

*The Reformation* 

# Messenger

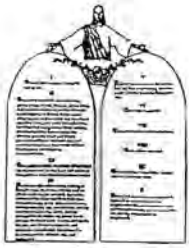
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King Salomon welcomes the Queen of Sheba  
1 Kings 10:1-13



## THE NEW COVENANT

After leaving Egypt the people of Israel made a covenant with God at Sinai. They promised to obey all the commandments and statutes that the Lord had given them. "All the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." Ex. 19:8.

But this covenant they broke. Forty days later Moses found them worshipping a golden calf. This covenant was based on human strength and Satan was able to lead them into sin so easily. Therefore a new, better covenant was needed, which was based on better promises.

In the covenant made at Sinai no eternal life was mentioned. No power of God was promised. Deuteronomy chapter 28 brings out all the promises and curses that would fall upon them depending if they obey God or not. All the blessings mentioned were for this life only.

"The terms of the "old covenant" were, Obey and live: "If a man do, he shall even live in them," (Ezekiel 20:11; Leviticus 18:5) but "cursed he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them." Deut. 27:26. The "new covenant" was established upon "better promises"—the promise of forgiveness of sins and of the grace of God to renew the heart and bring it into harmony with the principles of God's love. "This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and will unite them in their hearts... I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jer. 31:33, 34). PP, p. 372.

The new covenant is called in the Bible an everlasting covenant (Isa 24:5; Heb. 13:20). It is called the everlasting covenant because it has always existed. It is everlasting in the same way that God is everlasting. And it continues into eternity. This covenant was

revealed to Adam and Eve in Paradise after they had fallen into sin. This covenant was also presented to Abraham. (Heb. 6:13-18)

"But if the Abrahamic covenant contained the promise of redemption, why was another covenant formed at Sinai? In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of God and of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. In delivering them from Egypt, God sought to reveal to them His power and His mercy, that they might be led to love and trust Him... Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability in themselves to render obedience to God's law, and their need of a Saviour. All this they must be taught." PP, p. 371.

It is like little children who understand only punishment and favour. As they grow older they slowly are brought to the new covenant, to understand Christ's sacrifice and redemption.

When a person of the world starts to study the Bible, his first interest is in what he can get from religion. What will he gain? His service to God is based on obedience and reward. Many are baptized into the church on the terms of the old covenant. They do not love God above all. They love themselves and want to escape the hellfire and to have eternal life. The old covenant is like a stepping stone leading into the new covenant.

As the person continues to study and learn about the love of God in sacrificing His son for our sins, his love for himself is changing to love towards God.

Once Jesus said to His disciples, "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." John 15:15.

Servants work for wages but a friend works for love without wages. As the disciples learned to love Jesus they did serve Him from a different motive than in the beginning.

In the old covenant people were asked to fulfil the law as a duty of man. (Eccl. 12:13) But in the new covenant Jesus told to His hearers to walk the second mile. This went beyond duty. It was more than what the law required. The second mile was from love and it is the principle of the new covenant.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. In the new covenant God has fulfilled His part.

"The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son." DA, p. 790. Now it is up to us to fulfil our part of the covenant, which is also based on love. "Love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13:10.

Both the old and the new covenant have an important function in our salvation. Some people try to eliminate the old covenant, but we cannot do it. "The covenant that God made with His people at Sinai is to be our refuge of defense. The Lord said to Moses: (Ex. 19:3-8) "This covenant is of just as much force today as it was when the Lord made it with ancient Israel." SW, March 1, 1904.

In both covenants the law of God must be obeyed. The better promises in the new covenant make it possible for man to keep the law. This law is called the law of love.

"The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of

righteousness. God requires from all His creatures the service of love--service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service." PP, p. 34.

"If we would come into possession of the heavenly inheritance, the glorious eternal substance, we must be in covenant relationship with God." Rev & Her., Jan. 21, 1890.

"Make a covenant with God to yield yourselves and all your powers to His service." 5T, p. 163.

"Every member should feel that he has entered into a solemn covenant with the Lord to work for the best interests of His cause at all times and under all circumstances." GW, p. 200.

The covenant with God means full surrender to Him. Jesus gave His all to redeem us and nothing less is required of us. We are to keep the old covenant by rendering perfect obedience to the law of God. We also are to keep the new covenant by accepting by faith the merits of Christ's sacrifice and His atonement to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, which will make us perfect, reflecting the image of Jesus fully.

May the Lord grant this to all of us. AMEN.

Timo Martin



# GIDEON'S 300

"Gideon was the son of Joash, of the tribe of Manasseh. The division to which this family belonged held no leading position, but the household of Joash was distinguished for courage and integrity." PP, p. 546. God was not particular about the background of Gideon. He did not consider the education of this man or his vast knowledge and wisdom before He called him to do a work for Him. God only looked at the man's heart. Gideon was a "nobody" in Israel from a family that was not very well known. After his success the people wanted to crown him king – then he was a "somebody".

Gideon lived in a time when Israel was being oppressed by the Midianites. The Israelites had left the Lord to worship in the ways of the heathen and therefore God withdrew His protecting hand from His favoured people to teach them a lesson. Gideon was threshing wheat in secret when the Angel of the Lord came to him with a message from God that he was to deliver Israel from its oppressors. Gideon was more than willing to go, once he was absolutely sure that the Lord was sending him on this mission. The wool fleeces were a sure sign for him and therefore he decided to go forward in the strength of the Lord. He sounded the trumpet of war, and managed to bring together 32,000 men. This was

very little compared to the vast armies of the Midianites and Amalekites. Such a small army! What could he do? Should he call the Egyptians to his aid or perhaps the Syrians? No, he went with what he had and trusted in the Lord.

The Lord had another message for him: "The people that are with thee are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me." What a strange message for God to deliver. The people are too many? Yes, to God it was too many. Man finds his strength in numbers, but God finds His strength in quality.

This has been a problem in the minds of people all through the ages. They are dependent on large numbers.

Every time Israel was to go to battle, the officers were to speak to the people and make the announcement, "What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart." Deut. 20:5-8. Because his army was so small, he had refrained from making this usual announcement so God reminded him to do so. After he followed the proper order, 22,000 men departed of their own free will to their homes. What a shock, 22,000 men left, but God could do more with the

remaining 10,000 than with the original 32,000. "Those who were unwilling to face danger and hardships, or whose worldly interests would draw their hearts from the work of God, would add no strength to the armies of Israel. Their presence would prove only a cause of weakness." PP, p 548.

In this first shaking – the people departed of their own accord, yet the numbers were still too great for God to work with. The Lord then decided to send another test, which caused another shaking. This time the choice was the Lord's as to whom would be sent home. At the waterside there were two classes of people, there were those who, "hastily took a little water in the hand and sucked it up as they went on; but nearly all bowed upon their knees, and leisurely drank from the surface of the stream. Those who took of the water in their hands were but three hundred out of ten thousand; yet these were selected; all the rest were permitted to return home.

"By the simplest means character is often tested. Those who in time of peril were intent upon supplying their own wants were not the men to be trusted in an emergency. The Lord has no place in His work for the indolent and self-indulgent. The men of His choice were the few who would not permit their own wants to delay them in the discharge of duty." PP, p. 549.

So the Lord sent home those who were drinking a little too leisurely.

From this story of Gideon we can gather many lessons as we see how God has worked in the past and how He is working today. We could say that from Gideon's 32,000 there was a shaking. There were two tests – at the first test, the people who did not endure the test departed of their own accord, with the second test the Lord separated the people.

All throughout history there have been shakings amongst God's people and as we near the end of time, Sister White talks about a Mighty Shaking amongst God's people.

## THE NUMBERS

First of all I want to take a look at some interesting figures. If we look at Gideon's original 32,000 and we take 1% we come up with 320. So God really saw that only a little less than 1% of Gideon's army was worthy to go and fight the battle.

We have no idea how many people were alive in the time of Noah, but by the time his 8 went into the ark, I am sure it was less than 1% of the population in their day. In the time of Ancient Israel the percentage was even smaller.

On the Day of Pentecost in the Upper Room we see that there was only 120 in God's church.

With these 120 a mighty work was done through the power of the Holy Spirit and thousands were baptized. God is not limited by numbers.

In the shaking of 1844 we see the followers of God originally numbered approximately 50,000. After the passing of the time on October 22 we see about 50 followers remaining faithful. That is only 0.1% remained faithful. 99.9% were found to be base metal and shaken out.

We move on to another figure that has been quoted. In the book *Life Sketches*, we see how Sister White rejoiced over the prosperity attending many lines of work in the different countries around the world. It mentions that in Europe there were believers "totaling in 1914 upwards of thirty-three thousand." P. 307. Then there was a shaking in Europe that year and the majority of the believers were shaken out of the truth. Only 2% were found faithful this time. This 2% amounts to 660. So in Europe there were only approximately 660 faithful members that stood the test through the trial of war. The majority – through fear – left the truth and followed the world. With those 660 the Seventh-day Adventist Reform church was established (along with the 2% from the rest of the world). The church was too large, and becoming too worldly – God saw that a shaking was necessary and He could do more with those

faithful 660 than with the original 33,000.

None of these were considered the Mighty Shaking that has been prophesied to come upon God's people. God's church is often scorned today because it is small. Christians forget what God has done in the past. God is not dependent on numbers. "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people." Deut. 7:7. We never need to be ashamed if our church is small and consequently we are not to become proud if our church is large – that is all of minor importance to God. If we look at the membership today of God's church, it is probably one of the smallest churches and yet there will still be a Mighty Shaking. We have to fast and pray that we are not shaken out. "The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause." EW p. 50. So already the mighty shaking is in progress. No wonder God's church is not in the 100's of thousands as are many of the fallen churches, (including the SDA church whose membership skyrocketed once they left the line of truth and turned their back on the Lord and were rejected as His church in consequence. For proof of this see *Reformation Study Course*, Lesson 17).

## FEAR

There are two ways that people are shaken out. The first way is those who willingly depart because they are fearful.

God is testing all His people today, as He has tested them down through the ages. At every test and trial we see those turning back who are fearful. Only the courageous go on. In the Dark Ages only the strong would be faithful unto death. Many years ago we had a lady attending our church who became very fearful. She even ended up going to a doctor because of her fears. Upon relating her fears to her doctor he told her to simply change religions. She did and many of her fears disappeared. As we near the close of this earth's history, many will go out from among God's people who are fearful. They cannot stand against the persecution. They shrink from suffering for the Lord. The majority of the world will be against God's people and only the courageous will be able to stand. There will be a shaking of God's people; only the strong in faith will remain.

"Some are always fearing, and borrowing trouble. Every day they are surrounded with the tokens of God's love; every day they are enjoying the bounties of His providence; but they overlook these present blessings. Their minds are continually dwelling upon something disagreeable, which they fear may come; or some difficulty may really exist which, though small, blinds

their eyes to the many things that demand gratitude. The difficulties they encounter, instead of driving them to God, the only source of their help, separate them from Him because they awaken unrest and repining." MYP, P. 121. These fearful ones should give their fears to the Lord because, "Perfect love casteth out fear" 1 John 4:18.

"Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, and energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men who are more than weaklings." MH, p. 497. "But there is no call for the indolent, the fearful and unbelieving, who by their lack of faith and their unwillingness to deny self for Christ's sake, keep the work from advancing." MYP p. 34.

"It is not the will of God that His people should be weighed down with care. But our Lord does not deceive us. He does not say to us, "Do not fear; there are no dangers in your path." He knows there are trials and dangers, and He deals with us plainly. He does not propose to take His people out of a world of sin and evil, but He points them to a never-failing refuge. His prayer for His disciples was, "I pray not that

Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from evil." "In the world," He said, "Ye should have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 17:15, 16:33.

I have met people who become fearful as they study the 144,000 doctrine. Oh, the number is so small how will they ever be saved. That is far less than 1% of today's population and you are talking about people from as far back as 1844. Yet the times are so difficult that the Lord will not return until He has found 144,000 and He has not found them yet.

Another fear that people have is fear as to whether they will be saved or not. If this is the case they are thinking of themselves too much and not reaching out to others. "Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he [Satan] too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the centre and indulge in anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him. Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears." SC p. 71.

There is no need to fear when trials come to us if we have perfect faith and trust in the Lord. The trials will increase as

we near the end of this earth's history, and our faith must increase accordingly. If our faith does not increase, we will be shaken out. The fearful leave of their own accord.

## LAZY

The second group that was shaken out of the army of Gideon were the lazy ones. The Lord separated those. They would have happily remained since they had no fear, but the Lord sent them home. These are the ones who become lazy spiritually and who the Lord separates from the church. The Lord has given His church authority to discipline and disfellowship those members who are not living up to the standard of truth. Those who become lazy in small things will eventually become lazy in larger things, leading to open sin.

"It shall come to pass at that time, *that* I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil." Zeph. 1:12. The Israelites in the days of Zephaniah did not realize, as many Christians today do not realize, "that there must be no relaxation in our spiritual warfare this side of heaven. No one should rest content with his present spiritual attainments. Only as we show continual progress are we living up to our God-given opportunities. Complacency is the greatest enemy of a living Christian experience." *SDA*

*Bible Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 1064*

There is a real danger of complacency in churches that become so large that there are many members simply warming pews every Sabbath. If the missionary spirit was alive in God's people they would have visions that look beyond their immediate comfort zone to the regions beyond that have not heard the gospel message. Once the missionary spirit dies out in a person, the spiritual life begins to wither also. Spiritual laziness will eventually lead to open sin – and they will be separated from the family of God.

## THE REMNANT

Only a remnant will be saved. How large is that remnant? Only God knows, but that remnant will be those that are seen sighing and crying "for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." Ezek.9:4.

They are ones who are afflicting their souls – praying and fasting for the Lord's direction and guidance. They are ones who are growing in grace daily. They believe that the words of Jesus can be a reality in their lives when He said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Mat. 5:48. He didn't say, "Strive" for perfection or "try" to be perfect. He said, "BE" perfect and the Lord never asks anything of us that we cannot accomplish with His help.

How many will comprise that remnant? Will it be 50% of the present membership? Or will it be as little as 1% as we see how things have happened in the past? It doesn't matter how small it is because the Lord can save with many or with few. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6. So do not fret over the small numbers in God's church today – it just may be too many for the Lord when it comes time for Him to pour out the Latter Rain. He has done mighty works with fewer than are presently in God's church. The work is His and He will see it through until the end.

Our job is to perform the duty that the Lord puts in front of us. We are to do the work, leaving the results in the hands of the Lord. He knows what He is doing – He is in ultimate control of the affairs on this earth.

It is my wish and prayer that we will remain faithful so that we will not be fearful and depart or become spiritually lazy to the point that the Lord separates us in the time when the mighty shaking reaches its culmination just prior to the Latter Rain. Time is short. Where do you stand today?

Amen,

Wendy Eaton



## THE LORD'S GARDEN

I want to start telling you a myth, a legend and a real story. The dictionary explains that a myth is a story that distorts a real thing and gives it the appearance of something more valuable or attractive, while a legend is the story of events that are more tradition or imagination than historical and true.

Greek mythology tells us the story of a very handsome man called Narcissus, who was once wandering in the fields and came across a pond. When he saw his beauty reflected in the water he fell so deeply in love with himself that in the ecstasy of the contemplation of self he fell into the water and was drowned. In the place where this sad event took place a narcissus (daffodil) came out.

In Paraguay there is a legend about a beautiful red flower that sprouted out of the blood of an Indian princess, the daughter of a chief, who was killed by the white conquerors.

But we know a real story, the story of a man who walked upon this earth, a man who is the Son of God, a man who loved us up to death and from whose blood not only a flower, but a whole garden came up.

Let us read Song of Songs 2:10-12. "My beloved spoke and said unto me. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

The winter is over. The other day I went to the forest and under a bunch of dried leaves I found some wild, yellow flowers. That made my day, as it is said in English. I love flowers of all colours and all shapes. God, as He created our planet, planted a garden, and although that Eden does not exist anymore upon this earth, He has a garden of

walking flowers—His church—with which He wants to fill the earth with fragrance, colour and joy.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a flower? I have, many times. Brother Pap told us the other day about the first day he visited "a nursery" as he was a child. He wondered where the students were, but then he saw the plants in a line, in rows, just as students sit in a classroom and he understood. Yes, we are God's nursery school, the tender, delicate plants He cares for with loving hands.

Have you ever thought what kind of flower you are? There are many kinds and we just know a few of them. There are flowers that grow in the water, like the water lily. They are white and pink and float calmly resting upon a huge leaf. I see Brother Bottcheff as a water lily. There are others that grow on the trunk of a tree and look very unreachable, but aim very high. Is there any one here like that?

Some are like roses, they are beautiful, very expensive flowers, difficult to get, full of thorns, but they have a very delicate fragrance that they keep almost all for themselves. You have to prick your fingers and put your nose in the corolla to enjoy its aroma, but it is worthy. Is there any rose among you?

Others are like gardenias. A gardenia is white, has no particular shape or beauty, its petals are thick and juicy but wherever there is a gardenia you notice it, not because you are attracted to its looks, but because its perfume fills the house.

The jasmines belong to the same family, those tiny little ethereal flowers that creep over walls and fences. When I am in Greece I like walking at night on an island or at the foot of the Acropolis because in front of some houses there are jasmines, and even if



you don't see them in the night, their fragrance fills the air. I thank the Lord for the many jasmines in this house.

And what about the honeysuckle? That insignificant white and yellowish flower that competes with the jasmine in sweetness and ability to climb. In Spanish it is called the mother of the forest although I never saw it in a forest, while in English it carries a more descriptive name: honeysuckle, the one who sucks honey, and its aroma is actually as sweet as the golden and precious product of the busy bees.

Some flowers are cultivated in gardens while others grow wild in the fields. What kind of flower are you? When I think of myself as a flower, I can never see myself as a cultivated flower but as a wild one. And since to have a combination of two temperaments that are hard to live with: Exuberant and melancholic. I see myself represented by two flowers: the exuberant can set a whole place on fire, and the melancholic sits and regrets the mistakes made by the other half. These temperaments are represented by the poppies and the wild daisies.

When I first started coming to Europe in 1973, I always chose Italy in May because the fields were covered with poppies. Poppies have no perfume, they grow after the Spring showers, and the green fields seem to be on fire. But, what happens to a poppy if you cut it and try to keep it in a vase? In a very short time it withers. It can only live connected to the ground. Daisies don't smell but they have resistance, you can keep them in a vase for a long time, forget to give them water, and they revive right away. What can you do with a daisy? You can pluck its petals and play: "He loves me, He loves me not." Whenever I am in a "daisy mood" feeling sorry for what the poppy in me has done, and I play "He loves me, He loves me not." Do you know what the answer is? HE LOVES ME! Doesn't the same thing happen to you? Yes, JESUS LOVES US! We are His garden, and HE

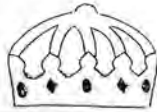
tells us that the winter is over, the rain is gone, the flowers appear on the earth. He tells us, His garden, His church: "Rise up! My love!" Why? The birds are here. In Albertirsa I am delighted to watch the birds, how they fly together in flocks, all in the same direction and sometimes one leaves the group and goes alone on a missionary trip.

Let us wake up, the Father is calling us. He tells us to rise up, He calls us: "My love, My fair one, come away." Let's find out where He wants to take us. Surely he doesn't want us to sit here looking at one another all the time. He wants us to set the fields on fire like the poppies do in Spring in Italy. Let's tell our Father: Here we are! You have called us together, "O north wind, come south, blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits." Songs 4:16. Use us for your glory "diffusing the fragrance of your knowledge in every place". 2 Corinthians 2:14.

AMEN.

Teresa Corti





## EPILOGUE TO THE MINI KING SERIES

In this series we have highlighted the lives of some of the kings of the Bible. One might ponder why the kings David, Jehosaphat, Hezekiah, or Josiah have not been mentioned. But about those rulers much has already been written. Nevertheless this may not be the end. In the future stories can be written about them.

One point should be made that the kings of the nation of Israel were not to live a life like the rulers of the heathen lands around them. No, not at all. But alas, only very few recognized their responsibilities before God and the people. Israel's kings were to be representatives of righteousness, an example how to walk before God, for the strength and security of the nation. For God would make an account of their actions and faithfulness. It was not necessary for Israel to have a king, because God was their king. However they rejected the authority of the unseen God, and thus they were allowed to have their desired human king like the Gentiles, whose recognition meant so much to them. In doing this, they chose their destiny - for most of their rulers failed in their appointed duties. These lived mostly for themselves, were power-hungry and cared not about God. This finally would bring upon them, and the nation, the wrath and curse of the Majesty of Heaven. Israel reaped at the end a most bitter harvest because they followed a course against the counsel of divine messengers, the prophets "until there was no remedy" (2. Chron. 36:16). They despised His warning words to return to the fountain of blessings, truth and life.

From the beginning, ever since the Exodus, the people of Israel would indulge in the spirit of rebellion and complaining against the authority of God. There were always individuals who were faithful at all cost, and because of them Israel prospered. But in the end, they were powerless against the increasing majority who had always cast an eye towards the practices, religion and customs of

heathen nations. Finally they would succeed in their desires. First desiring a human king like the nations around them and then the gods of them as well. They forgot to be the chosen, peculiar people, who were to make a difference before the entire world in lifestyle, religion and appearance. They were to witness about the great blessings that come from obedience to the divine commandments. They were to bring to the entire world the high standard of spiritual discernment that would develop in every one who would accept and worship the true God and Creator. The extraordinary and miraculous manifestations of divine power, bestowed upon a despised and enslaved people, to deliver them with might and glory, and to bring them into another country to possess it, did not escape the attention of the world. Israel was in the mouth of every other nation round about them and Israel had the chance to glorify God, to make Him known to them. Had they concentrated on this duty, instead of demanding a human ruler over them, how different their history would have been!

