

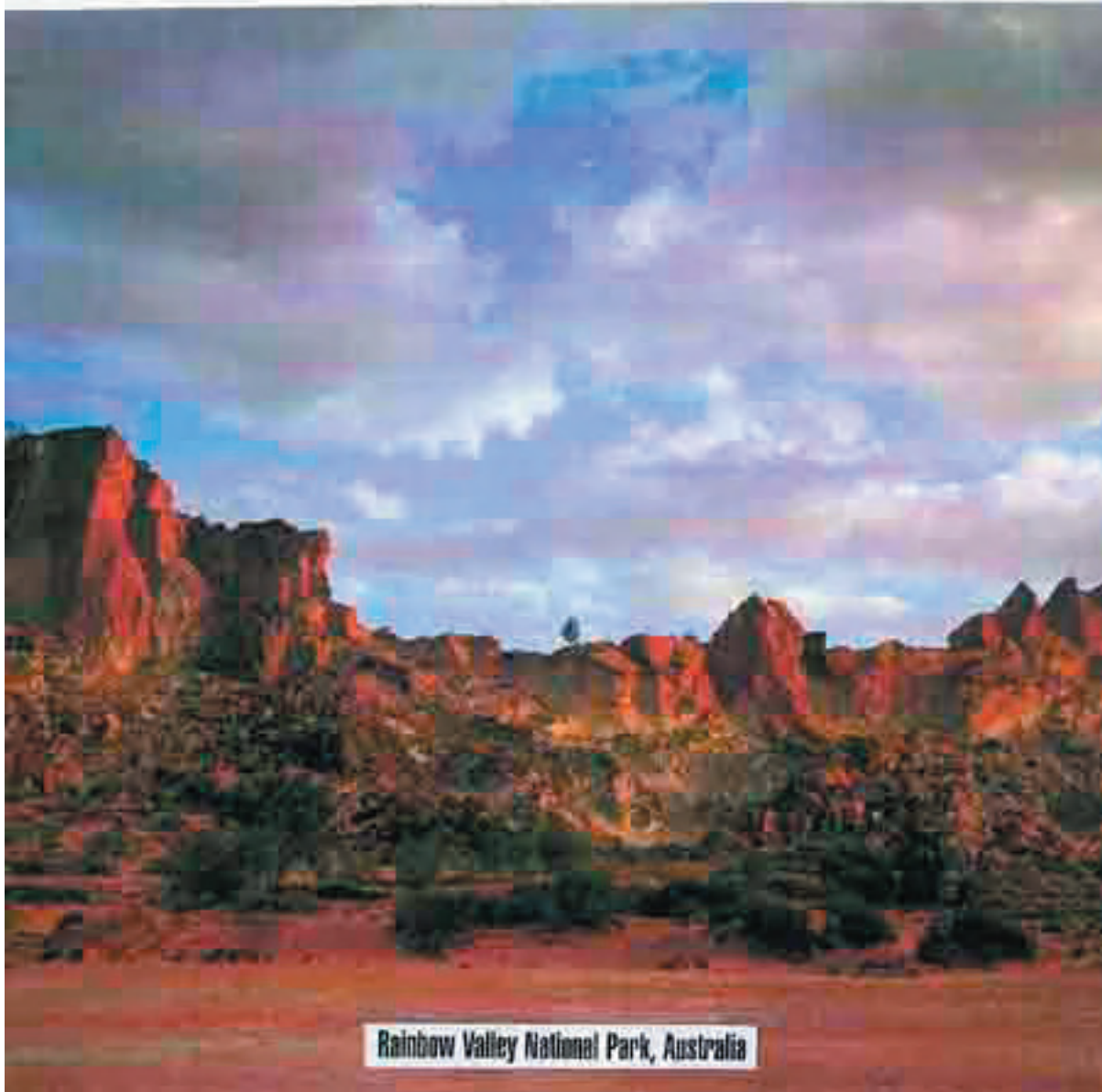
*The Reformation* 

# Messenger

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**Rainbow Valley National Park, Australia**

## THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

Today we still live in the probationary time, but for how long? No one knows. God has not revealed to us the time when our probation closes. Jesus gave us a warning, "Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt 24:44.

In times of war and persecution we expect the world to come to an end. But it was in the time of peace and prosperity, while the wise and foolish virgins were peacefully sleeping, when the Bridegroom came and the time of probation ended.

"When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly - at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clean record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us." 7 BC 989.

God has given ample time for us to prepare ourselves for the end; but many are wasting the precious moments and suddenly realize that the time is finished. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jen 8:20.

### THE CLOSING OF PROBATION IS PROGRESSIVE

The probation will close to the church of God first while people outside have still time.

"And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others He said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house." Ezek. 9:4-6.

The sealing angel began at the ancient men before the sanctuary and the angels with slaughter weapons followed.

The seal of the living God was placed in the foreheads of the men, women and children. This was the result of the judgment in heaven. All who were accepted received the seal and those who were rejected in the judgment were slain by the destroying angels.

"The work of destruction begins among those who have professed to be the spiritual guardians of the people. The false watchmen are the first to fall." G.C. 656.

For many years we have enjoyed the mercy of God. Our sins have been forgiven, grace has been granted to us, and many are used to it. Sin to them is a light, small thing, because forgiveness has been granted so easily—so freely. They reason in their minds, why should they pay tithes now, why should they be so strict in health reform, why avoid now the worldly amusements when one day before their judgment they can confess and ask forgiveness and all their sins will be forgiven. But they do not know when this day will be. Suddenly they realize that the time of their probation has ended.

Nothing is so terrible to a lukewarm, professed Christian than to hear the words, "too late". All their years of religious exercises and sacrifices were in vain. They are outside with the open sinners. If the Lord would lengthen their probationary time, they still would not be ready in the end of it.

### THE PROBATION ENDED

"When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life

or death. Probation will end a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: “\*”He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Rev. 22:11. G.C.

That time every person has made a choice in his life and God respects his choice. Anyone who decided to be unjust or filthy in this life will continue in his sins. God will not force him to obedience. Others who decided to be righteous and holy will continue in it.

Satan needs not to deceive the wicked or the lukewarm professors of religion anymore. Now they wake up to realize their lost condition. They will seek salvation now, but they cannot find it. Their secret sins they now publish openly. Money they kept to themselves now they throw out. Their houses and lands they are now willing to sacrifice, but it is all too late.

“While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her ornaments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: ‘Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting.’” G.C. 490-491 (1911 Ed.)

The last sermon has been spoken to the sinners, the last prayer for their conversion pronounced, the last tear shed for the impenitent and now God’s people leave the cities and towns seeking isolated places in the mountains and forests while the seven last plagues are being poured upon the earth.

Let us wake up to realize the solemnity of the hour in which we live today. The end may be closer to us than we think. To be so close to salvation and yet to lose it would be a terrible disappointment. May the Lord have mercy upon His remnant people. AMEN

Timo Martin

## “IS NOT LIFE MORE THAN... RAIMENT?”

### MATTHEW 6:25

Since the General Conference came out with their recommendation on the dress question (as published in the May/June 1999 *Sabbath Watchman*) I have had several discussions on the issue with different people and have found differing thoughts and ideas on the issue. Why make such a strong statement? Why make such an issue out of the dress question? Is it really necessary? After all Sister White wrote, “There is no need to make the dress question the main point of your religion. There is something richer to speak of. Talk of Christ, and when the heart is converted, everything that is out of harmony with the Word of God will drop off. It is only labor in vain to pick leaves off a living tree. The leaves will reappear. The ax must be laid at the root of the tree, and then the leaves will fall off, never to return.” *Evangelism*, p. 272. So why are we making it such a big issue? Or are we?

In the December 1999 *Messenger* I wrote a few paragraphs regarding the dress question in conjunction with the decision of the General Conference. What I regret failing to mention was the context of this statement. In context it reads: “We should first work for the people’s conversion and also do more missionary work within the families by visiting homes and writing articles about the subject of dress reform. .” Then followed the statement I quoted in the December issue. For those who have not read it, I quote again, “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.” Since that time I have done some thinking and studying over the issue and I wanted to address the subject in a little more detail. Why do we keep repeating some issues over and over again? Could it be because God’s people have turned a deaf ear to some of these issues and therefore they need to be re-addressed?

First of all we must mention that dress reform is not an issue for women only, it is also an issue for men. Worldly men today dress immodestly at times and God’s people cannot follow their example. The biggest disagreement I have seen though is on women’s use of pants. Is it acceptable attire for the Christian woman or

is it not?

Perhaps I could begin by speaking of my own experience on the issue. I grew up wearing dresses and pants in my early years. By fourth grade I had decided that I preferred to wear pants most of the time. It was not really much of an issue in my household. I wanted to dress as everyone else at school. It was not until I was in my final year of high school that I made a change. It was a change that I made - not because I felt that it was my religious duty to wear pants, I had other reasons. I grew up in an age where everyone liked to wear his or her pants tight. (Today we see the opposite extreme - young people sometimes like to wear their pants so loose they are almost falling off). Well the summer before my final year I had put on some weight and my pants simply did not fit anymore. I was perplexed. What should I do? Should I go and purchase a whole new wardrobe of pants? I went out one day to the shops, but it was such a hassle that I decided to forget it. I had a closet full of dresses that I wore to church every Sabbath; why not start to wear them to school? I did just that and I found a remarkable difference. The teachers and students showed me more respect automatically. The teachers treated me on an equal level instead of placing me on a lower level. I could sense the fact that the teachers spoke to me on a more mature level than many of the other students and also there was a difference in comparison to their attitude towards me in previous years. I rather appreciated the respect. I went through that final year and occasionally would take note of how many other girls

were wearing dresses. Some days I did not see one single girl. Did I feel like I was out of place? Not once! This was a decision that I had made on my own - not one that was forced upon me against my will. I could see now that this was God's appointed way. I just wish I had made this decision earlier in my life. We are to look and act differently than the world in a respectful manner.

I have often written about my experience in my work place over ten years ago. I worked in the office of a warehouse and was the only one wearing a dress. Everyone else dressed in his or her usual worldly manner. Automatically, the boss seemed to show me more respect and one day when we were alone in the office (it was lunchtime and the others had gone to lunch) he simply asked me how he could find happiness. He was wealthy but not happy. Why would he ask me? Was I different from the others in any way? I had hardly ever spoken to him and I had not been there as long as most of the others. In fact I had not spoken to him about my faith at all - all he was going by was what he saw and he saw a difference, which prompted the question. As I have said in the past, I gave him a copy of *Steps to Christ* before leaving. These are some of the experiences that I have come through in my belief that the wearing of pants on a regular basis is not appropriate attire for a woman who professes to be a follower of Christ. Although this may have been my experience, I do not encourage mothers of today to allow their children to make their own decisions on dress when they are young. It is not safe and your children may not choose to go the way I went. Too often I have seen young people go the other way. I have often thought of those years prior to my final year of high school and thought regretfully of the wrong influence I exerted. I cannot change the past, but hopefully I can encourage others not to follow my footsteps.

Unfortunately, we live in a world that will judge people from their outward appearance. There are times I have been out shopping and noticed the dress of other people. I notice them especially if they are dressed nicely. If they are not, I pretty well don't notice them at all. Is this wrong on my part? Yes, it is wrong to judge a person by the clothing he or she wears, but humanly speaking that is what people do. Therefore what should we do about it? We must dress to be that person who is "different" (without dressing as a scarecrow) so that people will take note and perhaps be drawn to Christ through our example. "The dress and its arrangement upon the person is generally found to be the index of the man or the woman. We judge of a person's character by the style of dress worn. A modest, godly woman will dress modestly. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of a simple, appropriate attire . . . The one who is simple and unpretending in her dress and in her manners shows that she understands that a true woman is characterized by moral worth. How charming, how interesting, is simplicity in dress, which in comeliness can be compared with the flowers of the field." CG, p. 413.

How do we as parents get our children to follow the right principles of dress reform? This is a problem that faces many mothers. I have heard of many mothers who have become exasperated in trying to have their daughters wear dresses to school. The converse is also true, I have heard of many girls who have grumbled at the fact that they were "forced" to wear dresses when they really didn't want to. "Your daughters are inclined, if they see a dress different from that which they have, to desire a dress similar to that. Or perhaps they want something else that they see others have, which you do not feel would be in accordance with your faith to grant them. Will you allow them to tease this thing out of you, letting them mold you instead of molding them according to the principles of the gospel? Our children are very precious in the sight of God. Let us teach them the Word of God and train them in His ways. It is your privilege to teach your children to live so that they will have the commendation of Heaven. . . Let us not encourage our children to follow the fashions of the world; and if we will be faithful in giving them a right training, they will not do this. . The fashions of the world often take a ridiculous form, and you must take a firm position against them." CG, p. 435. You are the one who purchases their clothing when they are young -you can decide what to purchase.

