

*The Reformation* 

# *Messenger*

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# EDITORIAL



Another year is almost gone. We are one year closer to the coming of the Lord. Many things have happened during this year. We have seen the signs of the times being rapidly fulfilled. Several notices about the coming Sunday law, also about terrible disasters that we have witnessed like earthquakes, floods and destructive hurricanes and tornadoes have been shown. These have been as the voice of God, telling us to get ready for the end is very near.

There have been many informative articles in "The Messenger" during the year. It would be good to save these magazines and read them again. The index is available to the back issues, so you can find the particular articles easier.

I.M.S. Publishing is struggling financially. Any help in this regard would be very much appreciated. Many of our members receive "The Messenger" free of charge, which in turn eats up the donations that we get.

We appreciate all the articles that have been received during the year and want to thank all the writers for them. Also, we want to encourage our members and workers to continue writing articles on various topics. Even the children and young people are encouraged to contribute as they have done in the past.

The "Miracle Makeover" health course is now available in book form from I.M.S. Publishing.

We have received several letters from subscribers to "The Messenger" telling us how much they appreciate this paper. These words have been an encouragement to the workers in the print shop to continue their volunteer work.

As we are nearing the year 2000 we all should make proper plans for it. It may be the last one to some of us. The angels of God are trying to hurry us on to perfection, while Satan is desperately trying to hold us back and lull us to spiritual sleep. We are in the shaking time. Some are deeply rooted in the message while others are like dry leaves which will be blown away by the slightest trial or offence.

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us..... Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only a floor of rich wheat." T. Vol. 5 pg. 81.

We are very near to the fulfillment of this prophecy. The mark of the beast will soon be forced upon us, and all who are not imbued with the power from above will not be able to stand.

May the Lord bless richly all the readers of "The Messenger".

The Editors



# INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

*"The judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:10*

One of the most solemn thoughts that may come to our minds is the one of the judgment which started in heaven, 1844 and is still going on today. If we would be able to look into the judgment room in heaven and see how many names are rejected and how few accepted, it would make us tremble. One day our names will be called in the judgment. How will we come out - saved or lost - depends on our decision. God will accept our wish to be just or unjust, holy or filthy and let us continue in the direction that we have chosen.

The Day of Atonement in Old Israel was the type of the investigative judgment in the end of time. The service in the earthly sanctuary represented the service in the heavenly sanctuary - the blotting out of sins by the virtue of the blood of Christ.

In the Old Testament time, an earnest preparation was done. Ten days earlier the announcement was made in the feast of the trumpets and the people were then to confess their sins and afflict their souls. Also in the antitype, Millerites made an announcement of the approaching time of the judgment and the people were to prepare for it in a similar way. If the proper preparation was not done by the High Priest and the people, the High Priest would have died and the sins of the people would not have been pardoned.

## STANDARD OF GOD

What is the standard that is required of us in order that we may be accepted in the judgment?

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

"Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.... I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action." EW 71.

The standard is high, but yet it is obtainable. There will be 144,000 perfect saints, who have gained victory in every point.

"The righteousness of God is absolute. This righteousness characterizes all His works, all His laws. As God is, so must His people be." 1 S.M. 198.

"Isaiah was permitted in vision to look into the holy

place, and into the holy of the holies, in the heavenly sanctuary. The curtains of the innermost sanctuary were drawn aside, and a throne high and lifted up, towering as it were to the very heavens, was revealed to his gaze. An indescribable glory emanated from a personage on the throne, and His train filled the temple, as His glory will finally fill the earth... He had for the time being the sublime privilege of appreciating the spotless purity of Jehovah's exalted character... In the light of this matchless radiance that made manifest all he could bear in the revelation of the divine character, his own inward defilement stood out before him with startling clearness. His very words seemed vile to him... In deep humiliation Isaiah exclaimed, 'Woe is me! For I am undone' because I am a man of unclean lips...for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.'" 4 B.C. 1139, 1140.

Isaiah saw the difference between the holiness of God and his own sinfulness - and it brought him to despair.

Man was created in the image of God. He was in the perfect harmony with the law of God. But this image was lost by man's disobedience and then Satan's character was implanted in him. Now after practicing sin for 6000 years, man has changed from the original purity to selfishness and all the holy characteristics have been corrupted.

In order for us to live in the visible presence of the holy God we must be restored to the original condition. This is the work that should occupy our minds constantly. This work is called preparation for the Judgment.

## PREPARATION FOR THE JUDGMENT

The most important work for us today is the preparation for the judgment. Nothing else has any lasting value. Let us look back one year or five years to how much advancement has taken place in our character building. If we progress too slow in the next one year or five years, the outcome may be that we will be found wanting when the time is up and our judgment is past. Many professed Christians will cry out then the sad words, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

It was shown to Sister White the souls anguish that some went through. "I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large

drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.... Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones." EW 269-270.

The battle against sin is so fierce that Jesus said to pluck an eye out or cut a hand in order to resist temptations which come upon us like a tidal wave.

Another help we have is fasting. Prayer and fasting are powerful means by which sin can be overcome. "Let us humble our souls before God by humiliation, fasting and prayer, repentance of sin and putting it away." 2 S.M. 379.

"Satan will reinforce his evil angels who have controlled these persons; but if the saints of God with deep humility fast and pray, their prayers will prevail. Jesus will commission holy angels to resist Satan and he will be driven back and his power broken off from the afflicted ones." T. Vol. 1 344.

Missionary work will help us to gain victory. While saving others, we save ourselves. Only a selfish person can neglect missionary work. Our characters are molded to divine pattern when we become involved in saving others.

By daily Bible study we keep our minds in spiritual themes. Anyone who neglects it will do so at the risk of losing his faith.

One hour without prayer and we fall into sin. A constant prayer connection is needed to keep our thoughts in line.

When nothing is neglected then our salvation takes place and miracles start happening in our lives. "Having done all, to stand." Ef 6:13 If one thing is neglected we will fall.

## WHEN WILL WE BE JUDGED?

The Lord in His wisdom has not revealed to us our judgment day. Jesus said, "Then shall two be in the field; then one shall be taken, and the other left. The women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt. 24:40-42.

One is taken in the judgment and the other left. Now it is still a time of peace when our destiny is decided in heaven.

Jesus further explained, "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

When there is persecution, war and natural disasters people think that this must be the end. But when all seems peaceful and normal, we do not think that this would be the time of our judgement. But yet in such a peaceful time, like when the wise and foolish virgins were still sleeping, the final decision of our destiny will be made - a decision from which there is no appeal. When the wise and foolish virgins woke up, the time of preparation was over. The foolish virgins could not find oil anymore.

The next event after our judgment or sealing will be a mighty shaking. "Just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking it will come." BC vol 4. 1161.

After this final shaking, when all Achan's have been separated from the church, the latter rain will be poured out and the work of God will be finished.

Let us keep these solemn thoughts in our minds that none of us will fail in the day of the investigative judgment when the King will come and examine the guests at the wedding. If we do not have the wedding garment on we will be cast out.

May the Lord help each one of us in this serious and solemn preparation time. AMEN

Timo Martin

# SMALL CLOUD SCHOOL

God has continued to bless the Small Cloud school in Sacramento, California. From its small and humble beginnings, it has grown to now have 19 students and 3 home schoolers. Sandy Schendel and Margie Holmstroem have put great efforts into developing this school.

Let us all pray for this project and support them in any way we can.

# ***DOES IT REALLY MATTER?***

A fanatic is described as a person who exalts one point of truth beyond what is deemed "normal" by the rest of the church, while regarding other key doctrines as of minor importance. One example is the length of a woman's skirt. It must be nine inches from the floor, according to what Sister White has stated, and therefore they will take their measuring stick with them as they shop for dresses and skirts. They also are very careful to observe the lengths of the skirts of the other women in the church. On the line of dress reform there are also those who feel that a woman must cover her head while in the sanctuary and will proceed to look down on other women, who may have beautiful characters, but are not covering their heads. Fanatics like to concentrate on health reform and dress reform. But what about the weightier matters of the law: "judgement, mercy and faith." Mat. 23:23. We have spoken to some in this class who consider themselves Independent SDA's and meet in home churches and upon questioning them about issues such as the military question, they see this as an unimportant issue in comparison. Unimportant? I ask you what is worse, the taking of a human life or a skirt that is 10 inches from the floor? To my mind the issues are clear.

Then you meet another class of believers at the opposite end of the spectrum. They see this fanaticism and decide they will not be subject to it. They see the importance of the weightier matters – law, love, justice mercy etc., but they go as far as saying these other things such as dress reform and health reform are only minor issues and are subject to individual interpretation beyond a certain point, resulting in a variety of standards. One may feel conscientiously opposed to the eating of chocolate due to its caffeine content. Another may feel that it is a matter of minor importance and can be indulged in on occasion without any harm.

Yes, there are minor issues involved as far as salvation goes, but just because they are minor issues, does that mean they can be violated occasionally without it really being sin? The emphasis should be on the major issues yes, but the minor issues are not to be ignored. Then there is a problem of major issues that are looked upon as minor issues in matters of salvation.

