsteps coming down the stairs. He scrambled to his feet and searched for something to help him look busy. Mom had a way of finding things for idle hands to do. It always seemed to involve cleaning. Darrel remembered the overstuffed game closet that his parents had been after him to clean up for quite some time.

"Is the mail in yet?" asked Mom, straightening magazines on an end table.

Darrel leaned close to the front window. "Not yet. Mr. Montgomery just got out of his truck, and he's starting on the other side of the street."

Mom walked over to look for herself. "That sure is a heavy-looking mail sack. Poor man, I wonder how much longer he can handle a load like that. He's getting close to retirement, and I hear his back isn't holding up very well."

Darrel looked at his mother. She was dressed in her old cleaning clothes. She had been busy all morning cleaning the basement with his father. He could hear the scraping and shuffling of his father, working in the basement. His mother's pity for Mr. Montgomery finally gave him an idea. "Why don't I go out and help him today," he said as he reached inside the closet for a jacket.

"Well, that's very thoughtful but . . ." Darrel did not hear the rest; the door was already closing behind him. Mr. Montgomery was probably the slowest mailman in town. He was not much taller than Darrel, and he was very thin. Though the mailman wore a hat while he was working, Darrel remembered from seeing him in church that he was nearly bald. Even in church he seemed to walk slowly, almost with a limp. Mother was always worrying about Mr. Montgomery. But he had delivered the mail to their house ever since Darrel could remember.

"Hi, Mr. Montgomery. How about it if I carried your mail for awhile?"

The little man stopped and laughed. "No, thank you, young man. Now don't tell me, you're Eleanor's boy, aren't you? Your name is Darrel?"

Darrel nodded proudly. "Really, I'd be glad to help out. At least I could carry it a little ways. It looks pretty heavy."

"No worse than usual," he said, turning up a neighbour's walk. Darrel stayed right at his heels. "How about if I just keep you company?"

"An excellent offer. I'm afraid you won't find it very exciting, though. Hello, Mr. Weiss," he smiled as the door opened. "Yes, it's warming up. Seems as though our summer weather is finally here to stay."

"I'm something like you," said Darrel as they went on to the next house. "I have a paper route."

"Glad to meet one of the kindred," Mr. Montgomery replied. "How long have you been at it now?"

"Almost a year."

"I've delivered mail in this town for 22 years," said the mailman.

"That's a lot of mail. How many letters do you think you've carried in all that time?"

"I have no idea," he said. He pulled out another wad of mail and tucked it in a long black box with a golden eagle emblem on the lid.

Darrel could not remember when he last walked so slowly. "I'll bet you wish you didn't have to carry so much. Wouldn't it be kind of fun if you could walk around with just a couple letters in your bag?"

"Heavens, no!" said Mr. Montgomery. "To tell you the truth, the heavier it is, the better I like it."

"I don't understand why you get such a kick out of carrying a heavy mail bag around all day."

"I warned you it wasn't exciting," he answered. "Darrel, do you like to share with other people?"

"Sure," shrugged Darrel halfheartedly. He was not so sure he *liked* sharing. Sharing usually meant he had to give up something he wanted to someone else, often, it seemed, for no good reason.

"Then you know something of what a good feeling it is," said Mr. Montgomery. "A mailman gets to share all day long. You just watch how many people on this block snatch the mail out of their boxes as soon as I've delivered it. That shows they look forward to it. I can make them happy just by giving them what's in my bag. I don't even have to write the letters. My bag is full when I start out and I spend the whole day sharing it. I say the more I can give, the better."

"Is it really worth the bother? I mean, don't you ever worry about your back?" Darrel could picture his mother fretting about the poor mailman.

"What if I did worry about myself?" said Mr. Montgomery without raising his voice. "Suppose I worried about my back or shoulder and just felt like taking a nice hike. I could deliver as many letters as I felt like and toss the rest away."

"You would have a lot of people mad at you," said Darrel.

"Worse than that, everyone would be confused. They couldn't communicate important messages or hear about people they loved like a niece or a

grandson growing up, or an old friend from their hometown. Some might say they would be glad not to see bills, but really even bills are easy ways of letting you pay for what you bought."

"I can see your point," said Darrel. "The whole system would be worthless, but is that any reason to wish for lots to carry?"

The mailman nodded toward the house that they were passing. "Do you know who lives here?" Darrel shook his head. "That is Mrs. Helmes' house. She is in her 80s and lives all alone. Has trouble walking, doesn't get out much. She's a person who could use some mail, but many is the day when I have to walk by because I have nothing for her. Then I would give anything for a little more weight in this bag to carry around for her."

"That's strange," said Darrel. "I sometimes get mad if I have to share and you get upset when you can't."

