

*The Reformation*



# Messenger

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## TO SIN WITH KNOWLEDGE

“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” Heb. 10:26

Millions have committed this sin. The ones who have the knowledge of the truth are in the danger to sin willfully. People in the world who are ignorant of the truth do sin daily, but their sin can be forgiven; the sacrifice of Jesus will pay for their sins if they repent when they learn the truth.

Many, who have learnt the truth, do not love it. They complain about the requirements for salvation. They do not like the church rules, it can be Sabbath-keeping, health reform, tithing, marriage laws, dress reform or any other teaching of the church which is part of the truth to us that they do not love; therefore blindness will fall upon them.

“...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thes. 2:10-12

“Let none deceive themselves with the belief that God will pardon and bless them while they are trampling upon one of His requirements. The willful commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit and separates the soul from God. Whatever may be the ecstasies of religious feeling, Jesus cannot abide in the heart that disregards the divine law. God will honor those who honor Him.” MYP 114

Ananias and Sapphira were members of the church. They knew the law but decided to lie to the church. It was a sin with knowledge



and therefore Peter did not ask them to repent and to confess, but a sudden death came upon them both. They had made a promise to give all but because of covetousness they did not honor their pledge.

“Ananias and Sapphira began to regret their promise, and soon lost the sweet influence and the blessing that had warmed their hearts with a desire to do large things in behalf of the cause of Christ... Not to the early church only, but to all future generations, this example of God’s hatred of covetousness, fraud, and hypocrisy, was given as a danger signal. It was covetousness that Ananias and Sapphira had first cherished. The desire to retain for themselves a part of that which they had promised to the Lord, led them into fraud and hypocrisy.... The same God who punished them, today condemns all falsehood...”

“In the case of Ananias and Sapphira, the sin of fraud was speedily punished. The same sin was often repeated in the after-history of the church, and is committed by many in our time. But though it may not be attended by the visible manifestation of God’s displeasure, it is no less heinous in His sight now than in the apostles’ time.” A.A. 72-76

Many who at their baptism made a promise to God to pay tithes of all their income and later decide to withhold it, commit a sin with knowledge similar to Ananias and Sapphira.

The world does not pay tithes to the Lord; but they have no knowledge of the law neither have they made a promise to obey it. Therefore they are not committing sin with knowledge.

Judas committed sin with knowledge, and when Jesus saw it, He did not rebuke Judas anymore. He only said, “that thou doest, do quickly.” John 13:27. Three and a half years Jesus had patiently worked with Judas, trying to save him but finally He had to give up. In the parable of Jesus the gardener asks for more time from the owner of the vineyard saying, “Let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” Luke 13:8-9

How many let the last year of mercy in their lives pass without producing fruit, fit for heaven. That last year the Lord will do everything possible to save this person and then suddenly, one day he will be left alone.

“Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.” Hosea 4:17. These idols could be money, television, vanity,

idleness, unhealthy foods and many others. In Judas' case his idol was money. In Uzzah's case his sin was trying to do good by disobedience. Uzzah knew the commandment that none but certain priests were to touch the Ark of the Covenant, but because the oxen shook it he put out his hand to steady it and at that moment the Lord smote him beside the ark. That proves that the end does not justify the means. Many well-meaning people try to do good and be helpful but not according to God's will. "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." Rom. 10:2

Paul says of himself that he was "zealous toward God," (Acts 22:3) while he was persecuting the church of God. Many may have great zeal toward God, but do not attain to righteousness. (Rom. 9:30-32) Paul was forgiven because he was lacking knowledge, but many others who have learnt the truth still may do like Uzzah and be not forgiven.

The people at Bethshemesh had no plans to hurt the ark or to do any damage; just to look inside from curiosity. "And He smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord, even He smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men." 1 Sam. 6:19

People who lightly regard the holy things of God can commit the sin of the men of Bethshemesh. This includes the Sabbath day, the sanctuary, Bible, testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy, the Lord's Supper and many others. The knowledge of the truth that we have received makes us responsible to obey it all and to show proper reverence toward holy things. "But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at My word." Isa. 66:2

May the Lord help us to understand the danger of committing sins after we have come to the knowledge of the truth. AMEN

Timo Martin

## Geographical Religion

Some people are always complaining. If the weather is hot, they complain and wish it were cool. If the weather is cold, they are uncomfortable and wish they were warmer. In the wet season, they wish for sunshine and in the dry season they wish for rain. Will they ever be happy and fully satisfied? Is there any place on planet earth that has the ideal conditions for a perfectly happy existence - free from discomfort and worry? Physically perhaps they may find a location that suits them fine. But what about spiritually?

Often people make geographical excuses also for their lack of faithfulness. They blame their surroundings. "I am too cold to go out and do missionary work - if only I lived in a warmer climate then I would..." "It is hard to be faithful here in the city. If I lived in the country, life would be much better..." "I simply can't be faithful living with worldly relatives, wait until I can move out and have my own place..."