This can all get very complicated, to say the least, if we try to sit down and figure out what is most important and make a list in descending order to that which is of least importance. Thank God that we don't have to do this. The Pharisees in the time of Christ attempted to categorize salvation. They had so many different rules for different situations that you would need a computer to keep things in order. Unfortunately, they had no computers in that age so therefore there were a lot of frustrated, unhappy people who simply could not live up to the unreal standards laid out by the Pharisees. We have something better today. We have the Holy Spirit, who will reveal to us the finer points of the law as we seek to join ourselves with Christ.

Our first aim should be to become connected with Christ, and then He will send His Holy Spirit to guide us into all the truth. While it is important for the church to have a standard of law, it is left to the Holy Spirit to interpret some points of the law. The church will give a rule of modesty and the individual is left to decide whether a piece of clothing is modest, not by using a measuring stick, but by looking in the mirror and seeing how well it looks, and how appropriate it is for the situation.

There are a few points I wanted to bring out regarding issues that are looked upon as of minor importance by some, but are actually very important.

## ***Does it Really Matter.....***

***1)...If I don't get baptized and join the church? I go to church every week and support the church with my tithes and offerings?***

This is a question that has been asked by many young people and even some older ones. "Maybe when I am older, in the future some time, I can't be bothered right now." They say. Does God love the church member more than the non-member? Does the member have more help from the Lord than the non-member? Is there any real benefit?

After the day of Pentecost, when Peter was preaching and the listeners were pricked in their hearts, they asked Peter, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:37, 38. From this verse it appears that they had to be baptized before their sins would be forgiven and before they would receive the Holy Ghost. Does that imply that those who are not baptized have no forgiveness? This can become a very complex issue if we start to raise doubts and questions.

Sr. White says, "Another obligation too often lightly regarded, - one that to the youth awakened to the claims of Christ needs to be made plain, - is the obligation of church relationship.... Very close and sacred is the relation between Christ and His church - He the bridegroom, and the church the bride; He, the head, and the church the body. Connection with Christ, then, involves connection with His church....The church is organized for service; and in a life of service to Christ, connection with the church is one of the first steps. Loyalty to Christ demands the faithful performance of church duties." *Education*, p. 268,269.

There are many testimonies that have been written regarding the special bestowal of His Spirit that God will pour upon His church. "The church is the repository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory." INL, p. 49.

Yes, God loves the sinner whether baptized or not, but there is an extra bestowal of grace promised to those who have taken the step to join in the Lord's army. You can't fight from the sidelines, you have to take your weapon in your hand and join in. I have known some over the years who wavered over this decision and finally left the truth completely. Also, I knew a husband and wife who believed this message to be the truth. The wife was more advanced in her Christian walk, but she wanted to wait for her husband to be ready before being baptized. She waited, and waited and suddenly they began having marital difficulties and were not as faithful as they used to be. It is fearful to wait if you believe this to be the truth. If you are holding back ask yourself what is it that is holding me back? Is it sin in my life? Or is it simply indecision? Either way, it is important to not delay but to make matters right and decide to join in the Lord's army today.

The only exception in this case is for those who have been divorced and remarried with full knowledge of the truth. We cannot accept them into fellowship according to the Bible but that does not mean they cannot be saved either if they have turned back to the Lord. Sister White talks about a class who will be saved outside of the church.

**2) ...If I feel like visiting SDA churches, Independent churches, or the 1951 offshoot, regularly, because they have nice people there who are my good friends?**

Clear counsel is given in *Early Writings*, "I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy,

being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness." PP. 124, 125.

Yes, there is a real danger in going to other churches that we conscientiously believe are not God's church, unless we are going there to warn the honest souls who are themselves deceived. If we are going to be a blessing for others, the angels will be with us but if we are going to receive a blessing, no blessing from the Lord will be received. The greatest danger is those churches who are very close to the truth. The differences are so subtle so things look good from the surface. This is the way Satan would have it. How else will he be able to deceive God's people? The error must be extremely close to the truth. "If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now. Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it." Ev. P. 590. "The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error." *Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 2, p. 52.*

Those whose doctrines are almost the same as God's church are the most dangerous. Why? They look so good, when they are all wrong.

**Isolated?** Yes, but what about if we are isolated and there are no Reform churches around? Surely, God would understand if we went to the SDA church or the 1951 offshoot? I know of families who have done so. If they have children, they have lost their children into these organizations. When my family first moved to Vancouver we were in a similar situation. Many Sabbaths were spent with only our family in the living room. I started to think of my children and the necessity of them having fellowship so I entertained the idea of taking them to the local SDA church so they could attend Children's Sabbath School. I thank God that I did not follow through with this idea. My children developed normally not having any other young people in the church their age for many years. God will supply His grace to cover every need. He does not orchestrate situations to force us to go where we should not. Maybe there is a reason for us to be alone for awhile. Perhaps God has some lessons for us to learn, and many lessons I did learn in those years.

**3) ...If I don't feel like coming to church or prayer meeting every week? Why should I go? I'm there some of the time.**

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25

"Having entered the narrow path of obedience, let us refresh our minds by communion with one another and with God. As we see the day of God approaching, let us meet often to study His Word and to exhort one another to be faithful unto the end. These earthly assemblies are God's appointed means by which we have opportunity to speak to one another and to gather all the help possible to prepare, in the right way, to receive in the heavenly assemblies the fulfillment of the

pledges of our inheritance." OHC, p. 166.

**Offence?** There are those who become offended and decide they will go to another church for awhile or stay at home. Who is really losing out in this situation? Some go even as far as to resign from the church because they are offended. Offences will come, but it is the true Christian who learns to deal with them in God's appointed way. "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them." Ps. 119:165. "Church relationship is not to be lightly canceled; yet when the path of some professed followers of Christ is crossed, or when their voice has not the controlling influence which they think it deserves, they will threaten to leave the church. True, in leaving the church they would themselves be the greatest sufferers; for in withdrawing beyond the pale of its influence, they subject themselves to the full temptations of the world." T4, p. 17.

"We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. . . . We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another. Whatever others may think of us or do to us, it need not disturb our oneness with Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit." MH, p. 485.

While we were living in Denver, my husband was canvassing one day and he met a man who was quite bitter. He told his experiences of how he used to attend church and was quite faithful. Then he saw inconsistencies in some of the believers and leading brethren. He became quite outspoken about them and when they weren't dealt with as he expected they should be dealt with, he left the church. And today he says, "Where am I? I am miserable and angry and at home, while they are all still in church and happy and serving the Lord."

"We shall be often tempted to feel that our rights are invaded, when there is no real cause for such feelings. Those whose love for self is stronger than their love for Christ and His cause will place their own interests first and resort to almost any expedient to guard and maintain them." T5, p. 242

**Too busy?** "Many declare that it is certainly no harm to go to a concert and neglect the prayer meeting, or absent themselves from meetings where God's servants are to declare a message from heaven. It is safe for you to be just where Christ has said He would be . . . Jesus has said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." Mat. 18:20. Can you afford to choose your pleasure and miss the blessing?" FLB p. 246.

**Too lazy?** Being a complacent Christian will not suffice, when it comes to the Christian battle. We have a very real enemy to battle; an enemy who is going about "as a roaring lion", seeking to devour God's people. Unless we put forth a decided effort we will be overcome. "We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate." *Faith and Works*, p. 48. We cannot drift into heaven. If we are in the position of a drifter, we are more than likely drifting downstream so imperceptibly that we hardly notice the direction we are heading in, until it is too late. What a shock it will then be to see how far we have drifted away from the Lord.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Romans 13:11.

**4) . . . If I leave the bulk of the missionary work to the missionary - that is why we pay him is it not?**

"The Lord requires that far greater personal effort shall be put forth by the members of our churches. . . . Our ordained ministers must do what they can, but it must not be expected that

one man can do the work of all. The Master has appointed unto every man his work. There are visits to be made, there is praying to be done, there is sympathy to be imparted; and the piety - the heart and hand - of the whole church is to be employed if the work is to be accomplished. You can sit down with your friends, and in a pleasant, social way, talk of the precious Bible faith." Ev. p, 113. "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." T4, p. 469.

**5) ...If I am not so strict in my dietary habits. I am a vegetarian, but a small snack or indulgence now and then would not hurt?**

What does Sister White mean when she says, "I am astonished to learn that, after all the light that has been given in this place, many of you eat between meals! You should never let a morsel pass your lips between your regular meals. Eat what you ought, but eat it at one meal, and then wait until the next."? CDF, p. 180; T2, p. 373. She writes much also about coffee being harmful and this is partly due to its caffeine contents. What about other caffeine products? Some argue that the General Conference has not prohibited such products as chocolate by name so it must still be allowable. Really!? I ask you, does the General Conference really need to do a research of all the caffeine products and then send a list to every member telling him they are harming the body? Could we not use some wisdom in seeing what has caffeine and what does not? Do we drink Coca Cola? The General Conference never mentions it. But we abstain from caffeine soft drinks because we know they are unhealthy. Would not that same reasoning hold true for something like chocolate? That I leave to each member and the Holy Spirit's working on their hearts. You can either accept the counsels given or you can reject them. But

these are small issues you may say. Yes, but are they non-issues? Violation of physical law is also violation of God's law, no matter how small the violation.