But they lost their view of their heavenly king, the Lord, "the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting King: at His wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation." Jer. 10:10.

After having a king they had to have the gods of the heathen as well! The once pious, godfearing nation, apostatized to the degree of becoming so base, as to bow down to molten images of silver and gold, to the stars, sun and moon, and were so blind as to think that they were the beloved people of God, upon whom no evil would come!

But Israel was finally carried away captive to a strange country, never to return. They came to the land of those gods they were eager to serve at home in Israel. It would cost them

their home and - if not repented of - their salvation.

The kings of Israel were all wicked, apostate rulers. Judah, by a history of ups and downs of good and bad kings, experienced the same fate some time later.

God said through Jeremiah: "I will cause them remove into all kingdoms, because of Manasseh..." (Jer. 15:4). The sins of the forefathers have an effect upon the following generations. Even though Manasseh, the only wicked king who had repented and truly converted, the consequences of his abominations and sins reached into the future. The people as a whole did not repent nor return to the Lord from the heart, to reform their lives as Manasseh did.

They simply followed what their rulers went after. Their ruler was their criterion, whether his religion pleased God or not. By this we can see what an influence the life of a king had upon the minds of the people. The people would rise only to the height of the standard their kings were exemplifying. When the king failed before God, ignoring His commandments and law, of which he was to copy, to follow after, so that his heart be not lifted up above his brethren (Deut. 18:18-20) - then the whole nation failed with him.

Some kings became vassal subjects to mighty Assyria. They had to pay heavy tribute and the nation suffered under this oppressive yoke. Then Israel was carried away, and later on some kings of Judah would be carried to Babylon, when the power of Assyria waned. Then Israel, what was left of it, was overrun by Nebuchadnezzar. The people were carried to Babylon and the temple was burned. Jerusalem was destroyed and plowed as a field. The kings of the north executed judgment and were tools of an offended God, whose tender pity for an erring people, that would not respond to the pleading of His voice, had finally

been exhausted. He would deal with them the way He warned them about for generations. The blindness of human nature is really strange. When for years it constantly ignores the call to return, and is deaf to warnings and a coming judgment, the heart becomes so hardened, the spirit so blind, that whatever the message might be, it has no more effect upon the mind. Therefore God had no choice other than to carry out what He had said through His prophets, that by any means, some might at the end acknowledge their errors, repent and return to the God of their forefathers.

It is interesting how God used strange nations as a scourge to punish apostate Israel. First it was Assyria, then Babylon. God also had a purpose in mind by doing this, because those pagans would have an opportunity to learn about the Creator and Maker of all mankind. However, because Israel failed so completely, their witness was so poor. These strangers laughed about Israel's claim to being the people of God. They had to learn the mighty arm of God, when an angel destroyed the army of King Sennacherib of Assyria. Nebuchadnezzar experienced the humiliating power of a righteous God, whom He then acknowledged and worshiped. But the nations themselves, as a whole, never accepted the God of heaven and earth. They even treated the captive Israelites roughly, instead of showing mercy. Thus, they as well, missed their opportunity and were to be punished at the end, losing their power and dominion. The Israelites carried to Assyria could have become a strong witness for the Creator had they been converted. The heathens around them might have seen the transforming power of God in them and become themselves servants of the living God. Then they would have returned to their homeland. But because they continued to serve idols, they had to remain in Assyria and were gone forever until they became extinct.

The history of Israel serves as an illustration of what the people of God should have been, what they were not, and what the end of them had to

be. For Israel had forgotten his Maker, who said through the prophet Hosea: "They have set up kings, but not by Me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off... For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind... Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein there is no pleasure... I have written to him the great things of My law, but they were counted as a strange thing." Hos. 8:4,7,8,12.

The words: "All Scripture is profitable for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," (2. Tim. 3:16), are also applicable to the history of the Hebrew kings. Their stories are for our learning. Though we are no descendents of royals, which is rather an advantage, nevertheless it is wise to take heed to what one makes of his life. Everyone has only one life to live whether he is a king or not. The example of our life creates an influence upon others around us if we like it or not. Shall we not walk humbly and lowly before God and others, so that our influence might radiate a blessing, encouragement, faith and virtue? To be a witness of a living connection with the only one King, to follow and to copy, whose impression upon the heart transforms the whole person into His likeness, the only likeness on earth truly worth to follow after? This unique king is the Majesty of Heaven itself - Jesus Christ - and to be a subject of His kingdom is indeed the greatest privilege and gift upon the earth, far exceeding any connection, not even to be compared with such of mortal, earthly royalities.

Though His kingdom is not yet visible, it soon will be set up. Everyone who wants to be a citizen in this kingdom, must now make his "calling and election sure... For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2. Pet. 1:10,11). By faith we see and follow, not after strange, dead idols, but after the word of the living God and "His exceeding precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine

nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2. Pet. 1:4)

Had the people of Israel not desired a human, erring ruler over them and rather looked to their true King in Heaven above, what a superb people they would have become. The earth would have marveled and flocked to them to become like them. The Gentiles would have desired the same God, who so wonderfully would have blessed them too. What a different record would we read today in the word of God! Therefore, choose ye, spiritual Israel of today, whom ye will serve... today's idols of pleasure and ease, or will you say with Joshua: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Josh. 24:15).

The history of old Israel will not be repeated with those who remain faithful to the heavenly King. The faithful will gloriously be welcomed into His kingdom of splendor and beauty, which is beyond imagination. He will come to take His faithful children home. Those who honored Him with trust in His power to transform them. May this be the case with everyone who ponders upon these solemn thoughts. AMEN.

By Edda Tedford



*We cannot use the Holy Spirit.  
The Spirit is to use us.  
Through the Spirit God works in  
His people "to will and  
to do of His good pleasure" (Phil.  
2:13). But many will  
not submit to this. They want to  
manage themselves.  
This is why they do not receive the  
heavenly gift. Only  
to those who wait humbly upon  
God, who watch for His  
guidance and grace, is the Spirit  
given. - DA 672 (1898).*

# THE LORD HATES (Series 1 of 3)

YES, He does hate SIN. Though we talk often on the subject that "God is Love", please understand that this theme is not about God, but is about our acts of sinning, which God hates, especially these specific ones:

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:  
A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,  
An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,  
A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. Pro.6.16 - 19

Note that three are the focus on SELF: a proud look, hands that shed innocent blood, and an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations. Three are interaction with others: a lying tongue, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. The remaining one is a combination of both: feet that be swift in running to mischief.

## FOCUS ON SELF

### 1st - A Proud Look

Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Job.40.12

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. Psa.101.5

An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin. Pro.21.4

I saw that God hates pride, and that all the proud and all that do wickedly shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up. I saw that the third angel's message must yet work like leaven upon many hearts that profess to believe it, and purge away their pride, selfishness, covetousness, and love of the world. 1T.132.003

I saw that some professed Sabbathkeepers spend hours that are worse than thrown away, in studying this or that fashion to decorate the poor, mortal body. While you make yourselves appear like the world, and as beautiful as you can, remember that the same body may in a few days be food for worms. And while you adorn it to your taste, to please the eye, you are dying spiritually. God hates your vain, wicked pride, and He looks upon you as a whited sepulcher, full of corruption and uncleanness within. 1T.134.001

We need not go back into the depths of Satan's experience; we all know what it was that caused his fall. What was that? [Congregation: "Pride."] But self was the root of the pride; self is the root of everything; pride is the fruit of self only. Satan looked at himself before he got proud of himself. If he had looked into the face of Him who sits upon the throne he never would have become proud. He would have reflected the image of Him who sits upon the throne, as that image is manifested in Jesus Christ. But when he turned His look from the face of Him who sits upon the throne and turned it upon himself, then it was that he became proud of himself. Then it was that he considered how beautiful he himself was, and his heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and he began to give himself credit for what he was. What he was came from God. But Lucifer gave himself credit for all that he was and for what he was. Did he not in that count himself as self-existent--in fact put himself in the place of God? But it all came from self, and that is the thought of it all. He said, "I will be like God. I will be like the Most High." He would be in the place of Christ, and anyone who puts himself in the place of Christ puts himself in the place of God, because God is in Christ. 93.12-006

In consideration of this, can men have one particle of self-exaltation? As they trace down the life and humiliation and sufferings of Christ, can they lift their proud heads as though they were to bear no shame, no trials, no humiliation? I say to the followers of Christ, Look to Calvary and blush for shame at your self-important ideas. All this humiliation of the Majesty of heaven was for guilty, condemned man. He went lower and lower in his

humiliation, until there were no lower depths he could reach in order to lift up man from his moral defilement. 95.17-057

But God takes none to heaven but those who are first made saints in this world through the grace of Christ, those in whom he can see Christ exemplified. When the love of Christ is an abiding principle in the soul, we shall realize that we are hid with Christ in God. Then we shall be able to say: "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Look to Calvary. Let every proud look be humbled. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." "Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place; with 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." The cry of the broken heart is as music in the ears of the Lord, because he can restore and heal. RH.1897-08-24.008

### **2<sup>nd</sup> - Hands that Shed Innocent Blood**

That innocent blood be not shed in thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and so blood be upon thee. Deut.19.10

Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. 2King.21.16

And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon. 2King.24.4

And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. Psa.106.38

Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. Isa.59.7

Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place. Jer.22.3

But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it. Jer.22.17

Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. Joel.3.19

"Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high. . . . Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken." "Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; that saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is ceiled with cedar, and painted with vermilion. Shalt thou reign because thou closest thyself in cedar? . . . Thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it." Hab. 2: 9-15; Jer. 22: 13-17. RH.1894-03-06.006

Jesus looked upon the innocent victims of sacrifice, and saw how the Jews had made these great convocations scenes of bloodshed and cruelty. In place of humble repentance of sin, they had multiplied the sacrifice of beasts, as if God could be honored by a heartless service. The priests and rulers had hardened their hearts through selfishness and avarice. The very symbols pointing to the Lamb of God they had made a means of getting gain. Thus in the eyes of the people the sacredness of the sacrificial service had been in a great measure destroyed. The indignation of Jesus was stirred; He knew that His blood, so soon to be shed for the sins of the world, would be as little appreciated by the priests and elders as was the blood of beasts which they kept incessantly flowing. DA.590.001

Little did the Jews realize the terrible responsibility involved in rejecting Christ. From the time when the first innocent blood was shed, when righteous Abel fell by the hand of Cain, the same history had been repeated, with increasing guilt. In every age prophets had lifted up their voices against the sins of kings, rulers, and people, speaking the words which God gave them, and obeying His will at the peril of their lives. From generation to generation there had been heaping up a terrible punishment for the rejecters of light and truth. This the enemies of Christ were now drawing down upon their own heads. The sin of the priests and rulers was greater than that of any preceding generation. By their rejection of the Saviour, they were making themselves responsible for the blood of all the righteous men slain from Abel to Christ. They were about to fill to overflowing their cup of iniquity. And soon it was to be poured upon their heads in retributive justice. Of this, Jesus warned them:

"That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation." DA.618.003 - DA.619.001

The scriptures clearly sympathize with the victims that were slain. What agony for Christ, who was offered as a sacrifice and so, so many did and will reject HIM. Jesus reminds us how not to act in the final moments as outlined;

And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled. Matt.26.51 - 56

### **3<sup>rd</sup> - An Heart that Deviseth Wicked Imaginations**

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. 1Chr.28.9

Thou hast seen all their vengeance and all their imaginations against me. Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, and all their imaginations against me; Lam.3.60 - 61

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Rom.1.21

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2Cor.10.5

The Law in Noah's Time. In Noah's time the law of God was made void. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Evil and violence prevailed; appetite and passion controlled men, and reason was dethroned. Cruelty and violence, misery and horror, were the prevailing characteristics of the time. And the Lord sent Noah to warn the wicked inhabitants of the old world that in a hundred and twenty years He would send a flood of waters to destroy them from off the face of the earth. BE.1895-07-29.003

Jesus spoke as one having knowledge and authority. The denunciation he uttered against the Jews condemned their formalism and hypocrisy. His scathing rebukes and denunciation of formalism have the same force today as they had in the days of the scribes and Pharisees, and apply to those who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. The God of infinite holiness cannot accept external service as spiritual worship. Those who worship God must worship him in spirit and truth, or their service is vain. There must be reality in the religious ceremonies, or they are simply pretensions, hollow abominations. But though Jesus

rebuked the priests and religious teachers for their formalism and hypocrisy, yet how forbearing and tender were his lessons to the poor, the oppressed, the afflicted, and discouraged. The priests and rulers, the scribes and Pharisees, destroyed the living pastures, and defiled the well-springs of the water of life. By their false precepts they confused the understanding, and clouded that which was clear. They misrepresented God by their hardness of heart, by their impurity, pride, and selfishness. They made God altogether such a one as themselves. Their imagination was darkened and polluted by their wicked works. Because of their religious degeneracy they could discern nothing that pertained to the spiritual kingdom of Christ. Through rejecting the messages of mercy brought to them by the Lord of light and glory, they became, in their stubborn resistance, past feeling. They had evidence in abundance of the divine character and mission of Christ, and increased evidence would only have increased their guilt. Thinking themselves to be wise, they became fools. As men do to-day, so they did then, and used the very intellect that God had given them to brand with falsehood his eternal truth. SS.1894-12-01.004

Unmindful of the solemn words of the man of God, the people of that age continued their course of merriment, gratifying the desires of their carnal natures, and following the corrupt imaginations of their hearts. After rejecting the messenger of truth, they plunged more deeply than ever into the business of planting, and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. The time of their probation was spent as if it were one long holiday; and Noah and his predictions were the jest of the careless, wicked scoffers of the age. But while the people were lulled to sleep in the cradle of carnal security, the windows of heaven were opened, and the fountains of the great deep were broken up; and the prophecy was fulfilled, and "the world that then was being overflowed with water, perished." RH 1888-09-25.002

Enoch walked with God, while of the world around him, sacred history records, "The wickedness of man was great in the earth," "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Enoch's righteous life was in marked contrast with that of the wicked people around him. His piety, his purity, his unswerving integrity, were the result of his walking with God, while the wickedness of the world was the result of their walking with the deceiver of mankind. RH.1909-04-15.004

We are now on the very borders of the heavenly Canaan. You know how it was with ancient Israel. Satan, through his agents, worked with his temptations, and licentiousness came into the camp in a very bold defiant attitude. The very harshest punishments alone could stop the bold advance of impurity and crime. Well, we are now on the borders of the heavenly Canaan, and those who are not now with all the advantages, all the light and evidences of truth shining upon us as a people, purifying their souls by living up to these advantages, are like the inhabitants of Sodom and the antediluvian world, walking in the imaginations of their own hearts. What guilt rests upon those who make this choice! The wickedness of the antediluvians and Sodomites was much that God could not perpetuate their headstrong, independent, wicked lives. In mercy he proved himself a God of vengeance. He who could so abundantly bless, who was so full of compassion, ready to pardon, going forth to meet the returning prodigal, humbling himself at every step to meet man in his fallen condition, ready to heal the bruised and smitten, will show himself strong to punish the persistent, independent despisers of his grace. PH002.026.001

Written by Bro. Richard Lapensée  
Montréal, Canada

**Never will the human heart know happiness until it is submitted to be molded by the Spirit of God. The Spirit conforms the renewed soul to the model, Jesus Christ. Through its influence, enmity against God is changed into faith and love, and pride into humility. The soul perceives the beauty of truth, and Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. -OHC 152 (1896).**



# SABBATH IN THE HOME

E.G. White

“Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God’s word, to sing and pray. There is need of reform here, for many have been remiss. We need to confess to God and to one another. We should begin anew to make special arrangements that every member of the family may be prepared to honor the day which God has blessed and sanctified.

Let not the precious hours of the Sabbath be wasted in bed. On Sabbath morning the family should be astir early. If they rise late, there is confusion and bustle in preparing for breakfast and Sabbath school. There is hurrying, jostling, and impatience. Thus unholy feelings come into the home. The Sabbath, thus desecrated, becomes a weariness, and its coming is dreaded rather than loved.

We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. Overeating befogs the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to dishonor God...

At family worship let the children take part. Let all bring their Bibles and each read a verse or two. Then let some familiar hymn be sung, followed by prayer. For this, Christ has given a model. The Lord’s Prayer was not intended to be repeated merely as a form, but it is an illustration of what our prayers should be – simple, earnest, and comprehensive. In a simple petition tell the Lord your needs and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as a welcome guest into your home and heart. In the family long prayer concerning remote objects are not in place. They make the hour of prayer a weariness, when it should be regarded as a privilege and blessing. Make the season one of interest and joy.

The Sabbath School and meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children. In many families the younger children are left alone, the children soon become restless and begin to play or engage in some kind of mischief. Thus the Sabbath has to them no sacred significance.

In pleasant weather let parents walk with their children in the fields and groves. Amid the beautiful things of nature tell them the reason for the institution of the Sabbath. Describe to them God’s great work of creation. Tell them that when the earth came from His hand, it was holy and beautiful. Every flower, every shrub, every tree, answered the purpose of its Creator. Everything upon which the eye rested was lovely and filled the mind with thoughts of the love of God. Every sound was music in harmony with the voice of God. Show that it was sin which marred God’s perfect work; that thorns and thistles, sorrow and pain and death, are all the result of disobedience to God. Bid them see how the earth, though marred with the curse of sin, still reveals God’s goodness...Not a drop of rain falls, not a ray of light is shed on our unthankful world, but it testifies to the forbearance and love of God.

Tell them of the way of salvation; how “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Let the sweet story of Bethlehem be repeated. Present before the children Jesus, as a child obedient to His parents, as a youth faithful and industrious, helping to support the family. Thus you can teach them that the Saviour knows the trials, perplexities, and temptations, the hopes and joys, of the young, and that He can give them sympathy and help. From time to time read with them the interesting stories in Bible history. Question as to what they have learned in the Sabbath school, and study with them the next Sabbath’s lesson.

As the sun goes down, let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise mark the close of the sacred hours and invite God’s presence through the cares of the week of labor.



Thus parents can make the Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord, honorable.

I counsel you, my brethren and sisters: "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY." If you desire your children to observe the Sabbath according to the commandment, you must teach them by both precept and example. The deep engraving of truth in the heart is never wholly effaced. It may be obscured, but can never be obliterated. The impressions made in early life will be seen in afteryears. Circumstances may occur to separate the children from their parents and their home, but as long as they live the instruction given in childhood and youth it will be a blessing." 6T 357-359.

Submitted by: Chester Cosby



Brother Cholich, Brother Ernie Gale, Sister Manolita  
Sister Alexandra, Brother Tony Salaviov and Brother  
Jean-Claude Hecquet



Conference in Australia



## TEMPERANCE

*“We must begin to labour on the subject of temperance. We must take this matter up in the way that the Lord has often presented to me should be done.”*

*Letter 334, 1905.*

One may not know the influence one has in the temperance witness, and we may feel a bit left out in the booze ridden society that we are in here in New Zealand, but one day I was asked by a family relation for some non-alcoholic drink recipes for a coming wedding. This to me was good news, and reassurance to my temperance witness. I duly supplied the request and some grape juice as well.

Another time my wife and I were invited to a 21<sup>st</sup> party and I tell you these affairs here in New Zealand can get wild with booze. I felt sorry for the younger set there, some coming to the party in their souped up cars, and I knew that they would be tanked up as well as their cars that evening. And this particular evening, making it known to the hostess that my wife and I will not be staying too late at the party, behold I was sought out by the hostess as I was just leaving to take somebody home, knowing I don't drink alcohol, trusting that I would get home safely from the party. Many accidents on the roads are caused by these affairs in this country.

### One More Short Story

While a temperance worker in the SDA church I was wondering how to get the temperance message across to the young people of the church. So I decided to operate a bar. Yes, a bar, and I've still got it out in the garage for the young people. I thought this would be a great idea and they thought so also. I served them non-alcoholic boysenberry fruit juice drink in not too large glasses, which they enjoyed very much, thereby being educated to a better lifestyle of drinking as taught in the Spirit of Prophecy. As some SDA's now include alcoholic wine with their meals as advocated by worldly doctors to aid digestion and relaxation. But we as Reformers know better, and will omit all alcoholic beverages all together, drinking only the pure fruit juices.

In Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 112, it says: “as we near the close of time, we must rise higher and still higher upon the question of health and Christian temperance, presenting it in a more positive and decided manner. We must strive continually to educate the people, not only by our words but by our practice. Practice and precept combined have a telling influence.”

*“Shall there not be among us as a people a revival of  
the temperance work” CH, 432*

*“The Man in the Gutter”*

While about to turn into the street where I live named Joy Street I noticed a man sitting on the edge of the sidewalk, swaying and unable to control himself, having a large bottle of booze in one hand and another by the side of him was broken in pieces with its contents spilled all over the pathway which is about the only good part of the sorry story. You see, the man was in a complete drunken stupor, unable to get on his feet.

I pulled up in my car to assist the poor man in some way but this was very difficult, to say the least considering the condition he was in, on asking him where he lived to take him home safely. I could not get an intelligent reply. I thought, How can I help this man? Then an idea came to my mind. I somehow urged him to look in his pockets for a card or letter on him. I was able to get him into my car and get him to his address safely. Before leaving him at his front door I gave him a gospel tract to read when he sobered up. I guess this is a straightforward story with more or less a happy and safe ending. But, what intrigued me in the whole sorry affair was how long he sat there in the gutter before I stopped to help him. And how long would he have been there if I had not stopped? Didn't Jesus say: "If ye do it to the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

*“A weapon more effective than the ax”  
Temperance, p. 135*

God wants us to stand where we can warn the people. He desires us to take up the temperance question. By wrong habits of eating and drinking, men are destroying what power they have for thought and intelligence. We do not need to take an ax and break into their saloons. We have a stronger weapon than this—the Word of the living God, that will cleave its way through the hellish shadow which Satan seeks to cast athwart their pathway. God is mighty and powerful. He will speak to their hearts. We have seen him do this. General Conference Bulletin, April 23, 1901.