So, yes it is the parent that should decide on the proper dress of the children, but if we are constantly

sending our children to the public schools (where Sister White counseled it was not the proper place for our children in her days - Is it better today? - that is another study that I feel very strongly about also) then what can we expect? We send them to the world to be educated and soon enough the world will not only educate them scholastically but the world will train them in the practical affairs of life also. Often the peer pressure is too great for them. Not only will they want to follow the way of the world in dress - so as to be the same as everyone else, but also many young people have lost their way spiritually in these institutions. There will be a constant struggle in the child's mind as to who they should follow: 1) the parents guidelines, or 2) what they are learning in school. It would do us well to follow the guidelines set out by the Spirit of Prophecy for the education of our children and we will have much more success in the training of our youth for the Lord.

However, moving back to the dress issue, it is not only a difficulty for young people but many older ones also. Does God love the woman wearing a dress more than the one wearing pants? Not really - God loves everyone equally. When you are at home alone, it matters not what you are dressed like. When you get up in the morning, you don't have to put a dress on before coming to the Lord in prayer and study. He hears and answers your prayers however you are dressed. Then where does the dress question come in? It becomes important when we go out into society where we are a witness to the world. It would be well for us to dress modestly as often as possible at home though since we must be ready for any unexpected visitors without having to worry about running to our closet when the door bell rings. People will be saved or lost according to our influence whether we like it or not.

If you became an employee of a certain firm and they had a uniform that you were expected to wear, you would wear it without question even if you didn't like the colour or style. If you went away from your job site temporarily and people saw you, they would know automatically where you worked because often the name of the company is on the uniform. Does Jesus have a uniform for us? Yes, it is called Dress Reform. When we go out in public, people will see us and hopefully, see Christ in us.

"If we are Christians, we shall follow Christ, even though the path in which we are to walk cuts right across our natural inclinations. **There is no use in telling you that you must not wear this or that, for if the love of these vain things is in your heart your laying off your adornments will only be like cutting the foliage off a tree. The inclinations of the natural heart would again assert themselves.** You must have a conscience of your own." CG, p. 429,430. "The outside appearance is an index to the heart." IT, p. 436.

"There are many who try to correct the life of others by attacking what they consider the wrong habits. They go to those whom they think are in error, and point out their defects. They say, 'You don't dress as you should.' They try to pick off the ornaments, or whatever seems offensive, but they do not seek to fasten the mind to the truth. Those who seek to correct others should present the attractions of Jesus. They should talk of His love and compassion, present His example and sacrifice, reveal His Spirit, and they need not touch the subject of dress at all.

"In order to teach men and women the worthlessness of earthly things, you must lead them to the living Fountain, and get them to drink of Christ, until their hearts are filled with the love of God, and Christ is in them, a well of water springing up into everlasting life." *Evangelism*, p. 272.

"Cleanse the fountain, and the streams will be pure. If the heart is right, your words, your dress, your acts, will all be right." IT, p. 158.

And yes, there are a few times when it is not modest for a woman to wear a dress. In such activities as snow skiing or horseback riding it is difficult. If you are working around the house and climbing ladders it would not be good - or working in such a place that the dress is a hindrance and can cause personal injury. We have to dress wisely and modestly. Most times though it is not appropriate for a Christian woman to wear pants - such as in church, at Bible Studies, or even when we are out casually shopping or visiting with friends. Our influence will tell a great deal in these circumstances. If we look and act like the world or even like nominal Christians, what would draw others to Christ in us? Nothing! If we dress appropriately and have Christ in our hearts then our light will shine. "Simple, plain, unpretending dress will be a recommendation to my youthful sisters. In no better way can you let your light shine to others than in your simplicity of dress and deportment. You may show to all that, in comparison to eternal things, you place a proper estimate upon the things of this life." T3, p. 376.

We do not want to discourage new souls coming to the truth though. The dress question is a difficult question for many people and we don't want them to think that God is not with them because they haven't adopted the dress reform yet. How will we win them to God's ideal? Not by force or censure. The best way is by our example. If the women in our churches wear the proper dress in every circumstance, the new souls will see how it is possible and even becoming for a woman to dress modestly and simply, being separate from the worldly fashion. When they fully surrender their hearts to the Lord, this issue will be a joy to follow, because they love the Lord with all their heart, mind and soul. It is our duty then to show patience towards them, realizing that it might be a little costly to purchase a new wardrobe if they have not been dressing for the honour and glory of the Lord for many years. It would behoove us to help them, not only spiritually, but also practically in any way that we can in helping them to obtain the necessary clothing in order to live up to the standard of the Lord.

Those in the church who refuse to follow these guidelines set out by the General Conference are not to be pushed down and rebuked, but they should be counseled in regard to the fact that they may not only lose their own souls, but the influence they are exerting on others could be very harmful. I have often seen in other church organizations women attending Bible studies or prayer meetings in pants and it did not seem appropriate. It is my

desire that we would not follow the customs of the world, but show that we are different - God's peculiar people.

Especially is it required of the wives of the ministers and missionary workers to be leaders in their example. "I saw that the wives of the ministers should help their husbands in their labors and be exact and careful what influence they exert, for they are watched, and more is expected of them than of others. Their dress should be an example. Their lives and conversation should be an example, savoring of life rather than of death. I saw that they should take a humble, meek, yet exalted stand, not having their conversation upon things that do not tend to direct the mind heavenward. The great inquiry should be: 'How can I save my own soul, and be the means of saving others?' I saw that no half-hearted work in this matter is accepted of God. He wants the whole heart and interest, or He will have none. Their influence tells, decidedly, unmistakably, in favor of truth or against it. They gather with Jesus, or scatter abroad." IT, p. 139.

So does that mean our dress will win the favour of God? Not if our hearts are far from Him. We must be very careful to avoid the sins of the Scribes and Pharisees. They were hypocrites. They looked good on the outside but were full of "dead men's bones." Without Christ our outward show of Christianity will have no effect on others.

The Lord wants all of us, but we have to start with the heart. As we direct people to Christ their hearts will be melted with love for their Master and no duty that He requires will be too difficult to take up.

"There is a dress which every child and youth may innocently seek to obtain. It is the righteousness of the saints. If they will only be as willing and persevering in obtaining this as they are in fashioning their garments after the standard of worldly society, they will very soon be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and their names will not be blotted out of the book of life. Mothers, as well as youth and children, need to pray, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.' [Psalm 51:10.] This purity of heart and loveliness of spirit are more precious than gold, both for time and for eternity. Only the pure in heart shall see God.

"Then, mothers, teach your children, line up on line and precept upon precept, that the righteousness of Christ is the only dress in which they can be admitted into heaven, and that robed in this apparel they will be constantly doing duties in this life which will glorify God." CG, p. 417, 418.

So when we look deeply at the decision that was made at the General Conference session last April, we are not to look at it as some arbitrary, dictatorial rule. No, in fact if we study the issue (as I am sure they did before making the decision) we can see that this is God's appointed way. We are to teach and encourage others to follow in this way, not because the church made a rule, but because it is the way the Lord wants us to be as His representatives. We are His ambassadors to the world. When we become Christians does not Christ have a right to inform us as to what He prefers us to dress like? I believe that if we have the Spirit of Christ in us, we will follow this way and we will have enough love in our hearts that we can counsel others in the right line. As long as we present Christ in the law, the law will be magnified in the hearts of those who seek to follow Him.

"Talk of the love and humility of Jesus, but do not encourage the brethren and sisters to engage in picking flaws in the dress or appearance of one another. Some take delight in this work; and when their minds are turned in this direction, they begin to feel that they must become church tinkers. They climb upon the judgment seat, and as soon as they see one of their brethren and sisters, they look to find something to criticize. This is one of the most effectual means of becoming narrow-minded and of dwarfing spiritual growth. God would have them step down from the judgement seat, for He has never placed them there." CG, p. 429.

"Human reasoning has ever sought to evade or set aside the simple, direct instructions of the Word of God. In every age a majority of the professed followers of Christ have disregarded those precepts which enjoin self-denial and humility, which require modesty and simplicity of conversation, deportment, and apparel. The result has ever been the same -departure from the teachings of the gospel leads to the adoption of the fashions, customs, and principles of the world. Vital godliness gives place to a dead formalism. The presence and power of God, withdrawn from those world-loving circles, are found with a class of humble worshippers, who are willing to obey the teachings of the Sacred Word. Through successive generations this course has been pursued. One after another different denominations have risen and yielding their simplicity, have lost, in a great measure, their early power." MYP, p. 354.

"All matters of dress should be strictly guarded, following closely the Bible rule. Fashion has been the goddess who has ruled the outside world, and she often insinuates herself into the church. The church should make the Word of God her standard, and parents should think intelligently upon this subject. When they see their children inclined to follow worldly fashions, they should, like Abraham, resolutely command their households after them. Instead of uniting with the world, connect them with God." T5, p. 499.

So let us not make the dress question our entire religion, but let us put it in right perspective and let the Lord lead us to a higher standard than we have perhaps followed in the past. In the General Conference decision there was a lifting of the standard for which we can rejoice. This decision straightforwardly encourages church leaders and all of those who bear responsibilities in the work to ensure that the standard is uplifted in theory and in practice in the love of Christ. The youth today have a saying, "What would Jesus do?" In this article I have striven to follow that worthy example, and may we all seek to do the same. Remember that we cannot force people to follow the right principles. We can only present the truth and try to lead them to Christ by our words and example, leaving the conviction to the Holy Spirit. AMEN

Wendy Eaton

# The General Attack Against Christianity

## Part 2 The name of Jesus is being censored

Sept. 2, 1998, 10:30 PM. The Swiss Air jet, flight SP 111 from New York to Geneva crashed at Peggy's Cove into the Atlantic. None of the 229 on board survived.

At the memorial service last September (1998), Protestant, Anglican and Catholic chaplains were forbidden to mention the name of Jesus in their speeches,.. All speakers had to submit their manuscripts to the committee of the organization for examination. While representatives of non-Christian religions did not have to put up with any changes to their texts, those of the Christian speakers were heavily censored.

### The new tolerance in Germany

Until now we brought many examples from the USA. But what does it look like in Germany? In a documentation of the Liberal Welfare-Care in Lower Saxony it says: "The Christian faith-according to the old atheistic scheme-is again defamed as being an in-between step that has been overcome and is brushed aside as being a mere human work whose time is up. The term 'sect' is not really defined as such. On behalf of Christian groups, terms like churches, free-church, and sects are distinguished merely in how far they deviate from the mainstream denominations. By now the Christian reader can no more shrug off the impression that in Germany strategies are developing, which in the right moment can be used against Christians. Do we not see here the signs of a new ideology, that will claim power?... The 'enlightened' understanding of liberty and tolerance will totally push against the biblical definition of tolerance and liberty." Inconvenient groups are defamed as sects. The ecumenical test for sects is: "Creeds living their faith apart from the ecumenical movement are labeled as 'special groups' and 'sects'. We may here repeat the important thought: All organizations not oriented towards ecumenism are specified as sects. And sects bear the negative image of being altogether dubious."

A member of parliament in Berlin said that what makes a sect is the monopoly-claim that their dogma is the only one that can save man and mankind. Jesus says: "No man can come to the Father than by me." Then according to this definition, all Christian denominations are sects.

### In German schools

Immanuel Luck, former teacher, writes in his book: "The Destruction of Religious Freedom in the Public Schools in Germany", the following: "Concerning the multicultural society... clergies have put a special accent upon inter-religious learning. All religions are equal; all perceptions are right. This goes even so far that they endorse participation in classes of the Islamic religion... Christians, who for conscience sake refrain from attending religious classes, are being exposed to worldly philosophies and world ethics—which the state enforces and the Protestant church supports—thus facing permanent attacks against their Bible-based beliefs and life perspectives." This former teacher headlines his conclusion: "Church and State attack Bible belief in Germany."

### What comes from the Green Party?

The chairman of the Green Party and present minister of the environment replied to the question: Why, at his inauguration did he leave out the sentence, "so help me God"? He replied, "Why should God help me? In all these years He did not help me!" What happens when leaders blaspheme the Lord? Will His blessing be with such a government? Such a government must not be surprised when Bible-believing Christians turn their backs en masse to the government.

### The example of homosexuality

"What could come upon Christians I experienced already last year (1997)." Dr. Heinz Jurgen Fishbach, head of healthcare in Montabaur. As a believing Christian... Dr. Fishbach, at a Protestant convention made a remark against homosexuality as written in the Bible. Afterwards the Green Party approached him for he had 'discriminated a minority', and started disciplinary action against him. Luckily the charges against him were withdrawn.