What if you decided to break one of the other commandments? Perhaps you wanted to steal something. Yes, but it is only a small item that you want to steal so it is not important. It is something that only cost one dollar so it is ok if I steal it. I would never steal anything that cost \$10 or more, that would be terrible. No, I am sure we all can agree that stealing, no matter how big or small, is wrong. Therefore can we not conclude that eating health destroying foods and having health destroying habits, however small they are, are just as much sin as the ones we call larger health destroying habits? One sin that is cherished, however small, is enough to undo all the effects of the Holy Spirit if we don't give it up. It will eventually result in our loss of salvation.

**6) ...If I, as a woman, wear pants now and then in the colder weather simply because I would get sick from the cold.**

When Sister White speaks of the problem of women wearing men's clothing and vice versa, surely she didn't mean pants did she? After all there is such clothing as women's pants is there not? Men would not be caught dead wearing women's pants. During the April 1999 session of the General Conference, one of the decisions that was made was: "There is also a need to teach modesty among our brothers. It was clarified that the baptism of women who do not understand their obligation to abstain from wearing pants should be postponed until a better understanding is achieved." *Sabbath Watchman*, May-June 1999, p. 7.

"Is this not being a little extreme?" You may ask, "Are women to suffer in the cold." Not at all. There is ample means to keep a woman warm and modest in the winter time. Most activities women can engage in modestly wearing a skirt. We are to

educate the newer members in regards to dress reform. What about those who have been members for years and ignore this counsel? If they discourage a new soul, how sad it will be. They will have to pay the price for their inappropriate attire. It may mean the loss of someone's salvation. We are representatives of Christ and we are to dress as though we were in His immediate presence. We do want Him with us wherever we go, do we not? Then let us dress accordingly.

**7) ...If I watch a little bit of TV. Only an hour or two a day and, after all, they are good, wholesome nature shows?**

Would you give equal time to Jesus? You see, it matters very much what you do with your leisure hours. Hundreds of years ago, there were no TV's and very few of the modern conveniences. People had much less time for prayer and Bible reading as they do today. We are blessed also with an abundance of knowledge in written form. We are living on the brink of eternity. Soon momentous events will take place on this planet. Is your TV viewing helping you to prepare for the crisis? Your TV viewing is up to your own discretion, however, keep in mind these other issues that I just presented and keep your priorities straight. Time is a talent that is given to everyone. In the judgement we will be called to answer for our time and how it was spent. The heavenly recorders make no mistakes. Every detail is written down. Let us have a good record that we will not be ashamed to face when our name is called in heaven.

**8) ...If I can only afford to put \$2 in the church offering weekly even though my salary surpasses \$20,000? I simply have too many expenses to afford any more.**

No one is to judge what another person gives as far as offerings are concerned. However we really should sit down and count the cost. Calculate weekly and see how much you spent on items that were non-essentials. Do they value more than \$2. Do we perhaps, buy the most expensive

clothing, not because we need it but because we feel we need a change of our wardrobe? Do we purchase expensive gifts for our children simply for their pleasure? What about going to restaurants frequently and other places? I simply cannot judge a person if they do spend like this, especially if they are more than willing to give to Jesus an equal portion. Equal to what they spent for non-essentials.

The focus of this article has perhaps been on a few minor things, but this is how Satan nibbles away at the larger issues. Even if each tiny lowering of the standard did not lead to large departures from the truth, there is still another reason to be particular about things that seem of minor importance. Christianity is not really based on 10 rules and prohibitions. It is really a love relationship with Christ. The theme of love is woven all throughout the Bible. When young people fall in love, there is nothing that they won't do for the other person. They go out of their way and to great extremes to please the one they love. That should be our relationship with Christ. It is in the area of small attentions that true love is revealed. It is my wish and prayer that each one of us would search the Word of God for ourselves to see what His will is for us. Then we may have enough love in our hearts to fulfil His desires. Then, instead of these actions being labelled as legalists (as the world often likes to label God's church), when those acts are weighed in the balances on the great Judgment Day, they will be seen as the highest form of selfless love.

*"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10.*

Amen

Wendy Eaton







# BLESSED IS THE MAN.....

The Bible is full of promises, full of blessings and also full of curses.

A blessing is received if you obey and a curse is given if you do not obey the word of God.

In the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, it tells us about the many blessings that can be ours if we hearken unto His voice. Blessings are given only to faithful, obedient people.

In James 1:2 it says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him."

A real Christian doesn't murmur, complain or give excuses if he comes across trials and temptations. In verse 2 and 3 of James 1 it says, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations: knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

"It is through the cross that we are enabled to overcome. It is through affliction and trials that divine agencies can carry on a work in our lives that will result in the love and peace and kindness of Christ." (SM Vol. 1 pg. 224)

TT 5 V5 pg. 344: "Life is disciplinary. While in the world the Christian will meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper and it is by meeting this in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If injuries and insults are meekly borne, if insulting words are responded to by gentle answers and oppressive acts by kindness, this is evidence that the spirit of Christ dwells in the heart."

We are in the school of Christ in this life where we are to learn to be meek and lowly of heart. And in the day of final accounts we shall see that the obstacles we meet, all the hardships and annoyance that we are called to bear, are practical lessons in the application of principals in the christian life. If well endured, they develop the Christ-like character and distinguish the Christians from the worldlings.

We learn many examples from Jesus in the Bible. In John 1:46 the prophet Nathaniel asked the question, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Nazareth was known for its wickedness. Jesus spent his first thirty years in the obscure village of Nazareth. The Bible says of Him, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him."

"Christ is our example in all things. In the providence of God, His early life was passed in Nazareth where the inhabitants were of that character that He was continually exposed to temptations and it was necessary for Him to be guarded in order to remain pure and spotless amid so much sin and wickedness. Christ did not select this place Himself. His Heavenly Father chose this place for Him, where His character would be tested and tried in a variety of ways. The early life of Christ was subjected to severe trials, hardships, and conflicts, that He might develop the perfect character which makes Him a perfect example for children, youth and manhood.

Children and youth are frequently situated where their surroundings are not favourable to a Christian life and they quite readily yield to temptations, and plead as an excuse for

pursuing a course of sin that their surroundings are unfavourable. Christ chose retirement, and through a life of industry, keeping His hands employed, He did not invite temptation, but kept aloof from the society of those whose influence was corrupting. Christ placed His feet in the most uneven path that children and youth will ever be called to travel. He did not have allotted to Him a life of affluence and indolence. His parents were poor, and dependent upon their daily toil for sustenance; therefore the life of Christ was one of poverty, self denial, and privation. He shared with His parents their life of diligent industry." MYP pg. 78, 79

Daily studying of the Bible and communicating with God through prayers keeps you in the right path.

There is a high standard to which we are to attain if we would be children of God. We are to be noble, pure, holy and undefiled and a pruning process is necessary if we are to reach this standard. How would this pruning be accomplished if there were no difficulties to meet, no obstacles to surmount, nothing to call out patience and endurance?

"These trials are not the smallest blessings in our experience. They are designed to nerve us to determination to succeed. We are to use them as God's means to gain decided victories over self instead of allowing them to hinder, oppress and destroy us. Character will be tested. Christ will be revealed in us if we are indeed branches of the Living Vine. We shall be patient and kind, forbearing and cheerful amid frets and irritation. Day by day, year by year we shall grow into noble heroes." TT V5 pg. 344.

How do you keep yourself from falling? We need to have faith and faith comes by hearing the word of God. Which means - read it and obey it. Faith goes with obedience. You cannot grow spiritually if you are disregarding the light God has given you.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, Paul writes in chapter 3 verses 1-2, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above not on things on the earth."

If we would permit our minds to dwell more upon Christ and the heavenly world, we should find a powerful stimulus and support in fighting the battles of the Lord. Pride and love of the world will lose their power as we contemplate the glories of that better land so soon to be our home. Beside the loveliness of Christ all earthly attractions will seem of little worth.

Let none imagine that without earnest effort on their part they can obtain the assurance of God's love. When the mind has been long permitted to dwell only on earthly things, it is a difficult matter to change the habits of thought. That which the eye sees and the ear hears, too often attracts the attention and absorbs the interest. But if we would enter the city of God and look upon Jesus and His glory, we must become accustomed to beholding Him with the eye of faith here. The words and character of Christ should be often the subject of our thoughts and of our conversation, and each day some time should be especially devoted to prayerful meditation upon these sacred themes.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus is my prayer as we enter into another new millennium. May God bless you all. Amen

Frances Chute, Suva, Fiji

**A pure, harmonious character, a sunny temper,  
reflecting light and cheerfulness,  
glorifies God, and benefits humanity.  
HR 1 June 1871**

# Y2K PANIC OR PREACH?



Millions are apprehensive and suffering anxiety regarding the Y2K. Most people know that because of a serious date programming problem. Many computer experts are anticipating varying degrees of computer system freeze and malfunction up to Feb. 28, 2000.

