

*The Reformation* 

# Messenger

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



# REFORMATION

## PART 5



### Reformation of Nehemiah

Nehemiah had a high position in the Persian court. As a cupbearer he had free access to the king's presence. There he was surrounded by pomp and splendour, but yet he did not forget his God nor his people.

When the sad news from Jerusalem reached him, he was overwhelmed with sorrow. He could not eat or drink, nor keep his normal cheerful countenance in the presence of the king. The news that he had received was that the work of restoration had stopped and much of the city was still in ruins. "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven." Neh. 1:4.

The king noticed his sorrow and asked Nehemiah the reason for it. Now he had an opportunity to make his request to the king but before he asked anything of the heathen king he prayed to God for wisdom, and miraculously all his requests were granted.

### Spirit of Sacrifice

The first requirement of a true reformer is the spirit of sacrifice. "Reformatory action is always attended with loss, sacrifice and peril. It always rebukes love of ease, selfish interests, and lustful ambition. Hence, whoever initiates or prosecutes such action must encounter opposition, calumny, and hatred from those who are unwilling to submit to the condition of reform." Sketches from the Life of Paul, p. 305.

Nehemiah was willing to sacrifice his position in the palace of the Persian king, and also the easy, comfortable life, luxury and high income. Without wages he entered into the work of the reformer, suffering opposition and hatred. His services were not requested by the Jews in Jerusalem, neither did anyone in the Persian empire ask him to go. It was the work of the Holy Spirit on his heart that made him make this great sacrifice.

His sacrifice was similar to the sacrifice of Moses, who, "By faith... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." Heb. 11:24-26.

## **Life of Prayer**

Every true reformer lives a life of prayer. Without God's help no reformation is possible. When Nehemiah heard the bad news, he prayed to God. Also, before asking the king for the favours he prayed again. With every reform that he brought to the people, he always made sure that God was with him in it. "As Nehemiah prayed, his faith and courage grew strong. His mouth was filled with holy arguments." PK, p. 629.

"The children of God are not left alone and defenseless. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. Prayer has 'subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire." COL, p. 172.

## **Meeting Opposition**

Right from the beginning Nehemiah met with opposition. The surrounding nations tried to hinder and to stop the work of restoration. They came with open warfare, attacking the builders of the wall. Then they tried with deceptive friendship, offering their cooperation. Each time Nehemiah could see their true purpose and refused their help and counsel. His answer was clear, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" Neh. 6:4.

To his enemies his message was clear, "The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem." Neh. 2:20.

## **Courage**

To be a reformer takes courage. Even when facing possible death, he will not turn back. When Shemaiah said to Nehemiah, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come and slay thee; yea, in the night they come to slay thee." Neh. 6:10.

What did Nehemiah answer? Was he afraid of his enemies? "And I said, Should such a man as I flee? And who is there that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in." Neh. :11.

Millions of martyrs have given us an example that it is better to die on the post of duty than go into hiding when confronted with dangers. Young men in our Reform Movement have laid our foundation by their blood and we today are

building upon this foundation. Should we have any less courage than what they had?

### **Sabbath Reform**

As a result of their intercourse with idolaters, the Jews had disregarded the Sabbath. The merchants brought their wares into the city to sell them to the people on the Sabbath day. This needed quick and firm action. Nehemiah made sure that the gates were closed on Friday before sunset and no merchants were allowed into the city during the Sabbath.

This is also our work today. "At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully." EW, p. 85.

### **Law**

Most of the Christian churches have disregarded the law of God. It is a work of our reformation to draw the attention of the people to the law.

"Remember ye the law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb, for all Israel, with statutes and judgments." Mal. 4:5. This was the work of Elijah in the olden times, and it is the work of modern Elijah also.

Nehemiah called the high priest Ezra to read the book of the law of God to the people. "All the people wept, when they heard the words of the law." Neh. 8:9.

With fasting and sincere repentance the people listened to the law of God and they made a new commitment to obey all the law. We must present to the people the holy law of God and also the gospel. They must go hand in hand. Jesus said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Matt. 19:17.

### **Marriage Reform**

Nehemiah turned the attention of the people to the danger that threatened Israel from inter-marriage and association with idolaters. These unlawful alliances caused great confusion among the people. He pointed to the case of Solomon, whose heart was turned away from God by idolatrous women. His message was clear, "Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves." Neh. 13:25.

"The believer thus makes a sacrifice for Christ which his conscience approves, and which shows that he values eternal life too highly to run the risk of losing it.

He feels that it would be better to remain unmarried than to link his interest for life with one who chooses the world rather than Jesus and who would lead away from the cross of Christ. But the danger of giving affections to unbelievers is not realized." Test. Vol. 4, p. 507.

Countless numbers of men and women are lost eternally by unwise marriages. This is one area where we as reformers must pay special attention.

Many other reforms were done by Nehemiah: The rich oppressing the poor by charging high usury on money lent to them. The temple service was restored. Friendship with unbelievers was not ignored. Tobiah, the enemy of God's people was allowed to live in a chamber in the temple. "Greater contempt for could not have been shown than to confer such a favour on this enemy of God and His truth." PK, p. 670.

Nehemiah did what also Jesus did by calling the pharisees in the presence of the people, hypocrites, whited sepulchres and children of the devil.

Reformers are acting from the motive of love which is very seldom recognized or appreciated. Yet this is the most noble work in which we can engage in.

May the Lord help each one of us to be a true reformer as was Nehemiah and learn from him the lessons of sacrifice, courage, humility and divine love.

AMEN

Timo Martin

Brother Rodolfo Murua  
from Mendoza, Argentina  
with his wife and three  
daughters.



# THE DESIRE IS NOT ENOUGH

*“Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose to be Christians.” Steps to Christ, p. 47, 48.*

In the Christian world there are many different conflicting theories regarding salvation and the requirements to obtain it. We go from the extreme of “work righteousness” to the opposite end of “salvation by faith alone – no works”. Of course, the Bible teaches a proper balance of the two. “Faith and works are two oars which we must use equally.” *RH, June 11, 1901.*

We ask ourselves – What is our part in this salvation process?

“Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, “Without Me ye can do nothing.” Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness, - all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly, - by abiding in Him, - that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the author but the finisher of our faith.” *Steps to Christ, p. 69.*

Our part is the choice and the yielding to Christ. Is this an easy matter? Simply yield and God takes over. That is what the Christian World likes to let its members know. It makes it a little easier.

## THE STEP OF FAITH IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

“We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight

of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. We are to set the Lord ever before us. With clean hands, with pure hearts, we are to seek to honour God in all our ways.” *Faith and Works, p. 48.* In reading this statement we see an opposite picture portrayed than what is popular amongst the Christian world today. They simply “desire” to be saved and pray to accept Jesus in their hearts and then they are assured by their religious leaders that they now are eternally saved. This once-saved-always-saved doctrine is sweeping many away from the true heart preparation that Christ wants to do. It is not leading to Christ, but rather leading away from Christ.

Yes, it is a struggle, but we are not called to struggle on alone. “Help has been provided for us in Him who is mighty to save. The spirit of truth and light will quicken and renew us by its mysterious workings; for all our spiritual improvement comes from God, not from ourselves. The true worker will have divine power to aid his, but the idler will not be sustained by the Spirit of God.” *Ibid, p. 48.*

“In one way we are thrown upon our own energies; we are to strive earnestly to be zealous and to repent, to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts from every defilement; we are to reach the highest standard, believing that God will help us in our efforts.

We must seek if we would find, and seek in faith; we must knock, that the door may be opened unto us. The Bible teaches that everything regarding our salvation depends upon our own course of action. If we perish, the responsibility will rest wholly upon ourselves. If provision has been made, and if we accept God’s terms, we may lay hold on eternal life. We must come to Christ in faith, we must be diligent to make our calling and election sure.” *Ibid, p. 48.* There is some sort of action required on our part and that is the action of choice. We must choose to follow the Lord. Joshua encouraged the people - “Choose you this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” *Joshua 24:15.* We are all to make a choice.

A favourite song in the Church Hymnal reads: “Once to every man and nation, comes the moment to decide, In the strife of truth with falsehood, For the good or evil side; Some great cause, God’s new Messiah, Offering each the bloom or blight, And the choice goes by forever ‘Twixt that darkness and that light.”

Many years ago there was a young man who attended our church for a few months. He struggled with his smoking habit.

He said he really wanted to give up cigarettes. He told us that he had prayed for God to take the cravings away and God did not take them away so he continued to smoke and it is God's fault – not his. Did this man really choose to give up his cigarettes, trusting God to help him through the withdrawal symptoms? That is a question that he will have to answer to the Lord in the judgment day. No, sin is not God's fault and He has made every provision for escape from the pit of sin. A desire to be pulled out is not enough – we must go a step further.

In the parable of the prodigal son (in Luke chapter 15), the Father did not go in search of the son. He waited patiently and longingly at home. As soon as the son realized his condition, instead of sitting in the pigsty desiring to be at home with his family, he made a conscious choice to do something about it. He chose to start heading home – and while he was a great way off, the father sees him and runs to meet him, welcoming him with open arms and helping him to walk those last weary steps home. Yes, Jesus is waiting for us – longingly. Waiting for us to make the conscious decision to return home. Then He will run to meet us with outstretched arms. He too will help us to walk those last weary steps to our eternal home.

“It takes less time and labour to corrupt our ways before God than to engraft upon the character habits of righteousness and truth.” 4T, p. 578. Yes, it takes a struggle to be saved. Some in the church just like to drift along with the current. They have been drifting for years and as long as no obstacles cross their path, the drifting goes fine. When the river

gets rough and rapids stronger, they lose their faith and either drown, or call unto God as did the disciples, “Master save us, lest we perish.” Salvation is not merely drifting along in the love of God. Once we start to drift, we are drifting down hill. We can desire to start paddling upstream, but it will avail nothing until we actually put the oar in the water and start to paddle. That is when Jesus gives us the strength that we need in order to battle upstream.

A desire to be a better Christian is not enough – we need action. We may have made missteps in the past, but we can't dwell on those mistakes. Decide to do better in the future. “We are admonished to redeem the time. But time squandered can never be recovered. We cannot call back even one moment. The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption.” COL, p. 342. “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.” Proverbs 24:16. “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:18, 19. Many make the mistake of then going fishing for their sins again. Leave them there and go on. Resolve to do better, by the grace of God, in the future.

If we would do the will of God in the first place we wouldn't face all the trials we do. The trials are God's way of bringing us back to

the path we are supposed to be on in the first place. “Jesus invites us to come to Him and He will lift the weights from our weary shoulders and place upon us His yoke, which is easy, and His burden, which is light. The path in which He invites us to walk would never have cost us a pang had we always walked in it. It is when we stray from the path of duty that the way becomes difficult and thorny. The sacrifices which we must make in following Christ are only so many steps to return to the path of light, of peace and happiness. Doubts and fears grow by indulgence, and the more they are indulged, the harder are they to overcome. It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.” 4T, p. 558

And yet salvation is not as difficult as some make it out to be. “We do not understand the matter of salvation. It is just as simple as ABC. But we don't understand it.” *Faith and Works*, p. 64.

“Now, how is it that a man will repent? Is it anything of himself? No; because the natural heart is at enmity with God. Then how can the natural heart stir itself up to repentance when it has not power to do so? What is it that brings man to repentance? It is Jesus Christ. How does He bring man to repentance? There are a thousand ways that He may do this. The God of heaven is working upon human minds all the time.” *Faith and Works*, p. 64.

This process is something we accept by faith. We don't understand. “‘I want,’ says one, ‘to reason out this matter.’ Well, reason it out if you can. ‘The wind

bloweth where it listeth,' and you hear the sound thereof, but you cannot explain it. And no more can you explain the things of God upon the human heart. You cannot explain this faith that lays right hold upon the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour to bring Christ's righteousness into your life. Clothed with the righteousness of Christ and not your own righteousness, you will not depend upon what you can do or what you will do. Don't you know you cannot do anything without Christ? 'Without Me,' He says, 'Ye can do nothing' (John 15:5)." *Faith and Works* p. 65/66.

The paralytic at the pool of Bethesda did not ask Jesus "How can I do this?" when Jesus told him to take up his bed and walk. He simply obeyed the command of Jesus and decided he was going to get up and Jesus gave him the power. The same holds true when Jesus tells us, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." Mat. 5:48. We must accept Jesus' call and decide that we will aim for that goal and Jesus will supply the strength. Some say that it seems impossible but we "can do all things through Christ" who strengthens us.