Today the presentation of Bible facts is sufficient to face prosecution. “How quickly one can come under heavy fire even without the law, experienced the staff of a conservative paper in Germany (1998)... The paper asked its readers to send in their comments about “Homosexuality”. In the hot pro and con debate engaging Christians also, one of the letters stated: “Where do our children learn that it was homosexuals, who introduced AIDS? It is time to set limits on the defenders of this perversion!” The opinion of one reader alone brought criticism to the paper from the press council. The editors should have censured the opinions of the readers to those in favour of homosexuality—that, in spite of freedom of speech in Germany!”

### **What does the Bible say to that? Lev. 20:13. Rom. 1:27.**

If we believe the Bible as being the unmovable word of God, we have, as a result a solid and clear position. But what happens when this clear expression of the Bible is being handled like this: “Signs are increasing that Bible-keeping and missionary-minded Christians will be threatened with persecution. In Europe, biblical rules and values will soon be questioned by new laws. The European Union (EU) demands the abolishing of laws not in favour of homosexual relationships. The discrimination of homosexuals should come under penalty. Those who disapprove of the legal equality of gay couples must face punishment. Consequently biblical texts (Lev. 20:13 and Rom. 1:27) must be reformulated or done away with, for these contain offensive contents.”

“Already today at the head office of the EU in Vienna, Austria, is an anti-discrimination department, where all the heads of Europe’s future meet... Bible-believing Christians will soon be confronted with the situation of persecution by the State...”

In the homosexual/lesbian paper “Queer”, a SPD federal business manager announced some weeks before the federal parliamentary election (1998) a comprehensive anti-discrimination law for the emancipation of homosexuals, should the SPD come to power.”

### **An example from the Netherlands**

“Leen von Dijke, representative of a Bible-believing Party in the Lower House of Holland, was declared guilty for confronting homosexuals. He was fined 1300 Dutch Guildes, because he expressed in an interview: “... for what reason should one with a gay lifestyle be better than a thief? It is dangerous to quote the Bible for matters in society.” The reaction of the prosecuting homosexual groups was: “With this verdict was set a symbol that a century old book is not above the established laws of a democracy.”

The verdict from Holland only deals indirectly with homosexuality. The important thing is the court’s decision: The Bible or secular law? Which is superior? The judge made the decision against the word of God, favoring human laws. The courthouse in the Netherlands had set itself above biblical guidelines. This will probably not remain a single case. Others will follow. Further governments will enact so-called anti-discrimination laws. Biblical truths will fall in the streets.

Have we here merely a withdrawal of Christian theology (Helena Blavatsky), or has the transformation of society already taken place? “As long as we broadcast the absolute exclusive message Christ had proclaimed when on earth, we can expect to experience persecution and the hatred of the world, especially when the ‘new tolerance’ finds further acceptance. This helps explain why Don Argue, former president of NAE (National Union of Evangelicals) can say: “The tragic fact is that in today’s world Christians are becoming the target of religious persecution.”

### **Problems for Bible Believers in Germany**

In Germany also the new tolerance is pushing its way into society. Truths of the Bible are being lost sight of step by step. “At the Kindergarten of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hannover-Vahrenwald, the new slogan was: “Jesus is the only way to God.” The Evangelical pastor Gniber substituted this already decided slogan with this sentence: “The daily being together demands constant compromises. Tolerance towards other cultures should, amidst the multitude of religions not hinder us from being a witness for the Christian faith.” But the Co-pastor Mockel, a firm defender of the Bible is against a sacrificing of the claim of the absoluteness of Jesus Christ.

“Then in December 1998, the majority of the church authorities decided to initiate proceedings against Mockel, because his work would be a hindrance to church growth... In this procedure the question of being guilty has



deliberately been left out. Thus for the confronted pastor any kind of defense, namely any reference to the Bible is made impossible.”

This example shows that to believe and justify the Bible means the loss of one's profession, social wants and difficulties. We repeat: “Christians in this world are the specific target for religious persecution.”

### **Order EO 13107**

On December 10, 1998, US president Bill Clinton signed the government order EO 13107 with the title: “Introduction of Contracts about Human Rights”. In this benign title the American Constitution is being by-passed. This government resolution demands from the governments of all US Federal States and local levels the acceptance of all contracts of the United Nations, whether these have been approved by the US Senate or not, according to the rules of the Constitution.

One of these UN contracts, “Discrimination of Minorities” declares that to convince anyone to change his religion is a crime of hate which must be punished through international laws. It is expected that this new statutory order will be used extensively by the newly opened office supervising religious persecutions, to arrest Christian missionaries and other witnesses for Christ all over the world and to cast them into prison. This UN order in its content forbids evangelistic work among the natives of Brazil and Guatemala.

The laws of USA, and later also in other nations are being altered to conform to the human rights of the UN. The editor of the World Net Daily newscast, Joseph Farah, summarized on December 23, 1998 the following: “The present laws of the USA are, in their nucleus based upon the law of the ultimate Sovereign, the Creator and God. That day, when the laws are coming from a ruling governmental authority, we are going to lose our liberties.

In the case of EO 13107, the laws do not originate from God, but from secular governments, with the ultimate authority being the UN.” This reminds us of Dr. Hinrichs statement that the United Nation Organization is a “New Age organization.”

This connection shows the danger of this American government resolution: Laws of divine origin are being substituted with laws of New Age ideology, which originate from satanic sources. Divine influence is being exchanged for hellish influence!

Thus the telling of Jesus Christ to a third party is an international crime to be punished. Is this not the fulfillment of the Saviour's prophecy? Matt. 10:22; Matt. 24:9; Mark 13:13; Lk. 21:17; Lk. 1:12; John 15:21.

Similar laws will also be abolished in Europe through the officials of the EU. Then will the new EU law subsequently be adopted into the laws of the individual nations within the European Union.

### **Mother Teresa**

The thoughts described here are not only being recognized by atheists and members of Eastern religions. Mother Teresa, so beloved and respected in the Christian world, had taken part in actions which were directly against Christianity. In Rishikesh, India, in December 1993, representatives of world religions met under the patronage of the religious head of the Hindi, Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama. It was to be a “Week of Meditation” to discuss world problems and to find solutions for them. At the end of this convention, the Rishikesh-Appeal was formulated, which among other things demands: “The dogma of each religion must free itself of doctrinal exclusiveness...”

As anyone can see, this convention chose words exactly after the concept of the New Age Movement. Dr. Hinrichs commented about this quote with the remarkable words: “A.A. Bailey would have been pleased!”

Mother Teresa is highly respected by the Catholic Church. Already one year after her death speculations about canonization came up. Pope Paul II visited Mother Teresa and also granted her an Audience in the Vatican, even though it can be proven that she promoted New Age ideology in her work.

## **The new tolerance and science**

“A scientist with the name of Dean Kenyon, a well known biologist at the San Francisco University was recently confronted with the effects of the new tolerance. Even though he was a firm believer of Darwin’s theory, Kenyon exposed his first quarter students to the fact that the Darwin standard model of evolution is full of problems. Kenyon did not teach creationism, neither did he oppose the theory of evolution. He merely pointed to disturbing facts in Darwin’s theory.

“However to the ‘scientists’ of the university this was obviously too much. They accused him of teaching religion and removed him from the classroom. The biological faculty of the university voted afterwards with a majority of 27 against 5, that in biology, natural evolution is the only acceptable theory, and any reference of an intelligent cause at the beginning of life is highly unscientific!”

Scientific research in the new tolerance is simply being carried out by the vote of a majority!

“Science has, in its progress lost the truth. In its service for truth in the last decades it became a service without truth. To come to a scientist in a quest for truth has become as uncomfortable as it is to inquire after a priest about God.”

“The Christian Evolution critic, Prof. Arthur Ernest Wilder-Smith, who passed away 1995, always complained: “There are certain groups, which hinder the TV media, in broadcasting critical protests against evolution.” And until now nothing has been changed. The film producer Fritz Poppenberg from Berlin, had to face the banning of his 45 minute documentary. His film “Is the Bible right after all? Evolution has no proof,” was banned by the ARD, taken off the shelf. It must be the explosive power of the theme, that this documentary is being withheld and kept away from the public; that it would be harmful if one considers where he is coming from and ponders about the existence of the Creator. But sex and violence still can flicker undisturbed into living rooms. However, in Germany the hint that we have a Creator, is already a cause for censure.

## **The Mission of Our Saviour**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matt. 28:19,20. “Ye are the salt of the earth.” Matt. 5:13. “Ye are the light of the world.” Matt. 5:14.

In the new tolerance the carrying out of this task will be branded as being “intolerant.” Proclaimers of the Christian message will be hedged in and persecuted. Holthaus, a faithful Christian states with amazement: “The influence of Christianity in our society is alarmingly decreasing. The close connection between Christianity and culture expressed in all areas of life for centuries, is coming to an end.” Holthaus quotes the political scientist Samuel Huntington: “In the new millenium, seven cultures will determine global politics: Sinic, Japanese, Hindu, Islam, African, Western and Latin-American culture.

Dr. Holthaus finally concludes: “We can no more speak of a Christian culture, worse yet, it has been put on the same level as ‘Western-culture’, and has been totally absorbed by the same. Its values are disappearing fast. The Christian West seems to be passe. Biblical Christianity has obviously no more role to play.”

“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.” John 15:20. Already today the decisive attack of Satan may strike—the general attack against Christianity. The Christian religion is to be resisted.

## **Outlook**

The danger described here comes from an altogether other side than we have considered so far. In this article the existing ‘new tolerance’ does not attack single groups or organizations. Here Satan plans to oppress all faithful Christians, regardless if they belong to a church or group. The final measure will be the exclusion from society.

This is the great goal of our opponent: To prevent the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because: “For to me to live is Christ.” Phil.1:21. “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” John

14:6. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved". Acts 4:12. In conclusion we can say: There is a chance only with Jesus Christ. I can only be saved through Jesus. Jesus is the centre of the gospel. This message of life through Christ, the help through Christ and salvation through Christ, must not be given, but put out of sight. This exclusive privilege to have a personal Saviour is being minimized and put on the same level of other religion's ideas. It is to be put in the background to be forgotten. This is the avowed goal of Satan.

For without an acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross on Calvary, Satan would be the winner, because all those who will not accept the sacrifice of Jesus will be lost.

"In 1993, after 100 years representatives of many religions again came together for a 'World parliament of Religion',,, The Catholic Knitter propagates: In the face of threatening world situations a New World Order is necessary that must not be disturbed by mission works." This expression runs exactly against the commission given in the Bible. The good news about Jesus will be forbidden to be preached. The life-giving, eternal gospel is to be hid from mankind. Is this not a fulfillment of the question directed to the disciples? "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke. 18:8.

The missionary, Ralph Shallis, who for many years worked among Muslims in Algeria, writes in his book, "Living Cells": "I believe in the possibility of a worldwide persecution, that will be more tricky, more merciless, more cleverly operated and more cruel, than all persecutions of church history since the times of the apostles. After the shattering of our great organizations will remain for us only Jesus and His word. The more we live out this reality, the more we shall be prepared for the coming difficult times."

"The person of Jesus Christ has not lost its attractiveness; the Bible is not outdated. On the contrary, each generation is being touched by its truths, because Christ is a reality, who has ready answers for all the longings, desires and fears of every human being. But our way of representing Christ to the world makes Him misunderstood and even invisible. We obscure His brightness through things of lower degree. It is time that we reconsider the church, our ways of evangelizing, as well as our future and at the same time let our opinions pass through the refining fire of the word of God."

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:11,12.

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors to Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2.Cor. 5:18-20.

This is a further call of our mission that is in effect now as it was then. Also the promise of God is always in effect: "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Dan 12:3. We are never alone. God never forsakes His messengers. He gave them an everlasting promise: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt.28:20.

God gave another promise to the prophet Jeremiah. He was to give the message of warning to the people. A message the people did not like to hear at all. Consequently, Jeremiah was very unpopular because of his message. But we find here a very interesting parallel: "And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the Lord." Jer. 15:20.

Perhaps this will soon be meant for us! If the new tolerance is gaining further ground, and it seems that it is, then soon will all the people stand like a wall against the true Christians. Then will the remaining true and sincere Christians experience this promise: "I will save thee and deliver thee, saith the Lord."

May God help us to answer His calling and face the challenge!

Helmut Welker, Germany

Note from translator: All quotes are from German edited books, not available in English, therefore no references are given. For original references contact the author.

## **IS JESUS REALLY COMING SOON?**

This question is on everyone's mind. People all over the earth are waiting for this glorious day, when the sky opens and the bright glory of the Son of God appears, with His legions of angels. When will this happen? When will this great appearance happen? Is Jesus really coming "soon"?

As you see there are two quotation marks around the word "soon". You wonder why? Let us look in the Bible at Revelation 1:3.

"Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

For we don't see the word soon but we see "for the time is at hand". What time is at hand? Jesus' second coming is at hand, but for the people in the 1600's, 1800's etc. was His coming soon or far? For example, Br. Ed Unger, Sr. Pansy Adams, Br. Kurt Dering, Br. Wilibald Grun etc. They all have died faithfully, but while they were in the church they also heard that Jesus was coming soon. God wants us to prepare for His coming because we never know when we're going to die. So, when God tell us He is coming soon, it is given to us as a warning for us to get ready. God isn't trying to trick us with words, but for us to live without sin and have everlasting life.

May these words I have written be an encouragement and enlightenment to all who are waiting for the Lord's wonderful appearing. May many blessings come upon you till the coming of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Khandi Stewart - New York

## **LOST AT HOME**

In Isaiah 30:21 we read, "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Here is a promise of the Lord's care for us. Man usually tends to go either to the right or to the left in life. That is why God doesn't cease to warn us that we may walk in the way appointed by Him.

it had been the mission of Jesus to show the people the way to God. The gospel of Luke 15:1,2 says, "Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receives sinners, and eats with them." All were coming to Jesus. His personality had a divine attraction. All loved Him, the children, poor, taxcollectors -because for Him, all were like one. He loved them with the same love. But there were also people who rebuked Him. Their pride was too big to let themselves be attracted by a carpenter. To them Jesus said three of his nicest object lessons. One of them was the parable of the Prodigal son. Fall and revival, repentance and acceptance are seen in this ancient story.

The younger son wasted everything with his riotous living, but nostalgia brought him back home. He had faith in the love of his father. He was sure that his father loved him. Ugly, dirty and discouraged he was coming home and his father accepted him without a word of reproach.

“And bring here the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and be merry, for this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found. And they begun to be merry.” Luke 15: 23, 24. And the feast began. Yet this is not the end of the story. On the next part of it I would like us to meditate more.

Luke 15:25 writes, “Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.” The elder son was not a drunkard. He was not going to pubs. He was a diligent son. He helped his father and was coming in from the field. But what kind of a man was he? What kind of a man was the one at home? “And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come, and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound, And he was angry and would not go in...” Luke 15:26-28.

The elder son was not happy to hear that his brother was home. He was angry. From the words in verse 29 and 30 we see that the reason he served his father was for wages. His spirit was of the hireling. Here is the elder brother, no less wretched than the younger, yet the younger saw the misery of life and came back. But what an attitude his brother had!

“By the elder son were represented the unrepenting Jews of Christ’s day and also the Pharisees of every age who look with contempt upon those whom they regard as publicans and sinners. It is because they themselves have not gone to great excesses in vice, they are filled with self-righteousness. Christ met these cavaliers on their own ground. Like the elder son in the parable, they had enjoyed special privileges from God. They claimed to be sons in God’s house, but they had the spirit of the hireling. They were working not from love, but from hope of reward. They saw Christ inviting publicans and sinners to receive freely the gift of His grace - the gift which the rabbis hoped to secure only by toil and penance - and they were offended. The prodigal’s return, which filled the father’s heart with joy, only stirred them to jealousy.” COL 209.

Israel was brought unto captivity because of its idolatry and apostasy, seventy years in Babylon. After that time Israel began to look at all the nations as they were dogs. They went from one extreme to another. The majority kept the form of piety, but their hearts were far from God.

The heaviest words Jesus spoke to this class of people in Matthew 23:13, 14 “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widow’s houses and for a pretence make long prayer...” Matt. 23: 15,23.

Lost at home! Is there any danger for us to develop the traits of the character of the elder brother?:

1. When we are not happy with those who come to the church from the world and don’t thank God for them.
2. When we run every day after our own business and don’t even think about the ones who are perishing. The younger brother was far away and the older one didn’t care. He didn’t even think about him.
3. When we have envy and the spirit of strife, we carry in us the image of the older brother. James 3:14, “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.”
4. When we speak about our own dignities we think: we are the ones who serve God as He wants; the others, who are not at home “are negligent, careless, not worthy of God’s love”. How much of the character of the father did the elder brother have?
5. When we judge. When we have the spirit of criticism. “Therefore thou are inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou are that judgest: for wherein thou judgest! another, thou condemnest thyself, for thou that judgest doest the same things...or despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.” Rom. 2:1,4 It is true

that not everything is o.k. in the church. The church is comprised of people not of angels. There are people who are always criticizing. Yet it is much better to help the weak and to pray for them than to speak about them. The elder brother condemned his father and brother.

6. When we complain and murmur, and we are not happy being in the church.

“Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against Thee? Ye have said, it is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?” Malachi 3:13, 14.

When we say, I’m tired with the regulations of the church. What do I profit in keeping God’s ordinances”. Then we have the same spirit as the elder brother. “He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother is in darkness even until now.” 1 John 2:9.

In this parable, Jesus shows us the danger to be lost at home. But it is interesting that Jesus did not speak about a third son! That is because in the world there is no third son.

Just as the younger son came back, so also the elder one needs to return to his father.

Praise the Lord that there is a loving father in this parable. He met both the younger and the elder son outside. He showed the same love to the prodigal son and to the one who was lost at home. This object lesson shows us that no matter who we are, we can come to our heavenly Father and find acceptance, tenderness and love.

May God help us to come back to Him. Amen

Ivo Ionov

## EARTHQUAKE! PART 2:

An earthquake is only a trigger. It can lead to exploding tanks of oil, chemicals, toxic clouds, fire, emissions from nuclear waste storage, buckling roads, collapsing tunnels, derauling trains, shattering windows, falling objects inside and outside, and devastating tidal waves hitting the coasts later. As if that is not enough, former prime minister Sherardnadze, of Russia, announced in a newsletter that a secret Russian army laboratory is involved in making underground nuclear explosions to set off earthquakes for military purposes, located at Eshra near Sukhumi. (Harry Schultze Ltr 548 July-Aug 1993)

British geologists say, while three major quakes (Turkey, Greece Taiwan) in just over one month may seem like a lot, the world is hit by 18 earthquakes measuring 7.0 or greater every year on average, according to the geological center. Seismological experts have a theory for forecasting quakes in “seismic-gaps”--gaps at the boundaries between jostling crustal plates where violent tremors are overdue. The Athens quake was another record of the terrifying bounce and roll of the ground in a mighty temblor -vital, they say, for understanding the genesis and timing of great quakes. Although cities on unfirm ground risk destruction, a metropolis such as Athens is contrarily built on “quake-proof rock (or is it?).

Greece and Turkey ride on the boundary of the African and Eurasian plates. These and some ten other great crustal slabs pave the planet with an ever-moving mosaic. The plates constantly interact at their boundaries—bumping, grinding, and pulling apart, plunging one beneath the other. These jostlings, according to the scientists, breed most of the world’s earthquakes. Greece, Turkey and Taiwan’s seismic history finds explanation in the widely accepted theory known as plate tectonics. Interestingly, one geophysicist states that, “It is only in recent years that earthquake prediction parted company with seers and astrologers.” This may be true in part, however as astrology is still widely practiced today much as in the early Biblical times.

The scriptures are clear, on the other hand, in their warnings against dependence on astrologers and other practitioners of divination. Isaiah 47:13 speaks specifically against astrologers ("those who divide the heavens"). Other warnings are in Is. 14:12; 65:11; 2 Kings 17:16.

However, again, sincere Christians and children of God cannot ignore the extraordinarily interesting prophetic signs in nature and the media.

Scientists are still energetically, but vainly, trying to decipher the earth's language. Bruce Bolt, chairman of the California Seismic Safety Commission, reckons that in the past 500 years three million people have died in major quakes. Bolt says further, "But we can never rely solely on forecasts to save lives but prepare accordingly and have a better chance to hold down the earthquake 'demon'".

The fundamental questions remain elusive: Where? How big? And most important, When? What causes earthquakes? Quake-watching experts are still in the dark. From China and Russia, to Japan and the United States, scientists are examining satellite pictures, cloud formations and even the psychology of rabbits and chickens in the hunt for a reliable link to earthquakes.

God wants men who appreciate the privilege of being laborers together with Him, men who will honor Him by rendering implicit obedience to His requirements regardless of previously inculcated theories. (CT 440)

There are 19 ominous references to earthquakes in the Bible. (Strong's Cone. Pg. 392) Hence the inhabitants of the early Biblical lands, particularly the Holy Lands, the Jordan Valley, the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, and generally the Arabian peninsula region have been familiar with the earth violently shaking (Ps. 68:8; Isa. 13:13; Hag. 2:6) with even the mountains which were regarded as symbols of permanence being affected (Ps. 46:3). The earthquakes during the twenty-seventh year of the reign of King Uzziah, King of Judah, in Canaan, must have been severe. (Amos 1:1; Zech. 14:5) While the most prominent earthquakes were at the time of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ and had marked effects, (Matt. 27:54; 28:2) earthquakes also figure prominently in indications of the prophetic nature of things to be. (Matt. 24:7. Mark 13:8; Luke 21: 11; Acts 8:5; Rev. 6:12; 11:13; 16:18)

As the redeemed children of God look forward to Christ's appearing as the hope of the church today, we are to now, seriously look at apocalyptic prophecy which is quickly being fulfilled and inspiring many to hunger after Christ. Prophecy not only foretells the manner and object of Christ's coming, but presents tokens by which men are to know when it is near, Jesus said, "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars." (Luke 21:25)

The revelator thus describes the first of the signs to precede the second advent: "There was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood." (Rev. 6:12) This represents the opening of the sixth seal, of seven seals taken by Christ in His Kingly character, depicting the history of the church from 1755 to the second coming of Jesus Christ, an age of anarchy and destruction. (Matt 24:7)

In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred on Nov. 1, 1755 at 9:30 a.m., the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded in historic times. Through commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon (Portugal) it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa and America, pervading an extent of not less than four million square miles. At Lisbon in the course of about six minutes, 60,000 people perished in the principal shock, including those who perished by drowning and in the fire that burned for six days following the shock, for an estimated total of 90,000 deaths on that fatal day. Some of the largest mountains in Portugal were impetuously shaken from their very foundations, and some opened at their summits and split and rent, huge masses of them being thrown down into the valley. The earthquake happened on a holy day, Nov. 1, being All Saints Day, when the churches and convents were full of people, very few of whom escaped...

The terror of the people was beyond description. They ran hither and thither, delirious with horror and astonishment, crying, "Misericordia! The world's at an end!" Unfortunately, many ran to the churches for protection; but in vain did the poor creatures embrace the altars, images and priests, and people were buried in one common ruin. (GC 304 "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1 Pet. 4:17)

The Athens earthquake experience and witness has penetratingly and painfully disclosed its dreadful consequences, as most assuredly, "greater calamitous quakes are yet to be felt." (PP 110) "And there were voices and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great: And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." (Rev. 16: 18,20,21)

“Prayerfully, at this time, the people of God need to turn their hearts fully to Him; for the end of all things is at hand. They need to humble their minds, and to be attentive to the will of the Lord, working with earnest desire to do that which God has shown must be done to warn the cities of their impending doom”. (Review and Herald, Jan 25, 1912)

Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property?! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.” (PK277)

If there has been a certain apocalyptic feeling to the state of recent earthquake activity worldwide, it may feel that way sometimes to the earth sciences community as well, but unfortunately earth scientists don’t see recent worldwide activity as a biblical harbinger or forerunner of coming warning events. They, nevertheless, have to deal with the scientific and media response to six significant earthquakes- in Taiwan, two in Mexico, two in Turkey, California and Greece—in so close succession. They coyly say with bare excuses that “the world is not coming to an end, as the Earth has been around for a few billion years.” What a falsehood! Based on signs, however, and with biblical prophecy as our foundation, conditions and earthquakes will only continue to worsen. (Matt. 24) All major cities of the world are vulnerable to earthquakes now of 7.0 or more. That includes Ankara, Athens, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Anchorage, Alaska in the United States as well as cities in all of Japan and the west coast of South America. Japan, for example, is built on sand. Like the Californians, they are waiting for the “Big One”. (Rev. 16:18)

By Biblical standards, the world most certainly deserves judgment-perversion runs amok, child abuse is common, violence, greed and avarice are the passwords to success, and morals have rotted. Like sheep going to slaughter the world cannot smell the death that awaits them; not only physical death perhaps, but the death of a way of life that built the world to its greatest level of achievement technologically. But this high level of technology has destroyed the canons of morality. Throughout history, all great civilizations have decayed in their own sins. At the peak of their strength they believed that they were unconquerable, but as Proverbs 29:18 reads, “Where there is no vision, the people perish”. Hence, God’s restraining power will be...removed...so that...circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin. (PP 728).