Some sensational speakers predict world chain reactions, closing down critical systems of power, water, and communications and leading to panic. Some are selling books recommending storing or stockpiling dried foods, water, gas, generators, and even guns and ammunition. Others are saying to withdraw enough cash to last at least two months.

As the Y2K approaches people are becoming more sensitive to their origins and the future of humanity. Because such great and rapid changes are taking place and knowledge is being increased (Dan. 12:4), people cannot even imagine what the next year and decade will bring. Everyone it seems is more aware of the volatility of the age. In addition, there is an alarming increase in the number of natural disasters and financial, political, and religious instability. It is all compounded even more by a culture that appears to be drifting like a ship without sail, rudder or anchor and is in dire need of a moral compass. Jesus foretold a time "when men's hearts would be failing them for fear and the expectation of those things

which are coming on the earth." (Luke 21:26; Matt. 24)

Because of all this there is a spectacular interest in Bible prophecy. This fall-winter is a very fertile time for evangelistic opportunities to reach people in our community and the world.

In spite of ongoing and worsening political upheavals, doors are open wider to the gospel in countries like India, Russia, China and even Cuba.

Modern technology is growing at an unprecedented rate. Tools of technology such as Internet, satellite, TV, and radio, now makes world preaching and teaching of the gospel message possible. The goal of preaching the Three Angels' Message worldwide is finally a reality, a promising goal. Jesus promised, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14)

As in the story we all know about Joseph, times of plenty are followed by times of famine. Enthusiasm on the mountain is often followed by monotony in the valley. There will be an element of panic this fall and even after Jan. 1, 2000. However, we should be more concerned with the paralyzing apathy that may come after year 2000, when the crisis evaporates, and everyone begins to chant the familiar mantra... Peace, Peace!

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (1 Thess. 5:3) Remember that all the virgins were sleeping when the bridegroom came. (Matt. 25:1-13) Also carefully remember that day before the flood of Noah and the fire of Sodom and Gomorrah, the sun was shining upon the people engaged in eating, drinking, marrying and building. (1 Pet. 3:20)

What we fail to do now during these times of great opportunity we will unfortunately struggle to accomplish later in a time of paralyzing apathy and indifference. "I must work the works of him that sent me. While it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4) That's why we should do everything possible to capitalize on the wide-open window of evangelist opportunity this fall-winter.

Christians should carefully and prayerfully guard against fanning the flame of the millennial panic "movement". But, try to seize every opportunity to preach Christ before the year 2000, and provide an unprecedented opening for the Holy Spirit's power. Paul said, "I am made, all things to all men that I might by all means save some" (1 Cor. 9:22) In other words, he reached out to people where they were, used tools that met their needs,

and employed methods that touched their hearts.

The Apostle Paul demonstrated this principle while visiting Athens. He used one of the Athenians' idols as a means to proclaim the true God to the people. "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." (Acts 17:23)

Evangelizing is somewhat like farming; timing and weather are very important. Often the seasons and weather will dictate the schedule of a farmer. Likewise, God's people must be prepared to seize fertile opportunities for soul winning. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season". (2 Tim 4:2) Jesus, further said: "When it is evening ye say, it will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:2-3)

The power of the Holy Spirit is given to witnesses and is not only for witnessing. God always seems to call people (men and women), who are active and busy. Have you ever noticed that? Moses was tending sheep. Elisha was farming. Peter was fishing. Gideon was threshing wheat. Ruth was gleaning barley. Saul was searching for his father's lost beasts. Nehemiah was working as a royal butler. Those people God

calls. God calls men and women when they are busy; and Satan calls them when they are idle. David fell for Bathsheba during a time of leisure at the palace when he should have been out with his soldiers fighting on the battlefield.

God designed and created people to be productive; and the best occupation of all is helping people; making others happy. That is our purpose. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit from above and went around doing good, and healing... "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

God can also give power to minister for His followers, the obedient ones, and the saints for a glorious, blessed ministry. "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21) Have you ever noticed how many times in Scripture the promise for supernatural power is directly connected with active ministry?

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease...And as ye go, preaching, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give". (Matt 10:1, 7, 8)

"Those God appoints He anoints. It is clear. God regards the

ministry of saving others as the most noble work or goal in our lives. Here is a little, there a little. Let the truth be presented as it is in Jesus, line upon line, precept upon precept." (Ev. 201) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." (Prov. 11:30)

The Lord will pour His power on and work His wonders for those who endeavor to do this great work. Notice the pattern here now. The majority of God's miracles are connected with ministry. In Acts 8:39, Philip was giving a Bible study and baptizing an Ethiopian eunuch when the Holy Spirit fell on him from Gaza to Caesarea. Paul was preaching when he raised Eutychus, blinded by the sorcerer, and delivered a girl from demons. God miraculously delivered Peter, Paul, Silas, and the 12 apostles from prison when they were actively preaching and teaching the truth. Most of the miracles in the Old Testament were seen in men on the battlefield, including Samson, David, Gideon and Jonathan. We are on the battlefield now, too. Likewise, too, we can experience the wonderful works of the Holy Spirit...when feeding the multitude with the bread of life He will multiply the bread, as He did when He fed the 5000.

Some are afraid they might do something wrong in witnessing, so consequently, they do nothing. Some think that they would gladly work for the Lord, but they don't feel 'holy enough'. It's true that dirt sticks to a rusty shovel or spade, making the worker harder, but the best way to clean it is to dig

with it. Ministry is also a part of the sanctification process. After 3 ½ years as followers of Jesus, the apostles still were not completely converted or sanctified. Jesus clearly confirmed this when He said to Peter, "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren". (Luke 22:32) In only one 24 hour period before the cross the disciples showed room for improvement and progress. They argued among themselves, and fought for the highest positions, acted confused by Christ's teachings, slept when Jesus thought they should be praying, and forsook Jesus when the mob came for Him. Peter even went further and denied Jesus three times with swearing and cursing! Yet, just a few months before, Jesus sent the 12 out, later 70, to preach with miraculous results. (Luke 10:17) Active ministry is a part of a conversion process as surely as exercise is part of a child's growing process, and proper nutrition is to his health and maintenance.

Active ministry and witnessing is part of the conversion process. This wonderful truth is not only for individuals but also for churches. Those congregations that exist as an exclusive society, gazing, hypnotized by their own reflection, eventually wither away, atrophy and die. One of the best remedies, in fact, for a sick-ailing church is 'evangelism'. It is not by any means by "encouraging feasting, gluttony, and dissipations, by the suppers, fancy fairs, dances, and festivals, nor bazaars, or even to

lotteries and like devices". (WM 289, 290) Nor even to music that offends God by a display of instrumental music (namely drums) by those that are not consecrated but are worldly. (Ev. 509)

When the apostle Peter needed money, Jesus sent him fishing. (Matt 17:27) Are church members lacking zeal, enthusiasm, in the doldrums? Do 'evangelism'. It will quickly awake and revitalize the existing sleepy sheep. Is the church weighed down with doctrinal confusion, seeking something new and exciting? Do 'evangelism'. Try organizing evangelical seminars or lecture series, particularly on prophecy. This will do wonders to harvest new wheat into the garner and help the existing members redirect their compass of truth.

Mechanical equipment that lies around idle soon rusts quickly and deteriorates... It's impossible to stay upright on a motionless bike, or turn a sailboat on a windless sea. Likewise, churches that neglect the great commission (Matt 28:19-20) and lose their evangelistic momentum are often quickly consumed by internal problems.

It's very clear that true Christians should not be part of this maddening millennial panic, but the time before the year 2000, and shortly after, is prime again for sowing the gospel and harvesting souls. But, there is still a problem again, for "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest,

that he would send forth labourers into his harvest". (Luke 10:2) Will you be a faithful labourer for Him? Then try asking God to lead you into a witnessing opportunity, today Then just stand back and watch what He does! You'll like it! He will answer your prayer.

God is watching and waiting for opportunities to use His power and commission angels for those who are willing to do His bidding. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him". (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Right now, start praying, "Here am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8) and just see what the Lord will do! It works!

The secret of Paul's power and success was this - he kept back nothing that was profitable for the people. He preached Christ publicly, in the market places and the synagogues. He taught from house to house, availing himself of the familiar intercourse of the home circle. He visited the sick and sorrowing, comforting the afflicted, and lifting up the oppressed. And in all that he said and did he preached a crucified and risen Saviour. (WM 62) (1 Cor. 2:2; Acts 20:1)

Many are apprehensively asking, how one should prepare for the Y2K coming millennium? Some wonder if they should sell their home, move to the country, stockpile food, water, gas, matches, flashlights, batteries, and other necessities.

We must be very careful to guard ourselves against temptations of thinking we can save ourselves by loading up with provision in our cellar and pantries. The foundation of all false religion is trusting in our own works for salvation. If we merely make spiritual preparation our number one priority in our lives, then God has already proven that He can supply all our temporal needs, even if it takes a miracle. Have you ever had such a religious experience?