They have made their religion geographical. They claim to be able to be faithful while in a certain geographical location. Usually this ideal geographical location is never achieved. As the saying goes, "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence."

Some Christians aspire to do some great work for the Lord if only they could be a foreign missionary -but be faithful at home? That is much too difficult. They would rather fly to some unknown corner of the earth and preach the gospel, rather than share the message with their immediate neighbours.

I knew one lady years ago who had become a church member and was still sorely tempted by worldly friends coming to visit and indulging in bad habits in her presence. This was a great temptation for her and she wanted to attend the mission school in order to get away from her friends. She had very little will power in herself. Her father warned her that Satan is just as real at the mission school as he is here and she had better learn to be faithful here before heading off to mission school.

Sadly she is no longer a church member today.

Another friend was living with worldly relatives who had the TV quite regularly on and was tempted to sit in front of that TV. She found it really difficult to live a spiritual life because of all the TV watching. Instead of asking the Lord for will power to resist the temptation, this friend decided to move out of the situation thinking she would be safer somewhere else. In the new place, there was no TV running, and while living with seemingly more faithful



people, Satan was still alive, well and on the prowl. She actually regressed, more in this second place, probably because she was trusting too much in being in a certain geographical location instead of trusting in God. The need to pray for strength was not as essential anymore as the original temptation was no longer there. Unfortunately Satan had other temptations to send her way. He got his way and today this person is no longer a church member either.

The devil is actively seeking to keep a person busy when he sees them making a move into a better location. He sees the move as a threat and so he is already working on it before the move actually takes place. Unless you make conscious efforts to change, you will continue the same way, no matter what environment you are in.

No, there is no ideal place on this earth where there are perfect conditions for a person to grow spiritually without being buffeted by Satan. On the other hand though, there is no place on this earth that the grace of God cannot reach. Into the deepest jungles of Africa, the Lord is there. In the midst of the worst crime centers of the large cities, the Lord is also there.

Does that mean we should never seek for a better place to live? We are counseled to live in the country as much as possible. "Instead of the crowded city seek some retired situation where your children will be, so far as possible, shielded from temptation, and there train and educate them for usefulness... Parents flock with their families to the cities because they fancy it easier to obtain a livelihood there than in the country. The children, having nothing to do when not in school, obtain a street education. From evil associates they acquire habits of vice and dissipation. It is your duty to cut off every influence, to break up every habit, to sunder every tie, that keeps you from the most free, open, and hearty committal of yourselves and your family to God." T5 232. If the Lord opens up the way then we must go, but sometimes the way is not opened up, even if the desire and intention is there.

I was recently speaking with one sister in the faith who shared with me the fact that when her children were young they lived in a suburban neighborhood of a large city. For many years they prayed that the Lord would open up the way for them to move into the country which is a much better environment to raise children. The Lord delayed in answering this prayer for many years and at first this sister did not know why. However, when the way opened up and they finally did move, their previous neighbour became a Seventh-day Adventist. This neighbour was a good friend even though very little religion was spoken of during those years. What led this neighbour to seek the truth? She said that every Sabbath she saw them worshipping the Lord. They would go for Sabbath afternoon walks. The neighbour also noticed the excitement when a visiting minister paid them a visit. Only after the Lord opened up the way for them to move did they understand the Lord's delay. The delay was for the salvation of this neighbour.

It is only safe to follow the leading of the Lord. We must never run ahead of the Lord, nor should we lag behind. All that we have belongs to the Lord and as we submit our lives and our possessions to the Lord, He will guide and direct our feet in the right pathway. With the Lord at the helm of our ship, we don't have to worry - He will see us through every storm. It is a very calm and happy feeling to know that the Lord is in control. So when is it that we should be content to remain where we are and when is it that we are to move? There is no rule that will fit every person and situation. The key is submission to the Lord. Yes, we may desire a better geographical location; we may even ask the Lord for it as long as we are asking for something that is reasonable, remembering that the Lord answers in three ways, either, "yes", "no" or "wait". Whatever the Lord decides we must be content with, believing that He will keep our feet in the right pathway should we be asked to remain where we are.

Not everyone is dissatisfied. Some are extremely satisfied with their life — in fact too satisfied. They have found the perfect geographical location where they can live a relatively good life in a reasonable amount of comfort. These people do not feel they need the Lord. They are content where they are.