### **THE STEP OF FAITH IN MISSIONARY WORK**

What would have happened if Ancient Israel, when asked to walk forward to the Red Sea, would have questioned God, saying, "But God, there is a great Sea in front of us? Where shall we go? Where shall we find boats for everyone? We can't all swim. We have little ones and animals also, surely you don't want us to go forward. Instead of just desiring to be saved, they obeyed

the command and after they decided to obey, the Red Sea parted.

When the Israelites first questioned God and started to doubt at the borders of the Promised Land while camped at Kadesh Barnea, they lost their faith because, instead of looking to God, they looked to the outward circumstances and it looked impossible. There were giants in the land and they were not prepared for warfare. They didn't possess any modern weapons. They desired to enter the Promised Land but lacked the faith to go forward and do as God commanded. The result was a refusal to do God's will and they lost their golden opportunity. None of those murmurers and complainers entered the Promised Land - they lacked sufficient faith. Thus followed forty years of desert wanderings during which time they all were laid to rest. The second time around, their children did not question God. They went forward and it was a miracle that they were able to conquer so many powerful heathen nations with the small Israelite army that they had. They truly went in the power of God.

When Moses was first called to go deliver Israel, he had a few questions for God, which God duly answered, but then Moses went by faith after that, never questioning where he would find food and water for over a million people in the desert. He never questioned how he would lead the nation. His faith had grown tremendously in those 40 years in the wilderness that it didn't take much to convince him to go. Once God assured him that He would go with Him, that was enough for Moses. Some people want to see the physical evidence

first. The Word of God is simply not enough.

When Sister White received a vision for her husband to begin the publishing ministry, she was told that her husband was to start a small magazine. At first he asked where the money would come from. She told her husband not to question God, but simply to do God's will. He did, and the money poured in from all kinds of unexpected places.

"Throughout the history of God's people, great mountains of difficulty, apparently insurmountable, have loomed up before those who were advancing in the opening providence's of God. Such obstacles to progress are permitted by the Lord as a test of faith. When hedged about on every side, this is the time above all others to trust in God and in the power of his Holy Spirit. We are not to walk in our own strength, but in the strength of the Lord God of Israel. It is folly to trust in man or to make flesh our arm. We must trust in Jehovah; for in him is everlasting strength . . . Through the exercise of persevering faith, every mountain of difficulty may be removed." RH, 01-16-08.

When any great missionary endeavor is going to be put forth, Satan stirs up some (sometimes perhaps our own brethren) to start thinking of all the problems and difficulties that need to be overcome in order for this missionary endeavor to be a success. There is a big 'IF' in their minds. They start to question whether we should go forward because they can't see the end. To them it looks like a failure. Until every obstacle is removed they don't want to go forward. The desire to see the missionary work



go forward is there, but the way seems to be hedged up with many difficulties and unless great faith is exercised the work will not progress.

"Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, "Go forward." We should obey this command, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and we feel the cold waves about our feet. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief whispers, "Let us wait until the obstructions are moved, and we can see our way clearly." but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things." *Conflict and Courage*, p. 92

God works in mysterious ways and for some this is difficult to fathom. They have greater faith in what they can see. They have greater faith in their money, in man, in banks, in employers, brethren and friends than they do in God. It takes great faith to believe in God and entrust Him to take care of us. In the early days of the Christian church, they were all taking care of each other – "They had all things in common." There was a necessity at that time because there were so many poor people and the current governmental system provided no help for these people. Today the government has given help for poor people in many of the Western nations so God is asking

us to support His work in other avenues.

"To some of small faith and a selfish, money loving disposition, each advance move has portended general disaster and an extravagant outlay of means. They have felt, as did that poor man Judas, when the ointment was poured upon the head of Jesus. Why this great waste? Said he; this ought to have been sold, and the money given to the poor. Again and again, when some advance step has been taken, the selfish, cautious ones have thought that everything was going to ruin;" RH, 02-05-84.

"Let not unbelief come in; for God's work is to go from city to city, from country to country. The plans of the enemies of God may be laid to defeat his work; but have faith that Jehovah will remove all obstructions to its progress. Talk faith, work in faith, and advance in faith. Obstacles will be removed as we lay hold of the promises of God. Let the Lord's people go forward, and their hearts will be made strong." RH, 11-17-10.

Where is the missionary zeal of the early Christian Church? Where is the missionary zeal of the Advent movement after 1844? Why is the message not going from city to city? Where are God's people today? Are they congregating in large centres? Is this God's will? Are they obeying God's call to go forward to spread the message? "The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Luke 10:2

"Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or

parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." Luke 18:29, 30 . We cannot wait until all obstacles are removed. Will we have a job in the next city? What kind of school will my children have? Will I have any friends? Where is our faith, brothers? Our pioneers were church planters. Have we lost their vision? Have we grown content to keep the lights shining in existing churches, and stopped lighting the lights on new hills?

We wish to have more churches in different cities, more church members, see more missionary work done by the church, but our wishes and desires are not enough. We need action - firm decided action. We make the choice to work and God supplies the power. "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35. Woe to the slothful servant who sat idly by when there was a need for labourers in the Lord's vineyard. When the end comes, they will mournfully proclaim. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jeremiah 8:20.

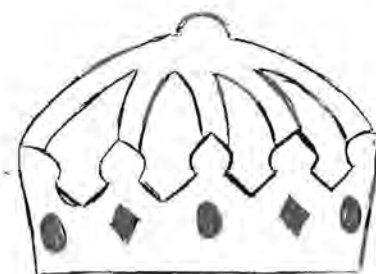
Sister White spoke of a revival of primitive Godliness being needed in God's church especially as we near the close of this earth's history. Revival requires action – not just wishes and desires. It is my wish and prayer that this revival will become a living reality in both our individual walk with the Lord and also collectively in active, missionary-minded churches. Amen

Wendy Eaton

## *Miniseries about some kings of the Bible*

### **PART THREE:**

## *Joash and Manasseh Two Kings of Judah*



About the one can be said: From righteousness to wickedness, of the other: From wickedness to righteousness. King Joash and King Manasseh have two things in common: both came upon the throne at an incredibly early age, while still being children, and both reigned for many years. As a matter of fact, the rule of King Manasseh was the longest of all kings in Israel's history, fifty and five years.

These are the only two similarities concerning the life of these two kings, for their characters were quite unlike. The most interesting thing about the two rulers is the enormous difference in which their life ended, exactly opposite from the beginning of their reign. The record about them is rather shocking and in sharp contrast right from the start. (There are about two hundred years of time between the two monarchs).

In this issue we learn about King Joash. The amazing story about King Manasseh will appear in the next issue of the Messenger. The childhood of Joash, also called Jehoash, the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, is dramatic from babyhood on and nothing short of miraculous. For he was rescued from certain destruction at the murderous hands of his grandmother Athaliah by his aunt Jehosheba. (2. Chron. 22:10-12;

2.Kings 11:1-3). She was the sister of Joash's father Ahaziah, and the wife of the priest Jehoiada. She stole the babe from among the king's sons and hid him with the nurse in a bedchamber in the house of God. There they kept him secret for six years, while his grandmother ruled over the land (2.Chron. 22:12).

Then Jehoiada the priest called for the officials of the military and informed them that there was still one son of the late King Ahaziah, alive. Though he was only seven years old, he was now to be crowned and installed to his office as king. He made a deal with them to keep secret what they were to organize for the coming Sabbath. All orders were followed and young Joash was crowned before the people in the house of the Lord. The people rejoiced greatly and their cheers reached the ears of Athaliah, who rushed with haste to the scene, and saw in utter horror the child with the crown upon his head standing beside the pillar as the manner of the kings was, and cried: "Treason, treason!" (2. Chron.23:1-13).

Her usurped rule and life quickly came to an end, and the rightful king to whom the testimony of God was given, began his reign. He reigned for forty years and was faithful in all his dealings as

long as Jehoiada lived. Jehoiada was a dedicated servant to his God. He instructed and taught Joash and counseled him in all affairs and loved him as his own son. But Jehoiada was very old, and when he reached a hundred and thirty years he died. Verse 15.

Then came the tragic turn in the life of King Joash, for after the death of the priest the princes of Judah approached the king to request a special audience. Verse 17.

When they left, Joash was a changed man. It was as if he had made a covenant with the devil himself. Because he forsook the Lord and the path of righteousness, and followed idols and served groves. And as the king so the people. The land of Judah was once again being defiled with the abominations of the heathen, and "wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespasses." Verse 18.

"Righteousness exalted a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" Prov. 14:34. By this we have to conclude that Joash, who had such an excellent and godly tutor, and who spent his earliest years within the house of God, did not truly have a desire to follow the Lord with all his heart. His soul remained untouched and unchanged. Nor did he diligently study the book of the law – the

testimony given to him when being made king. For would he have done this, his character would have become strong in the truth, his mind sanctified, his heart influenced through the divine channel to love righteousness and to hate every evil way. He would have driven those wicked princes from his presence with righteous indignation and condemned them to death on the spot as the law demanded, who would dare to approach him with such heinous suggestions unto wickedness. (Deut. 13:6,8,9) But because he was not strong in the Lord nor in character, he could easily be persuaded and influenced, and the princes must have known that.

But God had compassion on His people and "sent prophets to them, to bring them again to the Lord; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear." 2.Chron. 24:19. The good days of the king were numbered, he disconnected himself from doing right, thus lost the protection of heaven and resigned to do evil and evil he would reap. For "it is an abomination for a king to commit wickedness; for the throne is established by righteousness." Prov. 16:1,2. In his downward path he went so far as to kill Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest (v. 2), to whom Jesus refers in Luke 11:51. Because the Spirit of God sent Joash a stern message to pronounce judgment, the king ordered the people to stone Zechariah.

By this "Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son." 2.Chron. 24:22. And because "whoso rewarded evil for good,

evil shall not depart from his house." Prov. 17:13. Joash worshipped idols which is worshipping demons and thus he was completely under the control of Satan. His heart became so hardened, the mind so blinded that it was a small thing to murder the messenger of God and his former friend. For Joash was well acquainted with the sons of Jehoiada during his early years in the home of the temple and as a young king while still being counseled by the priest.

But the path of evil leads to destruction. And at the end of the year "the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people (very likely the same princes who enticed the king to apostasy), and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus. For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the Lord delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash." 2.Chron. 24:23-24.

At that time Joash was also very ill, for in verse 25 it says when the army of king Hazael of Syria left they left him in great diseases." Indeed all went ill with this unfortunate king, yet he repented not. The climax of God's judgment followed quickly. With the murder of Zechariah, king Joash sealed his destiny. For that heinous crime was so despicable that even his own servants had enough of him and conspired against him in his own house. Two servants slew him upon his bed (verse 25-26). Such an ignominious death would

be most shameful for any man, how much more for a king!

Even in his death the shame of his crime would determine his burial; because they would not bury him in the sepulchre of the kings, but simply in the city of David. (Verse 25). Thus a life came to an end that could have continued many more years and been one of great honor. Very sad indeed. Why did Joash have to end like this? The tragedy lies in the fact that Joash did not value highly enough the miraculous intervention of Providence when he learned he had been saved from certain death when barely one year old. This special deliverance should later have made him realize that God must have had a reason and purpose by saving him. This ought to have continually inspired him to serve the Holy One of Israel with the most ardent gratitude and eagerness to glorify His name.

Joash grew up in a sacred environment with a faithful aunt and a very godly priest who educated him for the holy office of a monarch, and at the same time loved him as a son among their own sons. All the conditions for a just and sanctified life and the favor of God were there. And Joash was faithful and obedient while Jehoiada was there. As a young king he set his heart to repair and restore the temple, which the sons of his wicked grandmother Athaliah had broken up and made into a "den to worship Baal" 2. Chron. 24:7. This was the most noble accomplishment of this king and the house of God was again dedicated to the worship of the Lord and continually burnt sacrifices were being offered all the days of Jehoiada, verse 14.

Most likely, Joash did not love the Lord with all his mind. He had no deep desire to know the loving and true God as his personal Friend and Counselor. Nor did he set his heart to meditate on the law of God with earnestness to gain wisdom how to judge his people rightly. He was not spiritually minded and thus his service was mere formalism. He was not enthusiastic about being a devoted, God fearing monarch to whom God's honor is the highest principle.

Joash did not comprehend that his high position as king had put him in a place of greatest responsibility before God and the people of his realm; that he was to be a loving father and a wise judge to the people, representing the love and mercy of the true King of heaven. Unfortunately most kings did not esteem their exalted state that way, that's why the history of them is such a sad one.

In the eyes of the people, Joash was a just and a good king. Especially did he gain their respect, when he with diligence was watching the progress of the restoration of the temple. Surely they loved him and were very proud of him.