AMEN.

Ernie Gale



# AUSTRALIAN FIELD CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 3, 1999

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10.*

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 30

On Thursday morning, Brother Andrade Welcomed everyone to the conference from around the world: America, Canada, New Zealand, Queensland, Woolgoolga, Port Macquarrie, Lismore, and around Sydney....

In the days of Israel difficult times came to God's people when they departed from His will. – When they trusted in God everything was well.

"And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten." 2 Chron. 20:22. Many of these nations were relatives of Israel, who loved wickedness. They lost their spiritual side and wanted to destroy Israel. The enemies of Israel were defeated, not by swords or arrows, but by singing and praises. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Mat. 6:10. Truly, we are to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And if this is true, then we will be glad to bring words of encouragement and blessings to our conference. We cannot accomplish the will of God ourselves, but rather we must have help from God and we must all work together.

After the welcoming address we spent the rest of the morning and afternoon hours engaged in our church business meeting.

In the evening, Br. Cholich, spoke to us about the parable in Luke 14,

where a man made a great supper and called his friends to the supper. Many years ago, the modern communications and postal systems were not available and therefore an invitation had to be made by messengers, by the spoken word instead of in written form. During the first call, the man called for his friends. When the messengers returned, not one of those invited was willing to come. The messengers were sent to "Go out quickly into the lanes and streets of the city, and bring hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind" (V21), some came but yet there was still room available. Finally they went a third time to "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in." (v.23). Br. Cholich compared this parable to the three angels' messages. When the first angel's message went out, William Miller went to the Protestant churches, they all rejected the message. When no success was seen the second angel's message came. It was proclaimed quickly, for a short period of time, but yet there was still room. There are 144,000 rooms to fill so the third angel's message has come with urgency. This is to sound throughout the whole world and we are to "Compel" them to come in. We are to talk, talk and talk with the people. People are very busy today and often need two or three calls until they will listen and accept. Paul says, "Today" if we hear His voice we must not harden our hearts.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 1

Brother Eaton spoke our first meeting in the morning to us. He

spoke about, "Who is the Greatest." Jesus tells us in Mathew 18:1 that we are to be as a little child. What does Jesus mean when He asks us to be as a little child? "In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." 1 Cor. 14:20. Often we get hurt or slighted unintentionally by our brethren, but we must have no malice in return. People in the world may treat us unfairly purposely and again we must show no malice. Brother Eaton then spoke about various different ways in which we show our spiritual greatness. A truly great man is amiable in conversation, generous in character, and strong and unmovable in defending the truth. Prosperity will not make him proud and unreachable and leanness will not make him angry and malicious. He will show the love of God and be free and happy like children. As a church, in order to receive the Latter Rain we must put aside all desire for supremacy and come into unity of thought, feeling and action. We must not ask what the church can do for us; rather what can we do for the church.

Brother Salaviov from New Zealand spoke to us in the next hour. He brought us news from the church in New Zealand. He began by telling us that the New Zealand church is a happy church. He then related some of his experiences in missionary work. One lady in particular told him that she prefers coming to Br. Salaviov's church instead of attending her own church. Br. Salaviov asked her, "Why?" and she replied by saying, "Because this is the church of

love.” We must have the love of God in our hearts. We need to pray the prayer of David in Psalm 51:10 because we are all sinful. Our nature must be changed. It will take a struggle because as Paul said, there is “another law working in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” Rom. 7:23. The Lord wants to make us free from sin. There are many asking the question, “What must I do to be saved?” They don’t need so much sermonizing, as they need personal contact and direction. It is our duty to show them the way if we have found it.

After spending Friday afternoon in Sabbath preparation, Brother Jean-Claude Hecquet, from New Caledonia, led the Sabbath opening service at 5:45 P.M. He spoke about “The Rising Sun.” He began by reminding us of the many disasters happening around us, signifying that we are very close to the end of time, perhaps closer than we may think. What must we do to be ready? “Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring [marginal reading says “sun rising”] from on high hath visited us.” Luke 1:78. The rising sun gives life to nature and to the world. If there is no rising sun, there is no life. We are to be like this rising sun. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the rising sun whom we are to reflect and without them all mankind would be lost.

Brother Andrade continued speaking about the heart. From the heart begins all sin. We see how sin began in the heart from the story of David and Bathsheba. A man had to die to cover the sin of the king. After this terrible sin, David prayed the prayer in Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a clean

heart...” Yes, he was forgiven but he had a lot of trouble in his life afterwards. This sin all began from his heart. He should have been in the battlefield but he was at home instead, relaxing, with not much to do, and then the trouble began. Then Br. Andrade shared his experience this past summer when he had pain in his heart and the doctors didn’t give him much good news. The Lord brought him healing though. The heart is very important – take care of it, with proper exercise and diet. Spiritually our heart is dirty and Jesus wants to take it away and give us a clean heart. He concluded with the story of King Nebuchadnezzar found in Daniel 4. When he sinned his heart was changed to a beast for 7 years, until he acknowledged God as the supreme ruler. If you have troubles with your heart, pray as David did. “Create in me a clean heart...”

#### **SABBATH, OCT. 2**

After a lively Sabbath School, Brother Cholich brought to us the Divine Service. Before he began, he introduced the new officers in the two new Fields.

His subject was found in Matthew 24:24. “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Today there are many false christs and prophets, each teaching their own doctrines. Many are looking for the kingdom to be set up on this earth. The Jews also are still looking for the Messiah. How can we be sure we are safe from false christs? If the devil comes as a despicable creature, very few would follow him. If he came in the form of a serpent and said, “You shall not surely die,” you would flee from him because you know the story of

Adam and Eve. If he came looking like a Christian and preaching Catholicism, again you would not listen. A Protestant may come and preach Sunday and again we would know it is false. What is the most difficult for us to discern? When the difference is very small. A man who specializes in detecting counterfeit money was asked how he could tell the difference so well. He replied by saying that he does not study the counterfeit bills, rather he studies the genuine so carefully that he can recognize the false immediately. We must study the genuine truth also very carefully so we can be quick to discern error.

When the third angel does the sealing, what is He doing? He is discerning the genuine from the false. Everything will be separated in God’s appointed way. The SDA church began shaking and separating from 1814 to 1915. In 1915 there were about 150,000 members worldwide and most were shaken out – 2% remained, approximately 3,000. The Reform church has been in existence from 1914 to 1999 – 85 years – and has been under God’s shaking. The shaking will not stop until the end.

Often God’s church has been criticized because of its small amount of members. They ask how we will ever be able to finance the proclamation of the message to the ends of the earth. This small number has a great work to do. There is no place in the Bible where God’s followers were a large number. It is only human logic that uses the argument of numbers. That is not God’s policy. In the time of Nebuchadnezzar, when he threw the three Hebrew worthies into the fiery furnace, and came out alive, who paid for the proclamation of the message? The King did not tell the Hebrew, “Now you pay to make a proclamation that everyone

worships your God." No, he said, "I make a decree, . . ." The King paid for the message to be preached to the ends of the earth. So it is today with the modern communications systems, it will not be so much God's people who will finance the message going forward, rather when God's people are persecuted, people will be asking what they believe and the newspapers will print our doctrines and they will be broadcast on the media. The message will go out in God's appointed way. We must simply do our duty where we are and leave the rest to God. We are not promised a smooth life, but He gives us faith that we can stand against the false teachers.

In the afternoon, we had a young people's meeting when the younger as well as older youth shared songs and testimonies – praises to our God.

For the close of Sabbath, Brother Ernie Gale brought a lesson from King David's commission to his son concerning the building of the temple. What made it so wonderful was the fact that God's presence was there. Today we are building God's spiritual kingdom in our hearts. Like Solomon we must keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord. Sabbath is a blessed time when we are able to put our tools down. Brother Gale then related some of his personal experiences while growing up in Europe. He is originally from England and there was so much war. (He lived through the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.) He decided that he wanted to get as far away from the war as possible and that is why he ended up in New Zealand. He got married and raised a family and is alive to see his great-grandchildren but the most wonderful experience was finding the Lord. Today he is busy in the health ministry in New

Zealand. It is a very important work in this day and age of intemperance and indulgence – which is the cause of the majority of illnesses. It is a fearful time in which we live and the fearful and unbelieving will be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 21:18). Only a remnant will be saved.

### **SUNDAY, OCT. 3**

In the morning we had a 2-hour health seminar led by Sister Jenny Nalder and her friend Diane. We have a wonderful health message today and we are called to spread the message. Diane gave a brief history of what sparked her interest in the health message. She had breast cancer many years ago at a time when she thought she was relatively healthy, being a vegetarian. Today, after much study into Health Reform she is completely cured. Then she got severe rheumatoid arthritis in her feet and the doctors told her she would be in a wheel chair very soon. She simply told the doctors, "You can say that – but you don't know who my Doctor is!" Today she still walks and although she still suffers a little from the arthritis, she is steadily improving day by day.

With the use of an overhead projector the sisters shared with us God's Plan for our health in detail.

**GODLY TRUST  
OPEN AIR  
DAILY EXERCISE  
SUNSHINE**

**PROPER REST  
LOTS OF WATER  
ALWAYS TEMPERATE  
NUTRITION**

Often we have seen "Trust in God" at the bottom of the list, but we must go to God first and keep Him at the top. The worst cause of

disease today is stress. Stress reduces your immune system's capability by 97%. We live in such a fast paced society today and stress is a major problem. The issues concerning stress were discussed. Health Reform is much more than vegetarianism and we are all called to make it an important study in our lives.

After the health meeting, Brother Eaton led out in the Lord's Supper Service. He spoke to us about the price tag for Unity. Is there a short cut to maturity? In Ephesians 4:11,13 we read that "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;... Till we all come into the unity of faith." It is a very childish world that we live in. There are many children, "Tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine." We are to be mature Christians, firmly rooted and grounded in the truth. Brother Eaton then continued to give us counsels on how we can obtain this Christian maturity. The price of unity is death to self.

Our conference came to a close with a short testimony service with many visitors and members praising God for the blessed conference, and how it was good to be here. We are the family of God and when we are with the Lord, we are never alone. We all separated, much encouraged and strengthened to try and bring the message to others and extend our spiritual family to others.



# **REORGANIZATION OF THE AUSTRALIA/ SOUTH PACIFIC MISSION FIELD**

“God is a God of order. Everything connected with heaven is in perfect order; subjection and thorough discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. Success can only attend order and harmonious action. God requires order and system in His work now no less than in the days of Israel. All who are working for Him are to labor intelligently, not in a careless, haphazard manner. He would have His work done with faith and exactness, that He may place the seal of His approval upon it.” PP 376. “Has God changed from a God of order? No; He is the same in the present dispensation as in the former. Paul says: ‘God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.’ He is as particular now as then. And He designs that we should learn lessons of order and organization from the perfect order instituted in the days of Moses for the benefit of the children of Israel.” 1T 653.