### NERO'S HOUSEHOLD

What more forbidding environment could a Christian find themselves in during the first century? However, once these servants and attendants were converted, they did not ask for a change of environment. They kept on working in their environment, shedding the light of the love of God to those around them. These converts were made from the ministry of Paul during his two-year imprisonment, where he was able to rent his own house, but had to remain chained to a soldier. "Nowhere could there exist an atmosphere more uncongenial to Christianity than in the Roman court. Nero seemed to have obliterated from his soul the last trace of the divine, and even of the human, and to bear the impress of Satan. His attendants and courtiers were in general of the same character as himself — fierce, debased, and corrupt. To all appearances it would be impossible for Christianity to gain a foothold in the court and palace of Nero. Yet in this case, as in so many others, was proved the truth of Paul's assertion that the weapons of his warfare were "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:4. Even in Nero's household, trophies of the cross were won. From the vile attendants of a viler king were gained converts who became sons of God. These were not Christians secretly, but openly. They were not ashamed of their faith." AA 463.

"The apostle and his associate workers might have argued that it would be vain to call to repentance and faith in Christ the servants of Nero, subjected, as they were, to fierce temptations, surrounded by formidable hindrances, and exposed to bitter opposition. Even should they be convinced of the truth, how could they render obedience? But Paul did not reason thus; in faith he presented the gospel to these souls, and among those who heard were some who decided to obey at any cost. Notwithstanding obstacles and dangers, they would accept the light, and trust God to help them let their light shine forth to others.

“Not only were converts won to the truth in Caesar’s household, but after their conversion they remained in that household. They did not feel at liberty to abandon their post of duty because their surroundings were no longer congenial. The truth had found them there, and there they remained, by their changed life and character testifying to the transforming power of their new faith.

“Are any tempted to make their circumstances an excuse for failing to witness for Christ? Let them consider the situation of the disciples in Caesar’s household – the depravity of the emperor, the profligacy of the court. We can hardly imagine circumstances more unfavorable to a religious life, and entailing greater sacrifice or opposition, than those in which these converts found themselves. Yet amidst difficulties and dangers they maintained their fidelity. Because of obstacles that seem insurmountable the Christian may seek to excuse himself from obeying the truth as it is in Jesus; but he can offer no excuse that will bear investigation. Could he do this he would prove God unjust that He had made for His children conditions of salvation with which they could not comply.

“He whose heart is fixed to serve God will find opportunity to witness for Him. Difficulties will be powerless to hinder him who is determined to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness....

“Not in freedom from trial, but in the midst of it, is Christian character developed. Exposure to rebuffs and opposition leads the follower of Christ to greater watchfulness and more earnest prayer to the mighty Helper. Severe trial endured by the grace of God develops patience, vigilance, fortitude, and a deep and abiding trust in God. It is the triumph of the Christian faith that it enables its follower to suffer and be strong; to submit, and thus to conquer; to be killed all the day long, and yet to live; to bear the cross, and thus to win the crown of glory.” AA 466-468.

## JESUS

We have to learn to be faithful where we are. Jesus was born in Nazareth - a very wicked city. Nathaniel exclaimed, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” And yet something good did come. Jesus of Nazareth - our Saviour and Redeemer. In every city the Lord has faithful followers who are hungering and thirsting for the truth. The message of salvation will reach the ends of the earth.

Yet when Jesus was a young child, His mother provided the best possible upbringing in this wicked city. What did she do that was so successful? She simply home-schooled her son. When we see Jesus in the temple at age twelve conversing with the Rabbis, they were astonished with his wisdom and insight. The rabbis were perplexed and asked among themselves, “How hath this youth knowledge, having never learned?” “The rabbis knew that Jesus had not been instructed in their school; yet His understanding of the prophecies far exceeded theirs. In this thoughtful Galilean boy they discerned great promise. They desired to gain Him as a student, that He might become a teacher in Israel. They wanted to have charge of His education, feeling that a mind so original must be brought under their molding.” DA 80. Yet, the desire of the rabbis was not granted. Jesus returned home to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and continued His education from His mother and His heavenly Father out in nature.

“By His own example the Saviour has shown that His followers can be in the world and yet not of the world. He came not to partake of its delusive pleasures, to be swayed by its customs, and to follow its practices, but to do His Father’s will, to seek and save the lost. With this object before him the Christian may stand uncontaminated in any surroundings. Whatever his station or circumstances, exalted or humble, he will manifest the power of true religion in the faithful performance of duty.” AA 467.

This is a very real option for us also, should we find ourselves in a disagreeable environment with our children. We are given the option of homeschooling also. We do not need to subject our children to the temptations of the world. Our children were given for us to raise, not for governments to raise. The Lord will call us into account for the way we raised our children, and may the Lord help us to show that we have faithfully done our duty and not given the duty to a worldly institution. The Lord may not remove us from the city or some other disagreeable environment when we first ask, but He has shown us how we can manage while in this environment. He has promised to be with us as we seek to do His will.

## MOSES

WP read about Moses going to the court of Pharaoh at the age of twelve. Here he was educated in all the knowledge of the Egyptians. However he never forgot his people, and why is this? What kind of education did he receive for the first twelve years of his life? He also was homeschooled. Although there were not public education systems in the nation of Israel at that time, his mother took special care to instruct him in the way of the Lord, knowing that at the age of twelve he would have to leave home and enter a completely worldly environment. Could he stand alone and be faithful in this environment? Would he succumb to the temptations in the worldly court? “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.” Hebrews 11:24-27.