There is, however, no sin in making practical provision for potential lean times. God told Noah to store sufficient resources for his sea journey... Solomon reminds us "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished". (Proverbs 22:3)

Our ultimate trust, though, must be in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Otherwise, we are prone to repeat the mistake of the stingy fool who put his trust in his well-stocked barns: "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20)

Remember, too, when the children of Israel stored away manna at the wrong time. It always bred worms and stank. (Exodus 16:20)

How should we prepare then? With weapons and ammunition? Yes! "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the

evil day, and having done all, to stand". (Ephesians 6:13)

God, clothing and medical supplies? Yes! "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothes, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thy eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see". (Revelation 3:18)

Food and water? Yes! "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Just hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness". (Isaiah 55:1, 2)

Should we withdraw cash in case the ATM or banks fail? Maybe, but all earthly currency is subject to devaluation and theft. Ultimately, we must be certain we have that precious pearl of great price in the safety deposit box of our souls. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where our treasure is, there will your heart be also". (Matthew 6:19-21).

The Lord will provide us with spiritual supplies, for he has promised. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness". (2 Corinthians 12:9)

If we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, these spiritual supplies will survive any degree of inconvenience or chaos. (Matthew 6:33) AMEN

John Theodorou  
Athens, Greece



Reina working at the printshop

**In Christ is fullness of joy forevermore. The desires and pleasures and amusements of the world are never satisfying nor healing to the soul. But Jesus says, "Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life."  
TM 390**

# Attitudes

Adam was made in the similitude of God, but he failed. His own children, were made in the similitude of man, and it is here that we began to see the two different attitudes of us as sinners toward God. One attitude of indifference and one of penitence; acceptance of one's own condition as God reveals, and seeking the remedy from the Lord.

As we follow through the times of the new, the old testament and the end time, we still see this attitude in the church of God.

Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam, differed widely in character. Abel had a spirit of loyalty to God; he saw justice and mercy in the Creator's dealings with the fallen race, and gratefully accepted the hope of redemption. But Cain cherished feelings of rebellion, and murmured against God because of the curse pronounced upon the earth and upon the human race for Adam's sin. He permitted his mind to run in the same channel that led to Satan's fall—indulging the desire for self-exaltation and questioning the divine justice and authority. PP.071.002

The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow. From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. DA.299.004

These brothers were tested, as Adam had been tested before them, to prove whether they would believe and obey the word of God. They were acquainted with the provision made for the salvation of man, and understood the system of offerings which God had ordained. They knew that in these offerings they were to express faith in the Savior whom the offerings typified, and at the same time to acknowledge their total dependence on Him for pardon; and they knew that by thus conforming to the divine plan for their redemption, they were giving proof of their obedience to the will of God. Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin; and they were to show their faith in the blood of Christ as the promised atonement by offering the firstlings of the flock in sacrifice. Besides this, the first fruits of the earth were to be presented before the Lord as a thank offering. PP.071.003

The two brothers erected their altars alike, and each brought an offering. Abel presented a sacrifice from the flock, in accordance with the Lord's directions. "And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering." Fire flashed from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. But Cain, disregarding the Lord's direct and explicit command, presented only an offering of fruit. There was no token from heaven to show that it was accepted. Abel pleaded with his brother to approach God in the divinely prescribed way, but his entreaties only made Cain the more determined to follow his own will. As the eldest, he felt above being admonished by his brother, and despised his counsel. PP.072.001

In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. DA. 189.002

Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised sacrifice and the necessity of the sacrificial offerings. His gift expressed no penitence for sin. He felt, as many now feel, that it would be an acknowledgment of weakness to follow the exact plan marked out by God, of trusting his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Saviour. He chose the course of self-dependence. He would come in his own merits. He would not bring the lamb, and mingle its blood with his offering, but would present his fruits, the products of his labor (the similar condition of the laodiceans not realizing our great need.). He presented his offering as a favor done to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval. Cain obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice; but he rendered only a partial obedience. *The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out.* PP.072.002

So far as birth and religious instruction were concerned, these brothers were equal. Both were sinners, and both acknowledged the claims of God to reverence and worship. To outward appearance their religion was the same up

to a certain point, but beyond this the difference between the two was great (we are also brethren in the same church but with two different characters). PP.072.003

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." Hebrews 11:4. Abel grasped the great principles of redemption. He saw himself a sinner, and he saw sin and its penalty, death, standing between his soul and communion with God. He brought the slain victim, the sacrificed life, thus acknowledging the claims of the law that had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future sacrifice, Christ dying on the cross of Calvary; *and trusting in the atonement that was there to be made, he had the witness that he was righteous, and his offering accepted.* PP.072.004

Cain had the same opportunity of learning and accepting these truths as had Abel. He was not the victim of an arbitrary purpose. One brother was not elected to be accepted of God, and the other to be rejected. Abel chose faith and obedience; Cain, unbelief and rebellion. Here the whole matter rested. PP.072.005

We cannot discern the character of God, or accept Christ by faith, unless we consent to the bringing into captivity of every thought to the obedience of Christ. To all who do this the Holy Spirit is given without measure. In Christ "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and in Him ye are made full." Col. 2:9, R.V. DA.181.001

Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits; theirs is a sacrifice without the virtue of divine mediation, and thus it is not able to bring man into favor with God. It is only through the merits of Jesus that our transgressions can be pardoned. Those who feel no need of the blood of Christ, who feel that without divine grace they can by their own works secure the approval of God, are making the same mistake as did Cain. If they do not accept the cleansing blood, they are under condemnation. There is no other provision made whereby they can be released from the thralldom of sin. PP.073.001

*The history of Cain shows what must be the results. It shows what man will become apart from Christ. Humanity has no power to regenerate itself. It does not tend upward, toward the divine, but downward, toward the satanic. Christ is our only hope. "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." "Neither is there salvation in any other." Acts 4:12. ( we are also asked to wake up to this reality.)* PP.073.002

In the message given to the laodiceans we are to wake up to the realization that: Enmity against Satan is not natural to the human heart; it is implanted by the grace of God. Every time a soul is converted and learns to love God and keep His commandments, the promise of God is fulfilled, "A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you." Ezek. 36:26. The change in the human hearts, the transformation of human characters is a miracle that reveals an ever living Savior working to rescue souls. A consistent life in Christ is a great miracle. DA. 407.001

True faith, which relies wholly upon Christ, will be manifested by obedience to all the requirements of God. From Adam's day to the present time the great controversy has been concerning obedience to God's law. In all ages there have been those who claimed a right to the favor of God even while they were disregarding some of His commands. But the Scriptures declare that by works is "faith made perfect," and that, without the works of obedience, faith "is dead." James 2:22, 17. He that professes to know God, "and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4. PP.073.003

When the prince of this world shall be judged, and all who have united with him shall share his fate, the whole universe as witnesses to the sentence will declare, "Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." Revelation 15:3. PP.079.002

**Joy which brings no sorrow  
with it....  
is the result of an  
indwelling Saviour.  
TM 390**

Compiled and edited  
Mike Newby



# Current Scene



**“When seeing is not believing”** from *The Record*, August 14–28, 1999.

“On the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1994, members of the Toronto, Airport Christian Fellowship, Canada, were ‘zapped by the Spirit.’ People fell to the floor, some shaking uncontrollably, others roaring, some barked like dogs or cackled like chickens. Others came forward with ‘words of prophecy,’ and there were reports of healing.

It would come to be known as the Toronto blessing, a renewal, they believed, ‘preparing the way for the final worldwide revival leading up to the return of Christ.’

The Toronto Blessing has since spread throughout the world, virtually to all charismatic and most Pentecostal churches. This is no loony fringe group, this is mainstream. It’s the end result of a movement that has been gaining momentum since the 1980’s through the ministry of John Wimber and his organization, Vineyard Ministries – the Toronto group was, until recently, a part of Vineyard.

Wimber added a power dimension to evangelism – popularly known as signs and wonders. He claimed and taught that miracles, healing, words of knowledge, prophecy, exorcism and, to some extent, tongues would force the secular world to take

note of what the church has to say. This movement in Pentecostalism is often referred to as the Third Wave.

The First Wave occurred in 1901 at Bethel Bible College, Topeka, Kansas, when Agnes Ozman received what she called the ‘baptism of the Spirit’ and spoke in ‘tongues.’ The practice then became part of the Holiness movement of the church in the United States. From this grew the mainline Pentecostal denominations.

The Second Wave (New Pentecostalism or Charismatic Renewal) gave special emphasis to certain gifts, most notably tongues. It was a new movement in the sense that it crossed denominational lines and barriers. Beginning in 1960 in California, it spread through Episcopalian, Lutheran and Presbyterian churches. In 1967 it hit the Catholic Church.

Under much criticism, even from Vineyard Ministries, the Toronto leaders attempted to justify the phenomena with biblical proof. However, they found that difficult and encouraged their members to look more to Christ and beyond the manifestations.