The purpose of “order and organization” in the church of God was not to design a system of dictatorship – kingly rule. Rather its purpose was for the furtherance of the work of God. As we organize our churches and Mission Fields we should keep uppermost in our minds the salvation of souls. We must study how we can bring the message to the farthest places, with the greatest efficiency and the least amount of money. This idea has held an important place in the minds of the believers in the South Pacific. The Mission Field here is so vast the expense of travel can be quite exorbitant. Brother Cholich, from the General Conference, has been studying the situation in our Mission Field along with other members of the General Conference and they brought to us the idea of separating into two different Mission Fields under the General Conference. In the past the area has consisted of only one Mission Field. With two Mission Fields the cost of travel would be reduced because, no longer would someone have to travel from Australia to visit the islands. Travel between the islands is much cheaper. The area is so vast that it was decided that each Mission Field could concentrate on a smaller area and thus the message could go further. The new Mission Fields would be: The Australian Mission Field and the Pacific Islands Mission Field. Upon much discussion with the delegates about the pros and cons of the situation, it was decided to accept the proposal.

The organization of the new Mission Fields are as follows:

## **The Pacific Islands Mission Field:**

President: Tony Salaviov (New Zealand)

Secretary/Treasurer: Jean Brewer (New Zealand)

Auditor: Maria Salaviova

Field Committee: Tony Salaviov, Jean Brewer, Ernie Gale (representing New Zealand), Jean-Claude Hecquet (representing New Caledonia), Frances Chute (representing Fiji).

Delegate to the General Conference: Tony Salaviov

## **The Australian Mission Field:**

President: Jerry Eaton

Secretary: Jenny Nalder

Treasurer: Nada Stefanovic

Youth Leader: Marlene Reid

Health Leader: Anita Andrade

Missionary Leader: Wendy Eaton

Committee Members: Jerry Eaton, Jenny Nalder, Nada Stefanovic, Marlene Reid, John Altwein

Delegate to the General Conference: Jerry Eaton.

Brother Andrade, the past President of the Australia/South Pacific Mission Field, has agreed to work ‘on special assignment’ under the General Conference as he will be needed for important projects around the South Pacific and World. Brother Andrade has been a great help for these two Mission Fields in the past. He has worked from Australia for the past 11 years. We look forward to his continued encouragement and counsel.

We ask for your prayers for this new organization of the work that the leaders can make wise decisions for the furtherance of the work. They both still have a vast area to work with and need our prayers and support.

Thank you.



## Current Scene

**Food fight?** *The Toronto Star*, Aug. 22, 1999  
**"Some call them Frankenstein foods. Genetically modified fruits and vegetables are on store shelves, and Australia, Canada and the U.S. are leading the cheering for them. But are they safe?"**

"The fight over genetically engineered food has all the drama of a sophisticated thriller. At one level, it is a story of high-level politics and international intrigue, as countries where the technology is firmly entrenched - particularly the United States, Australia and Canada - alternately woo and bully the rest of the world to accept genetically engineered crops.

"At another, it is a story of action leavened by farce. Last month, for instance, a gaggle of British Greenpeacers - dressed in white decontamination suits and led by their executive director, Lord Peter Melchett - charged into a farmer's field to destroy genetically engineered crops.

"As bemused reporters looked on, angry farmers retaliated by smashing Greenpeace vehicles with their tractors and chasing protestors through the waving fields of corn.

"The British press quickly dubbed the genetically engineered food 'Frankenstein food.'

"There are health scares and allegations of cover-ups: Arpad Pustazi, a respected British scientist, warns that a

certain type of genetically engineered potato damages the immune system of rats; he is immediately fired from his job with a government funded research institute, while his findings are dismissed by fellow researchers from Britain's Royal Society as flawed and inconclusive.

"Was Pustazi engaging in fishy science? Or, as is claimed by his supporters (including, oddly enough, Prince Charles), was he sandbagged by a pro-biotech scientific/government establishment wedded to the technology?

"Studies from Cornell University, Iowa State University and Switzerland report that genetically altered corn appears fatal to the monarch and other butterflies. A problem? Or, as supporters of genetic engineering such as the University of Guelph's Doug Powell insist, a tempest in a teacup?

"And throughout North America, superweeds-the result of herbicide-resistant, genetically engineered crops mating with their more common cousins-are on the rise.

"Those behind the technology include some of the most powerful firms in the world, companies such as St. Louis-based Monsanto Co. and Switzerland's Novartis AG, which have gambled billions on their bet that biotechnology will be the wave of the future.

"Certainly, the science is futuristic. Since 1982, when Monsanto scientists made one of the first commercial breakthroughs, genetic splicing has taken off in directions that, to the layman, would seem bizarre.

"Fish genes have been inserted into strawberries, viruses into squash, bacterial genes into corn.

"Monsanto has even purchased rights to what is called 'the terminator,' a genetic technology designed to create plants that won't reproduce (meaning that anyone who relies on them would have to rely on Monsanto or other biotech firms for seed to produce future crops.)

"Certainly, the general public are already wary of genetic meddling. Cloning attempts have been controversial. And efforts to patent life forms - particularly the genetic patterns of isolated Third World peoples - have been met with widespread outrage.

"So the industry began to lean more on an alternate strategy. Like any new product, genetically modified crops have to be approved by regulatory bodies - the Food and Drug Administration in the U.S., the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Canada.

"However, if the regulatory bodies could be convinced that these crops were not 'substantially different' from their normal cousins, they would not require labeling.

"That battle was fought in the U.S. in the early '90s and when the dust cleared, the biotech firms had won. Genetically altered foods, even though different from normal varieties, would be deemed to be substantially the same. Canadian regulators quickly followed suit.

"By 1996, the big biotech firms were ready to move. Monsanto was first out of the blocks. With assets of 17 billion, Monsanto is a multinational with impeccable political connections and an uncanny knack for figuring out the next profitable innovation. Over the century, it has been a leader in



virtually every hot, new commodity - saccharine, artificial fertilizers, chemicals, plastics, nuclear research, and pharmaceutical drugs.

"It was a dangerous gamble. Monsanto now makes 76 percent of its pre-tax earnings from agricultural products such as genetically engineered crops. If they falter, so will Monsanto.

"So when, in 1996, Monsanto received U.S. government approval to market its new genetic breakthrough, Roundup Ready soybeans, the industry had a new strategy in place: identify the genetically altered crops to the producer, but not to the consumer.

"Since normal and genetically engineered crops were deemed substantially similar by Canadian and U.S. regulators, they could be mixed indiscriminately and no one would be the wiser.

"In both Canada and the U.S., genetically engineered crops took off. In Canada, an estimated 55 percent of canola, 45 percent of corn and 25 percent of soybeans grown are genetically engineered. In the U.S., the percentages are higher.

"Now genetically modified soy, canola, corn, potatoes, cotton and other crops are mixed randomly with their normal counterparts in grain cars, mills and processing plants.

"The food processors that receive the raw ingredients have no idea which are genetically altered. And except for those who buy organic products (which, in Canada, may contain no more than 5 percent genetically modified material), neither do the final consumers.

"As a result, Canadians consume tonnes of genetically engineered foods each day - from corn and potato chips to

breakfast cereal; from whiskey to jam to tofu. For not only did Canada and the U.S. not require labeling, both also insisted that no one could engage in any form of labeling that suggested genetically modified forms were somehow bad for human health.

In fact, to even advertise a product as free from genetic modification might be deemed illegal in Canada. Given this favourable regulatory climate, the new Monsanto soybean was a perfect corporate product. A genetically engineered seed, it was designed to survive a particular broad-use herbicide named Roundup.

"A farmer could douse his fields with Roundup secure in the knowledge that the herbicide would kill everything but the Roundup Ready soybean. And the beauty of it was that Monsanto made Roundup, too. Roundup Ready crops (soy was later followed by Roundup Ready canola and cotton) closed the circle.

"Monsanto sold, at a hefty premium, the genetically engineered seeds that were resistant to Monsanto's herbicide. And it demanded that participating farmers sign contracts relinquishing all rights to save seed from one crop for the next year's replanting.

"Should a farmer be foolish enough to plant from his own saved seed rather than buying new supplies from Monsanto, company inspectors were ready to pounce.

"Claiming the right to protect its patent, the company has not hesitated to threaten lawsuits against hundreds of North American farmers it says planted unauthorized seeds.

"In Canada, it has hired ex-RCMP officers as investigators and encouraged neighbors to

inform on one another through 1-800 snitch lines. In one case earlier this year, Monsanto admitted that it trespassed on the land of Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser in order to find out if his canola came from genetically altered seed. Having decided that it did, Monsanto sued.

"Schmeiser, who claims the seed was blown on to his land by wind, has since launched a countersuit against Monsanto for trespassing, contaminating his crops and defamation.

"Their policy is pitting neighbor against neighbor," he told one newspaper. 'They're urging people to squeal on each other, to be stool pigeons. It's terrible.'"

"But the real genius of Monsanto and the other biotech companies lies in their ability to bring two crucial groups onside - farm organizations and university researchers.

"In fact, the miracle nature of the new genetically engineered crops may not be quite as advertised. At a conference in Guelph last year, experts warned that different and more aggressive types of weeds are threatening to sprout up in fields planted with genetically engineered seed.

"As the magazine *Ontario Farmer* reported, Dr. Michael Owen of Iowa State University predicted that after all costs are taken into account, farmers using genetically engineered crops alone to control weeds won't be much better off than they are now.

"Not all farm organizations are onside with the new technology. Earlier this year, the national Farmers Union announced it wants stiffer laws to make biotech firms financially liable for any 'genetic pollution' caused when - as does happen - genetically engineered crops crossbreed with either normal varieties or weeds.

"The Christian Farmers' Federation of Ontario has also questioned whether the new technology is worth the trouble. But the weight of the organized farm lobby in North America seems to lie with genetic engineering.

"In Ontario, an umbrella farm organization first formed in the late '80s to deal with public concerns about pesticide use, has switched its focus to promote genetically engineered crops.

"Critics point out that unexpected results have already occurred. For example: Roundup Ready and other genetically engineered crops have mated with nearby weeds, producing a new breed of herbicide-resistant superweeds. At best, the critics say, this makes the new technology pointless. For if the new weeds are resistant to Roundup, then new herbicides will have to be added to kill them. What's more, if genetically engineered organisms can jump species in nature, what happens when they are ingested by the human body?

"Genetically engineered Bt corn has proven fatal to monarch butterflies in certain situations. As well, some scientists say that British scientist Arpad Pusztai's warnings about the long-term effect of genetically engineered substances on the immune system are still valid. Indeed, even the Royal Society - while dismissing the results of Pusztai's particular experiment - said the question he was trying to address still remains unanswered.