“From his humble cabin home he was taken to the loyal palace, to the daughter of Pharaoh, “and he became her son.” Yet even here he did not lose the impressions received in childhood. The lessons learned at his mother’s side could not be forgotten. They were a shield from the pride, the infidelity, and the vice that flourished amid the splendor of the court.

“How far-reaching in its results was the influence of that one Hebrew woman, and she an exile and a slave! The whole future life of Moses, the great mission which he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the work of the Christian mother. There is no other work that can equal this. To a very great extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity. She is sowing seed that will spring up and bear fruit, either for good or for evil. She has not to paint a form of beauty upon a canvas or to chisel it from marble, but to impress upon a human soul the image of the divine. Especially during their early years the responsibility rests upon her of forming the character of her children. The impression now made upon their developing minds will remain with them all through life. Parents should direct the instruction and training of their children while very young, to the end that they may be Christians. They are placed in our care to be trained, not as heirs to the throne of an earthly empire, but as kings unto God, to reign through unending ages.” PP 244.

## JOSEPH

At the young age of seventeen we read about Joseph being sold as a slave by his own brothers. He was taken to Egypt without the hope of ever seeing his family again. Here he would remain - perhaps for the rest of his life - surrounded by heathen worshippers of false gods.

“With a trembling heart he looked forward to the future. . . Alone and friendless, what would be his lot in the strange land to which he was going? For a time Joseph gave himself up to uncontrolled grief and terror....

“Then his thoughts turned to his Father’s God. In his childhood he had been taught to love and fear Him... Now all these precious lessons came vividly before him. Joseph believed that the God of his fathers would be His God. He then and there gave himself fully to the Lord, and he prayed that the Keeper of Israel would be with him in the land of his exile.

“His soul thrilled with the high resolve to prove himself true to God -under all circumstances to act as became a subject of the King of heaven. He would serve the Lord with undivided heart; he would meet the trials of his lot with fortitude and perform every duty with fidelity. One day’s experience had been the turning point in Joseph’s life. Its terrible calamity had transformed him from a petted child to a man, thoughtful, courageous, and self-possessed.” PP 213/214.

In reading of the life of Joseph in Egypt, we see how faithfully he kept to this resolve. He spent two years in prison for his faithfulness, but in the end he was blessed by the Lord and was re-united with his family in an unexpected manner. Not one complaint was uttered from the lips of Joseph about his situation. Never did he use his geographical location as an excuse to sin. He faced many more temptations than many of our young people growing up today are facing. Yet he faithfully stood firm in his resolve to serve the God of his fathers. That God was with him as closely in Egypt as He had been with him while tending his father’s sheep in Canaan. The Lord was a present help and comfort to Joseph and we see the blessing that was left behind.

## DANIEL

When the nation of Judah turned away from following the Lord, the Babylonians came to oppress them and the Lord did not protect His people. Rather He sent the Babylonians to punish His chosen people. King Nebuchadnezzar took many captives to Babylon. Did he take only the unfaithful ones? No, we see at the beginning that he took the best men of the nation. Among those men were Daniel and his three companions. They could have argued that God was not fair in sending them to Babylon because they had been faithful. Only the unfaithful ones should have been taken. Nevertheless, they uttered not one complaint. We see their faithfulness written in the book of Daniel.

“Among the children of Israel who were carried captive to Babylon at the beginning of the seventy year’s captivity were Christian patriots, men who were as true as steel to principle, who would not be corrupted by selfishness, but who would honor God at the loss of all things. In the land of captivity these men were to carry out God’s purpose by giving to heathen nations the blessings that come through a knowledge of Jehovah, They were to be His representatives. Never were they to compromise with idolaters; their faith and their name as worshippers of the living God they were to bear as a high honor. And this they did. In prosperity and adversity they honored God, and God honored them.” PP 479.

These young men did not complain that the best years of their life were to be spent in captivity in a foreign



nation, living amongst heathen people. They resolved to remain faithful to the Lord wherever they were. The Lord had allowed them to be brought to Babylon and in Babylon they would continue to serve the Lord, and this they did. Their influence was felt far and wide. Their circumstances were not ideal to Christian growth—they were not living in a country setting, they were not around their own people, yet they remained true to God in the heathen king's court. Their faithfulness proved a great blessing to King Nebuchadnezzar in bringing about his conversion.