But how can it be that so quickly he could turn from the Lord by listening to the fatal suggestions of the princes? If the king had been such a godly man, would those wicked men ever have considered approaching him with their proposals? Never! Something must have been in Joash that remains a mystery. Was his righteousness a mere

pretense, was he a hypocrite? Only God knows....

The truth is that Joash was so weak of character and spiritually so blind, that he fell headlong into the trap of Satan. He forgot altogether that years before he had been cleansing the temple of the true God from all the idols that are such an abomination before the Lord. And now he would go ahead to set up groves and serve pagan images as if this would be the right thing to do!

This is the mystery of iniquity and makes one tremble with the tragic turns a life can take, when the fear of God is being taken as a light thing. May this make us alert and urge us to examine our lives if we are truly in the faith (2.Cor. 13:5), or if we base our life upon a merely superficial belief of truth and righteousness. If the latter is the case then we have built upon sand, for we shall be surely and quickly overthrown as soon as the winds of change would blow on us. And this would then even be a relief to us, being finally delivered from a life that was only pretense and truly a mockery before God, because the heart was never really fixed upon Christ in true surrender, true repentance, and the true desire of being a child of God. The religion accepted was a mere profession, Jesus was never a personal Redeemer, we never knew Him, but He was a total stranger to the heart and soul.

It may make us tremble to think that this may be the case with us. Therefore it is good to thoroughly search our heart to make sure it fully belongs to the Lord Jesus alone. For if we keep it for ourselves the enemy will snatch it and will make us to fall away

from the faith at a time when we do not anticipate it. And this

would be absolutely terrible and the worst thing that could befall anyone of us.

You see, King Joash was not serious in his religion, not earnestly concerned in becoming saved. Thus his story is for us a great admonition that the same fate may not come upon us. Nobody in his own strength is secure from temptation and the danger of falling into apostasy, neither by trusting in one self. But we are safe by giving our heart and life daily into the sure watch care of our mighty Saviour and Mediator, who will shield our lives from the terrible forces of evil. What I am speaking of here is how we must make the promises contained in the word of God our stronghold and firm defence in any trying situations or circumstances. Then we shall have a genuine religious experience because we experience the power of God through faith in His word. Our religion will be heart religion, unshakeable, unchangeable, based upon the obedience and faith of Jesus, to His glory and for our own salvation.

May this be the experience for everyone of us, is my wish and prayer.

By Edda Tedford.



## WITNESS TO THE WORLD



"Ye the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14.

Do we really understand what this means? In a special sense church members have been set in the world as watchmen and light-bearers. To us has been entrusted the last warning for this world that is about to perish. The proclamation of the first, second and third angels' messages is our work, and there is no other work so important, in which we can engage.

The most solemn truths ever entrusted to human beings have been given to us to proclaim to the world. As God's people we must be true to the trust committed to us so that the world can be warned.

It is no small matter that the counsel and plans of God have been so clearly opened to us. It is a great privilege to be able to understand the will of God as it is revealed in the word of prophecy. Nevertheless this places on us a heavy responsibility.

God expects us to impart to others the knowledge that He has given us.

We must be consecrated channels, through which the heavenly Life is to flow to other people. Everyone that has been buried with Christ in baptism must arise to newness of life, giving a living representation of Christ's life.

Read Matthew 28:19-20. This is our commission. If we do it right the Lord has promised to be with us even to the end.

It is not only by preaching the truth, not only by distributing literature that we are to witness for God. Read John 3:1-10.

Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favour of Christ's kingdom.

It is God's purpose to glorify Himself in His people before the world. He expects from those who bear Christ's name to represent Him in thought, word and deed. So our thoughts must be pure and our words noble and uplifting, so that we can draw those around us near to our Saviour.

Christ's religion must be interwoven with all that we do and say. As a people we greatly need to humble our hearts before God, pleading for His forgiveness for our neglect in fulfilling the gospel commission. Everything in the universe calls upon us to consecrate unreservedly to the proclamation of the truth; as it has been made known to us in the Third Angel's message. Everything that we see and hear around us calls us to perform our duty. Every church member who has a knowledge of the truth is expected to work while the day lasts for the night cometh, wherein no man can work -- that night is at hand, my brothers!

As a church we must arise and go forth to do our appointed work. Every believer can and must bear the message.

Every day that passes brings us nearer to the end. Does it bring us nearer to God

also? Are we as God's people watching unto prayer?

Sin is a hateful thing. It marred the moral beauty of a large number of angels. It also entered our world and destroyed the moral image of God in man. Nevertheless in His great love, God provided a way whereby man might regain the position from which he fell in yielding to the tempter. Read John 3:16. Christ came to stand at the head of humanity, to work out in our behalf a perfect character and by receiving Him we are born again.

Dear brother in the **faith**--the life that Christ lived in this world, we can also live through His power and under His instruction in our conflict with Satan, we

can have all the help that He had. Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and also Philip. 4:13. Let us remember these verses in our daily life and our trials will be easy.

Putting our trust in God we must move forward, doing His work with unselfishness, committing ourselves to His wise providence; holding our confidence firm to the end, remembering that it is not because of our worthiness that we receive the blessing from heaven, but because of Christ's worthiness, and our acceptance, through faith in Him of God's abounding grace.

May the Lord help you all the way.

AMEN

Joaquin Hidalgo



# TIME

*"Parents are not to use precious time in dressing, visiting and gossiping." Test., Vol., 3, 145. "Time is a talent God has given all of us." Ibid 146.*

Whether we have wasted our time or used it for God's honour and glory will be seen in the judgement. Time is a very precious thing - we are to use it to help others and also to witness for God. The Lord has only given us so much time so we must not waste it. It is no excuse to say, "I am too shy," or "I can't do much." The Lord always uses the weak instruments for great things.

One deception many people fall into is that they give up all their worldly habits, but instead of reaching out to people in their free time they don't do anything at all. Without this active work for the Lord, Satan soon leads them back into temptation. Even if you think your work may be small it is important to the Lord. He has work for everyone. It is a sin to not use your time wisely.

The Lord has been gracious enough to give us this time on earth. Let's try to do whatever we can to push forward the truth, and hasten the Second Coming of Christ. The Bible assures people that it would be much more rewarding to be a good steward of their time, instead of wasting it. Make sure you're not too busy to have time for the Lord's work. After all He loves you and died for you.

Richard Eaton

# Jesus Christ and You



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. It is more than one year since I have been receiving your magazine. I like it very much. I thank all those who made a financial contribution to it so I can receive it free of charge. I often translate some of the articles so that the message can reach more people.

I am a Bible worker in North-East Bulgaria. I find your magazine helpful in my work.

I was asked to write an article. I thought a long time about this idea. The only thing which stopped me was my bad English. I ask you kindly to please forgive me for the many mistakes and please correct them.

There is a message which I would like to share with you:

## “JESUS CHRIST & YOU”

I have not heard of a more uplifted religion than Christianity. Some people do not like the word “religion” but the meaning of this word is “to bind” (Latin- religare).

What makes Christianity differ from all religions is that in all religions in this world man searches for God, but in Christianity, God searches for man. God reveals Himself to him.

Luke 2:8-11. “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Jesus came to look for perishing mankind.

I would like to share some thoughts about the personal relationship between Jesus and you.

John 15:15 “...but I have called you friends...” Is that possible? Jesus and me friends?

It is not enough to praise God and to pray to Him. The highest meaning of Christianity is a personal relationship between Jesus and you. Every friendship has its conditions, without them we can't call it friendship. Which are they?

### 1. Communion

Knowing Jesus we have to communicate with Him. John 15:4 “...Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can you, except ye abide in me.”

Abiding! Daily communion with Jesus! Is it really so necessary? Actually this should not be the question when we speak about friendship. Friends never get tired of communicating

There is a proverb which says: “Eyes which don't meet, forget themselves”. The illustration with the branch and the vine is very significant. Cut a branch from the vine and put it in water, will it give fruits? Leaves yes, but fruits?

We should not think about Christ on Easter or Christmas or on any other traditional feast, but every day.

A friend once invited me to his home for a couple of days. I accepted. When I arrived he told me that he had to go urgently to the marketplace. He invited me kindly to wait for him for a few hours. Because I was there in the afternoon, when he came back it was already night. He told me that he felt too tired to spend time with me, but on the

next day for sure he would do it. The next day, early in the morning, the phone rang. It was for my friend. Although he was on holidays they called him from the factory urgently to repair a machine. My friend excused himself, telling me that he would be back in a short time. He left me some books and magazines. I read, read, one, two, three hours... Later I went for a walk. I came back again and again and I read until the evening! My friend came back very late. It hadn't been as simple as he had thought. The machine took the whole day to fix. He promised me, "Tomorrow we will speak". On the next day a man came to fix his car. He told me that it wouldn't take much time. At lunch, for sure we should see each other and speak together. But I didn't wait till lunch. I packed my bags and went home!

I should tell you that this story has never happened, but how many Christians do the same with Christ. So, today we say, tomorrow we want to be with Him...but we don't have time.

## 2. Condition for a friendship - self-denial.

Luke 9:23 "And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me."

"If any man will come." God doesn't force us to follow Him, although He has the authority to do that. Many things can be done by force, but not in a friendship.

"Let him deny himself..." To keep a friendship we have to deny ourselves. And it should be mutual.

Phil. 2:5-7 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men."

Jesus denied Himself everything. He was not in peace when we all fell into sin. He didn't leave us alone. He refused divinity and He came in the likeness of man "that we might be able to understand Him, that He might become part of us."

Let us, also, deny everything which stops us from being real friends with God.

## 3. Humbleness

Isa. 57:15. "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, which him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

A proud man doesn't have friends. He can have fans, but not friends. In such a relationship, the interest dictates. It is the same in relation to families. It is much more precious to have at home not only a wife, but a friend.

An artist made a statue of Christ in an Italian church. He made it in such a way that in order to see it better, one had to sit on a little chair beneath it.

As far as we stay on the height of our self-esteem and pride, we cannot be friends with Jesus.

## 4. Condition of Friendship - Mutual Obedience

John 15:14 "Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you."

There cannot be a friendship without mutual obedience. What a life would this be if in a family the wife does the opposite of what the husband says and the husband did the opposite of what the wife says! I don't wish anyone such a life.

"And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46



“And hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. He that says, I know Him and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:3,4.

## 5. Sincerity and Honesty

Friendship withers if there are secrets.

How do you feel when someone is not sincere with you? It is the same regarding our relationship with Jesus.

“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts...” Ps. 51:6.

Are you sincere amongst yourselves? Are you sincere with your spouse? Are you sincere with Jesus? This is Christianity. Jesus - my Friend. If it was not so, I don't want to be a Christian.

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matt. 5:8.

In his early age Augustine, a bishop in North Africa (354-430 A.D.) was praying “Lord, give me a pure heart but not ‘now’.”

Do we sometimes pray like the young Augustine?

## 6. Not to have secrets

John 15:15 “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

Jesus says: There is no secret between me and you.

Real friends don't have secrets. There must not be a secret between me and Jesus.

“And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do.” Gen. 18:17.

If you have kept a secret from God, reveal it today to Him. And make this a purpose in your life not to hide anything from Him, as He doesn't hide anything from you. The God of the Bible, our God, is a God of personal relationships. I share everything with Him.

If you are in need, whom do you search first?

A doctor said to his 8 year old son not to disturb him. He needed to prepare himself for an important operation. After two hours, the door of the father's office was opened and the little head of the boy appeared. “What do you want, my son?” said the father. “Nothing. Just to sit in your lap.”

Is it friendship when you search someone only when you are in need?

The Lord Jesus is our friend.

“If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful...” 2 Tim. 2:13

Do you believe that you have a friend who will always remain faithful? He will never let you go. He understands your problems. In days of distress and sorrow, He is a present help, the best Friend.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountain shake with the swelling thereof.” Ps. 46:1-3

To have a friend, a true friend is a joy. “...in thy presence is fullness of joy.” Ps. 16:11

Dear reader, I beg you to make this experience and may Jesus remain forever your best Friend. AMEN

Ivo Ionov, Bulgaria

# THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Why do we have to know about God and about Jesus? The answer we find in John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." So we have to go thoroughly through the Bible to find out who is our God and Father and learn all about Jesus too.

The Bible tells us we can come to God only through Jesus, that we can know God only if we know Jesus. The only way to know the Lord is if we follow on to know the Lord. "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:3. I take this to mean that we must still hold on to him through all of life's difficulties and trials. Only in this way can we overcome every besetment and develop the kind of characters that will be fit for heaven. Israel often murmured whenever they had little to eat or drink and how often we give up so easily when we have much smaller trials than they did.