These judgments are sent that those who lightly regard God’s law and trample upon His authority may be led to tremble before His power and to confess His just sovereignty...As men have beheld burning mountains pouring forth fire and flames and torrents of melted ore, drying up rivers, overwhelming populous cities, and everywhere spreading ruin and desolation, the stoutest heart has been filled with terror and infidels and blasphemers have been constrained to acknowledge the infinite power of God. (PP 109)

God’s fourth commandment has been deplorably breached, as the Psalmist writes in Psalm 60:2, “You have made the earth tremble; You have broken it’ Heal its breaches, for it is shaking.” Isaiah, furthermore, implores the faithful believers, “Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations.” (Isa. 58:12)

A noble task and work for God’s children for this time of night and afar off into the highways and hedges is to herald the Three Angels Message, the last warning message of the Lord for this earth and mankind. John saw, on the island of Patmos, the elements of nature- earthquake, tempest, and political strife- represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth.

We are living in perilous times. All should lean upon God in their helplessness and daily necessity. However, there is a growing lack of reverence for our Maker, a growing disregard for His greatness and majesty. But, God is speaking to us in these last days. We hear His voice in the storm, in the rolling thunder. We hear of the calamities He permits in the earthquakes, the breaking forth of waters, and the destructive elements sweeping all before them.

When the still small voice which succeeds the whirlwind and the tempest that moves the rocks out of position, is heard, let all cover their face, for God is very near. Let them hide themselves in Jesus Christ, for His is their hiding place. (2SM 315 - 316)

From Hebrews 12:25-27; Joel 3:16; Jer. 25:30-33; Rev. 16:17, we learn that it is the voice of God, as He speaks in terrible majesty from His throne in heaven, that causes this fearful commotion in earth and sky. Once the Lord spoke with an audible voice, when He gave His eternal law from Sinai. At that time the earth shook. He is to speak again, and not only the



earth will shake, but the heavens also.

“Then will the earth “reel to and fro like a drunkard,” It will be “dissolved” and utterly “broken down.” Mountains will move from their firm bases. Islands will suddenly change their location in the midst of the sea. From the level plain will arise the precipitous mountain. Rocks will thrust up their ragged forms from earth’s broken surface. While the voice of God is reverberating through the earth, the direst confusion will reign over the face of nature. The earth shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall and not arise again.” (Is. 24: 19, 20); (Dan. & Rev. 449) Satan had worked the ruin of our first parents, and brought sin and death into the world, and had led to ruin multitudes of all ages, countries and classes. He had, by his power, controlled cities and nations until their sin provoked the wrath of God to destroy them by fire, water, earthquakes, sword, famine and pestilence. (ISM 269)

God will not always be mocked; He will not long be trifled with. “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.” (Is. 13:9)

Continued next issue...

By: Br. John Theodorou Athens, Greece

## **MISSIONARY REPORT -SOUTH AND NORTH KISII, KENYA YOUTH CONVENTION**

Our youth convention started on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1999 and ended on the 28\* of November. Most of the brethren and sisters, especially the young generation, were eagerly yearning for this convention. Brothers Simeon Nyarongi Ongaga, and David Nyabuto were the guest speakers.

We started our convention on Tuesday, where we heard a word of prayer from Bro. Simeon - the host speaker. We started our convention with the question, “Why do people marry?” We received several answers from our brothers and sisters but the most important reasons we received and discussed are as follows:

1. It is God who ordained that a man should leave his parents and unite with his wife and the two are one body.
2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Two are better than one. If one falls, the other one can lift him up. If one falls into temptation the other person can help him rise up. Therefore it is God who ordained that the work of two is of more reward than that of one person. Thus, two are better than one.
3. Marriage is important for procreation. We ourselves, for instance, are from the generation of our first parents. (Adam and Eve). Thus, marriage promotes procreation.
4. I Cor. 7:7, “For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner and another after that.” From the context we found that gifts are exchanged in marriage. Thus a good (prudent) wife is a gift from the Lord.
5. To avoid burning. From 1 Cor. 7:8, 9 “I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry for it is better to marry than to burn. Therefore it is good to marry than to burn of lusts and passions.
6. To get a successor (succession). For example, Abraham wanted somebody to inherit his property.

Those are some of the points that we studied. We also studied the four kinds of love which include, Filial, Eros, Erotic, Storch and 'Agape' - true love from God. Lastly we discussed about courtship and marriage.

On Sabbath November 28<sup>th</sup>, we gathered together. The divine service was conducted by Bro. Simeon Nyarongi, the Union Conference youth leader. Br. Cosmas Arandi, the field leader, was also very thankful and said that the convocation was a blessing to the young. The number of people who attended on Sabbath was around four hundred people.

Dear brethren, the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few, pray therefore for the Lord of the harvest to send his labourers to especially Africa where the present truth first arrived in 1887. May God bless you abundantly. AMEN

Joshua Ombasa. Kisii, Kenya

## Current Scene

*Chick Publications* placed an article on its Internet site in November 1999. It related to the papal knighthood which has been awarded to the media mogul, Rupert Murdoch.

“Rupert Murdoch, Papal Knight, Publisher of NIV, Donates \$10 Million for New LA Cathedral” from *Battle Cry*, November 1999, *Chick Publications*

“Media Mogul Rupert Murdoch recently made a \$10 million contribution towards construction of a new Catholic cathedral in Los Angeles. Murdoch has wide holdings in the movie, TV and publishing industries including Fox Television, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Films, *London Times* and *New York Post* newspapers, Harper Collins and Zondervan publishing companies.

“But the fact that his TV stations and movie productions are some of the sleaziest, did not stop Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony from anointing him and his wife members of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great in January, 1998. This knighthood, bestowed on behalf of the pope, is given to persons of ‘unblemished character’ who have ‘promoted the interests of society, the [Catholic] Church and the Holy See [Vatican].’

“Besides this strange connection, there is an even stranger one. Murdoch is Chairman and Chief Executive of News Corporation which lists as one of its holdings, Zondervan Publishing House, the designated publisher of the *New International Version of the Bible* (NIV). Although the NIV copyright is held by the International Bible Society, Zondervan has exclusive publishing rights.

“Is it just a coincidence that the distribution of the most popular of the modern Bible versions, based on the corrupted Roman Catholic texts, is controlled by a man who contributes heavily to Catholic causes and holds a papal knighthood?

“It is also curious that since Murdoch was knighted for his ‘unblemished character’ he abandoned his wife of 31 years and married one of his ‘dynamic, tall and gorgeous’ female employees half his age. When Cardinal Mahoney’s office was asked if the knighthood honour would be revoked, a spokesman replied, ‘As far as I know, once you’ve got it, you’ve got it for good.’

“It appears that as long as someone continues to ‘promote the interests of society, the Catholic Church and the Holy See,’ character blemishes can be conveniently overlooked. Especially if it includes donations in the \$10 million range and distribution of the major Bible ‘perversion’ based on Roman Catholic manuscripts.”

## Are Ron Wyatt’s findings true?

There are certainly many far-fetched things out there in the religious world today, and within SDA circles the winds of doctrine, scandal and speculation blow ever harder. To this class belong, in my opinion, the vast majority of things that Ron Wyatt and his friends have come up with concerning the holy land.

Fantastic claims are made with little or no hard evidence to back them up. When called upon to answer for our faith, we must be sure that we have a firm “Thus saith the Lord” rather than “I think this” or “It must be that” according to our sentiments or feelings.

Take for example the claim of Ron Wyatt that the ark of the covenant was somehow hidden under the rock where Jesus died on Calvary and as such, Jesus’ blood fell upon the literal, physical mercy seat. Is this possible, or even necessary for our faith?

We know that the Israelites made idols out of the ark of the covenant and the brass pole that Moses set up, therefore the Lord caused them to be either hidden or even destroyed. “He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.” 2 Kings 18:4

“Some take long journeys to Jerusalem to see the places where Christ lived and taught. They listen to traditions and tales that men have invented. They spend money on that which is not bread.

“How hard men work to obtain knowledge! For they spend time and money seeking to find out things that are not essential to a life of purity, that will not aid them in building them up a character that will fit them to become members of the royal family, children of the Heavenly King.

“To expend time and labor in finding the places where Jesus worked in Jerusalem cannot bring any real benefit to soul or body. The money would better be expended in helping those who are perishing out of Christ.

“The curse rests upon Jerusalem. The Lord has obliterated those things which men would worship in and about Jerusalem, yet many **hold in reverence literal objects** in Palestine.” *Review and Herald*, Feb. 25, 1896

“Among the righteous still in Jerusalem, to whom had been made plain the divine purpose, were some who determined to place beyond the reach of ruthless hands the sacred ark containing the tables of stone on which had been traced the precepts of the Decalogue. This they did. With mourning and sadness they secreted the ark in a cave, where it was to be hidden from the people of Israel and Judah because of their sins, **and was to be no more restored to them.** That sacred ark is yet hidden. It has never been disturbed since it was secreted.”

PK453

Now having said that, we must always remember: “We should never refuse to examine the Scriptures with those who, we have reason to believe, desire to know what is truth. Suppose a brother held a view that differed from yours, and he should come to you, proposing that you sit down with him and make an investigation of that point in the Scriptures; should you rise up, filled with prejudice and condemn his ideas, while refusing to give him a candid hearing? The only right way would be to sit down as Christians, and investigate the position presented, in the light of God’s word, which will reveal truth and unmask error. To ridicule his ideas would not weaken his position if it were true. If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it.” TM 107

Yes, we know that in the last days of trouble, God will cause the ark of the covenant to be seen in the heavens to show the wicked that they have not been warring against this small remnant of His people only, they have been warring against the God of heaven and His law. Rev. 11: 18, 19 But if we were to spend all of our time, money and talents on finding the earthly ark of the covenant, isn’t it exactly like all of those people who make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, but ignore the plight of those who are perishing without God and hope in the world at their very doorsteps?

### “[Blind] Faith no more: the 666 sense”

The above title was chosen by Sue-Ann Post for her article which appeared in the *Melbourne Age* Newspaper dated November 5, 1999. She wrote as follows:

“There I was last Friday, reading *The Age* and checking there were no misprints in my column and generally browsing, when I came across the story about the Vatican refusing permission for the Sisters of Charity to participate in the safe-injecting room heroin trials. Par for the course, I thought. Dear old Vatican, still fighting the good medieval fight, I thought. Then the following paragraph caught my eye:

“Melbourne’s Archbishop George Pell -a known hard-liner on drugs, and frequent visitor to Rome in recent months - is a member of the Vatican’s powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which issued the decree.”

“And I thought to myself, that name sounds familiar. Where have I heard about the Congregation for

the Doctrine of the Faith before? So I started checking all my theology/history/conspiracy theory books and there, in *Vicars of Christ* by Peter de Rosa, I found the answer:

“In recent years, having had bad press, the **Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Inquisition**, like the Soviet secret police, has been renamed more than once. In 1908, this oldest of Rome’s sacred congregations became the Holy Office: from 1967, it changed to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.<sup>5</sup>

“Now, I don’t know about you, but my eye was immediately drawn to the word ‘inquisition’, a word that sends shivers up my spine. This is the same institution that terrorized Europe for almost 500 years, the Inquisition that killed so many people in Europe that whole villages were wiped off the map. The same Inquisition that the noted medieval historian Henry Lea described as ‘a standing mockery of justice -- perhaps the most iniquitous that the arbitrary cruelty of man has ever devised. Fanatic zeal, arbitrary cruelty and insatiable cupidity rivaled each other in building up a system, unspeakably atrocious. It was a system which might well seem the invention of demons.’

“Not only that, it’s the same system that lingered on in Europe for a lot longer than most people assume, right into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in fact. Again, according to Peter de Rosa,

“When Napoleon conquered Spain in 1808, a Polish officer in his army reported that the Dominicans blockaded themselves in their monastery in Madrid. When his troops forced an entry, the inquisitors denied the existence of any torture chambers. The soldiers searched the monastery and discovered them under the floors. The chambers were full of prisoners, all naked, many insane. The French troops, used to cruelty and blood, could not stomach the sight. They emptied the torture chambers, laid gunpowder to the monastery and blew the place up.’

“If the thought that the Inquisition lingered on into the 19<sup>th</sup> century has you scratching your head in puzzlement, try this on for size. According to Barbara Walker’s *The Womans Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*,

“It is unsettling to realize that such powers for mischief could yet be revived. The edicts that established the Inquisition have never been repealed. They are ‘officially still part of the Catholic faith, and were used as justification for certain practices as recently as 1969.’

“Now that scares me. And it scares me that Archbishop Pell is a member of this particular congregation. I wonder if they still call each other ‘Inquisitor’, or if they’ve modernized that name as well. And last of all, I wonder if they ever get dressed in medieval robes and burst suddenly into each other’s offices saying, ‘NO ONE EXPECTS THE CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH!’