## JOHN

John, the beloved disciple, lived to be very old. He witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and the beautiful temple. He was the last survivor of the disciples who were closely connected to Jesus. The Jews hated him bitterly for his faithfulness in preaching about Christ. John was summoned to Rome to be put on trial for his faith. He was sentenced to be put to death. They cast him into a cauldron of boiling oil. The Lord, however, preserved his life as He did the three Hebrew worthies in Babylon when they were sent to the fiery furnace. Since this did not work, John was banished to the Isle of Patmos. Patmos was a barren rocky island in the Aegean Sea where Rome banished its criminals. Did John complain of his forbidding surroundings? He was cut off from family, friends and church members, yet his faith did not falter. The Lord had not rejected him. On this island John found refuge. Among the cliffs and rocks he held communion with the Lord.

“The history of John affords a striking illustration of the way in which God can use aged workers. When John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos, there were many who thought him to be past service, an old and broken reed, ready to fall at any time. But the Lord saw fit to use him still. Though banished from the scenes of his former labor, he did not cease to bear witness to the truth. Even in Patmos he made friends and converts. His was a message of joy, proclaiming a risen Saviour who on high was interceding for His people until he should return to take them to Himself. And it was after John had grown old in the service of his Lord that he received more communications from heaven than he had received during all the former years of his life.

“The most tender regard should be cherished for those whose life interest has been bound up with the work of God. These aged workers have stood faithful amid storm and trial. They may have infirmities, but they still possess talents that qualify them to stand in their place in God's cause. Though worn, and unable to bear the heavier burdens that younger men can and should carry, the counsel they can give is of the highest value.” AA 572/273.

No complaint came from John concerning his surroundings. He simply took up the work where the Lord had placed him.

## PAUL

Paul never asked for a change in his surroundings. He simply asked for healing from his infirmity. Three times he asked the Lord and three times the Lord said “No”. Paul may have thought he could serve the Lord better had he been healed, and He asked the Lord how he could be efficient with this ailment. Jesus' answer to him was, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Cor. 12: 9.

If we pray for a change in our geographical location, or circumstances and the Lord says, either “no” or “wait”, He promises us the same thing He promised Paul. We may wonder how we can be faithful in our present location and if we ask the Lord, He will tell us, “My grace is sufficient.” The Lord gives grace according to need. While it may be true that there is much more corruption and evil in this world today than there was perhaps one hundred years ago, if we are led to wonder how we or our children could possibly remain faithful, remember the promise to Paul, “My grace is sufficient.” The Lord will be with us. He will give us strength to be faithful in whatever situation we are in. This doesn't mean we should never make an attempt to change our situation if we are in a disagreeable situation. We are to ask the Lord if we feel a change is necessary, but be ready if the Lord says, “no”, to accept His will. We must never make our service to the Lord conditional on our geographical location.

The Lord wants every soul to hear His message today. There are so many people crowded into the cities and who will go and warn them? Shall we become exclusive as were the Israelites and leave the heathen to perish because we fear contamination from them? The Lord is calling His people today to come into line and spread the message. Even John the Baptist, who spent most of his early life in the wilderness, made regular visits into the city. If we are blessed with a home in the country, we must still do our duty to our fellow men in the cities.

May the Lord help us to prove faithful where ever we may be on this planet and not have a religion that is dependant on a certain geographical location. My prayer is that we would all have the same vision that Abraham did. “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Hebrews 11:10. AMEN.

Wendy Eaton

# THE KNOWLEDGE OF EVIL

## Part 2

“Salvation belongeth unto the Lord. Thy blessing is upon Thy people. Selah.” 1 “Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” 2 “Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart.” 3

It wasn't until after I had read “the Testimony of Jesus,” which is “the Spirit of Prophecy,” I began to understand the controversy that surrounds the writings of Sister Ellen G. White. “Inspiration acts not on the man's words or his expression but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind is diffused. The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God.” 4

The words of the Lord are pure words;  
As silver tried in the furnace of earth,  
Purified seven times. 5  
He sheweth His word unto Jacob,  
His statutes and His judgements unto  
Israel. 6  
Sanctify them through Thy truth:  
Thy word is truth. 7  
Thy righteousness is an everlasting  
righteousness,  
And thy law is the truth. 8  
For the commandment is a lamp:  
And the law is light;  
And reproofs of instruction are the way of  
life. 9  
And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light. Because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 10

“Often the question arises, Why, then, are there so many, claiming to believe God's word, in whom there is not seen a reformation in words, in spirit, and in character? Why are there so many who cannot bear opposition to their purposes and plans, who manifest an unholy temper, and whose words are harsh, overbearing, and passionate? There is seen in their lives the same love of self, the same selfish indulgence, the same temper and hasty speech, that is seen in the life of the worldling. There is the same sensitive pride, the same yielding to natural inclination, the same perversity of character, as if the truth were wholly unknown to them. The reason is that **THEY ARE NOT CONVERTED.**” 11 “They have lived some time watching to keep their brethren straight - watching for every fault to make trouble with them. And while doing this, their minds are not on God, nor on heaven, nor on the truth; but just where Satan wants them —on someone else. Their souls are neglected... Unless they reform, there will be no place in heaven for them, for they would find fault with the Lord Himself.” 12