"Bear one another's burdens, it says in the Bible," said Mr. Montgomery. "We might sometimes think we can save strain on ourselves by not sharing. But I think we would find it would be terrible if we could not share with people."

"Maybe you're right," said Darrel. "It's a good thing God has taken care of that. When you think about it, most of us have more to share than we realize."

"Yes, like the postal service, God gives me plenty to share. We all have a time and talent to spread around brightening other people's days. If we don't deliver. . ."

"Then the system falls apart, right?" interrupted Darrel. "I suppose I should be more like you and wish for more to share than for an easier load."

"God needs mailmen," laughed the little man. "The more of them we have around, the less we each have to carry. That's the end of my route, Darrel. Thank you for 'sharing' your time."

"You really do have a neat job," said Darrel as he started back to his house.

That evening Darrel and his Dad joined Mom in the living room.

"All finished," said Dad.

"Thank you for cleaning the game closet, you two. It makes me feel so much better now that the job is done."

"The mail must go through," chuckled Darrel.

"What in the world is that supposed to mean?" asked his mother. "By the way, did you give Mr. Montgomery a hand with his mail?"

"No, as a matter of fact, I plan to make his load a little heavier to carry. Do you know a lady named Mrs. Helmes?"

"You mean on the end of Lilac Court?" asked Dad. "No, not very well. Why?"

"It's a long story. I'll tell you when I finish writing this letter."

"Give and it shall be given unto you." Luke 6:38.

Lord, there is plenty for everyone. But it doesn't always get to where it is supposed to go because we stockpile it for ourselves. Help me to share what I can.

AROMATHERAPY



"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 1:2.

Most human beings are endowed with five senses: sight, touch, hearing, taste, and smell. Although all are important it seems as if the sense of smell is the one least taken into account. Human beings take for granted this marvelous and wonderful gift that the Lord has bestowed upon man.

Wouldn't it be terrible if we could not smell the fragrance of the pine or the scent of a rose? Many do not realize how much we use our noses. We are surrounded by odours, pleasant and unpleasant most of the time, and 20 percent of what we think of as taste is in fact, smell. When we eat food we taste it with our tongues, but we also taste it with our noses everytime we exhale. Taste is a very basic sense, and all the subtle nuances of flavour are actually perceived by the nose, not the tongue.

"The organ of smell in human beings is called the olfactory organ and it is made up of special cells located in the back of the nose. Odours are caused by molecules of substances. When you breathe some of the molecules into your nose, they dissolve in the moisture that covers the lining of the nose. This solution then stimulates the cells of the olfactory organ. The cells send a message to the brain and the brain recognizes an odour." Young Student's Encyclopedia.

Beginning to introduce the topic, aromatherapy is one of the many ways in which nature can be made use of for the purpose of healing. Aromatherapy goes back all the way to the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome.

Plants have been used for ages to enhance and support physical and emotional well-being. Whether in scented baths, massages and room fragrances, they have long served as protection against disease.

The word, "aromatherapy", comes from two words that are joined together. Aroma means "fragrance" or "odour". Therapy is the treatment of diseases by medical or physical means. Basically, aromatherapy is the use of essential oils to enhance the harmony between the body and the mind.

What are essential oils? An essential oil is what gives fragrance to a rose blossom or a sprig of rosemary. It is a liquid which is present in tiny droplets or sacs in the plant.

Some essential oils can be too expensive to buy but this does not mean that you may not enjoy the benefits of these fragrances. You can obtain the benefits without having to spend a cent. By taking a walk in the fresh, open air of nature you can experience aromatherapy. "There is health in the fragrance of the pine, cedar, and the fir... Morning exercises in walking in the free invigorating air of heaven is the surest safeguard against colds, coughs, congestions of the brain and lungs... and a hundred other diseases." HL, 903.

Also, smelling the fragrance of a flower or a fruit like an orange can help you feel great and uplift your mood. It can be said that olfactory education is something few of us are taught. We are taught how to walk, how to speak, and how to earn a living but the only thing we learn about odours is that some smell great while others do not.

Aromatherapy is of considerable help in minor aches and pains, digestive disorders, migraines, skin problems, throat infections and bronchitis. It can also be of great assistance in chronic diseases. For instance, self treatment with inhalations can be of enormous benefit to pneumonia, asthma, and hay fever. It also aids in recuperation from colds, flu, fever and sleep disturbances such as insomnia.

EUCALYPTUS: Best known for its use in saunas. This oil is soothing to the whole person through its ability to assist breathing. It is an anti-inflammatory, antiseptic (prevents infection), and antibiotic.