“I’m sorry. I just had to get that line in somewhere. (I was just going to leave the column at that, but when I checked Word Count, it read 666. Freak me out! Had to write a bit more. Couldn’t stop on that number. I’m going to have bad, screamy nightmares tonight anyway, don’t want to make it worse. See you next week.)”

Surely, if even secular commentators are this close to the truth, that inspires us to see that “even the stones are crying out.” We are faced with an increasingly apathetic populace who are being rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. Upon these people who have not purified their souls in obedience to the truth, the judgments of God will be an overwhelming surprise. Even if they have intellectual insight, that has not given them spiritual renovation or a preparation for the second coming of Christ.

The Papacy will point at the judgments of the last days as God showing His displeasure because the Ten Commandments have been disobeyed. The credulous, materialistic and sensual multitudes will then nominally become Christians to escape any more of the judgments of God, so the righteous who will obey all of God’s commandments, upholding the Sabbath, will appear to be deluded fanatics.

So many worldly commentators are becoming more and more lost spiritually, while coming to possibly correct conclusions intellectually, because spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

May God help us to have more faith in what God can do for us than what man can do for us or what man is going to do in going along with papal errors. It is only as we “keep these words of the prophecy” (Rev. 1:3) that we will be able to discern the wondrous working of the Holy Spirit, leading us into all truth, and bringing us into harmony, in spirit and truth.

By Jerry Eaton

# MILLENNIUM SURVIVAL KIT #1

## *Scriptures and Testimonies*

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. (Psa.42.11 & Psa.43.5)

The medical missionary work is to be to the work of the church as the right arm to the body. The third angel goes forth proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The medical missionary work is the gospel in practice. AJ] lines of work are to be harmoniously blended in giving the invitation: "Come; for all things are now ready." (Luke.14.17) 8T.077.002

Beloved [brethren and sisters] I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospered. (3John.1.2) Our local praying congregation of believers strongly urge each reader to begin the year 2000 with great insight on the RIGHT ARM OF THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE. Prayerfully a series of studies lead by the Holy Spirit on the mechanics (the How to's) will give us more practical knowledge on this vita! message.

The gospel of health has able advocates, but their work has been made very hard because so many ministers, presidents of conferences, and others in positions of influence have failed to give the question of health reform its proper attention. They have not recognized it in its relation to the work of the message as the right arm of the body. While very little respect has been shown to this department by many of the people, and by some of the ministers, the Lord has shown His regard for it by giving it abundant prosperity. When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart. When the third angel's message is received in its fullness, health reform will be given its place in the councils of the conference, in the work of the church, in the home, at the table, and in all the household arrangements. Then the right arm will serve and protect the body. 6T.327.002 (MC.045.002, RH. 1899-06-20.007)

### *Millennium Survival Kit*

The first topic is on the Millennium Survival Kit, "a must have" for all believers. Our mission is give insights from the scriptures and the testimonies, simple and practical remedies and ongoing developments to benefit others and ourselves on the road to health. Note the first series is just a summary, we will provide details in the upcoming series.

Remember, most importantly, to testify of the Great Physician, Christ's Redeeming Love. We look forward to your comments and suggestions. Visit us at the Canadian Website and please email, fax, or send your correspondence to interact with us and to share with others.

*BASIC KIT (Must Have)* - Should have this kit with you at all times for emergency or assisting individuals with basic needs. Aloe Powder, Aloe Vera Gel, Capsicum (Cayenne Pepper) Tincture & Capsules, Charcoal Powder and / or Capsules, Echinacea Herbs, Tincture or Capsules, Garlic Cloves, Ginger Root, Goldenseal Tincture and Capsules, Lobelia Tincture, and Slippery Elm Capsules.

*DELUXE KIT (Nice To Have)* - Includes the *Basic Kit Items* plus:

Arnica Flowers, Black Cohosh Root Tincture, Cascara Sagrada Bark, Catnip Herbs or Capsules, Chamomille Herb, Charaparal Herb, Comfrey Herb, Eucalyptus Oil, Hawthorn Berry Tincture, Hops Flower, Iodine Pills, Juniper Berry, Lavender Oil, Marshmallow Herb, Milk Thistle Tinctures, Passionflower Herb, Peppermint Oil, Red Clover Blossoms, Senna Leaves and Pods, St. John's Wort Capsules, Valerian Root Tincture.

Compiled by Vancouver, Canada Brethren and Sisters  
PO Box 16516, 8776 - 140<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Surrey, BC V3W-5LO Canada  
E-mail: loud\_cry@hotmail.com  
Website: <http://ims.truepath.com/church.html>

# The Importance of Mental Work

Compiled by Radek Dobias

I decided to compile statements from the Spirit of Prophecy together, to show the relevance of mental work for the people of God today. Some brethren mistakenly claimed that physical work is sufficient. This view is not supported by the Spirit of Prophecy. We are asked to use all our faculties, whether they be physical or mental, as the following statements indicate.

RH.1914-10-22

The work of saving souls is sacred and ail-important. The humble, efficient worker, who obediently responds to the call of God in this direction, may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To feel so great and holy a responsibility is of itself elevating to the human character. The influence upon one's own life, as well as upon the lives of others, is incalculable. **The highest mental qualities are called into action, and their continued exercise strengthens and purifies mind and heart.**

3T.494

**God never intended that strong, independent men of superior intellect should cling to others for support** as the ivy clings to the oak. All the difficulties, the backsets, the hardships, and the disappointments which God's servants will meet in active labor will only strengthen them in the formation of correct characters. **By putting their own energies of mind to use, the obstacles they meet wilt prove to them positive blessings.** They will gain **mental and spiritual muscle** to be used upon important occasions with the very best results. **They will learn self-reliance and wiii gain confidence in their own experience that God is reaily leading and guiding them.** And as they meet peril and have real anguish of spirit they are obliged to meditate and are made to feel the necessity of prayer in their effort to move understandingly and work to advantage in the cause of God; they find that conflict and perplexity call for the exercise of faith and trust in God, and for that firmness which develops power. Necessities are constantly arising for new ways and means to meet emergencies. **Faculties are cafSed into use that would He dormant were it not for these pressing necessities in the work of God.** This gives a varied experience so that there will be no use for men of one idea and those who are only half developed.

5T.522

If the physical powers are not **taxed equally with the mental, too** much strain is brought upon the latter. Unless every part of the human machinery performs its allotted tasks, the mental powers cannot be used to their highest capability for any length of time.

CED.124.001

Education comprehends far more than many suppose. **Mind and body must both receive attention:** and unless our youth are versed in the science of how to care for **the body as weii as the mind,** they will not be successful students. It is essential that students exercise their physical powers in such a way that **their physical strength shall not be disproportionate to their mental development,** and therefore a judicious system of physical culture should be combined with school discipline, that there may be a harmonious development of ail the powers of mind and body.

CED.138.002

**True education, when the mind is under the controls ing influence of the Holy Spirit, is of great** imiXMtarace. and each individual should learn to rightly appreciate the capabilities that God has given; and by the practice of the knowledge he gains, he may, by the influence of his own character, impress upon others the value of obtaining a training for the service of Christ, and lead them to follow his example... God would have us arouse from our indifference, and **no longer alioiw the intellectual powers to run to waste, and degenerate into imbecility.** Men are to appreciate the talents entrusted to them, and take advantage of the opportunities placed within their reach. **Let the mental powers be girded for work, and by vigorous exertion let the mind be enlarged and developed.**

CT.145.001

**AH the faculties of mind and body need to be developed; and this is the work which parents, aided by the teacher, are to do for the children and youth placed under their care.**

GCB.1898-04-01.003

“God would not have us, in any sense, behind in the educational work, and our colleges should be far in advance in the highest kind of education.” **“The youth should be taqfit the importance of cultivating their physical, mental, and moral powers,** that they may not only reach the highest attainment in science, but, through a knowledge of God, may be **educated to glorify him;** that they may **develop symmetrical characters,** and thus be fully prepared for usefulness in this world, and obtain a moral fitness for immortal life.”

SE.1909-06-01.009

“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.” Why this assurance regarding the health? Health is given because you learn to use your muscles as well as your brain powers. **Jf is very important that we tax our physical and mental powers equally. According to their opportunities** they are to work out faithfully the problems that God presents to them. When we do the work that God requires of us, the blessings He has promised will attend us.

## FUNCTION OF THE BRAIN PART 2

### WHAT CAUSES BRAIN DAMAGE?

“God is as truly the author of physical laws as He is author of the moral law. His law is written with His own ringer upon every nerve, every muscle, every faculty, which has been entrusted man.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p.17.

“It is a truly as sin to violate the laws of our being as it is to break the ten commandments. To do either is to break God’s laws. Those who transgress the law of God in their physical organism, will be inclined to violate the law of God spoken from Sinai.” *Ibid*, p. 17.

“Our natural inclinations and appetites were divinely appointed, and when given to man, were pure and holy. It was God’s design that reason should rule the appetites, and that they should minister to our happiness. And when they are regulated and controlled by a sanctified reason, they are holiness unto the Lord.” *Temperance*, p. 12.

“Appetite conquers him; inclination carries him away. It is easier for him to allow the powers of evil, which are always active, to drag him backward, than to struggle against them, and go forward. Dissipation, disease, and death follow. This is the history of many lives that might have been useful in the cause of God and humanity.” *CDF*, p. 16.

“A continual transgression of nature’s laws is a continual transgression of the law of God. The present weight of suffering and anguish which we see everywhere, the present deformity, decrepitude, disease, and imbecility now flooding the world, make it, in comparison to what it might be and what God designed it should be, a lazar house; and the present generation are feeble in mental, moral, and physical power. All this misery has accumulated from generation to generation because fallen man will break the law of God. Sins of the greatest magnitude are committed through the indulgence of perverted appetite.” *CDF*, p. 43,44.

## INDULGENCE

“Excessive indulgence in eating, drinking, sleeping, or seeing, is sin.” CDF, p. 44.

“Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies at the foundation of a large share of the feebleness which is apparent everywhere.” Te, p. 15.

“Many are suffering, and many are going into the grave, because of the indulgence of appetite. They eat what suits their perverted taste, thus weakening the digestive organs and injuring their power to assimilate the food that is to sustain life. This brings on acute disease, and too often death follows.” CDF, p. 123.

“Many separate themselves from God by their indulgence of appetite.” CDF, p. 159.

“God requires of His people continual advancement. We need to learn that indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to mental improvement and soul sanctification.” CDF, p. 45.

## INTEMPERANCE

“Intemperance of any kind benumbs the perceptive organs and so weakens the brain nerve power that eternal things are not appreciated, but placed upon a level with the common. The higher powers of the mind, designed for elevated purposes, are brought into slavery to the baser passions. If our physical habits are not right, our mental and moral powers cannot be strong; for great sympathy exists between the physical and the moral.”

Te, p. 12,13.

“Those who eat and work intemperately and irrationally, talk and act irrationally. An intemperate man cannot be a patient man. It is not necessary to drink alcoholic liquors in order to be intemperate. The sin of intemperate eating, eating too frequently, too much, and of rich, unwholesome food, destroys and perverts the judgment, preventing rational, calm, healthy thinking and acting, And this is a fruitful source of church trials.” CDF, p. 50.

“Intemperate men should not by vote of the people be placed in positions of trust.” Te, p. 254.

“Intemperance in eating, even of healthful food, will have an injurious effect upon the system, and will blunt the mental and moral faculties.” CDF, p. 131.

## GLUTTONY

“The word of God places the sin of gluttony in the same catalogue with drunkenness. So offensive was this sin in the sight of God that He gave directions to Moses that a child who would not be restrained on the point of appetite, but would gorge himself with anything his taste might crave, should be stoned to death. The condition of the glutton was considered hopeless. He would be of no use to others, and was a curse to himself. No dependence could be placed upon him in anything. His influence would be ever contaminating others, and the world would be better without such a character; for his terrible defects would be perpetuated. None who have a sense of their accountability to God will allow the animal propensities to control reason. Those who do this are not Christians, whoever they may be, and however exalted their profession.” CDF, p. 133.

“Gluttonous feasts, and food taken into the stomach at untimely seasons, leave an influence upon every fiber of the system; and the mind also is seriously affected by what we eat and drink.” CDF, p. 132.

“What a thought! Gluttons in heaven! No, no; such will never enter the pearly gates of the golden city of God. Such will never be exalted to the right hand of Jesus, the precious Saviour, the suffering Man of Calvary, whose life was one of constant self-denial and sacrifice. There is a place appointed for all such among the unworthy, who can have no part in the better life, the immortal inheritance.” CDF, p. 126.

“The sin of this age is gluttony in eating and drinking.” CDF, p. 409.