"We may think we understand something about the truth and the Bible, but the revelation of truth is much beyond anything that our finite vision can comprehend. Christ leads us. When we are caught up to meet Him, and enter through

the pearly gates into the city of God, He leads us by the living waters, and all the time He is educating and talking with us about things that He would have opened to our understanding upon the earth if we could have borne it. But we do not walk fast enough. We take too many back steps. We do not advance heavenward; therefore the light that would have come in glorious rays, could not come to us because we were not prepared for it. We take a step back into the world, to the gratifications of earth, and then we take a step toward heaven, and then we take a step back, and then we take a step toward heaven.

"If you follow on to know the Lord, you shall know that His goings forth are prepared as the morning. You know the morning light first breaks upon us in a very dim light, and then increases and increases in brightness until the king of the day marches in the heavens in all his glory, in all his beauty. . . Now if God's glory were to shine first upon us as He wants to let it shine, we could not endure it. . . That is just why Christ came in humanity. We could not have borne Him if He had come in all His glory. . .

"Now if we will follow on, and if we will not backslide a step or two every now and then, and have to gather up our forces and go on - it is better

to gather up our forces than to remain in a backslid condition and keep on backsliding, but I wish that we did not lose so much time and so much strength - we may know more of God and more of heaven, and become better acquainted with the precious truth and the rich blessings that God has for us if we will only comprehend them. He has prepared wonderful things for us." *Our High Calling*, p. 62.

We have to have a desire and willingness to know our God and Jesus, because sin separates from God and it becomes too far for us to reach between God and us. That's why Jesus came down to earth to reveal His Father. Thus Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" We see Philip didn't understand when Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions. . . I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2. Also when Jesus said, "No man cometh to the Father, but by Me. If ye had known Me ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him." John 14:6,7. Philip asked, "Lord show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and

how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" John 14:8,9.

This is a lesson for us, we have to study the Bible to find out about Jesus first then we will know about God the Father. Because Jesus was the perfect image of the Father, He said, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?" John 14:10.

"We have been called to the knowledge of Christ, and that is the knowledge of glory and virtue. It is a knowledge of the perfection of the divine character, manifested to us in Jesus Christ, that opens up to us communion with God. . . . Scarcely can the human mind comprehend what is the breadth and depth and height of the spiritual attainments that can be reached by becoming partakers of divine nature." *Our High Calling*, P. 60

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." 2 Peter 1:2,3.

"Grace and peace" will be multiplied "through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." Here is the Source of all spiritual power, and faith must be in constant exercise, for all spiritual life is from Christ. Knowledge of God inspires faith in Him as the only channel to convey heaven's blessing to the soul, elevating, ennobling, refining the soul, as - through the knowledge of God - it is

brought up to the high attainment of glory and virtue. "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue." *Our High Calling*, p. 67.

So we see that this is the only way that you or I will be in heaven. This is the way to home - eternal life. We can always be looking to know more about God and about His Son, Jesus Christ. With God's help through the Holy Spirit take a Bible, read and study more about Jesus then you will find what kind of Father we have, who called us sons and daughters of God.

God bless you,  
Nada Stefanovic, Australia



Some of the young people at the Australian Conference



# Keep it Simple

Psalm 19:7 Simple things are always most easily understood, aren't they? And now there is a major movement in society to simplify our lives. Many middle-aged people are getting tired of being slaves to their material goods; all of their gadgets that they loved so much 10 or 20 years ago are now breaking down and they are having to spend so much time getting them fixed in the shop that these people are saying: "What is the use?"

We have to simplify our lives spiritually too, don't we? Prov. 7:7 When we study the word "simple"- we see that it means one devoid of understanding as compared to the "simple" we see in Psalm 19:7 meaning innocent, open, humble, willing to be taught.

In order to understand what the Lord is trying to tell us, we have to be able to pick out His voice from all the complicated, distracting voices out there in the world. That's the only way we can learn of Him, isn't it? And maybe it is only the truly simple that can do this - especially in our day, isn't it?

Psalm 116:6-9 Of course, Jesus always kept things simple, earnest and straightforward. He spoke of the simple things of nature, but He gave them a deeper meaning than the people had ever heard before. So at one and the same time, Jesus was simple, but very deep. At one and the same time, He could speak to the greatest intellect and give them something to ponder, but be understood by the most simple and unlearned souls.

Keeping it simple is necessary in every area of life, isn't it?

1. In Health: inspiration has proven true concerning the evils of abortion, a meat diet and how we should use simple, natural remedies instead of drugs. The same things that God's people have been saying for 150 years medical science is more and more confirming to be true. Take for example, what the world says about vaccinations. Have you heard the scare tactics that they use? You would think that if you didn't get these vaccinations that you were going to drop dead in your tracks. But actually, just as informed and responsible health care providers are increasingly saying, the **opposite** could well be true; if you **get** the vaccination you just may drop dead in your tracks. Or for that matter, if you eat fat and blood, which is so tasty for so many people - the Bible says that is the very thing that is causing the worst problem with so many people's health. It is a simple truth, but not many people want to hear it, do they?

Psalm 119:130

2. For those in authority, it's important to keep things simple, isn't it? God's authority is like that - simple, straightforward, easy to be understood.

Accepting the authority of God means accepting the authority of His word and His way over our lives. For example, the Sabbath and the way that we relate to our time, shows if we truly accept God's authority. Why can't you be on time to church, if you are rightly relating to God's authority? Why isn't the Sabbath school lesson important to you if you are rightly related to God's authority and on your way to spend eternity with Him?

3. In Education, we also have to simplify, don't we? Something simple like Home Schooling has become a world wide movement, yet is the most simple and effective way for parents to take back control of their children's spirits and minds. And how did Jesus learn? At the knee of His mother, from the Scriptures and from nature.

4. In Religion, most of all we have to simplify.

Apostasy and rebellion are in the very air we breathe. Confusion, complication and distraction are coming from every religion and even most every SDA source these days, isn't it?

Even the most faithful of the independents are becoming too complex, too distracted and confused because they are trying to have divided loyalties: partly loyal to God and His truth, partly loyal to the SDA organization. Now that is just too far from simple for me.

(Isn't this the way **that man** always does things? When we look at the work of God politically, it just becomes too hard to try and figure out. But when we see people, places and things in relation to the simple testing truths of His word, everything becomes simple.....)

When I first came to the truth, do you know who the Lord used to bring me to the truth? The archenemy of the reform in Denver, Colorado. (Reminds me of the Scripture that they can do nothing against the truth, only everything for the truth.) This man had become an SDA colporteur. He didn't even have the moral courage to tell me that Ellen G. White was a Seventh-

day Adventist, but he sure tried to win me out of the Reform movement. And you know the simple truth that I kept coming back to? Why didn't the SDA church have a stand against war and bloodshed? I didn't know anything else about all these documents that he was presenting, but the simple truth is what I stood upon.

And when it comes to your faith and mine this morning – What are we standing upon? Are we simple enough for the Lord to break through all of our own stubbornness, pride and rebellion? Or do we keep standing upon the shifting sand of our own ego, pride and opinion?

What could be more simple than Jesus suffering and dying in the place of the guilty? He was the innocent, spotless Son of God, dying for us, the guilty so that we could live. How can we hold on to our own opinions or ego in the light of the cross?

The innocent suffered for the guilty, Isaiah 55:6-8. What could be more simple than the wicked forsaking their thoughts in favor of this wondrous grace? Phil. 4:8. In the simplicity of the gospel, we are called upon to not focus on other's sins or even our own, but rather focus on the wondrous love and grace of God. We are not called on to dwell upon the darkness of this world, but rather let the light in.

Jesus came from the light to a world of darkness in order to share the simple truth – but at, oh, what a cost to Himself and to the Father. Jesus became poor that we might be made rich. He emptied Himself that we could be full. He who knew no suffering, willingly consented to come down and suffer for us who knew so much suffering, but He could not be happy while His children suffered.

When I think of this theme of simplicity, it could not be complete

without mentioning that: Even the simplest, most humble saint who would be faithful to the truth would accomplish more than all of the pompous, selfish, intellectual giants of this world.

When we stay with the simple, humble things God gave us in the beginning, whether it be in diet and health, education and learning or simple faith and obedience – it's all part of God's work for this time.

The Spirit of Prophecy says that God's workers will be amazed by the simple means that He uses to close the third angel's message. Many people are saying today that we need satellite systems, video downloading from the Internet, whatever it may be, but the pen of inspiration speaks time and time again about the simple things that will close the three angel's messages: the house to house labor, the heart linking up with heart, the spirit of prayer actuating every believer, every soul seeing their duty before God and doing it – they're all a part of the great whole of God's church.....and they're all simple things!

It's a simple truth, and only the simple may be able to understand it. Oh no, not that you have to be a simpleton, one devoid of understanding as Solomon sometimes uses the term "the simple", but rather that you and I would allow the clutter of the things and ways of this world to be put aside in order to feel and know the influence of the Holy Spirit.

I recently was in contact with a very ill brother who has started to use natural remedies, after many years of believing what the Doctors were telling him. And unfortunately, the things that they told him and that he accepted as medicine probably caused him to be ill in the first place. And now with simple natural remedies he has had phenomenal

success and is almost totally well again.

The simplicity of the truth – how it is so sad that someone will take so much time to learn the right way physically. But, how true also it is of us spiritually, isn't it? Because the humble, simple ways of closing our mouths, letting go and letting God, and learning the lessons of humility and simple faith are what preparing for Jesus' second coming is all about.

How does any one learn anything? Well, it is only if we have an open spirit, that we can learn, isn't it? Jesus came for the spiritually poor, but the full (in their own minds) He sent empty away. Luke 6:25. Why will the meek inherit the earth? Because they are simple enough to understand what the Lord is trying to say to them. We may think that it has taken Jesus so long to come, But He says, how far they still have to go in unlearning the complicated ways of this world and finding the simple, humble truth.

There's nothing complicated about the truth, but when it comes to having that spiritual balance, maturity and wisdom that only comes from the Holy Spirit, it's a totally different story, isn't it? It's so easy to say that we know the right thing to do, but another thing altogether to accomplish it. Rom. 16:19. May the Lord help you and I to have that simple, child-like faith that will take what He has to give us and overcome by His grace. That you and I will recognize that He will use simple, humble things to bring us to recognition, repentance, relief and restoration.

By Jerry Eaton



# PREDICTIONS

The SwissAir flight 111 was attempting to land at the Halifax, Nova Scotia Airport in Canada on the night of September 2, 1998. This flight was about an hour out of JFK in New York City en route to Geneva, Switzerland, when one of the pilots radioed, "Pan, pan, pan" – an early alert signal – there was a lot of smoke in the cockpit. Controllers suggested the jet head for Halifax Airport, which was 60 miles away. They never made it.

The plane went into a holding pattern so it could dump 1,000 gallons of fuel before landing. After dumping the fuel, the pilot asks for emergency landing directions, then crashed into the sea around 9:30 P.M. – killing all 229 people on board.

Although a power failure was the only factor in the final crash of SwissAir flight 111, it was certainly a decisive one.

Today, many people of this world believe that we are nearing the end of our journey, that the spacecraft – earth – is about to crash. Is this really true? Do the prophecies in the Bible give us any proper indication as to how close we are to that event?

The answer is, yes. Please follow along with me as we consider three conditions in the world indicating that human history, as we know it, is about to end.

**Prediction 1:** All the leaders in the whole world will discuss peace, but still the situation in the world will become increasingly unstable. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not

troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places." Matthew 24:6,7. "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." Revelation 11:8. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

Have you noticed how fragile the peace treaties are these days? Conflicts between Muslims and Christians in India, Indonesia and Bosnia-Herzegovina threaten the Dayton Peace Accord. The Middle East is a tinderbox waiting to explode. The building of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem undermines the Arab-Israel Peace process. And then there's Northern Ireland, Rwanda, the republics of the former Soviet Union – Armenia, Chechnya, Georgia and Sri Lanka (where the Civil War has been going on for 14 years). These are some of the trouble spots.

Speaking of our time, The Apostle Paul declared while people were saying, "Peace and safety", destruction will come upon them suddenly – and they will not escape.

Although the strategic arms limitation talks have produced an agreement between the Super Powers to destroy a percentage of their nuclear arsenal, and although many countries have agreed to ban chemical weapons, the world is less safe today than it was even a

few years ago. With the break-up of the former Soviet Union into the Commonwealth of Independent States, the nuclear arsenal is actually less secure. Some high ranking officer in Moscow has confirmed the U.S Intelligence report that three tactical nuclear weapons have vanished from a former Red Army Arsenal in Khazatan. Sources speculated that these three nuclear warheads were sold to Iran.