PEPPERMINT: A cooling, vibrant, stimulating fresh scent. It is an excellent digestive (rub three drops on an aching tummy), and helps the respiratory system and circulation. It also works as an anti-inflammatory and an antiseptic. Peppermint is a good oil in the treatment of indigestion, flatulence, bad breath, flu, varicose veins, headaches, migraines, rheumatism, toothaches, and fatigue. It is essential in giving clarity, alertness and motivation to the mind.

CAMOMILE: Promotes peaceful sleep, especially when troubled. Gives a feeling of serenity, stability, and equilibrium.

ROSEMARY: Good for the hair, mind and scalp. Beneficial in sharpening the five senses. Excellent remedy for better focusing skills, concentration, and energy. Aids in arthritis, rheumatism, depression, fatigue, memory loss, migraines, headaches, coughs, flu, and diabetes.

ORANGE: Makes you feel happy, cheerful and content. Enables you to feel calm and peaceful as well. It helps calm children of all ages. It is specifically beneficial for children that are hyperactive or have poor memory and concentration skills. Clears and invigorates the mind; soothes angry feelings.

So, the next time you start to feel irritable, angry or a bit low indulge in the fragrances of a flower, plant or fruit and experience for yourself the simple power of aromatherapy.

*Further note: Many are unaware that by just drinking herbal teas and eating fresh fruits they are experiencing the benefits of aromatherapy.

Reyna Esther Conde Guevara

Letter 301, 1902. "Those who claim to be children of God are in no case to bind up with the Labour Unions that are formed or that shall be formed. This the Lord forbids. Cannot those who study the prophecies see and understand what is before us."

Letter #26, 1903. "These Unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up bundles ready to be burned. They may be church members, but while they belong to these Unions, they cannot possibly keep the commandments of God, for the belong to these unions means to disregard the entire Decalogue."

MISSIONARY TRAINING SEMINAR – AUGUST 9 – 22, 1999.

We are pleased to extend an invitation to you to attend a Missionary Training Seminar/Outreach in **New Brunswick, from August 9- 22, 1999.**

We will learn how to:

improve our sermon preparation and delivery

improve our communication skills

do practical missionary work in door-to-door canvassing

give effective Bible studies

deal with difficult Bible texts

give simple, natural remedies.

There will be a series of public evangelism.

Lord willing, there will be youth there from all over North America and if you are faithful, and want to learn more perfectly the way to help others to know better how to know Him, you are invited. (You will be expected to have the recommendation of your local church Missionary leader.)

Take your Bible, Sabbath School Lesson, something that could be used as a canvassing bag, comfortable walking shoes, sleeping bag, etc. Most importantly, plan on bringing an attitude of bringing a blessing, and then, for sure, you will reap a rich blessing.

We will all be working together for the honor and glory of God. Please remember to pray for this worthy endeavor.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.....

Your friends in Christ,

Brothers, Jerry Eaton , Ian Grant.

Rev. & Her. Jan. 7, 1873. "One sinner may diffuse darkness which will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation... If wrongs exist among the people, and the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and will receive the displeasure of God just as surely the sinner, for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty."

Canadian Field Conference

Will be held in Toronto

July 16 - 18

The Motto will be :

Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready!!!

Let us make a special effort to attend this conference
and pray that during this conference we will
experience a true spiritual revival.

Canadian Field Committee.



Relaxing after canvassing at Niagara river.

Baptism in Vancouver

On April 11, the Vancouver church assembled at third beach, Stanley Park to witness a dear soul make her covenant with Christ by entering the watery grave. Florence Price has found new life in Christ due to this wondrous experience, and the Vancouver church praises God together with Sr. Florence for the Lord's leading in her life. A baptism is always a blessed opportunity for God's people to renew their own vows before the Lord, and Sr. Florence's baptism was especially notable since there were several other souls there who are deeply convicted of the truth's for this time.

Sr. Florence has come to know a new spiritual family, joy and peace through the work of the Holy Spirit in God's church. She has already been a help for the Vancouver congregation by her helpful spirit and loving ministry. May God continue to help and bless Sr. Florence as she helps and blesses others.

Br. Jerry Eaton, for the Vancouver S.D.A. Reform Church



Zulma working at the printshop

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Our new Brother Joe in FIJI.



The Sermon

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one,
any day,
I'd rather one would walk with me,
than merely point the way.
The eye's a better pupil and
more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing,
but example's always clear.

The best of all the preacher's are
the men who live their creeds;
For to see good in action is
what everybody needs.
I soon will learn to do it if
you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in
action,
but your tongue too fast may run.

While the lectures you deliver
may be wise and strictly true,
Yet I'd rather learn my lesson by
observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you,
and the fine advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding of
how you act, and how you live.