“Gluttony is the prevailing sin of this age. Lustful appetite makes slaves of men and women, and beclouds their intellects and stupefies their moral sensibilities to such a degree that the sacred, elevated truths of God’s word are not appreciated. The lower propensities have ruled men and women.” CDF, p. 32.



## OVER-EATING

“Overtaxing the stomach is a common sin, and when too much food is used, the entire system is burdened. Life and vitality, instead of being increased, are decreased. This is as Satan plans to have it, Man uses up his vital forces in unnecessary labor in taking care of an excess of food.

“By taking too much food, we not only improvidently waste the blessings of God, provided for the necessities of nature, but do great injury to the whole system. We defile the temple of God; it is weakened and crippled; and nature cannot do its work wisely and well, as God has made provision that it should.” CDF, p. 131.

“Overeating, no matter what the quality of the food, clogs the living machine, and thus hinders it in its work.” CDF, p. 131.

“What influence does overeating have upon the stomach? It becomes debilitated, the digestive organs are weakened, and disease, with all its train of evils, is brought on as the result. If persons were diseased before, they thus increase the difficulties upon them, and lessen their vitality every day they live. They call their vital powers into unnecessary action to take care of the food that they place in their stomachs.” CDF, p. 101.

## CUSTOM

A major cause of overeating is custom. “Custom has decreed that the food should be placed upon the tables in courses. Not knowing what is coming next, one may eat a sufficiency of food, which perhaps is not the best suited to him. When the last course is brought on he often ventures to overstep the bounds, and take the tempting dessert, which, however, proves anything but good for him. If all the food intended for a meal is placed on the table at the beginning one has opportunity to make the best choice.

“Sometimes the result of overeating is felt at once. In other cases there is no sensation of pain; but the digestive organs lose their vital force, and the foundation of physical strength is undermined.

“The surplus food burdens the system, and produces morbid. Feverish conditions. It calls an undue amount of blood to the stomach, causing the limbs and extremities to chill quickly. It lays a heavy tax on the digestive organs, and when these organs have accomplished their task, there is a feeling of faintness or languor. Some who are continually overeating call this all-gone feeling hunger; but it is caused by the overworked condition of the digestive organs. At times there is numbness of the brain, with disinclination to mental or physical effort.

“These unpleasant symptoms are felt because nature has accomplished her work at an unnecessary outlay of vital force, and is thoroughly exhausted. The stomach is saying, “Give me rest.” But with many the faintness is interpreted as a demand for more food; so instead of giving the stomach rest, another burden is placed upon it. As a consequence the digestive organs are often worn out when they should be capable of doing good work.” CDF, p. 134.

“The brain nerve energy is benumbed and almost paralyzed by overeating.” CDF, p. 63.

## IMPOVERISHED DIET

“Our physical health is nourished by that which we eat.” Te, p. 15.

“But what about an impoverished diet? I have spoken of the importance of the quantity and quality of food being in strict accordance with the laws of health. But we would not recommend an impoverished diet. They subsist upon a cheap, poor quality of food, prepared without care or reference to the nourishment of the system.” CDF, p. 198, 199.

“Poor food cannot be converted into good blood. An impoverished diet will impoverish the blood. The body must have sufficient nourishment. CDF, p. 199.

In a later issue we will go into more detail about the impoverished diet.

## CONCLUSION

This is only one part about bad food or even good food damaging our brain, due to overeating, but remember one first has to pay attention to their physical condition. If the physical condition is bad this will affect all other areas of our life and health –including the brain. Also remember that if one organ is diseased, all others suffer and they will take vital power from the brain. The stomach and brain are in a very close relationship. Please read the following article

# HOW OVER-EATING CAUSES DISEASE

By Percival Ager

N.D., D.O., M.B.N.A.

*Early graves are usually dug with teeth. Catarrh, the common cold, bronchitis, fibrositis, arthritis, cerebral haemorrhage (stroke), and many other diseases of present-day civilization have over-eating as a primary cause.*

Few people will admit that they overeat: in fact, they are seldom aware that they do so, having been brought up from childhood to regard over-eating as normal.

The feeding habits of one generation are naturally passed on to the next, which explains the incidence of many disorders, which are abeled hereditary. It is not the disease, which is handed down, but the wrong eating habits, and these cause the disease.

Food might be called the 'great obsession'. It dominates our lives; and in company with the weather and our ailments, it forms a favourite topic of conversation. When one returns from a holiday, one of the first questions asked by friends is, "What was the food like?" From the cradle to the grave, the accent is on food. The christening, each birthday, various anniversaries, the wedding and practically every social occasion see a large quantity of food prepared and consumed.

## OUR FIRST LESSON IN OVEREATING

Let us consider how this obsession about food is implanted in our minds. It starts when we are young, when habits, which are to become lifelong, are being formed. Little Johnnie eats only half a meal (which was perhaps too large in the first place) and says that he has had enough and wishes to go out to play. What does mother say? "You're not going to leave the table until you have finished all your dinner." This is his first lesson in over-eating. After a few years of this, the child becomes conditioned to the belief that so much food must be consumed at certain times, and that to miss a meal is wrong. Should he then miss a meal for some reason, he has the feeling of having been robbed.

Children go off their food instinctively when they do not feel well. This is Nature's way of giving the system a rest while devoting all its energies to the elimination of accumulated toxins. The same process will be observed with dogs and cats. But what does the human mother do? She runs to the doctor complaining that she is worried because Johnnie is not eating well. The obliging doctor prescribes a 'tonic' which is supposed to bring back his appetite.

Whilst the so-called tonic is presumed to be doing its magical work, the child is tempted with treats and promised presents if he will only eat this or that. Meanwhile, the dog, if he is also feeling unwell, has similarly lost his desire for food. But he has not been tempted, cajoled or threatened, and having had his short fast in peace, he is soon quite well again.

Now let us consider what happens in our bodies after years of over-eating. Each of the countless millions of cells comprising the human body depends upon two main processes to maintain life. The first is the ability to absorb nourishment; the second is the ability to excrete or throw off the toxins and waste matter which accumulate constantly during the chemical changes which take place within the cell whilst dealing with the nourishment supplied to it.

For the cell to function in an efficient manner (which we call health) these processes must be balanced perfectly. Once the balance is upset the cell ceases to function properly, and it will die if the balance is not restored soon. Therefore whilst lack of nourishment will cause death, so also will too much nourishment!

If the cell is clogged with surplus food, so much time and energy has to be spent in trying to process it that the body cannot deal effectively with the disposal of waste matter. This waste matter accumulates within the cell, and when it reaches a certain level the cell dies.

However, if, before the fatal level of toxicity is reached, the supply of food is stopped, the driving energy, or life force, inherent in every cell enables it to concentrate on the elimination of offending toxins.

## CELLS CONTINUE TO LIVE AND FUNCTION

Once this 'spring cleaning' has been effected, the cell will be ready to resume nourishment once more, and will continue to live and function.

All that we have considered about the single cell applies also to the human body as a whole. If we clog the

body with food beyond its natural requirements, we hamper the elimination of toxic matter, and we then begin to suffer from auto-toxaemia or 'self-poisoning'.

The retained toxins are then 'dumped' in various tissues of the body - a process which enables medical science to attach high sounding names to the various diseases.

For example, if the toxins are dumped in muscles the condition is called fibrositis; if deposited in the joints, it is arthritis; if in kidney tissues, nephritis. All these 'itises' imply nothing more than the anatomical location of the dumping ground for excess toxins.

To expect the toxins to be removed by penicillin, streptomycin, and other 'wonder drugs' is to place oneself on a level with the primitive witch-doctors. Drugs merely suppress symptoms, and often cause distressing 'side-effects.'

The regulation of nutrition and the promotion of elimination are the answer to disease as well as being the most important factor in the maintenance of health.

The hardest part of dieting is learning to break the habits and mental conditioning of a lifetime. Old habits die hard, and even when one is doing one's best to reform along rational lines, there are often relatives and friends who insist on proffering advice which is quite contrary to Natural Health principles.

Two things are needed, therefore, if one is to make a success of attaining excellent health. The first is a complete change in the attitude towards food. The second is a firm determination to have the courage of one's convictions in the face of opposition from one's relatives and friends.

How can this change of attitude be acquired? It can be brought about only by the realization that overeating is seriously detrimental to good health, and that one's later years can be actively enjoyed if all the old, harmful eating habits are broken in time.

Friends may argue that they eat what they like and as much as they like, and have "never had a day's illness." This, on the face of it, may appear to be true, but we have only to point out the all-too-frequent cases of apparently healthy persons dying of a stroke or heart attack in the early fifties. These people, having broken nature's laws, have had to pay the penalty. There is no deceiving nature. One either pays by instalments (a series of illnesses) or by one grand payment of death at a time when there should have been at least another 20, 30 or 40 years of active, healthful and happy life still to be enjoyed.

## FOOD IS ONLY FUEL

We must learn to think of food merely as fuel, and cease to regard it as one of the predominant pleasures of life. We must also learn that to miss a few meals can do immense good, not harm, to the body. Further, we must relinquish the idea that we have 'been robbed' just because the stomach feels empty.

An empty stomach does not indicate real hunger. To the person who has always been used to taking three large meals a day, often with snacks in between, the sensation experienced when the stomach is empty is usually mistaken for hunger.

One frequently hears people referring to going without food for a few days as 'starvation.' Very few people realize what the word starvation actually means. Starvation is a condition where the body begins to consume its own tissues following a long cessation of nutrition. It is usually only after at least three weeks or more without food that this process commences.

Let it be clearly understood, therefore, that going without food for two days or even two weeks (under supervision), provided vitality is adequate, is fasting, and not starving. Fasting means the temporary withholding of nourishment, during which time the body may devote all its energies to the elimination of toxic matter.

## AN ALTERNATIVE TO FASTING

An alternative to fasting is what is termed an eliminative diet, of which the all-fruit diet is an example. All starch, sugar, fat and protein foods are omitted from the diet for from two to seven days or more. The only food consumed is fruit — preferably the fresh, juicy varieties. Bananas, which may contain starch, should be avoided during this period. It is well to remember that the fruit is not being taken as 'medicine', and therefore we should not try to consume large quantities of it. The only drinks which may be taken whilst on the fruit diet are water or diluted fruit juice.

## FINALLY

The main object of this article is to point out the dangers of eating to excess. Even if one's diet is faultless as regards to selection of the right kinds of food, it is still possible to suffer autotoxaemia through eating too much.

The secret is this: Eat only when you are hungry; and learn the difference between real and psychological hunger.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEALTHFUL LIVING

To help you achieve a better state of health I believe God intended for us to use the plants on this earth as a means of attaining healthier bodies. Please read Genesis 1:29; Genesis 3:18.

In sharing my knowledge with you I am letting you know the things I would do if I had a similar problem. The ultimate responsibility for your health rests on your shoulders. So read and study about your problem as much as you can. Also, if you have serious problems you should consult a licensed, professional healthcare provider. Here are some guidelines that I personally follow when using herbal supplements.

Always take herbs with plenty of pure water. Some supplements must be taken with food or before meals. Some people feel that taking supplements before, rather than after meals “settles” better. Also remember that a good way to aid digestion at mealtime is to sip aromatic herbal tea rather than drinking lots of ice water, etc.

Herbs should be taken one half to one hour from any medication. Medicine can damage the herbs.

Never discontinue taking important medications except on the advice of a physician. Over time the body will often improve to the point that your doctor will want you to decrease the medication, as the body begins to need it less. Sometimes it is best to initiate an herbal programme slowly by starting with one product at a time, building up to the desired amounts so as not to overwhelm the body with new things. Some people are able to progress more rapidly than others. Once the desired amounts of a nutrient are reached, the body has what it needs to work towards healing. Gradually, over time the needed action will take place in the body and some supplements can be decreased or deleted from the programme. Occasionally, some people will need increased amounts of some supplements for years on a maintenance type of schedule. But many times, once the body is brought back to a better state of health (a state of balance) the need for supplements decreases.

Stick with your herbal programme. Take herbs faithfully. They won't work if left on the shelf. Expect some changes in the body as it begins to heal. Herbs help the body to either cleanse or build itself or both. As old toxins begin to move out of the body, they are eliminated through four places or “chimneys”—the skin, the respiratory system, the bowels and the urinary system. You can expect some minor changes in any or all of these areas.

Natural healing may temporarily aggravate symptoms. Some people may experience a “healing crisis” along the way as the problems are worked out of the body. Many medications work to mask or stop symptoms and may only add to the problem at hand—or even create new problems. Certainly, medications have their place when necessary, but if there is a more natural way, I prefer to try the natural first. A good example of how the body works in this way is seen in the natural response to food poisoning. The body will initiate vomiting and/or diarrhea to get rid of the poison that has been ingested. Provided this doesn't progress to the point of dehydration, etc. these normal actions of the body are good and helpful as they eliminate harmful substances that have been ingested.