Although the United States and the former Soviet Union are dismantling a small portion of their nuclear arsenals, nations such as India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and North Korea are quietly building up theirs.

Child pornography and child prostitution are a fast growing business in almost every country. The Ontario Premier is introducing very tough laws to control these terrible crimes. Can he succeed? Disputes once settled with a kiss between children are now settled with guns. Every 100 hours more youths die in the streets than were killed in the Persian Gulf War. American and Canadian schools have become battlegrounds. Every single year, 6,250 teachers are threatened with bodily injury by their students. Every year, nearly 200,000 students skip classes because they fear physical harm. In Canada, nearly 1.8 million violent crimes are committed each year.

The past few decades have seen a substantial increase in the private and government security industry. And the recent development in electronic technology has resulted in the manufacturing and marketing of improved security devices. But even with this available we still see an increase in so-called "white collar crime."

Jesus clearly outlined the social condition in our society. In Matthew 24:38,39, He compared

society's moral conditions in earth's closing hours to the days of Noah. What was life like in Noah's day? Spiritual values deteriorated. The ethical pulse of society diminished. Standards that were once the norm, God's standards, were no longer accepted. Genesis 6:1,2 says, "They married any of them they chose" – perhaps indicating a devaluation of marriage. Divorce statistics today are incredible. Consider these staggering facts. In the United States in 1870, there was one divorce for every 34 marriages. In 1900, one divorce for every 12 marriages. In 1930, one divorce for every 6 marriages. In the 1990's, there is one divorce for every 2 marriages.

In Luke 17:28-30, Jesus gave us another clue as to what society will be like just before His second coming. He mentioned "the days of Lot" and said "it will be just like this on the day the son of man is revealed."

What was it like in the days of Lot? This man, a nephew of Abraham, lived with his family in the infamous city of Sodom. The Bible describes the social environment; "Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. Another translation of this verse portrays the picture even more frankly, stating: "Sodom and Gomorrah indulged in unnatural lust, including the lust of men for other men."

In our society today, sexual immorality is common fare on television and in the movies. Our culture views extramarital affairs and living together out of wedlock as normal. Also, pornography is not just accepted; it's popular.

In some researcher's study of so-called cyber-porn, they found 917,410 sexually explicit pictures, short stories and film clips available online in the year and a half of their study.

The Bible declares that in the last days, people will be "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." 28% of all alcoholics are under the age of 18. In the past 10 years cocaine use has risen by 500%. Now Canada is also due to introduce Viagra sex pills to the public and thus will encourage the already thriving sex trade. When life lacks meaning, millions turn to a temporary high that lifts them up only to let them down with a resounding crash.

**Prediction 2:** Natural disasters, famines, fires, floods and earthquakes will become more common place. Matthew 24:7

Jesus warned us not only of problems in society. He plainly prophesied "there will be famines and earthquakes in various places." We can expect that in the last days, all nature will be turned out of its course. Unusual weather patterns, sudden storms, and devastating hurricanes. Luke 21:25 mentions the roaring sea and waves as a sign. Flash floods will deluge villages and entire cities. The Bible says these natural disasters will occur in many places.

Famines are common place today. Two-thirds of all the children born into our world are born in countries that cannot supply their need for food. Approximately 57 million people die each year because of famine. That's 156,000 people every day! Of the world's population of over 5 billion, the United Nations reports, 60% are malnourished and 20% are starving.

There are strains of disease that are developing a

resistance to any known antibiotic and new diseases are arising for which science has not found a cure. In Luke 21:11 the Bible describes these as "pestilences" – strange diseases on crops, livestock, poultry and unusual diseases that run rampant through the human population.

Jesus' mention of earthquakes is another example of a prophecy that is being fulfilled. You may wonder, "Have we not always had earthquakes? Look at the statistics. Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, only 10 major earthquakes – only 10 big shakers comparable to modern quakes over 6 on the Richter scale – had been recorded in Rome, Antioch, China, Jakarta, Tokyo and Lisbon. But in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we are experiencing major earthquake after major earthquake. In the past 90 years, there have been over 1.5 million fatalities from earthquakes alone.

Real Christians know why; they see the increase as just one more sign that their Lord will return soon. The unstable world conditions deteriorating, immorality in our society and the unpredictable natural disasters reveal that our world is groaning, longing for deliverance, waiting for the coming of Christ.

**Prediction 3:** Interest in spiritualism, psychic phenomena and astrology are exploding in many manifestations of these things and great interest from nearly everyone. False revivals break out like wild fire. But at the same time, the true gospel will also be proclaimed in all the world. Matthew 24:4,5,14; Revelation 14:6; 18:1

The Bible predicts a mighty false revival just before the coming of Jesus. There will be increased interest in astrology, psychic phenomena, and communication with the dead. And indeed, all over the world men and women seem to be interested in the subject of life after death. Over 2000 newspapers in the United States now carry astrology columns. More and more people

consult psychics to discover the future. The devil is pulling out all the stops in the last days.

But there is another powerful force loose on this planet that is doing its part to hurl us toward the end of the world. It's pushing us toward an impact at the end of time. It is powerful – more powerful than almost anyone realizes. It has a supernatural source. Yet it remains hidden from most people's view.

What is this force? No, it's not some new age movement or Satanism, psychic phenomena, or astrology. None of those dark forces are capable of propelling us in to the end time. The force I am talking about is simply this – yes, the gospel. Believe it or not, that's the most powerful force that is at work on the planet today. Jesus said to His followers: "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." This promise is echoed at the beginning of the message of the 3 angels in Revelation 14. The first messenger tells us that the eternal gospel will be preached to those who live on the earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people.

This wonderful prophecy is being fulfilled today. I have read about tens of thousands of people who have come to Christ in Russia. So many Bible societies have contributed more than 40,000 Bibles for distribution to the citizens of this formerly atheist country.

At the same time, God's church is on the move there and elsewhere in the world. We need more missionaries for Central and Western Africa, India, Sri Lanka, the Middle East

and China too. Also, we could start SDA Reform world radio programs to cover three-fourths of the world's population. Yes, we need prayers, financial support, sacrificing hearts, dedicated workers and God's blessings to complete this mission.

The Christian's main business is to be a witness. We are not called to be neutral Christians – innocent bystanders.

A witness in a court of law is usually somebody who was present when a certain event took place. He saw, he knows, not by hearsay but by personal experience. When somebody knows by personal experience, people listen to him. We cannot be effective witnesses for Christ without encountering Him personally. Second hand religion is perhaps worth a few cheap dollars in the offering, but it does not make for heroic Christian witnessing.

By kind words we can be a witness to the world. Secondly, we can witness by what we do, thirdly we can witness through what we are. This is the heart of the matter. Jesus does not want just our tongues, hands or brains only. To witness for Him, Jesus asks for our hearts primarily.

The wonderful thing about being a witness for Christ is that God does not call upon us to be solitary witnesses with our own weak motive power. Far from being isolated witnesses in a cold, cosmic machine we are to witness in a universe centered in the living God.

Yes, these signs of the times also indicate that Jesus Christ is coming very soon. The good news is going out to billions. Jesus' message is going to the earth in one way or another – what are you and I doing to complete this work? Some men and women have an opportunity to hear the

word of God, but how many pass into eternity unwarned and unsaved every day?

This is no ordinary time. This is a time to open our hearts to Christ. This is time to surrender our hearts to Christ. This is a time to surrender our lives to Jesus. This is a time to prepare for His return – and He will be here soon.

By Xavier Chelliah



Debora going to do canvassing



# CLINTON McNUTT- Personal Testimony

*"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5: 6; He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:10-12*

Hi, my name is Clinton McNutt. I'm thirty-three years old and I was born in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. I am currently living in the province of British Columbia, Canada, near a town called Maple Ridge.

The past nine and a half years of my life I have spent incarcerated in five different federal penitentiaries here on the West Coast of Canada, beginning in January 1990.

Presently I am in a maximum-security provincial institution remanded in custody awaiting trial on "new charges" for which I am facing a sentence of ten years to life.

In the last nine and a half years I have been on the street in a halfway house for a total of nine months. Four months in 1995 and five months in 1997. My current charge was laid in April 1997. I have since been waiting trial for twenty-six months now and it could be up to another year from now until I will be sentenced. I can count on the next ten years to be years in prison. Now it is only a matter of working out the technicalities in the criminal justice system of Canada.

So what is there to hope for? My future is bleak, for sure. But I am comforted every day and night. You might ask, "How?" By the slamming of the prison doors, my sin is always before me, but I remember the words of Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:17-23: "And Thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity. And I said, My

strength and my hope is perished from the Lord: Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul has them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me." This I recall to mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

Six years ago in March of 1993 I began to learn for the first time who Jesus Christ is. I was twenty-six years old. A man who was serving a life sentence witnessed to me and gave me a Bible. I was very excited as I began to read the Bible and I couldn't be pulled away from it, even to this very day. Though I have lost a thousand battles in the flesh since then, God is plenteous in mercy and I really haven't lost.

That first year in 1993 was the first time in twelve years I didn't use drugs. I had been in prison for three years up to that point and so I hadn't used alcohol either. But in prison there are a lot of drugs. At the end of the year it was like awakening from a deep sleep. I received baptism by sprinkling in the prison chapel by a Lutheran minister six months after first being witnessed to. I never really did get grounded in any community church since I wasn't looking forward to parole any time in the near future. Nonetheless, I met people and I read as many books as I could get

my hands on written by Protestants.

I had many moments of dire feelings of alienation and worthlessness. I began relapsing back into drugs in 1994 every three months for one or two weeks. Then I would stop and seek the Lord. In between my relapses I diligently studied various Protestant doctrines. I eventually became very confused and couldn't come to definite conclusions on important matters such as what happens after death, the Second Advent, and the judgement. By the end of 1994, I completely tossed aside the Bible. I drifted back to old ways and friends. This was a bad time to be relapsing because in February 1995 I got my first parole after five years, one month and two weeks. So I went to a halfway house. I had no contacts nor was I rooted in Christ even after two years.

In one month I sought friends and a lifestyle I was familiar with. In four short months I lost my parole and was sent back to prison for drinking and using drugs. I was terribly heartbroken but at the same time I was glad because my first hope was to find Jesus. I didn't like my powerlessness over my flesh. I had tasted the goodness of the Lord and I wanted that. I vowed at that time to never go back to drugs and alcohol and to this day I haven't. This was four years ago.

I was back in prison and I figured I couldn't find the truth in

Protestantism so I went to Catholicism. I was accepted into the Roman Catholic Church at Easter 1996 again at the prison chapel. For sixteen months I studied diligently all the doctrines. I received another parole on October 1996. I went to the same halfway house. I was clean, sober and serious about being perfect morally. The problem is that the life-style I led for sixteen years with the drug and alcohol abuse, and seven years of hard-core penitentiary life, left me an emotional cripple. After becoming clean there arose in me psychological and emotional impulses that dominated me. The flesh ruled me; I only had moments in between the flesh ruling that I thought was deliverance by Christ. All the teaching I received in numerous Protestant doctrines and strict Catholic doctrines did not help me from the flesh. Within five months of being released a second time from prison I was so consumed by my fleshly impulses I wanted to commit suicide. I vowed never to use drugs and alcohol and didn't. But something far worse happened. I re-offended violently. This was April 1997. My original sentence was eight years which expired in June 1998. So I finished that remaining time and then was transferred to a provincial remand centre.

This is currently where I am. So what happened to me after April 1997? I barely survived. I longed for death. I heard my sin announced through the entire universe. I was transferred to the Federal Psychiatric Hospital in September 1997. I stayed in the hospital for the remainder of my eight years, which ended June 1998. After that I was transferred

here to the Provincial prison. I received therapy and antidepressants during my nine months at the hospital. I could not conceive of myself going to God after what I had done. The hospital helped me out of my suicidal and homicidal state. I wandered into the library sometime around February or March 1998 at the hospital and although I felt I couldn't come to God I had seen a book that grabbed my attention. The book was called *The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan*. I read that book and was amazed. I still did not turn to the Lord but I could not ignore the new knowledge. I put that knowledge in the back of my mind and concentrated on the task at hand. I was in therapy for eight months. By the seventh month I, for the first time, accepted myself. I, for a moment let go of my self-hatred. This was one year after my second offence.

One month later, in June 1998, I was transferred to the Provincial Remand Centre in Surrey, British Columbia. Shortly thereafter I began to wonder if God would still love me. I remembered the book I read about six months earlier – *The Great Controversy*. I knew that the Seventh-day Adventist church had those teachings.