"Joe Cummins, a professor emeritus of genetics at the University of Western Ontario, is one who takes these warnings seriously. He argues that given the uncertainty

surrounding this new science, genetically engineered foods should be presumed unsafe by government regulators unless proven otherwise.

"Indeed, much of the controversy goes right back to government. Skeptics ask why governments, which on paper, at least, insist that any new pharmaceutical drug be rigorously tested, simply assume that a seed that has been genetically modified in a laboratory is substantially the same as its normal cousin.

"In Britain, the British Medical Association has questioned the methods used to approve genetically engineered crops. In Australia, that country's medical association has demanded that, at the least, genetically modified foods be labelled.

"The European Union has effectively imposed a moratorium on new genetically engineered crops until more research can be done and regulations crafted. Japan has just issued a new set of regulations demanding limited labeling of genetically modified foods, a move which - according to the Australian media - was quietly but vigorously opposed by the Canadian government.

"So far, the Canadian and U.S. government have been fighting holding actions, resisting all but the most minimal labeling. And government agencies have consistently funded and supported the biotech interests.

"For example, when the Cornell study suggesting that Bt corn might kill butterflies was released, Ottawa responded immediately by announcing it would fund research on the scope of the problem in Canada. Yet the move did little to reassure critics. For Ottawa also announced that this research would be conducted by none other than the Ontario Bt Coalition, a group of growers and

others committed to the technology of genetic engineering."

"Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed..." Lev. 19:19 With these words, the Lord of heaven and earth warns us not to go out of His plan for ourselves and the earth that He created to be inhabited by mankind. Unfortunately, mankind has lost the dominion given to us due to sin, and ever since Adam and Eve's fall into darkness, there has been confusion engendered by the imbalance of iniquity. This imbalance is now being actively pursued, even encouraged by bio-tech giants like Monsanto. What will be the result? Only time can tell how long a merciful Creator will allow this madness to go on without coming out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their stubborn refusal to acknowledge His way. When will man see that God's way is the best and only true way for the earth to find health, pardon or peace?

We know that now mankind has gone far beyond the point of no return, and soon that irrevocable sentence will go forth, "Let him that is unjust, be unjust still, let him that is filthy, be filthy still, and let him that is holy be holy still, and let him that is righteous, be righteous still."

The unrighteousness of going out of God's plan in the family, or in the workplace, and now even in the genetic makeup of our food is affecting the earth itself. The earth's immune system, so to speak, can only take so much abuse, and now, through man's continuous tinkering with nature's forces much beyond his control, the inevitable consequences of God's wrath are not a matter of if, but only when.

By Jerry Eaton

# THE LORD NEEDS EVERYONE



“When business men, farmers, mechanics, merchants, lawyers, etc. become members of the church they become servants of Christ; and although their talents may be entirely different, their responsibility to advance the cause of God by personal effort and with their means is no less than that which rests upon the minister.” *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 4, page 469.*

When people become members of God’s church they often don’t realize the responsibility they are now to bear. When you become a member you are making an outward covenant with God. People at any age are to bear responsibility for God. Many people think they can be saved by just coming to church once a week. They should take an active part by helping, though. God has given us all talents and unless we use them we will become like the foolish servant in Matthew chapter 25. When we come up in the judgement we want God to say, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.” Instead of saying, “Thou wicked servant you should have used your talent.” I’m sure you can imagine what disappointment and despair there would be if you knew you were not going to enter the pearly gates. That’s why it is so important that we, as individuals, take an active part in God’s final work. We may make excuses such as, “I am too shy”, or “I don’t have any talents,” but this is sin. Even non-members can take an active part in God’s work. We should all witness because it’s not as important how many blessings we receive, since, if we don’t try and be a blessing for somebody else we really aren’t growing spiritually. Are you going to serve God to help quicken His coming? Or will you forget the people who are in sin and going down the path that has no return? We must make this decision today for eternity.

Richard Eaton



Members and visitors in the Montego Bay church

# EL SALVADOR

Dear brothers and sisters in the faith,

I would like to bring you the following report about the work in Central America and especially in El Salvador.

Very interesting evangelistic meetings were held in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras on the following dates: Guatemala- August 3 to 18, El Salvador- August 22 to Sept 3 and Honduras- September 5 to 18.

These were very spiritual and happy occasions. Brother Gerhard Hunger, the leader of the Evangelical department of the General Conference, conducted the seminars.

We all rejoiced and experienced a beautiful spiritual revival, especially the workers from the different countries who were instructed and encouraged in their work. We give thanks to God for them and also to the General Conference for their efforts, plus to all the participants, workers and lay members. These meetings were a great blessing to us in El Salvador. They gave us new courage and desire to continue to fight against evil.

The seminar in El Salvador was held in a beautiful place called "Planes de Renderos". It was like paradise with a panoramic view. In this place the church owns a beautiful building close to nature which is used for the meetings. It is used also for seminars, evangelistic campaigns and for youth activities. It is about 1500 meters above sea level and has a very pleasant climate.

By the grace of God the work in El Salvador is going forward as we are nearing our heavenly home.

Greetings to all the brothers and sisters in different countries wherever The Messenger magazine is reaching.

May the Lord bless you all.

Your brother in the same faith,

Oscar Archila Z.

Bible worker in El Salvador and correspondent for The Reformation Messenger.

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## TO CALM THE TERROR



The Terror, as he was called, was a bandit leader, a terrorist, and so ruthless a killer that the government had offered a huge reward for anyone who could bring him in dead or alive.

Attempts were made to subdue him. But he was out to destroy everything he didn't care for – and that included most everything and most everybody. This cunning bandit and his men were destroying everything in their path. The situation was desperate. Medicines were needed. Food was needed. But who could enter the danger zone?

Finally a contingent of the finest soldiers was sent in. But the Terror quickly disposed of them by simply setting a trap. He had his men dig a huge pit and then place spears and sharpened iron stakes in the bottom of it. It was so carefully camouflaged that the soldiers marched right into it – to their death.

Then one day Pastor John, a missionary, received a call from a government official, asking if he would try to take some medicines into that area.

Pastor John and his little group of missionaries prayed earnestly about this assignment, this challenge, from the government. As they prayed, they remembered the promise, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Psalm 91:11, 12.

They felt that they must try.

The government provided three or four aircraft, which they loaded with food, clothing, and medicines. These supplies – about a hundred tons in all – were flown as near as possible to the area controlled by the Terror. Then a convoy of seventeen trucks and two or three jeeps was sent, ready to take the supplies into the stricken territory.

As Pastor John left on his dangerous mission, the government official said to him, "be careful. But

God is with you." He told him to work closely with his commander in that section of the country.

But when Pastor John arrived, the colonel told him with a shake of his head, "It's impossible for you to go in." But then he said, "Wait. I have some soldiers that are on the fringes of that area, and at twelve o'clock each day they send me a report of the movements of the Terror."

It was on the fifth day that the report came in by radio that the Terror and his band had moved to another part of the country and that the main road into the area was comparatively safe. They decided to try the next morning.

The convoy was loaded from warehouses, and Pastor John was given a government driver that he had used before – a young man by the name of Peter. He was a good Christian and a careful driver. Though his loyalty was to the government, he happened to be a member of the Terror's tribe, and so he knew the language. Pastor John, incidentally, had learned the Terror's tribal language too, as a young man, for he had worked in that area.

They started out that morning, Pastor John and Peter in the lead jeep. The colonel had told them that the first part of their journey would be the most dangerous. It was through a valley. As they drove through that valley, the pastor kept thinking of David's words, "the valley of the shadow of death." For it was just that. In the road were corpses that the Terror's men had left.

They finally got out of the valley. The colonel had told them when they climbed the escarpment they would be out of the danger zone. What a prayer of thanksgiving they offered when they reached the top!

They knew it would take the heavily loaded trucks about half an hour to get up that very difficult grade. So Peter and the pastor decided to go on and wait for them at a village a little way ahead.

They started on with lighter hearts. They could make better time now. It

was a high, level, flat plateau with clumps of dense jungle through which they had to pass.

They were going through one of those dense clumps of jungle when suddenly Peter jerked the wheel to the left and they went flying into the ditch, the jeep on its side. There they were, hugging each other tightly, and the pastor asked, "What's your trouble? What happened?"

Peter said in a trembling voice, "Oh, we're going to die! They're going to kill us!"

"What's the matter?"

"Oh, I've seen the Terror's sign of an ambush! I've seen the sign!"

Only to his own tribesmen would the Terror give the warning. The secret sign was in a conspicuous place so that members of his own tribe would know that ahead was a trap.

Two minutes passed. Three, four, maybe five minutes passed. Nothing happened. The pastor tried to climb out of the jeep, but Peter pulled him back on top of him again. "No! You must not get out!"

Finally, with great difficulty, Pastor John did climb out. He stood at the edge of the road and looked around. He could see nothing suspicious – except that there were fresh tracks on the road. And he had the strange feeling that he was being watched.

He was impressed by the Spirit of God to say something. So he put his little portable loud speaker to his mouth and spoke in the language of the tribe through whose territory they were passing. He just said to the trees and the jungle around him, "We have come as friends. I am a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I am here to help you. Anybody in this area who needs help, we are here to help you. We are not here as enemies but as friends."

Nothing happened. Everything was quiet. It was deathly still!

Then out of the silence came the snap of two dry twigs. Snap! Snap! It was a signal – a signal that he had learned as a boy. It was a challenging

signal, and a reply must be given. Someone off in the jungle was challenging their passage. If he could come up with the right word, everything would be all right. But it had been twelve or fourteen years since he had used the word – that password – and he had forgotten it.

He quickly prayed to the Lord about it and the Lord gave him an answer. He shouted the word and it was the right word.

Again he said through his loudspeaker, "Friend, whoever you are out there, please come and let's shake hands." He gave, in the tribal language, the respectful greeting that only the big chiefs receive. Again nothing happened.

Then, off to the right, there was a rustle in the jungle. The leaves moved, and onto the edge of the road stepped a tall, handsome, fine-looking warrior with an automatic rifle in his hand, pointed straight at him.

The pastor said, "Friend, put down your gun, please. I have no weapons. I'm here as a friend."

The warrior took two or three more steps toward him, with that automatic rifle still pointed right at him. He could see that he was some tremendous leader. Again he gave the respectful greeting.

Finally he laid down his gun and approached cautiously, suspiciously. As he approached, the pastor extended his hand. The warrior looked at him, clasped his hand, and said in surprise, "Pastor John, what are you doing here?"

He had war paint on his forehead and decorating his cheeks. The pastor couldn't recognize him, so he said, "Do you know me?"

"Yes, yes, of course I know you. Don't you know me?"

"Who are you?"

"I am the Terror."

The pastor was holding a huge reward in his hand, as it were. And this terribly feared bandit knew him!

"Don't you remember? I am Henry from the village of Wait. You used to teach us in your little Branch Sabbath School, thirteen or fifteen years ago. I am Henry. Don't you remember me, Pastor John?"

Of course he remembered him! The boy Henry was not this feared bandit!