At the same time they continued to encourage the phenomena by programming their services to lead up to ministry time – a term that refers to the climax of their

three hour services, when those who want the blessing go forward to be prayed for. Ministry time may go for hours and manifestations are expected to occur.

## Turning to Experience

The problem is that there is no historical or biblical basis for the position they take. Its leaders inevitably turn to their experience to validate its truthfulness. Common are statements like, ‘It must be from God since it brought me nearer to God’ or ‘It must be of the Spirit since it made me love Christ more.’

But experience should not be the basis of belief for the Christian. Kurt Koch, a German Christian psychologist who specialized in working with victims of the occult for 40 years, says, ‘If there is one thing we know assuredly, it is this, that the devil does not leave visiting cards. It is the tactic of every temptation always to operate under a bright light cover, never to show its real face...’

Knowing what is deception isn’t easy. Paul warns, ‘Satan disguises himself as an angel of light’ (2 Corinthians 11:14, NRSV)

Ellen G. White makes this prediction about the deceptive work of the devil, ‘Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares

that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then, will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventist to the test." 2 SM 53.

Experience, no matter how positive, is no proof of truth. I discovered this early. As a young worker there were many souls that I met who told me how that had this vision or seen that heavenly visitor, but whose lives and doctrines could not show the proof of divinity at all. In fact, I remember one family with which I studied whose were known as "Adventcostals" since they had retained all of their speaking in tongues while outwardly accepting some of the truths of Adventism. The son of the family was attending an Adventist University and majoring in theology, but this didn't stop them from feeling and saying 'Why is the church so dead? Where are all the signs and wonders that were supposed to follow the believers?' I tried to assure them that there would be plenty of excitement if they would just live the truth and share the purity of the faith with others.

Some Christians claim that if the miraculous is done in the name of Christ and for the good of others, then it must be from God."

### **Seeing is not believing.**

You can't decide on truth based upon experience, no matter how many times the name of Christ is used, no matter what the end result may be. Will Barron, the author of *Deceived by the New Age*, visited Australia last year and told how he had converted from the New Age. He began attending church; firmly believing he was a Christian. However, the devil still had control of him without him knowing.

Will Barron's experience is verified by Koch who says, "Many inexperienced or dogmatic Christian workers maintain that a person's mediumistic powers automatically disappear when he or she becomes a Christian. However, in my own experience, which stretches back now for over 40 years, I have found that in as many as 50 percent of cases mediumistic gifts survive conversion.

The world is full of religions and philosophies with adherents who make claims of what their religion has done for them. This statement is as passionate as any Christian testimony: 'After trying every religion I could find, I still never feel closer to anything truly divine than when I am, without ideas, being in nature... Divinity is there, and every being on earth has the tools to directly experience divinity. Why propose something outside of this?

That's Pantheism. A positive experience isn't a basis on which to claim truth.

'It's changed me,' or 'Just allow yourself to experience it' is not an acceptable argument. The written Word as revealed to us by the Spirit is our only reliable guide. Emotional experience, no matter how life changing, is no proof of truth. Seeing is not believing.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed on Him, 'If you abide and my word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' John 8:31,32 NKJV

During the past decade there has been a dramatic increase in dreams, words from the Lord and visions within Christian communities. Many believe signs and wonders are crucial for producing a new vibrancy amongst Christians, with prophetic words becoming a growth industry. They call this the Third Wave. These revelations are not seen as opinions of Christians, the wisdom of Christian thinking or knowledge from the Scriptures. They're seen as declarations of the mind of God. It's believed that the one who received the revelation has been given understanding of another's problem and what God's will is for the situation.

The subjective, emotional and experiential is preoccupying many Third Wave Christians. But is the same approach to truth as New Age followers. In this way, monumental forces behind the scenes are watering the truths of God's word down to the lowest common denominator

in order to achieve political unity, but power of the Holy Spirit is not known or felt among them.

The New Age belief system requires no logical or rational explanation. They have adopted the Eastern approach to knowledge, an approach that says, 'We can have an experience....that lifts us above the ordinary, everyday, logical sensory experience... [and] that knowledge is superior to empirical knowledge.' The Eastern religions all teach that logical, rational, objective truth is of a lower form to the truth that one experiences at the emotional, gut level.

The fundamental error of Toronto, Vineyard and the Word Faith Movement is the same. Their understanding of how the Holy Spirit communicates with humans is not biblical. They fail to appreciate that even at our highest moments of inspiration 'we can never claim that everything that we believe and teach is all of God and none of ourselves. The Holy Spirit is not some 'hotline' to heaven by which believers can transcend their own humanity....'

The practical consequences of the revelation movement are a concern. Those who exercise this gift have great power over the people who accept it, and their word cannot be challenged by rational debate for they speak on God's behalf. They are above theological discussion for they claim a direct connection to heaven. No

longer is Scripture and Christ revealed sufficient.

The power of the immediate, contemporary, tailor-made Word of God overwhelms the significance of what God has already said in His own dear Son. The excitement of going to church changes from hearing the glory of Christ, to hearing what God has said to the 'prophet' today about our members."

The apostle Paul gave the following charge to Timothy and Titus. It's a call to all Christians of all eras, particularly today. 'Preach the Word....For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. Then ill turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all your duties of ministry.' 2 Timothy 4:2-5 NIV

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit is only and always going to be in harmony with the revealed word of God. This is what makes the ministry of Ellen G. White so key for our day. Her writing, speaking and behavior before during and after her revelations were in harmony with the Bible. Truly, the spirits of the prophets are subject unto the prophets" 1 Corinthians 14:32 Her behavior was never outlandish, absurd or spiritually and emotionally

dishonest, as much of the spiritual bridgehead of Pentecostalism is. This bridgehead is rapidly breaking down the spiritual and factual barriers that have separated the different denominations for centuries and is establishing Christianity on a merely emotional basis. This is exactly what Satan desires, for then the darkness and superstition of Hinduism, Buddhism and the other pagan religions have most everything in common with Christianity.

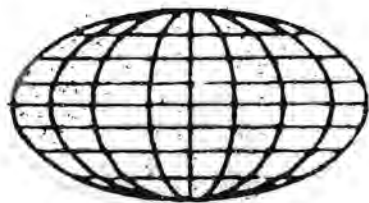
God's people, who must combine the powers of head and heart, truth and experience, are called upon to arise and shine, for when this gross darkness covers the earth, only the light of heaven can bring us balance, true spirituality and peace.

All relationships are founded upon truth, and especially our relationship with He who is the way, the truth and the life. He also said, "That no man can come to the Father, but by Me," and this shows the proper perspective on all of those whose claims are so openly and obviously not in harmony with His love letter, the Bible.

By: Jerry Eaton

*If we are clothed with the  
righteousness of Christ  
and are filled with the joy of  
His indwelling Spirit,  
we shall not be able to hold our  
peace.  
If we have tasted and seen that  
the Lord is good  
we shall have something to tell.*

SC 78



## IN THE NEWS:

ZIONIST GROUP CIRCULATES DRAWING OF TEMPLE ERECTED ON MOSQUE'S SITE  
Hamis News 9/11/99 Occupied Jerusalem

Jewish organizations in Palestine have stepped up their efforts to expedite the destruction of the Masjidul Aksa and building of a Jewish temple in its place. According to Israeli sources, several Messianic groups, including the "Temple Mount Faithful" began of late circulating impressionistic drawings showing a huge Jewish Temple erected in place of the Aksa Mosque in the heart of East Jerusalem. The disappearance of the Mosque and the nearby Dome of the Rock from the Panorama of the town signifies Zionist efforts to destroy Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. The Israeli sources quoted above said several engineers were composing models of the Temple so that its "rebuilding will begin immediately when the opportunity arises." According to Rabbi Yosef Abaum of the Temple Mount Faithful, preparation for rebuilding the temple included training a priestly class of the Kuhanim tribe, offering sacrificial animals (cows), and lighting candles.

JORDAN'S KING ABDULLAH, POPE DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST  
Reuters September 18, 1999 CASTELGANDOLFO, Italy

Pope John Paul held cordial talks Saturday with King Abdullah of Jordan at his summer residence south of Rome, the Vatican said. Chief Vatican Spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a statement they discussed "the new positive climate for the peace process" and the Pope's desire to visit biblical sites. He is planning a major Holy Land pilgrimage next year. Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdulilah al-Khatib told La Stampa newspaper the King believed the Pontiff had an important role to play in stimulating Middle East peace. "It is a very important meeting because of the Pope's great moral stature," he told the paper. "The Middle East peace process needs the religious support of the Pontiff. We believe in peace as the only thing to do and the Pope can really help," he said.

MIDDLE EAST

US STATE DEPARTMENT WHITEWASHES ARAFAT'S PERSECUTION OF  
CHRISTIANS  
IsraelWire-9/14

Despite overwhelming evidence that Yasser Arafat's PLO Authority (PA) persecutes Arab Christians, the State Department's new report on religious freedom around the world falsely claims that the PA does not mistreat Christians. The report falsely claims: "The PA does not restrict freedom of religion... There was no pattern of PA discrimination against and harassment of Christians...The PA makes an effort to maintain good relations with the Christian community."