One day in mid-July, about a month after my transfer, I looked in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory under "Churches". I decided to call a Seventh-day Adventist Church and ask for a Bible Study. There were only two in Surrey and one of them was a Reform Church. I called the Reformed church number a couple of times and received no answer. Then a while later I phoned both numbers and

only got through to one. That one number I got through on has changed my life for what I hope to be forever. Mr. Jerry Eaton sent me a Bible Correspondence Course. I only talked for about five minutes on the phone and I didn't even get Jerry's name. A week later I was transferred to where I am currently staying. I sent the first couple of questionnaires in. I kept my secret that I was a prisoner and a criminal. In fact I've kept myself hid a lot from society this past nine and half years. The prison stamps my envelopes when I send mail and Brother Jerry figured out pretty fast that I was a convict.

After about four or five questionnaires, Brother Jerry sent me a letter saying he knew I was in prison and he would be glad to visit me. I cried. I have been alienated for so long from much human contact, being in prison, and by my sin that I didn't feel like anyone could understand me. This was in August 1998. Brother Jerry has been faithfully visiting me once a week for ten months now. For the first time ever, I've experienced a power that has enabled me to have self-control over my flesh. This power, unlike the theories, philosophies, dogmas, theologies, and every other false doctrine of Babylon, is the very might of God called present truth.

I am deeply thankful for the Lord's leading me to the everlasting gospel. Within my heart there is an intense burning to proclaim all the message for our time. The Lord has entrusted me with a responsibility that continually reminds me of the wonderful privilege that it is to serve Him. Born out of circumstances and the election of grace I've received a prison

ministry which is named Son of God Freedom Fighters. Daily, the Lord's prompting causes me to seek for those souls that Jesus died to redeem. I feel so honored that God has shed such glorious light on me I pray daily that the wrecked lives around me may experience the truth that makes you free. The Lord has granted me gifts to counsel broken hearts and instruct sinners to repentance through the truth by Bible studies and correspondence courses. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 2 Cor. 1:3,4 Especially is the Law of God magnified so that once again God's Sabbath can be kept holy. I believe the Lord will continue to glorify His name through all His ministries in the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement.

For the first time ever, I'm sharing a testimony. I feel that my

criminal and penitentiary life cannot be left out. My life is an example of how dangerously corrupt the flesh can be, the powerlessness, helplessness and hopelessness that is in a life when it is left to its own will. These past ten months I've learned more about godliness and being empowered by God to live godly than I have in the past six years when I first was witnessed to in March 1993.

I'm ready to be baptized and Brother Jerry has approved. The problem is that the prison does not have adequate necessities for immersion. There are so many things that I'm not able to do that I must completely depend upon the Lord. Everything is definitely on God's time. I'm learning and growing each day and the newest grace and experience of mine trusts the Lord. There are only shadowy glimpses of the old man in me from time to time, but for the first time in my life there is honesty and sincerity. I'm not afraid and I am not looking back even with a life sentence ahead of because I

have Jesus Christ dwelling in me. I can feel confident that I am not avoiding taking responsibility and accountability for my past and present behaviour. Jesus showed me how, and gives me the grace, gifts, and fruits to be a righteous person, especially how to be honest without which I would receive nothing. I'd like to thank Br. Timo Martin, Br. Jerry Eaton, Sister Wendy Eaton and their children, Richard and Sharon. Also Sister Kathleen Ross, as well as all the saints for your prayers, love, and encouragement. I also ask whoever would like to write me please do.

Clinton McNutt  
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God bless you all in Christ Jesus. Also pray for my Dad, mother, and brother that they may receive the love of the truth.

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## The Plan of Salvation

### Part 3

Fallen man is Satan's lawful captive. They ventured upon the forbidden ground, and were entangled in the snare of Satan. Their keen sense of the high, holy character of God was deadened. Refusing to follow in the path of obedience, they transferred their allegiance to the enemy of righteousness.

They put on swaggering airs, and boast of liberty when they are the servants of corruption. They mean by liberty that they are slaves to selfishness, debased appetite, and licentiousness... There is no one to say, Do not do this, for it will be an injury to yourself; or Do this, because it is right. Children who are under strict discipline will at times have dissatisfied feelings. They will become impatient under restraint, and will wish to have their own way, and go and come as they please.

As a rule, children inherit the dispositions and tendencies of their parents, and imitate their example; so that the sins of the parents are practiced by the children from generation to generation. Impatience in the parents excites impatience in the children. Passion manifested by the parents creates passion in the children and stirs up the evils of their nature. Those who refuse to submit to the government of God are wholly unfitted to govern themselves. Through their pernicious teachings the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control. The children, as they make homes of their own, feel under no obligation to teach their children what they themselves have never been taught. And this is why there are so many godless families; this is why depravity is so deep and widespread. Behold the world today in open rebellion against God.

And as Esaias said before, 'Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.' And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved. But for the elect's sake, whom He hath chosen, He hath shortened the days. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure... For many are called, but few are chosen.

It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. By indulgence in corrupt and vile their natures have become so degraded that they cling to evil and will not be separated from it. You chose to have your way. And now you have only yourself to blame. When men almost invariably choose the knowledge that Satan presents; when their taste is so perverted that it craves that knowledge as though it were a fountain of supreme wisdom, then they give evidence that they are separated from God and are in rebellion against Christ.

A student may go through all the grades of the schools and colleges of today. He may devote all his powers to acquiring knowledge. But unless he has a knowledge of God, unless he obeys the laws that govern his being, he will destroy himself.

What bondage so terrible as that of him who is given over to the control of the worst tyrants than himself! Gloom and soul-harassing thoughts troubled him night and day. For him there was no longer any joy of life or peace of mind, and the future was dark with despair. His wisdom had become foolishness; his spiritual vision was beclouded; he had brought blindness upon himself by yielding to the power of Satan. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. His own disobedience and sin had resulted in his separating himself from his Father. He sees that, while he has been loved with unspeakable tenderness, his life has been a scene of ingratitude and rebellion. He has forsaken his best Friend and abused heaven's most precious gift. "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

And it came to pass in process of time... the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor... But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

When Adam's sin plunged race into hopeless misery, God might have cut Himself loose from fallen beings. He might have treated them as sinners deserved to be treated. He might have commanded the angels of heaven to pour out upon our world the vials of His wrath. He might have removed this dark blot from His universe. But He did not do this.

To know God is to love Him. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. His love is not uncertain and fluctuating. He is the great and bountiful Giver. His love is manifest to all in the abundant provision made for man. Men may deny the claim of His love, they may wander from Him, they may choose another master; yet they are God's, and He longs to recover His own. And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. For it is made manifest that there is a God on the throne of the universe whose character is worthy of praise and imitation. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

The plan of salvation has been carried out. The dear price has been paid for man's redemption. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Chester Cosby



## CURRENT SCENE

U.S. Army  
recognizes witchcraft as  
religion/ Wiccans  
get chaplains,

Washington : "The United States Army has recognized white witchcraft as a religion and has appointed chaplains to oversee pagan ceremonies on at least five bases.

A Pentagon spokesman said Thursday there were believed to be at least 100 witches attending covens at Fort Hood, Tex., the army's largest base with more than 42,000 troops.

So respectful has the army become of the pagan rites that security was increased at Fort Hood's Boy Scout camp, where covens are held. The move is to deter members of Christian groups from intimidating the group.

The pagans, called Wiccans, are accorded the same privileges as practitioners of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. They are encouraged to have their religious preference stamped on the metal dog tags each soldier wears.

Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Troyer, the **Seventh-Day Adventist** army chaplain who has been given responsibility for Fort Hood's coven, admitted he was not overjoyed with his job because fellow Christian pastors disapproved and had been 'cool' toward him.

'It's such a volatile subject,' he said. 'It just sparks a fury.'

The Pentagon says it has received several requests for a posting to Fort Hood because it has such a large pagan congregation.

'We are obliged by the Constitution to respect and make provisions for the religious needs of members of the military and not to pass judgments on their beliefs,' a spokesman said.

The Covenant of the Goddess, which claims to represent most American Wiccans from its base in Berkeley, Calif., says there are about 50,000 followers of the faith in the United States.

They celebrate earth-spirits such as the 'great goddess Freya' and on their altars give blessings to water, bread, and salt, the three essentials of life, while the congregation holds hands in a circle around a large bonfire.

Their main festivals are at the vernal and autumnal equinox and at midsummer. However, sacrifices, either human or animal, are not tolerated. 'It is not something we do,' said one Wiccan."

"The great apostasy, which is developing and increasing and waxing stronger....will continue to do so until the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout. We are to hold fast the first principles of our denominated faith, and go forward from strength to increased faith.

Ever we are to keep the faith that has been substantiated by the Holy Spirit of God from the earlier events of our experience until the present time. We need now larger breadth, and deeper, more earnest, unwavering faith in the leadings of the Holy Spirit. If we needed the manifest proof of the Holy Spirit's power to confirm truth in the beginning, after the passing of the time, we need today all the evidence in the confirmation of the truth, when souls are departing from the faith and giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrine of devils. There must not be any languishing of soul now". *The Upward Look*, pg. 352.

"We are living in an age of peril, in an age of apostasy; evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse, Satan is working with all 'deceivableness of unrighteousness,' and the servants of God must make no concessions to the enemy, nor listen to his suggestions to doubt God. There are many who become restless when they cannot see the definite outcome of affairs. They cannot endure uncertainty, and in their impatience they refuse to wait to see the salvation of God. Apprehended evils drive them nearly distracted. They give way to their rebellious feelings, and run hither and thither in passionate grief, seeking intelligence concerning that which God has not revealed. ST, 08-19-89 (How few of the leaders of the nominal SDA church are able to see their way clear from all of their pride of

position, power and money that they have obtained by compromising with the world.)

From the *Ellen G. White 1888 materials*, a testimony to Uriah Smith: "You write that you have said that you would have not controversy with Sr. White. Better, far better, have had this controversy openly than under cover, for this controversy has been and there has not been harmony between us since the Minneapolis meeting. You have been exceedingly stubborn, and this stubbornness has been as described in the word of God. 'For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Behold, to obey is better than to sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.' This stubbornness, my dear brother, can be brought under control only by your falling upon the Rock and being broken. It is a terrible snare to you. It makes you unwilling to confess your wrongs, and every wrong passed over without humble confession will leave you and Elder Butler and every soul who pursues the same course in blindness of mind and hardness of heart. The spirit of God is grieved and Satan triumphs. It is not because we do not have evidence but that your own will rises against God's will, and it is God who has a controversy with you. He will remove the candlestick out of its place except you repent."

"There is danger in departing in the least from the Lord's instruction. **When we**

**deviate from the plain path of duty, a train of circumstances will arise that seems irresistibly to draw us farther and farther from the right.** Needless intimacies with those who have no respect for God will seduce us ere we are aware. The fear of offending worldly friends will deter us from expressing our gratitude to God, or acknowledging our dependence upon Him.

We must keep close to the word of God. We need its warnings and encouragement, its threatenings and promises. We need the perfect example given only in the life and character of our Saviour. Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty; but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan's ground. An agent of the great deceiver will say and do anything to gain his object. It matters little whether he calls himself a spiritualist, an 'electric physician,' or a magnetic healer.' By specious pretenses he wins the confidence of the unwary. He pretends to read the life history, and to understand all the difficulties and afflictions of those who resort to him. Disguising himself as an angel of light, while the blackness of the pit is in his heart, he manifests great interest in women who seek his counsel. He tells them that all their troubles are due to an unhappy marriage. This may be too true, but such counsel does not better their condition. He tells them that they need love and sympathy. Pretending

great interest in their welfare, he casts a spell over his unsuspecting victims, charming them as the serpent charms the trembling bird. Soon they are completely in his power, and sin, disgrace, and ruin are the terrible sequel. *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, "Consulting Spiritualist Physicians" pg. 115

As we see nominal Adventism departing further and further from the pathway of right theologically, the practice of the leaders and those in power becomes more and more outlandish and apostate. What will happen next? How far will those who have left the Spirit of God behind go in apostasy? Of course, we know from inspiration that unless we live up to the truth of the three angel's messages and fearlessly proclaim it, we will end up abhorring ourselves and be in worse condition to meet Christ at His second coming, than were the Jews to meet Him at His first coming. May the Lord help us to give "the trumpet a certain sound" by showing the house of Jacob their sin and speaking the truth in love, grow up into Him in all things.

**All Christians asked to recognize role of Pope** (May 11, 1999 – Reuters) London – "The push for unity between Anglicans and Catholics took another hesitant step forward Wednesday when a commission from both churches asked Christians to recognize the universal role of the Pope.