As the pastor held his hand, the Terror began to tremble like a leaf in the wind. His whole body was shaking. He said, "Now I understand. Now I understand. For the first time in my life my voice disappeared. My voice was taken from me. I tried to give an order as your jeep went into the ditch – an order for my men to kill. But I couldn't find a voice. My voice was taken away. As I looked at the wheels spinning around on your jeep, I could see soldiers standing around, heavily armed. I could see these soldiers off in the road behind you. They didn't look like any soldiers I have ever seen."

He went on. "Now I understand. Those stories you used to tell us, those picture rolls you used to show of – of your God, of those angels that your God sends." He was still trembling. "Now I understand. Those beings that looked like the moon and like the stars were angels from your God! Oh, Pastor John, what are you doing here?"

What a thrill! He told him what he was doing there. He knew that those mighty angels from heaven were still standing right there beside them. For this terrible killer, this man skilled in destruction and death, was still trembling!

They talked for two or three minutes and then the Terror heard the trucks approaching. He said, "Pastor John, are there soldiers in those trucks?"

"Yes, Henry, but they are under my control. They are under my orders."

"Oh, but they will kill me!"

He had heard. He knew that there was a tremendous price on his head. But the pastor assured him, "There will be no killing here today. God and His angels are here. There will be no killing today!"

The trucks were still some distance away, and the pastor said to him, "Friend, you have seen today a wonderful demonstration of God's love for you. I did not see those soldiers, those angels that you saw. But I know that just one of those angels could have annihilated you and your men. But God loves you. That same Jesus that you

heard about under the trees in the village of Wait, fifteen years ago, is still speaking to you. Promise me, friend –

promise me, Henry – that you will give up this life of destruction, that you will respect and honour the love of Jesus who has saved your life, who wants to give you eternal life with Him!"

Still trembling, he hesitated and looked around. The pastor asked how many men he had with him in the jungle and asked him to call them. He gave an order and dozens of heavily armed bandits came out from both sides of that jungle. They couldn't understand what had happened to their proud haughty leader who grasped the hand of a white man, a member of the race they were sworn to destroy. They looked at him with cruelty and death in their eyes.

As his men approached, the Terror said to them, "This man's skin is white, but his heart is the same as ours. He is our friend."

They gathered around him, and he told them about his voice disappearing, about the soldiers from heaven, and that the pastor had assured him they were still standing there, watching over their meeting. Then the pastor asked him again, "Will you promise to give up this terrible life of destruction and slaughter?"

And there in the presence of his men – he promised!

It took a long time to persuade the government that the Terror was a converted man. Top officials were convinced only when they saw that the horrible reign of terror had completely subsided. Then another proclamation was issued, explaining briefly that the Terror was now a Christian and that the price on his head was no longer an offer. The radio blared the news. The newspapers carried the headlines.

Pastor John kept remembering the words of his father, spoken to him as a frightened boy of ten, "Son, our Father in heaven has sent His angels to be with us. Everything will be all right."

*"The angels of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."*

*Psalm 34:7*

# Baptism in Montreal

With great joy we witnessed the baptism of Brother Costico Chicos on September 15, 1999. Brother Costico has visited our church for more than a year and a half and has studied all of our teachings carefully.

His own testimony is the following: "The lesson of love which God showed me was through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Golgotha Hill. This love brought me to the day of my baptism and redemption in Jesus. And I have always heard His calling, who said, 'Come, my son'. To be called sons and daughters of His kingdom. The calling was irresistible for me and I accepted it without reservation to be baptised (I was fully persuaded). I accepted this step and I want to follow Him and want to be with Him all my life. God gives this opportunity to every soul to have this occasion like mine."

May the Lord richly bless our new Brother Costico. He will be a great blessing to the church in Montreal and we hope that soon the rest of his family will follow his example.

AMEN.



Parents, let the sunshine of love, cheer, and happy content enter your own hearts, and let its sweet influence pervade the home. AH 426

**TORONTO STAR NEWSPAPER ARTICLE:**  
**Thursday, July 29, 1999**

"VATICAN CITY - Forget the flames and the devil with a pitchfork. A week after telling the Roman Catholic faithful that heaven was not up in the clouds, Pope John Paul said yesterday that hell was not a physical place either.

Lest sinners think they can get off lightly, though the Pope said hell was for real and, rather than being inflicted by God, it was something sinners bring on themselves.

'Hell is not a punishment imposed externally by God, but the condition resulting from attitudes and actions which people adopt in this life,' he said.

'More than a physical place, hell is the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God, the source of all life and joy. So eternal damnation is not God's work but is actually our own doing.'

The Pope described hell instead as 'the pain, frustration and

emptiness of life without God.'

But demons do exist, the Pope said.

'These are the spirits which rebelled against God and whom we call demons,' he said.

Such creatures serve as a warning for human beings, he said: 'Eternal damnation remains a real possibility for us too.'

The pontiff last week said heaven was not 'a physical place in the clouds but a living and personal relationship of union with the Holy Trinity.' "

**THE CALVARY CONTENDER**

Vol. XVI No. 21, Nov. 1, 1999

**BOTH POPES CAN'T BE INFALLIBLE-** Pope John Paul II recently rejected the reality of hell being a literal physical place of eternal torment (10/15 CC). But Pope Paul VI in the 1970's termed hell a reality and reminded people of the "terrible truth of a possible eternal punishment called Hell, about which Christ minced no words." Canadian Revivalist editor Dr. Frank McClelland comments: "It is obvious that there is a world of difference between Paul VI's view of hell and that of the present pope."

Will the real infallible pope please stand up?



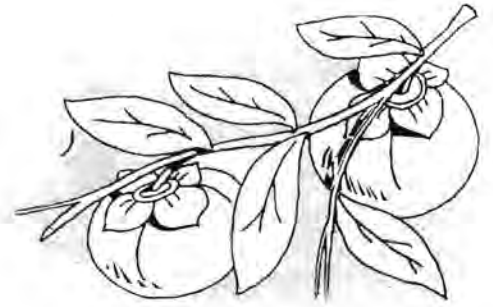
## DEATH

A plane crash just happened. Many people lost their lives. Some questions I have are, Did those people on the plane give their souls to the Lord our Father? Did they confess all of their sins? How did they feel when they were about to crash? In life we don't know when we are going to die. How do we feel when we are at the last point in our life? How did Christ feel when He was on the cross about to die for our sins? When Christ wakes them up from the grave, will they get fire and brimstone or everlasting life? I hope this will make everyone take life more seriously and pray more.

Khandi Stewart  
New York



# Persimmons



## Two Main Types

- While there are hundreds of varieties of persimmons grown around the world, the two main commercial varieties are Hachiya and Fuyu
- Hachiya, also known as Japanese persimmon, is acorn-shaped and orange-red both inside and out. When it is ripe, the Hachiya is very soft and has a jelly-like texture. You can't really slice a Hachiya, it is best scooped out with a spoon. Unripe, it is packed with mouth-puckering tannins, making it totally inedible. Once ripe, the tannins become inert, the astringency disappears and it tastes sweet and luscious.
- Fuyu (also called Fuji) persimmons are tomato shaped and brilliant orange. This variety is still firm when ripe and can be sliced. Unlike the Hachiya, the Fuyu has no tannins and is not astringent when unripe.

## Tastes like...

- The flavour of persimmons is exotic and laced with perfume. It has undertones of plum, honey, pumpkin, and mangoes. Some persimmons are a little spicy. It's among the sweetest fruits in the world.

## How to Select

- When choosing persimmons, look for a green, fresh calyx versus one that is brittle and dry. Avoid specimens that are yellow or green in colour. And stay away from cracked or split fruit. Hachiya are soft when ripe while Fuyu are firm, giving way to slight pressure.

## Availability

- The persimmon originated in China but was soon embraced by the Japanese, who call it the divine fruit. It now also grows in California,

Chile, Brazil, Israel, Spain, France, Australia and New Zealand, ensuring availability from September through to May.

### Quick Sorbet

- It's easy to make persimmon sorbet. Take a ripe, Hachiya persimmon, cut off the pointed tip, wrap tightly in plastic and freeze until hard. Let it thaw for a few hours in the fridge, scoop out the flesh and serve.

### Salad Daze

- Firm Fuyu persimmons are perfect for fruit salads. Make a colourful, tropical fruit salad with Fuyu persimmon, pomegranate and kiwi. Try a fresh Fuyu salsa with cilantro, lime juice, and red onion.

### Nutrition

- One medium-sized persimmon supplies more than 100 per cent of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A. It's also high in Vitamin C.



**Baptism of Novi Maramis in Jakarta, Indonesia  
July 1999**

## Be Strong

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift.  
We have hard work to do and loads to lift.  
Shall not struggle-  
Face it—it's God's gift.

Be Strong  
Say not "the days are evil"  
Who's to blame? And fold the  
Hands and acquiesce  
--O shame

Stand up, speak out, in bravery,  
In God's Name.

By Mamawi

### Happy News from Fiji

The work in Fiji began when Sis. Francis visited Vancouver and learned about the reformation movement and became a member. Later in Fiji she brought her sister Kitty to the reform movement. Last march Br. Joe joined with us. Now, in October seven more members were added to the church. Let us pray for the work in Fiji so that we may continue to hear more good news from that island.

### INDEX

|                                                                 |    |                                |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|
| The New Covenant                                                | 2  | Current Scene                  | 24 |
| Gideon's 300                                                    | 4  | The Lord Needs Everyone        | 27 |
| The Lord's Garden                                               | 8  | El Salvador                    | 28 |
| Epilogue to the Mini Kings Series                               | 10 | To Calm the Terror             | 29 |
| The Lord Hates                                                  | 12 | Baptism in Montreal            | 31 |
| Sabbath in the Home                                             | 16 | Toronto Star Newspaper Article | 32 |
| Temperance                                                      | 18 | Death                          | 32 |
| Australian Field Conference                                     | 20 | Persimmons                     | 33 |
| Reorganization of the Australia/<br>South Pacific Mission Field | 23 | Be Strong                      | 35 |



## COME IN, O COME!

Come in, O come! The door stand open now;  
I knew Thy Voice; Lord Jesus, it was Thou;  
The sun has set long since; the storms begin;  
Tis time for Thee, my Saviour, O come in!

Alas! ill-ordered shows the dreary room;  
The household stuff lies heaped amidst the gloom,  
The table empty stands, the couch undressed;  
Ah, what a welcome for th' Eternal Guest!

Yet welcome and tonight; this doleful scene  
Is e'en itself my cause to hail Thee in;  
This dark confusion e'en at once demands  
Thine own **bright Presence, Lord**, & ordering hands.

I seek no more to altar things, or mend,  
Before the coming of so Great a Friend;  
All were at best unseemly; and 'twere ill  
Beyond all else to keep Thee waiting still.

**Come**, not to find, but make this troubled heart  
A dwelling worthy of Thee as Thou art;  
To chase the gloom, the terror, & the sin:  
Come, all Thyself, yea, come, Lord Jesus, in!

Kathleen Ross