“He who is guilty of wrong is the first to suspect wrong. By condemning another he is trying to conceal or excuse the evil of his own heart.” 13 “The great Searcher of hearts knoweth every sin committed in secret by the workers of iniquity.” 14 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 15  
“Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to any thing more exalted.” 16 “He judges his character, not by the Holy character of God, but by the character of other men. His mind is turned away from God to humanity. This is the secret of his self-satisfaction.” 17 “Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its



light, and the center of its joy.” 18

“There must certainly be a change in our ministers. In heart and character there must be more of Christ and less of self.” 19 “The church will rarely take a higher stand than is taken by her ministers.” 20 “The guilty know just what sins to confess that their souls may be clean before God.” 21 “A few are now pointing to the roll of fast-fulfilling prophecy and proclaiming, Get ready, show your obedience to God by keeping His commandments.” 22 “However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path.” 23

“A true minister does the work of the Master. He feels the importance of his work, realizing that he sustains the church and to the world a relation similar to that which Christ sustains. He works untiringly to lead sinners to a nobler, higher life, that they may obtain the reward of the overcomer. His lips are touched with a live coal from the altar, and he uplifts Jesus as the sinner’s only hope.” 24 “And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 25

“Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure,” (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 92) Amen.

Chester Cosby

- 1 Psalm 3:8
- 2 Psalm 119:165
- 3 Psalm 119:2
- 4 SM1 p. 21
- 5 Psalm 12:6
- 6 Psalm 147:19
- 7 John 17:17
- 8 Psalm 119:142
- 9 Proverbs 6:23
- 10 John 3:19, 20
- 11 COL p. 99
- 12 1Tp. 145
- 13 MB p. 126
- 14 5Tp. 211
- 15 1 John 1:9
- 16 GCp. 555
- 17 GC
- 18 SCp. 18
- 19 TMp. 245
- 20 5T p. 277
- 21 1Tp. 156
- 22 TM p. 232, 233
- 23 5Tp. 214
- 24 AA p. 329
- 25 Matthew 3:2

## Missionary Training

Although not everyone is called by the Lord to give themselves to full time missionary work, the Lord has a place in his vineyard for each church member to do some work. Each is responsible for being a light in the sphere of influence that they exert daily. It is not up to the gospel worker to go and bring the message of salvation to your schoolmates or co-workers. This is your duty. However we all need training. The disciples were 3 years with Jesus before they were ready to go out and become full-time evangelists. We should be training our members how to effectively spread the gospel.

“There is a great work before us, and each individual has a special part to act. We shall not all have the very same life of service, but if we will commit our ways fully unto the Lord, He will direct our paths. Oh, that there were hundreds more of consecrated young people! God wants a large army of earnest, consecrated youth to gird on the armor, and to fight manfully the battles of the Lord. There is a work for each one to do.” 2 SAT, p. 286.

Where are we to learn how to effectively spread the gospel? “From the light God has given me, if our ministers would preach about one quarter as many sermons, and devote their energies more perseveringly educating and training young workers, opening the Scriptures to them, showing them just what they need to do, thus fitting them to take a place in the ranks of God’s army, more would be accomplished.” GCB, 04-25-01.

“As a people having advanced light, we should devise means by which to develop an army of educated missionaries to enter the various departments of the work of God. We need well-disciplined, cultivated young men and women in our schools, in our sanitariums, in the medical missionary work, in the offices of publication, in the conferences of different states, and in the field at large. We need young men and women, who, having intellectual culture, are fitted to do the best work for the Lord.” 6T, p. 206.

With these counsels and testimonies in mind, our believers here in Australia decided to hold a missionary training seminar during the time when the students ‘have their school holidays. The seminar was to run for one week (April 17- 24). With a van full of people we traveled from Sydney approximately 1,000 km north to a small town outside of Brisbane. One family has been faithfully standing for the truth for over 20 years all alone in this part of the country. We decided to take the young people and have a training seminar at the home of this family. During the seminar we would also have “on-the-job” training.

In a beautiful country setting each morning we had two classes of study on various subjects such as: “Effective methods of canvassing”, “How to Give Bible Studies” and “How to build a bridge when someone accepts the health message to bring them the gospel message”. Also various difficult Bible texts were studied in depth -Bible texts that false Christianity uses to seemingly support their false doctrines.

In the afternoon we went out and applied our knowledge and went canvassing in the small town of Lowood. We went out two by two (from the youngest at 7 to the oldest youth - over 40). In the three days that we canvassed, we pretty well finished the main part of the town. Much literature was given out and several good Bible Study contacts were made. We hope and pray that more souls will be brought to worship with this family who have stood so faithful all alone, for these many years.

There was such a blessed spirit of unity and cooperation among the old and young during this seminar. There was spiritual cooperation as well as practical cooperation in the household chores.