A document released by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission went further than earlier statements

embraced by Anglican representatives in recognizing the Pope's ministry as 'a gift to be received by all the churches.'

The study, called *The Gift of Authority*, also says the Pope has a 'specific ministry concerning the discernment of truth.' The 43-page document is not an authoritative declaration from either the Anglican or Catholic churches, but is meant as a study paper for both. It was released at Westminster Abbey, an Anglican church, but in a part of the building that predated the split in 1534 between the Anglicans and Catholics.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, urged the world's 70 million Anglicans to read the document.

"Christians need urgently to be able to speak with a common voice, confident of the authority of the gospel of peace," Carey said in a statement. "I commend the text to all Anglicans for the most serious consideration and debate." Mark Saner, the Anglican bishop of Birmingham, said the study was a 'recognition of the place that the Pope has in the Christian family.'

"Even now, before we [Anglicans and Roman Catholics] are in full communion, the Pope is a pastor of immense authority in the Christian world as a whole," Saner said.

The document said Anglican and Catholic bishops should work together where possible and meet at regional

and local levels. But it did not specifically address the issues that divide the two churches, such as the place of the Virgin Mary and women's ministry.

The Anglican church split from Rome in 1534 over King Henry VIII's decision to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Since 1966, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have been in official dialogue which stated aim is eventual reunion. A year from now all Anglican and Catholic archbishops plan to meet in Canada, the first time the entire hierarchies will have met to discuss healing their four-century-old rift. Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the Catholic bishop of Arundel and Brighton, said he thought Anglicans were viewing the role of the Pope more sympathetically in the new study.

"I think there's going to be a lot of discussion about this document," he said.

"Christ was a protestant. He protested against the formal worship of the Jewish nation, who rejected the counsel of God against themselves. He told them that they taught for doctrines the commandments of men, and that they were pretenders and hypocrites. Like whited sepulchers they were beautiful without, but within full of impurity and corruption. The Reformers date back to Christ and the apostles. They came out and separated themselves from a religion of forms and ceremonies. Luther and his followers did not invent the

reformed religion. They simply accepted it as presented by Christ and the apostles. The Bible is presented to us as a sufficient guide; but the pope and his workers removed it from the people as if it were a curse, because it exposes their pretensions and rebukes their idolatry. *Review and Herald*, 06-01-86

Christians could always speak with a united voice, the voice of truth, which is the Bible – the only thing that will truly unite us in a lasting way.

Inspiration has shown us what is to be, and even now nominal Christianity is fast losing their way in embracing papal errors and superstitions. May we work especially for those who name the name of Christ and show out of a godly conversation coupled with fear that we are men and women who truly wait for our Lord in righteousness.

By Jerry Eaton

**"Those who bear responsibilities should carefully seek for the good of every branch of the cause and work of God. They should encourage and sustain the interests in other fields as well as the interests in their own. Thus the bonds of brotherhood would be strengthened between members of God's family on earth, and the door would be closed to the petty jealousies and heart-burnings that position and prosperity are sure to arouse unless the grace of God controls the heart. 8 T, 138-9**



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## To the Young at Heart

An individual astute in computers visited an uncle who just acquired a new computer system. Sharing his talents and guiding the relative, confidence grew and a special relationship developed. But the nephew decided to protect his uncle's investment. He proceeded to install an anti-virus program to insure that the computer system was 'bug-free'. Unfortunately the program was copyright protected and was previously installed on another computer. This meant the nephew broke the copyright law.

Returning from work the uncle started to operate the computer when he noticed something different. He called his nephew for assistance. His nephew explained that he installed the anti-virus program to protect the system. The relative inquired if his action was legal. There was a moment of silence, then the nephew explained the benefits and reasons for his action. He thought that he rightfully did what was best for his uncle. His uncle requested him to immediately come with no further questions. The nephew expected the worst now. He knew that his uncle was a 'just man'. He left to visit his uncle.

Meeting his uncle at the front door, they proceeded in the direction of the computer. But all of a sudden his uncle turned right and went outside towards the garden. The nephew fell uncertain and thought is he going to ask him to work in the garden. Instead his uncle pointed to the wooden railing that went through the two rows of tomatoes. He asked, "What do you see?" The nephew told him that there were 7 rows of wood going horizontal and 7 rows of wood going vertical which crossed each other. "That's correct." replied uncle. "What else do you see?" asked the uncle. "Nothing?" remarked the nephew.

Then the uncle began to explain, where each piece of wood crossed reminded him of someone very precious in his heart. The nephew asked who could that be? The uncle hesitated, then recited the following passages:

**Isa. 53.5**

**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with stripes we are healed.**

**1Pet.2.24**

**Who his own self bare our sins in His body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we were healed.**

Then the nephew asked that he be forgiven for presuming and justifying his action. Without reservation the uncle embraced his nephew and kissed him on the forehead.

### **Personal Testimony**

Several months ago this article was written and remained on the shelf. Timely considerations were placed in order for you the reader to fully appreciate the magnitude in today's computer driven society, this tragic and deceptive sin. My prayer is that the following gentle rebuke will result in the Holy Spirit leading you to action and resolutions.

Working in the computer field since 1981, I have seen my share of pirating information. Breaking the copyright laws, patents and any rightful ownership laws is a serious offence. Admittedly, I received my share of materials which I knew were stolen.

Finally the inexhaustible appeal to confess my action and to follow the narrow road became reality. All previous materials were destroyed or returned to the rightful owners. Praise God for patiently showing the right copy to purchase. I appeal to all readers, if you possess any illegal copy of any computer or printed material turn towards the Lord and confess. DO NOT KEEP THEM OR COMPROMISE.

For example, E.G. White CD by Chosen Works™ is copyright protected, if you did not purchase the original copy, you are committing an offence. You may have been misinformed, but NOW take action. DO NOT linger and presume in escaping this matter on earth, and have your rights to heaven revoked. If you have made copies and distributed them, your responsibility is to contact each person and notify them immediately.

Request forgiveness, then turn away from this deceptive ploy and wise up. DO NOT let this matter rob you of your salvation. Advise others of their actions, so the blood will not be on your hands.

**Eze. 3.17-Eze. 3.20**

**Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.**

**When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.**

**Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.**

**Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning.**

he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

**To ALL Repetitive Sinners** - There might still be HOPE:

Laws have been imposed for us to follow. Search in your heart where you have not settled this matter or continue to break the law. The Lord awaits to hear from you, **DO NOT WAIT** too long, your tomorrow might not arrive. And what a pity to be so close to heaven's door that is "ajar for you". Seek to confess your wrongs to Him and to one another. And remember the cross bearing Saviour, He's calling you today. All have SINNED and need a Saviour.

**To ALL Gentle Rebukers**- Keep Still and Listen to His Voice:

Your action and leading of the sweet counsellor is "like rivers of water." Keep your eyes on Him and look not to the "right or left".

### **DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT COPY?**

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Remember, stealing is still imprinted on the Decalogue.

Exemplifying Christ Our Righteousness and insisting to render to the "old man" is an offence which has a line of demarcation.

Purity and obedience God Awaits from You.

### **SURRENDER IT ALL**

Those who are most loved of God are those who have the least self-confidence, and are adorned with a meek and quiet spirit ; whose lives are pure and unselfish, and whose hearts are inclined, through the abundant measure of the spirit of Christ, to obedience, justice, purity, and true holiness. 2T.126.004

God Bless Each Reader.

Written by Bro. Richard Lapensée  
Montréal, Canada



*On the way to church in Venezuelan Jungle.*



## ASLEEP IN JESUS

Jelena Stambolija

1917-1999

Our dear Sister Jelena Stambolija fell asleep peacefully at the Heritage Green Nursing home on the morning of May 20, 1999 at the age of 82.

She was born on March 15, 1917 in Sakole, Banat, Yugoslavia.

In 1936 she was married to Dragutin Stambolija with whom she had two daughters, Nada and Dragica. She also left behind three grandchildren Dianna, Anita and Danny and two great-grandchildren Natasia and Nicolaus.

The Second World War also had an impact on this family. Dragutin Stambolija had to join the army. As a soldier, Dragutin was struck by a bullet. He was surprised that it did not go through his clothes. The reason was, that his wife Jelena had placed the New Testament in his breast pocket before he left home, and now it saved his life. This made a deep impression on him, and he began reading the Bible. The first pages he read were about Jesus going to the Synagogue and worshipping on the Sabbath Day. So by reading the New Testament, he came to realize that the Sabbath, the seventh day, is the day that should be kept holy.

In the meantime, while reading her Bible at home, Jelena understood that she should keep the Seventh Day Sabbath also. When her husband came home, she was worried how to explain to him that all the food was being prepared on Friday because she had decided to keep the Sabbath and not do any work on that day. But to her surprise, he had also decided to keep the Sabbath day.

The family move to Australia in the mid sixties and a couple years later they came to Canada.

They faithfully attended the church which they love and remained in the S.D.A. Reform Movement to the end of their lives.

In 1985 she lost her husband while he was visiting Yugoslavia. This was a terrible loss for her as at the time she was sick in the hospital and

would have needed his support. The following 14 years she lived alone.

The memorial service was held May 25 in Vineland. Br. Evald Pedersen first related her life story. Then Pastor Adam Bujak who had often visited her spoke of her hospitality and cheerfulness that she showed always during his visits.

During the speakers we were delighted with special songs. Ivonka and Larry sang a duet and the group sang "Wonderful Valley of Eden" in the Yugoslavian language.

Brother Timo Martin spoke words of comfort to the relatives and friends. Although human life is short as a flower, death is not the end of it but a beginning of a better life which has no end. Wonderful are the promises to the faithful child of God who, as our Sister Stambolija remains faithful to the end.

Brother Martin made an appeal to all to follow the example of our sister and walk the way of God. Then we will have a wonderful reunion at the coming of the Lord when the graves are opened and also our sister Jelena will come up in the vigor and health of eternal youth.

Our service was closed by a prayer by Br. Morris Lowe.

At the gravesite, Brother Kanagarajah spoke of the resurrection morning. He read 1 Tess. 4:15-18 and committed her body to the grave.

In closing the Yugoslavian group sang a hymn "Over there in Heaven There is Peace" in their language.

TIMO MARTIN



# Home Schooling

As parents, the decision of where to send kids to school is undoubtedly an important one - public school, private school, either independent or church affiliated. Many parents across Canada, however, are choosing an alternative form of education known as home schooling. a growing number of families who believe they can provide a better education than either public or private schools, are opting to have their kids exempted from attending school and instead are teaching them at home.

According to a survey conducted in 1994, between 60000 and 80000 children across Canada are educated at home. Of that, an estimated 15000 to 20000 are Ontarians, with numbers increasing as this trend grows in popularity.

The parents (usually mom) provide most of the formal education. Although there are several resources available to give on-the-job training, one does not need to be a certified teacher for home instruction.

Home scholars come from all walks of life and include professors, lawyers, farmers and tradespeople.

## **Why home schooling?**

Why would anyone want to home school? The reasons families embark on this adventure are both numerous and diverse.

- Some are dissatisfied and disillusioned with schools academically and morally.
- Parents, along with their offspring, are frustrated with overcrowded classrooms.
- Others concede and strongly oppose the lack of religious freedom and education.
- For many, receiving that one-on-one tutoring style is viewed as a wonderful option for children who have failed or for youngsters with learning disabilities or with special needs. There are those parents who have no beefs about the educational system, but believe that they can do a far more effective job at educating their kids.

## **Socialization**

A frequently asked question among skeptics is about socialization. How can home schooled children possibly get along in the real world and relate to others if they are sheltered and isolated all day long?

Dr. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, conducted a study and released a report in 1994 entitled, "A Nationwide Study Of Home Care Education In Canada: Family Characteristics, Student Achievement, And Other Topics."

The study found that home educated children are well, or better, adjusted socially and emotionally as students in conventional schools.

It confirms that home schooled children are involved in a wide variety of activities with peers and adults outside of their homes. And it reveals that home schooled students participate in a average of five outside activities per week, such as piano and church activities.

These kids do pretty well," says social worker Greg McClare. "There are all kinds of social opportunities for them.

## **Is it legal?**

Home schooling is indeed legal in every province and territory in Canada.

Parents may choose to home educate for as many grades as they themselves are comfortable with—one or two years, the elementary grades, or all the way through to high school. Under the Education Act of Ontario, the law deems that "a child is excused from attendance at school if the child is receiving satisfactory instruction at home or elsewhere."

School board policy for home schooling differ from one board to the next.

Greg McClare, chief social worker and attendance officer for the Toronto District School Board, says that he receives a call a day about some schooling.