In a letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Morton A. Klein, National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), wrote: "There seems to be a mindset at the State Department that Arafat should never be criticized. The authors of this report simply ignored the massive evidence of anti-Christian persecution by Arafat. Every Christian and every fair-minded American should be outraged by this State Department whitewash."

Among the evidence ignored by the State Department:

1. The Israeli government has reported that "on the social and religious level, the few Christians remaining in PA-controlled areas are subjected to brutal and relentless persecution." (Jerusalem Post, Oct. 24, 1997)

2. Two American courts--one in Illinois, the other in North Carolina, recently granted asylum to Palestinian Christian Arabs on the grounds that they would be persecuted for their religious beliefs if they return to PA-controlled territory. (Jerusalem Report, April 2, 1998)

3. US Senator Connie Mack of Florida recently visited Israel and investigated this subject first-hand. In a speech he delivered on the floor of the US Senate on March 3, 1999, Senator Mack reported: "I had another profound meeting during this week. I met one evening privately-- secretly--with Arabs who were being persecuted for their Christian faith. I met with about 10 Palestinian Christians. I will tell you just one of their stories, but I will change some of the details to protect the person I am describing.

"I remember an energetic man, in his early 40s...He had many children and very little money. He converted to Christianity in 1993. He clearly loved God, and he loved to tell people about his conversion. He described to me how in 1997, the Palestinian Authority asked him to come to the police station for questioning. When he arrived, he was immediately arrested and detained on charges of selling land to Jews. He denied this charge, since he was very poor and owned no land. He was beaten. He was hung from the ceiling by his hands for many hours. He showed me what I just said. He showed me how his hands were tied behind his back and then raised from the floor and hung that way for many, many hours.

"After 2 weeks, he was transferred to a larger prison where he was held for 8 months without trial. He was released in February 1998, after his family borrowed thousands of dollars to pay off the local authorities. And even though he is free, they are keeping his father in prison. They believe it is for his son's beliefs. He feels his father is being held hostage to prevent him from talking with people about his faith. Needless to say, these Christians met with me at considerable risk. They conveyed to me a message of fear and desperation. But their mere presence in the room with me demonstrated their hope, and it also caused me to ask, how can the people of Israel find peace with the Palestinian Authority while the Palestinian Authority engages in coercion and torture based upon religious beliefs?"

SAUDI ARABIA LOOKS TO IRAN STRATFOR.COM Global Intelligence Update  
September 15, 1999  
Summary:

A message from a high-level Saudi envoy to Iranian President Mohammed Khatami reportedly called for increased Saudi-Iranian cooperation. The call likely fell on eager ears; Iran has wanted for years to increase cooperation with Saudi Arabia in order to supplant the U.S. presence in the region. And after eight years of a low-grade, U.S.-led war against Iraq, Saudi Arabia is now being forced to reconsider both its strategy and the balance of power in the Persian Gulf. Recent evidence indicates the Saudis may be looking to Iran to tip that balance.

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCHINDLER'S DEATH

Yesterday marked the 25th anniversary of the death of Oscar Schindler, who personally saved close to 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust. Although described as a "greedy Nazi exploiter of slave workers, a black-marketeer, and womanizer," he was declared a "Righteous Gentile" in Israel in the 1960's. Today there are more than 6,000 descendants of "Schindler's Jews" living in the USA, Europe, and Israel. Following Germany's deep economic depression of the 1930s, his family firm became bankrupt, and Schindler joined the Nazi party. He became successful there, and took control of a Jewish-owned factory, where he principally employed Jewish workers.

Slowly, however, he came to see the Jews not only as cheap labor, but also as mothers, fathers, and children exposed to ruthless slaughter. From then until the end of the war, he did everything he could -mostly using massive bribery - to save "his Jews" from death in nearby Auschwitz. Because of his money and connections, he received permission to run a mini-concentration camp of his own, into which no one was allowed without permission from Schindler. No one in the camp was murdered, or transported, or starved to death. He later received unprecedented permission to move the whole of his factory to occupied Czechoslovakia. Later accounts revealed that Schindler spent the enormous sum of close to four million German marks keeping "his Jews" out of the death camps.

Although he lived in Germany for most of his life after the war, where he was reviled for his activities in support of Jews, he was invited to Israel each year, where "his Jews" attempted to show their gratitude for what he had done. He was buried in the Catholic churchyard on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, in accordance with his wishes.

Submitted by: David Welker



## MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is time to renew your subscription for the Messenger for the year 2000. The price is still the same as last year. US\$15.00 outside of Canada, and \$15.00 Canadian within Canada only



## WHY? WHY?

One day in Africa I was teaching Scripture to some grade eight students. We were talking about God and how He loves us and helps us.

Then Paul put up his hand. "Teacher," he said. "You know there's a famine back home where my parents are. They are very hungry."

I nodded.

"Then why doesn't God do something about that famine?" Paul went on.

Everybody nodded, and here and there pupils were saying, "My brother is hungry," or "My father is starving," or "My baby sister is going to die."

"Is it because they're bad?" asked Tom.

"Is God trying to punish us?" asked James.

"Does He really care?" questioned Mary.

"Doesn't the Bible say God takes care of His people? Doesn't it say our bread and water will be sure? Doesn't it say that God will supply all our needs?" Rachel asked.

Their faces were all troubled. Some of the girls wiped tears from their eyes. I felt a lump in my throat and could hardly talk. Yes, I knew about the famine. I had sat for hours with a group of people while we tried to decide what to do for hungry people.

"Is God not the same as He used to be?" asked Tom.

"Couldn't He send rain as He did in the days of Elijah?" questioned Sarah.

"Couldn't He send the ravens again?" asked James.

"If He did all that for those people, why can't He do something for us?" exclaimed Matthew.

Then Elizabeth began to cry. "That's just it! He did it for all those Israelites but He's never done any of those miracles for Africans. We just don't count with God. My family is so hungry back home," she sobbed. "Why doesn't God do something about it?"

Then there was a long silence. These were hard questions to answer. Very hard. I did not have all the answers myself, so I prayed silently to God for help.

"My dear students," I began, "The God we serve is the God of Moses and Elijah. Our God sent manna to Israel and He sent the ravens to feed Elijah.

"God hasn't really forgotten Africa. In fact, He did a very wonderful thing in Angola a few years ago. He sent those people food. I don't know of any other place in the entire world where God sent food in such a marvelous manner in recent years. He didn't send it to Europe or Israel, or even America. He sent it to Africa." And then I told them the story of how the food came to Angola.

The girls wiped their tears away; the boys' faces relaxed. But there was still the problem of *why*.

"Some people are hungry because they are too lazy to work," said James. "I wouldn't expect God to perform a miracle to feed them."

"Some people are hungry because they are dishonest or they get drunk on the job and they lose their jobs," said another.

"Some won't work unless they can get a job with a high salary," added someone.

"But after all that," said Paul, "there are still thousands of hungry people in the countryside because it doesn't rain, and sometimes many people are sick and can't work. Sometimes governments could do more to help by building dams and lakes so that the people could irrigate their crops. But even if the whole world began that today, many people would die before the job was done."

"Some people are hungry because some rich people are dishonest with the poor," added Tom.

"Where is God in it all?" asked Rachel. "Even Jesus said there would be famines before He comes the second time."

"All right, let's talk about God for awhile," I suggested. "In the book of Genesis, chapters 1-3, we read that God made everything good in the beginning. There was plenty of food and no problems.

"But when Satan tempted Eve, and she and Adam chose to eat the fruit of the tree that God forbade them, they chose Satan as their ruler. The world still belonged to God because He made it, and Adam and Eve belonged to God because God made them. But God allowed Adam and Eve to decide whether or not they would obey and love Him or whether they would obey Satan.

"When they chose Satan, then God allowed Satan to do many things that he had not been permitted to do before. God wanted to give all the people who would come into the world a chance to see Satan's work. But God would also work so that people could see *His* work. God would allow people – each one – to choose whom he or she would serve.

"Now it happens that Satan is a destroyer. He likes to have people hungry and sick and poor. He makes famines and war. Then he tries to get people to think that this is God's way. He wants people to blame God for the trouble that he makes. God will let him do it for awhile, but someday God will destroy Satan and all his works."

"I can see that God is giving us a chance to choose," said Mary. "But many of us have already chosen God. Why do we have to suffer? We are Christians. Didn't God promise to give us what we need?"

"Yes, God has promised to supply all our needs. But sometimes we don't know what we need. Maybe we need more faith or more patience. Maybe we need to experience more of the comfort of Jesus in our lives. Maybe we need those things more than we need food.

"While God waits to give us our food, He gives us these other things we need. Maybe we need to learn to be more unselfish with others. Being hungry can help us to understand how they feel. You

see, Jesus wants His people to have a character like His. We develop character through suffering if we allow God to teach us."

"But where is Jesus when we suffer?" Does He like to see us suffer?" asked Rachel.

"No, Jesus doesn't like to see us suffer. What hurts us hurts Him. He is right beside us in all our grief."

"But what about all the promises He has made to keep us?" asked James.