We ended our stay with a trip to the mountains on the final day before our departure. Even with this outing we were shown how to effectively do missionary work while out for a recreational afternoon. Brother Eaton had a pocket full of Bible tracts and gave one to every person that he passed along the trail in the woods. After our hike and lunch we had a Bible Study in a park. We sat close to a place where there was a beautiful lookout over the valley so people came by and stopped to look at the view, and hopefully listened to some of the words being spoken. While we were studying, our youngest student, little Henry (7 years old) ran and gave a Bible card to every person who stopped to look over the valley. He was so diligent that he noticed that one man purposely left his card behind on the railing. In his innocence he thought the man accidentally left it so Henry picked up the card and ran after the man to give it to him. The man kindly turned it down. Two times the man had to reject that card. The Lord tried to reach him twice. The poor man will lose the blessing, but little Henry may have a few stars in his crown for his efforts that day.

There was a good response to the seminar. The young and older ones were encouraged and plans are already in place to come again next year to this home. Some, who could not make it, would like to be able to be there next year. Meanwhile we have plans for other areas during the other school holidays.

Yes, it is time to take an active interest in the salvation of our youth. Their salvation is not only the responsibility of the parents but of the whole church. May the Lord help us to capitalize on their youthful energies and encourage them in the right direction.

“By the word coming from God, we are instructed to educate, educate, educate, young men and young women to understand the living oracles of God. This knowledge will be of the greatest possible value to them as they labor for God. God requires that minds shall not be dwarfed by a connection with the church, but strengthened, elevated, enriched, ennobled, and made fit for the most sacred work ever committed to mortals. The Lord will have a well-trained army, ready to be called into action at a word. These will be well-disciplined men and women and youth, who have placed themselves under educating influences that have made them vessels unto honor. “ RH 03-22-98

Jesus is coming soon, much sooner than we may think and it is now time to get ready, get ready, get ready and a large part of getting ready is not only to ready ourselves, but to be a faithful watchman on the walls of Zion -bringing the warning message to those around us. May God help us to all faithfully use our talents in His cause and not be found sleeping on guard. AMEN. Wendy Eaton

## Current Scene

### 21 APRIL 2000 *CBC* E-VANGEL:

**OH the CrOSS** Consider this quote from Thick Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist Monk with a large Western following: “The figure of a crucified Christ is a very painful image to me. It does not contain joy or peace, and this does not do justice to Jesus.” (*Newsweek* 3/27/00)

This is one of those fellows who claims that if we really understood Jesus, then we would find Buddha!

In a way, I agree with Thick Nhat Hanh’s statement: The cross was not justice for Jesus since Christ had no sins of his own to die for. The cross IS mercy for sinners. 2 Cor. 5:21 says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” I also agree that the cross is painful. The gospel is good news only if we first understand the bad news that man is a sinner in need of reconciliation to God. At the cross, God’s mercy for sinners and his wrath for sin met in the person of His only begotten son. Yet, the cross does bring peace. Colossians 1:20 says we have peace with God through the blood Jesus shed on the cross. When we trust Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour from sin, warring parties enter into peace. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

What about Martial Arts? April 12,

2000, *Religion Today* Martial arts has hidden meaning, cleric warns

“The martial arts aren’t just physical exercise, they’re Zen Buddhist meditation techniques, warns a minister who was involved with them for 20 years.

“Ed Hird practiced karate, sometimes three times a week, and was so enthusiastic that he recruited other Christians to join him, he said in an article in *Anglicans for Renewal Magazine*. He is rector of St. Simon’s Anglican Church in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and chairman of Anglican Renewal Ministries of Canada.

“But he thought twice when his sons wanted to take tae kwon do, a martial art similar to karate, as part of their Christian school gym class last spring. He began to research the history of tae kwon do to discern its purposes,



and agreed to present his findings to the principal and the school board. He read ‘dozens of pro-martial arts books,’ and for several weeks asked questions of a number of tae kwon do and martial arts experts from North America and other parts of the world on Internet chat forums, he told *Religion Today*.

“What Hird found surprised the 45-year-old, who had been involved in martial arts from 1971 to 1992, and had dabbled with hypnosis and astral projection before becoming a Christian in 1972. The research led him to believe that tae kwon do and other martial arts are ‘far more than just physical gym exercises,’ but actually are seemingly innocuous doorways into non-Christian religions.

**“Tae kwon do and martial arts are ‘Zen Buddhist meditational techniques designed to bring a person into the experience of satori, or Buddhist enlightenment,’** Hird said. They can be traced to Bodhidharma, a 6th century Buddhist monk who taught his disciples sitting meditation and moving meditation, or the martial arts, to obtain spiritual enlightenment, he found in his research.

“The sitting meditation commonly done in tae kwon do and most martial arts is an essential part of the training, done before and after class to clear the mind of all thought and relax completely, according to the book Official WTF Tae kwon do. Hird said.