"Parents raise a lot of questions," McClare states. "Parents want to know, is it appropriate for their child, how do they begin, how do they actually home school."

Although not legally required, McClare recommends parents in the Toronto area contact the school's superintendent of their intent to instruct on the home front. He says that in Toronto it is the school's superintendent of each jurisdiction who oversees the curriculum.

"The superintendent may ask for a written plan, showing how the program is organized and scheduled, the kind of texts or other learning materials to be used, to ensure that the materials are appropriate to the developmental growth of the child."

McClare recommends parents who are home schooling keep a portfolio with samples of the pupil's work so that the quality may be evaluated.

## **Before you begin**

- Involve your children in the decision-making to home school.
- Before you take the plunge, commit yourself to a one-year trial period and reassess after the initial term.
- Talk to home schooling families in your area and visit with them and observe the various techniques used.
- Read articles and books to learn more about home education.
- Attend a home schooling convention or conference in your area.
- Discover the vast array of resources available to help you succeed. Resources may include the library, Internet services, local recreation centre and extracurricular activities to get your kids involved in. Support groups, too, help parents as they share ideas, frustrations, curriculum suggestions and suppliers. Groups of this nature provide an opportunity for families to organize picnics, sports events and field trips.

- Connect with your local school or school board. Depending on the principal and/or superintendent, schools sometimes allow home schooling families the use of textbooks and library facilities or allow children to be involved in the science fair.

- Do your homework. Wendy Priesnitz, who helped her own two children learn at home, advises parents to become familiar with the Education Act.

“Know what it says, and what it doesn’t say,” Priesnitz urges. “You’ll be given a lot of misinformation about home education. Do your legal research. Know your rights and the rights of your child.”

## **How to home school**

Home educated families enjoy flexibility in several areas, including curriculum decisions and scheduling the student program.

### **Choose a program**

There are a variety of learning materials available. These include commercially produced curriculum that may be purchased from American and Canadian companies (this approach has the subjects and daily work mapped out) and correspondence courses (the student works at his or her own pace, completes each lesson and mails the answers to a teacher for grading).

Also, home educators design their own personal program based on their child’s needs, interests and abilities using store-bought workbooks, textbooks or resources from the library.

Parents might start out with one approach and end up using a combination of methods.

### **Set a schedule**

Consider the time of day best suited for you and your student(s). Some families begin lessons in the afternoon while others start at 8 or 9 AM and work until noon with one-half hour recess time. The remainder of the day allows time to participate in other lessons (piano, swimming, singing), extracurricular activities, a visit to a museum or time to work on a special project.

Due to the one-on-one approach, academic instruction for home schooled children is accomplished in about two to four hours per day.

### **The classroom**

Essentials in setting up a classroom are a table, chairs or small desk, a storage area for supplies, book shelves, a place for each child to keep his or her school things and a file for storing samples of their work.

Children are taught around the kitchen or dining room table or in the living room. A schoolroom might be set up in a well-lit family basement complete with a portable blackboard or when the weather permits, the lessons might be held outdoors.

## THE GIRL WHO CHANGED HER MIND



Boom - boom - boom! Beating drums, rendering an ominous death march, announced the untimely death of three women in India.

Young Ida Scudder, alone in the mission hut at Tindivanam, put her fingers to her ears to exclude the mournful sound, because each beat of the drums seemed to say, "Guilty - guilty - guilty!"

Of course, Ida knew she was not directly responsible for the death of those women. But she also knew that if there had been an adequate supply of medical doctors in India at that time (about 1890), those three women, and many others, would probably still have been alive.

This realization stung Ida's conscience. As long as she could remember, the men in her family had been medical missionaries, and their women worked willingly with them. But Ida had observed the poverty, ignorance, and disease in India for so long that she was determined to have none of it. At college in America she had sampled comfortable living, and she had all but convinced herself that a normal life in America should be her course rather than the uncertainty and strife of the Orient.

Of course, she was a Christian, and would continue

being one. She would also marry a Christian. Together they would rear a fine Christian family. They would attend church regularly, tithe, and live as thousands of other Christians in America constantly did.

Ida Scudder's life might have gone in that direction if she had not been called from college for a return trip to India because of her mother's illness. And strangely, perhaps, superstition in India had a marked influence upon this girl's life. Not that she was superstitious herself; but she was especially concerned about the common superstitious belief that results would be tragic if Indian women who were ill should be treated by male doctors. "Better they should die," was the general attitude.

In fact, the husbands of the three wives who had died had come to the mission seeking female medical assistance. If I were only a doctor I could probably have saved their lives, thought Ida. It was cause for earnest prayer. And as she knelt at length, the bright lights and ease of American cities seemed far, far away indeed. Instead she could see thousands of dusky hands reaching for life itself. And on this day of the mournful drums a great purpose was born in the heart of this

college girl. She would become a doctor and she would train other women to be doctors and nurses. Ida knew this was God's will for her life.

So Ida Scudder returned to college. She attended a women's medical school in Philadelphia. Then she enrolled at Cornell Medical School, as one of six women who entered the first co-educational classes there.

Americans and Indians had conflicting opinions concerning which sex should be doctors. A woman doctor in America was about as rare as a male one in India.

Her medical training eventually completed, Dr. Ida Scudder wanted to build a hospital in India. But she needed ten thousand dollars for the project. Almost miraculously this money was supplied by a New York banker.

The beginning was modest. A little mud-brick hospital hut was built by lepers in a village about twenty-five miles from Vellore. Upon its completion fifty lepers were scheduled to be treated by two doctors before Ida Scudder arrived for the dedication.

Frantically the doctors worked at their task. But time for the dedication had come. Ida Scudder had arrived, although patients remained to



be treated. She announced that the dedication would be delayed. Then she rolled up her sleeves and helped the other doctors with the patients.

Dr. Scudder was especially interested in helping people who lived in rural sections of India. In 1903, to initiate this work, she began establishing numerous "roadside clinics" where people could receive inoculations or other medical treatments. Those who were too poor to pay were given free treatments. Others were required to pay one and a half cents each. During the first two years more than five thousand patients were being treated yearly, and fifteen thousand lepers had had their afflictions reduced to arrested states.

By that time Dr. Scudder was receiving much help from the doctors she had trained in the medical college that she had established in Vellore, in 1918.

Her purpose was to train native women doctors, although men had told her that the timid women of India would never enroll at her school. But before the first school term opened, one hundred and fifty-one women had applied for admission. However, only seventeen of them could be accepted, because the school's equipment was not yet very extensive. Actually, school

began with only twelve books, one microscope, and one skeleton. Fortunately, as the term progressed Ida was able to get the bodies of friendless convicts for dissection. In the hospital operations were often performed under trying circumstances, sometimes even without electricity.

By 1953 the enrollment at the medical college had increased to two hundred and forty-two students. More than ten thousand inpatients were being treated yearly at the hospital. And during the same period of time about forty-five thousand outpatients were being served. The roadside clinics had become modern, and bus service enabled more than thirty thousand rural people to receive medical treatment yearly. The hospital furnished "wonder" drugs and specialists. In fact, much of South India was receiving at least a fair sample of the type of medical service common in the United States.

Although Dr. Ida was a leader and an executive, she was never the type of person who would sit back and let others do all the work. She seemed to be happier with her sleeves rolled up and her hands in action. At the age of sixty-three she reluctantly quit playing basketball with her medical students, but she still played a swift game of tennis.

In January 1960, at age ninety, she was still active in medical service, and she remained active almost until her death on May 24 of that year.

For more than sixty years this dedicated Christian doctor bravely served a need that she felt was far more important than the selfish ease she could have realized had she sought only her own comfort. Whereas native superstition helped her to see this need, when she became a doctor she constantly faced another type of fanaticism. Witch doctors and quacks insisted on prescribing weird concoctions for treatment of diseases. Not the least of their violent treatments was the application of ground glass and cayenne pepper for "eye trouble."

Yet willingly and gladly she endured hardships for God and His needy people. She became and remained a doctor not merely to compete with men or to continue a family tradition, but because God led her to see this service as her mission in life. He also gave her the grace and strength to fulfill that mission. And would anyone dare to guess the number of funeral drums that became silent because of her service?



## WHEN HEART BYPASS SURGERY IS NEEDED

"Your chest pain is caused by a partial blockage in the artery that supplies blood to your heart." Every day, growing numbers of people around the world hear their physicians speak these feared words.

For many people, coronary artery bypass (CAB) surgery will solve the problem, bringing relief from a common form of chest pain called angina pectoris.

This occurs when an obstruction of one or more arteries leading to the heart prevents it from receiving enough oxygen for the work it must perform.

If the blockage is complete, the heart muscle situated beyond the obstruction dies, and a heart attack results.

Once X-rays identify the obstruction in the coronary artery, the patient's surgeon can plan how to restore the blood supply beyond the blockage. CAB surgery involves using other blood vessels in the body to channel blood to the heart.

In one common procedure, a saphenous vein from just beneath the surface of the leg provides a conduit for the new supply of life-sustaining blood.

Another approach uses an artery already present in the chest - the internal mammary artery. During this

To bypass the blockage, the heart must be relieved of its task of providing the body with blood. A heart-lung machine performs this critical function.

Large tubes remove the blood that would normally return to the heart and be pumped to the lungs, where carbon dioxide is removed and oxygen is replaced. Instead, this blood is routed to the heart-lung machine where gases are exchanged just as they normally are in the lungs.

A second set of tubes returns this freshly oxygenated blood to circulate just beyond the heart; thus the term "bypass surgery". The surgeon will then cool the heart with ice, allowing it to stop beating so the blocked artery can be successfully bypassed.

Having successfully attached the patient to the heart-lung machine, the surgeon next removes a portion of the saphenous vein from the inner thigh, or takes the internal mammary artery from where it enters the back of the chest wall.

This area of the chest has an abundant blood supply, allowing arteries to be diverted.

First, the surgeon connects one end of the saphenous vein to the aorta (the main artery supplying blood to the entire body) and the other end of the blocked artery to a point beyond the obstruction.

When all connections have been made, the surgeon rewarms the heart or applies an electrical shock so the heart can resume beating on its own. The tubes are removed once the heart resumes normal beating.

CAB surgery can provide different benefits depending on the variety of coronary artery disease from which the patient is suffering.

If the obstruction affects the left main artery (the major artery supplying blood to the heart), CAB surgery can clearly prolong life. This is also true if three of the other primary arteries are obstructed.

If you have angina because of narrowing of the other coronary arterie or a single branch of the left main artery, CAB surgery may provide pain relief and decrease your physical limitations.

Finally, CAB surgery may be the answer if medications that you are taking cannot relieve your angina pectoris.

**Question spot: What is a heart murmur? Is it serious?**

The term "murmur" describes turbult blood flow through the heart. Blood flowing through your heart normally does not make a sound. But when the smooth flow is disrupted for some reason, your doctor can detect a murmur through a stethoscope.

Heart murmurs do not always signal disease. In this case they are called "innocent" flow murmurs.

Serious turbulence usually results from leaking heart valves. Some congenital conditions, such as hole-in-the-heart, also may cause a heart murmur. (Compass News Features).

A vegetarian diet is by far a direction in prevention; and strict adherence to elimination of all animal products, reduces risk even further. Namely, a vegan diet. "Taste and see."



**Baptism of Sr. Florence Price in Vancouver on April 11th**



## INDEX

Reformation Part 5	2
The Desire is Not Enough	6
Joash and Manasseh	10
Witness to the World	13
Time	14
Jesus Christ and You	15
The Knowledge of God	18
Keep it Simple	20
Predictions	22
Clinton McNutt - Personal Testimony	25
The Plan of Salvation	28
Current Scene	30
Copyright or Right Copy	33
Asleep in Jesus	36
Home Schooling	37
The Girl who changed her Mind	40
When Heart-Bypass Surgery is needed	42
Are We Ready?	44



## *Are We Ready?*

*As the Spirit of the Lord is withdrawn from the earth  
And the angels let the four winds blow,  
Are we preparing our hearts for the Latter Rain,  
That His Spirit may make our lights glow?*

*Do we plead for the Lord our sins to lay bare,  
That we may confess them right now?  
So the Spirit may come into our hearts in full force.  
Only through His Spirit can we know how.*

*Are we ready to witness with power from on high,  
To our families, and neighbors and friends?  
Do we want to do what He bids us to try,  
And want to go where ever He sends?*

*Are we at one with the Saviour, so dear;  
And with our brothers and sisters, too?  
Do we as a church spiritual things see so clear  
That soon we may bid this old world adieu?*

*To put into practice these things that we know;  
May God help us each step of the way.  
As we work for Him here in this earth below,  
With love and patience till the dawning of the day.*