"I picked up a Bible. 'I'll read you some of these promises."

"Because he hath set his love upon me," says the Lord, "therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." Ps. 91:14-16.

"This does not say that we won't be in trouble; it says that God will be with us in trouble and He will rescue us. It does not promise long life on this earth – our longest life will be spent on the New Earth."

"For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever." Ps. 9:18.

"You see, God does not say there will not be anyone in need; He says those who are needy will not always be forgotten. Many times the poor feel that they are forgotten. And many times the people who could help them do forget them. But this says they will not always be forgotten."

"Behold, they eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine." Ps. 33:18,19.

"But God lets many people die in famines," said Tom. "He doesn't deliver them all."

"That is true, Tom".

"Why does He do that?" asked Tom.

"We don't always know why," I replied. "If He saved everyone, we would not have a clear picture of Satan's work. If he always saved the ones who say they believe in Him, then people

would say they believe just so He would care for them. Many people curse God in times of trouble. They move to Satan's side. God removes His protection from them sometimes. Besides, God is looking for people who trust Him so much that they would trust Him even when dying."

"Why does He need that kind of people?" asked Mark.

"Because Satan accuses God of being unfair and unjust. He says that people obey God because they are afraid of Him. He says that it is impossible for people in deep trouble still to be Christians and to show that God can help them be true to Him even when they die. But God needs this kind of people to be His witnesses."

"Does God love them while they are dying?" asked Mary.

"Oh, yes," I answered. "He tells us to be faithful unto death and He will give us a crown of life."

The Apostle Paul said, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Romans 8:35,36.

"Are we going to lose faith in God during this famine and leave Him? Do we think God has left us in this famine? Oh no! He has not left us. We must not leave Him."

Then Mark asked, "Can't we pray?"

"Of course we can," I replied. "God loves to have us talk to Him."

"What should we ask for?" questioned Tom.

"We could ask that God will send rain and food when He sees it is best," said Mary.

"And we could ask Him to help us to believe He is with us," said Rachel.

"We should ask Him to show us if there is sin in our lives that needs to be confessed," said Paul.

"We should ask Him to show us how we can help ourselves get food," James added. "We should pray that He will make us good witnesses for Him," Tom said.

"I guess we should ask Him to teach us patience and all the other things we need to learn," Mary commented.

"And shouldn't we tell Him that if He sees it is best for some of our families to die, that we will be willing, for He knows best?" asked Rachel.

"Yes, we should pray that His will, will be done," I commented. "But what about praise and thanksgiving?" Isn't there anything we can praise God for, even in a famine?" I asked.

"Yes, we can thank Him that we know Him. Many people do not," said Mark.

"And we can thank Him for Jesus," said Mary, "That He came and has already died and risen again so that even if we do starve, we have the promise of eternal life." She added, "All our families are alive, even if we are starving. We can thank God that they are still alive."

"There's more we should ask God for," said Mark. "We should ask Him to keep us from stealing if we are tempted to. We shouldn't steal even if we are hungry."

"I know something harder than that," added Paul. "We should ask Him to keep us from coveting what the rich people have."

"That's really hard to do!" Rachel agreed, smiling. "And it's even more difficult not to hate them when they are so selfish."

"If we trust God to care for us, we don't need to covet and steal," I replied. "But He is the only One who can keep us from doing these things."

Then we prayed. Many of the pupils talked to God, and then I prayed. We told God all about our problems.

Each day we prayed in our private devotions. Their families prayed. The church people prayed. When the famine was finally over, the students told me that no mothers or fathers, brothers or sisters of theirs had died from hunger. But they had come to trust God more than ever before.

Oh, how happy we were that once more there were rainy seasons and dry seasons! How we thanked God for caring for us and for teaching us about Himself!



# NEW BRUNSWICK OUTREACH

## JULY 1999

Most recently, the Commander of Heaven planted His banner in Edmunston, New Brunswick, a northeastern Canadian province. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."<sup>1</sup> Unto the dwellers of St. John's Valley, the Lord of Hosts raised the standard. "The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been - just what it was in paradise before the fall of our first parents - PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF GOD, perfect righteousness."<sup>2</sup> "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."<sup>3</sup> "There are more souls longing to understand how they may come to Christ than we imagine."<sup>4</sup>

A sentinel of soldiers were commissioned to invade Edmunston. Christ said: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."<sup>5</sup> Initially, the campaign was scheduled for mid-August. "Those whom God employs as His messengers are not to feel that His work is dependent upon them." "God does not confine Himself to one place or person...He understands His own work upon the human heart, and needs not that any man should direct the working of His spirit."<sup>7</sup> It is right to give counsel and suggest plans; but every man should be left free to seek direction from God, whom he is and whom he serves."<sup>8</sup>

"And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto Him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it: I pray Thee have me excused."<sup>9</sup> "And He came to the second,

and said likewise. And he answered and said, "I go, Sir and went not."<sup>10</sup> "And another said, I have bought five yoke oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray Thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."<sup>11</sup>

"The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out, and left by the way... But their numbers were immediately made up by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks."<sup>12</sup> David Beamish traveled the width of Canada to take part in the battle. "The battle which we have to fight - the greatest battles that were ever fought by man - IS THE SURRENDER OF SELF TO THE WILL OF GOD, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love."<sup>13</sup> "Because they failed of fulfilling God's purpose, the children of Israel were set aside, and God's call was extended to other people. If these too prove unfaithful, will they not in like manner be rejected?"<sup>14</sup> "We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken."<sup>15</sup>

"In studying the natural loveliness surrounding us, the mind is carried up through nature to the Author of all that is lovely. All the works of God are speaking to our senses, magnifying His power, exalting His wisdom."<sup>16</sup> "It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field... It was He that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song."<sup>17</sup> And it was Jesus who was "equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in

the likeness of men: and being found fashioned as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." <sup>18</sup> "He was treated as we deserve, in order that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His." <sup>19</sup>

Besides beholding Edmunston's natural surroundings, the group prayed, conducted Bible studies, shared knowledge and experiences, performed household chores, canvassed the community, and discussed the Advent beliefs with interested souls. "God requires order and system in His work now no less than in the days of Israel...He would have His work done with faith and exactness, that He may place the seal of His approval upon it." <sup>20</sup> "Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than our time." <sup>21</sup>

On Sabbath, the presiding undershepherd gave a message about a woman and her "expectation". "Professors of religion are not willing to closely examine themselves to see whether they are in the faith; and it is a fearful fact that many are leaning on a false hope." <sup>22</sup> "They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth." <sup>23</sup> "They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it... All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation." <sup>24</sup>

During Sabbath school, one interested soul asked what was God's name. As we search the Scriptures, and study the Testimonies, and sing the songs of praise and worship, we find that all the best names have been taken and give to "The Desire of Ages", "the Holy One of Israel", "Fairest Lord Jesus". But be of good cheer. Christ said: "To him that overcomes...I will write upon him My new

name". Revelation 3:12, "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, blameless." <sup>25</sup> AMEN.

Chester B. Cosby

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Isaiah 9:2             | 14 - COL pg. 131       |
| 2 - Steps to Christ pg. 62 | 15 - 6T pg. 332        |
| 3 - Joel 3:14              | 16 - 3T pg. 377        |
| 4 - 4T pg. 394             | 17 - DA pg. 20         |
| 5 - 4T pg. 400             | 18 - Philippians 2:6-8 |
| 6 - MB pg. 121             | 19 - 8T pg. 208, 209   |
| 7 - TM pg. 484             | 20 - PP pg. 376        |
| 8 - 6T pg. 334             | 21 - COL pg. 342       |
| 9 - Luke 14:18             | 22 - 1T pg. 188        |
| 10 - Matthew 21:30         | 23 - COL pg. 411       |
| 11 - Luke 14:18            | 24 - 5T pg. 221        |
| 12 - 1T pg. 179            | 25 - 2 Peter 3:14      |
| 13 - MB pg. 141            |                        |



Raquel Acevedo and Nilda Cabrera are Missionaries in the Venezuelan jungle

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# BAPTISMS IN TORONTO AND STREETSVILLE

With great joy we gathered together Sabbath afternoon October 24, 1999 to witness the baptism of Brother Hilton Blount, Brother Thomas Briandt-Jonah and Brother Richard Germain.

Brother Hilton is from Guyana, Brother Thomas from Ghana and Brother Richard is Canadian born. Brother Richard studied with Brother Jerry Eaton in Vancouver and later moved to Ontario.

We are all very happy and thankful to God for these dear souls; may the Lord bless them that their covenant is for eternity. AMEN

Timo Martin



Brothers and Sisters who were graduated at the Seminar in El Salvador. In the front row are Brothers Marcos Mejia, Adan Jimenez, Hector Hernandez, Pedro Ruis, Gerhard Hunger, Orlando Ortiz, Moises Ruis and Raul Argueta.

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*Trust in the Lord with all  
thine heart and lean not unto  
thine own understanding. In  
all thy ways acknowledge Him  
and He shall direct thy paths.*

*Prov. 3:4,5.*