Remember that repressing symptoms with a drug (which is actually another toxin) only hinders the body's natural healing process. Certain herbs can be given to help draw the initial poison from the body, at which point the symptoms will stop because they are no longer needed. Of course, if the case is serious the care of a physician should be sought. Since I am of the belief that the best doctor for me is within me, this is where divine guidance is essential. Maybe an herbal “Serenity Prayer” can help. Replenishing fluids, and strong, fast-acting antibiotics can be live saving in such situations. But again, the symptoms (vomiting and diarrhea) are initiated by the body to expel harmful substances, so that more serious problems for the body don't occur. Whenever taking into account the symptoms, they aren't the bad guys. In the case of the common cold, for example, the body's way of dealing with this disease is a runny nose, cough, or low grade fever. The goal of herbal therapy is to help your body cleanse and heal naturally by bringing a symptom to fruition and getting the original irritating substances out of the body. The “name” of a particular disease is not as important as understanding which system of the body needs to be cleansed and/or built. Another example of this could be pain. Nobody enjoys experiencing pain. But pain is our friend, telling us

when something is wrong or when to quit doing something. Taking a drug that deadens nerves to the point that we no longer feel the pain does nothing to help the original problem. The drug only masks the pain and begins a cycle of new problems within the body.

Be patient. Don't expect instant change. Building new cells takes time. The body doesn't get to a particular low point overnight—and it doesn't get well overnight. People have become accustomed to instant fixes. We have to be committed to getting better at the pace our bodies set. Some people feel changes (more energy, etc.) within a few days of beginning an herbal programme. Chronic problems may take much longer. In natural healing, the time required for the human body to heal is a minimum of three months plus one month for every year you have been sick. So don't get discouraged. Be aware of each sign of progress that the body makes as it works towards healing.

Keep in mind the fact that herbs themselves don't "do" the healing. They simply "feed" the body the nutrients it, needs, and then the life force within us—the body itself—does the healing. Remember that natural healing begins from the inside out, and from the top down, so that a typical disease process appear reversed. Also, we don't expect to see a straight upward progression in the way we feel. We usually continue in a general upward direction— dropping back occasionally, but usually not all the way back. If all the right things are being done to feed the body, etc. and no progress is made, one might look for emotional causes behind the problems. Keep in mind, however, taking supplements is only part of the answer. Taking herbs is usually more beneficial if you work on only one or two health problems at a time. Focus on the most grievous problems first—some of the other problems may go away as the original problem is eliminated. Also, avoid taking too many herbs at once. Care must be taken to choose herbs whose actions do not cancel each other out.

Here are some additional things that may contribute to good health:

- quality and quantity of sleep
- exercise
- emotional well-being, including a positive attitude and outlook on life, relieving extreme stresses when possible and releasing anger and resentment (factors that sometimes block the efforts of the body to heal itself)
- drinking pure water
- eating a diet rich in natural foods: cutting down on white and refined sugars, white flour, dairy products (especially milk), alcohol, caffeine, fats, foods with additives, etc. and increasing the amount of raw fruits and vegetables, whole grains, raw nuts, etc. in the diet.
- becoming more aware of the subtle ways our bodies tell us when things are good for us and when they aren't
- becoming spiritually stronger—remember that it is scientifically proven that prayer has a positive effect on healing

Many sources of information are available if you desire to learn more. Some suggestions:

- Today's Herbal Health, Heath Handbook and Nutritional Guide, by Louise Tenney
- The Herb Lady's Notebook, by Venus Andrecht
- Prescription for Nutritional Healing, by James & Phyllis Balch
- Nutritional Herbology, by Mark Pedersen

By: Lambert Hazelhoff

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### TO FACE YOUR FEAR

It was a hot summer's day at the church camp and Mr. Taylor, the camp leader, had taken everyone for a long hike. They returned with hungry stomachs and were enjoying a delicious lunch when it was announced that after lunch they would take a couple of hours off to go swimming. The group cheered at the news. Only Alan Swanson received the news about swimming with an inward groan.

"Are you going swimming this afternoon, Alan?" Asked Kevin with a sneer.

Alan hesitated. Kevin had been teasing him ever since the last camp. Alan figured he was still irritated from the swim meet last summer when Alan had soundly beaten Kevin in the 100 metres.

"Probably not," Alan replied, brushing past him.

Kevin grabbed his shoulder. "Why not?" he asked. "You were the only one who didn't swim yesterday, and you didn't swim at all at the other training camps. What's the matter?" the sneer became nastier. "Lost your nerve?"

Alan shook himself free. "Of course not. I can swim better than you can and you know it."

Kevin's face lit up. "Prove it!" he cried. "I'll race you across the river and back. Right now -up at Sandy Beach!" Kevin was practically jumping with anticipation.

Alan shook his head. "I'm not swimming," he said loudly. Then he pushed past the group of boys and strode towards his tent. As he went, he noticed Mr. Taylor watching him thoughtfully, from the edge of the campsite. He had obviously heard everything.

Alan snatched a good book to read by the river while the rest of them swam. *That Kevin was going to spoil everything, he thought angrily, Now that Mr. Taylor knew he wouldn't go swimming, maybe he wouldn't let him go on their planned back packing trip up by Thunder Bay next week. He wouldn't appear fit enough.*

Alan waited until the entire group had left for Sandy Beach, then he picked his way through the bushes to the river. He chose a sunny, sheltered spot with a soft grassy bank and a tree to lean on.

Soon the warm sunshine and shouts of fun and laughter from the family campsite across the river, eased his angry mood. *He had to admit it, he thought, he had lost his nerve. But so would Kevin Rialto if he'd been the one to be caught under the sailboat last summer, he thought defensively.*

Alan shuddered. Just thinking about it made his skin crawl. It had happened at the end of the summer and was the worst experience of his whole life. He and dad had rented a small sailboat while they were up at Lake Superior. They had been sailing for about an hour when a squall blew up. Somehow they couldn't get back into the shelter of the bay. The water shipped into a frenzy, churning and boiling, and the waves grew higher and higher. Suddenly a large wave reared up and caught the boat sideways. At the same moment a vicious blast of wind took the sail, and the boat flipped over.

Luckily Alan was wearing his life jacket, and when he bobbed up out of the dark water he was trapped under the upturned boat. He was dazed and winded, and for a few terrible moments panic gripped him. He thrashed about trying to get out.

The memory flooded back to him as clearly as though it had happened yesterday. Thank goodness dad had rescued him. Alan was sure he could never have saved himself

But the worst wasn't over. For the next half-hour they had clung desperately to the boat waiting to be rescued, expecting any moment to be swept away by the threatening waves. Since then, Alan had never swum again. He pushed the unpleasant sceoe from his mind and started to read his book. Across the river several small children came down to the water's edge to play. A small rowboat had been hauled up on to the sandy shore and they were climbing in it, pretending they were at sea. As the afternoon wore on Alan began to doze. The warm sunshine and fresh air made him sleepy.

He wasn't sure how long he'd been asleep, when urgent cries dragged him back to reality. He sat up and looked all around. The sun filtered through the tall pine trees shading much of the river. All he heard now was the gurgle and splash of the river. He stood up. Had he dreamed it?

Then he heard the cries again. He scanned the river carefully. Downstream a movement caught his eye. There, almost lost in the shade-dappled water, was the rowboat that had been beached across the river. A small boy was standing in it, and the craft was tipping dangerously.

"Mom! Mom!" the child cried, his voice rising in panic.

Somehow the boy had pushed the boat out into the river, and now the current was moving him swiftly downstream. There was no sign of anyone on the other bank.

Alan pulled off his shirt and kicked off his shoes. Then he cupped his hands to his mouth. "Sit down!" he yelled. "Sit down in the boat! I'm coming to get you."

Without another thought he splashed into the water. For a moment as the water washed over his head, a feeling of panic rose in his throat. The terror he'd felt then, as the waves swirled around him, returned, and threatened to swamp him. He surfaced, and the child's terrified cries swept away his nightmare memories.

In a few moments of strong swimming he reached the boat. The child was sitting down now, crying softly and clinging to the sides. Alan spoke to him in a calm voice, and gradually the crying stopped.

"Now you stay sitting there, and we'll be back on the shore right away," Alan said. He grasped the stem of the boat and began to kick, pushing the boat ahead of him.

By the time he reached the other shore, out of breath and legs aching, several adults were waiting. The child began to cry again, as his mother scooped him into her arms. Alan flopped onto the bank, getting his breath back.

Then he heard someone call him from the other side of the river. His camping group was back from swimming. Alan jumped up, waded out into the river again, and swam over to them.

"We just got back when we heard the commotion," someone said. "That was quite a rescue."  
Alan was embarrassed. "It was nothing," he said. "You'd have done the same if you'd been here."

Then Mr. Taylor stepped forward. "I'd say it was a pretty courageous thing to do, for someone who nearly drowned in a boating accident last year."

Alan looked at him in amazement. "You knew?" he said.

Mr. Taylor nodded. "Your father told me all about it, soon after it happened. I guessed why you wouldn't join us when we went swimming. But I wasn't worried. I knew a fine swimmer like you would come through when it really counted. You'll be a great asset to our back packing trip."

At that moment Kevin Rialto came up. "Say," he muttered, "I'm sorry for teasing you this afternoon. Tell us what happened last year, when you nearly drowned."

"Yes," the others begged, "tell us about it." And Alan found himself surrounded by admiring friends.

*"I can do all things through  
Christ which strengthened me."  
Philippians 4:13,*

Dear God, some things in my life seem to need special help from you. Please give me your strength in overcoming them. Thank you for not leaving me to face the hard things alone.

## **Testimony from a Young Person**

Hello. My name is Khandi. I am from New York. I am 13 years old and I have a testimony to share. This happened two years ago when I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I brought my Bible course to school. I took it out of my bookbag and went to the teacher's desk with it while the other students were on the computer. The teacher saw what I was doing and wanted to look at the information. While she was reading, the class was making noise. So she said to the class, "Can you please be quiet, we're reading the Bible". The class kind of got a little quieter. Three students came and they started to look at me and at what the teacher was reading. A boy next to me asked me questions as to whether I was reading the Bible and what you get when you finish the course. I answered him and said "a certificate". All the time looking back on this I thought, I was doing it in my own strength, but I was doing it with the strength of the Holy Spirit. May you pray for me so I can move on in God's work.

Khandi Stewart, New York Church

PS - The teacher saw a reading about Christ existing in heaven before He came to earth. She saw this reading from someone else working in the school. Also, please pray for the teacher.

## **MY FIRST MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE**

This isn't my first time doing missionary work, but my first experience. It was Sunday, and the New York church went to do missionary work. (But this one was special, the young people came along. It was for a summer thing we had at church for the young people. This one was to train us to do missionary work.) Well, back to my experience. I was feeling happy and sad at some points, but the Lord lifted me up. When we got to the destination, the brethren broke up into groups. I was in a group with Sis. Lugo, Sis. Marline, her daughter Stephanie and my little sister, Deanne. Sis. Marline was telling me how to do missionary work. When you give someone literature tell them, "God bless you".

When we got to the corner I felt discouraged because I saw people doing their own thing and not wanting a Bible card. So, I prayed for the Lord to help me. A couple came along, I offered them a Bible card, and they didn't want it. So, I offered them a magazine, "Steps to Christ". I told them it only cost a dollar. They responded and



## ***NOT WORTHY, BUT WILLING***

*Not worthy, O Lord, of Thy pardon,  
Not fit to partake of Thy grace;  
Not worthy, my Saviour, but longing  
To live in the light of Thy face,  
Not worthy to cling to the promise  
Of cleansing and healing divine,  
But eager to come at Thy bidding,  
And claim all Thou givest as mine.*

*It is not because I have asked Thee  
Though Thou hast encouraged my prayer—  
But Thou, who dost love me, hast offered  
My sin and my sorrows to bear.  
God offered and I have accepted  
The cleansing, the joy and light,  
And into my life there is flowing  
A wonderful beauty and might.*

*Still higher, as onward I journey,  
My will rises up to Thine own;  
For God has accepted a sinner,  
And I have accepted a throne.  
There never was soul so unworthy  
To meet with compassion like Thine,  
That I should be heir to a Kingdom,  
And God, the eternal, be mine!*

*Not worthy, but willing to praise Thee  
With jubilant spirit and breath!  
Not worthy, but longing to triumph  
O'er sin, temptation and death.  
Then crown me, O Christ, with Thy merit,  
For all undeserving I am  
To learn, with the anthem of Moses,  
It's charms, the song of the Lamb. By J. Mc Gregor*