“Synchronized breathing is a key to both Buddhist and Hindu meditation, he said. In contrast, biblical meditation is meditating on God’s written Word the Bible, rather than meditating on the empty mind by using breathing and visualization techniques.

“The ritualistic patterns of motion in the martial arts also concern Hird,’ he said. Many of the patterns are ‘rooted in semi-mystical Taoist philosophy and their deeper meaning is said to be far more important than the mere performance of a gymnastics series of exercises,’ Hird said, quoting tae kwon do author and instructor Eddie Ferric.

**“Westerners can be naive about the very subtle influences of martial arts, and lack the experience to notice their hidden religious nature,’** Hird said. ‘But there are some obvious clues,’ he said, ‘including the Ying-Yang symbol that appears on even many innocuous-looking tae kwon do websites and brochures. Some Christians practice the martial arts for exercise, or even as a way of evangelizing, but don’t really know what they are getting into,’ Hird said. ‘If it works they don’t ask questions about what it means.’

“Eastern religious techniques often are portrayed as neutral so anyone from any religion can use them, but in fact there is a lot more than meets the eye,’ he said. ‘Christians sometimes are seduced,’ he said.

“Practitioners can try to ignore the spiritual dimension of the martial arts, but spirituality is their ultimate purpose historically,’ Hird said. He noted that The Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs considers the martial arts as ‘forms of spiritual education that function as means toward self-realization or self-enlightenment.’

“Martial arts are ‘a Trojan Horse in the house of the Lord, eroding the spiritual barriers between Zen Buddhism and the Christian Gospel, and potentially leading vulnerable children and teens into the early stages of Eastern occultism,’ Hird said.

“Tae kwon do has become popular since making its Olympic debut in 1988,’ Hird said. ‘It is the official national sport of Korea, and is taught to Korean schoolchildren and members of the Armed Forces. The word means hand (Tae) and foot (kwon) way (do).’

“It can be difficult emotionally for a person to give up the martial arts, because they may be so involved with them,’ Hird said. ‘It took me years to [give up the martial arts]. God is merciful. He had mercy on me. But He also wants us to wake up areas of compromise and confusion, to the issue of serving two masters.’

“The good news about religious syncretism is that it is never too late to repent and start afresh, serving one Master and one Master alone, Jesus Christ our Lord.

“As a result of Hird’s research, our Christian school board decided to no longer offer tae kwon do or other martial arts.”

GORBACHEV CALLS THE POPE THE ‘MOST IMPORTANT SOCIALIST IN

THE WORLD’ Copyright 2000 *Nando Media* Copyright 2000 Agence France-Press ROME April 3, 2000

“Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday characterized Pope John Paul II as ‘the most important socialist in the world,’ lauding him for making the plight of the poor and solidarity key themes of his papacy.

“Globalization can also have destructive effects but we must pursue, as the pope says, its positive aspects,’ the former Soviet leader said in a speech to students of Rome’s Sapienza University.

“Wherever John Paul II goes on his trips, he will always speak of the poor and of solidarity. He is the most important socialist in the world. If globalization is to be fair, the gap between North and South must not be deepened, and political and economic freedom and social justice must be granted,’ he added.”

Gorbachev has been picked for the job of leading a re-united Europe by the Pope. The Pope has stated this publicly on several occasions, so are we to expect with the introduction of the European universal currency next year, a push

for an elected head of the European states? Only time will tell, but what the Pope wants, he usually gets.

### John Paul treats the world as

**parish** *Religion Today*, March 24, 2000 Pope John Paul II once again has captured the world's attention—this time taking a personal pilgrimage, replete with political overtones, to the land where Jesus walked.

“His trip is the culmination of the many efforts of a remarkable man who, at age 79 and in increasingly frail health, is determined to take risks to revitalize the Roman Catholic Church and lead it into its third millennium,” the Vatican said.

“The pope said he felt ‘profound emotion’ in realizing his dream of retracing the footsteps of Jesus. ‘Along every step of the way I am moved by a vivid sense of God, who has gone before us and leads us on, who wants us to honor Him in spirit and in truth, to acknowledge the differences between us, but also to recognize in every human being the image and likeness of the One Creator of heaven and earth.’

“The trip is groundbreaking in its ecumenical spirit. John Paul is trying to bring together Eastern and Western Christian churches as he visits sacred Christian sites; in visiting Judaism's holiest place, the Western Wall, and paying respect at the Holocaust memorial; and speaking to Palestinians about statehood. The pontiff says he wants to help in the complicated dialogue among Jews, Muslims, and Christians, who coexist warily. The goal is ‘lasting peace and justice,’ he said.

“He began the trip by rankling Israeli leaders by insisting that the Palestinian people have an ‘inalienable right’ to a homeland. ‘No one can ignore how much the Palestinian people have had to suffer in recent decades. Your torment is before the eyes of the world. And it has gone on too long,’ he told the Palestinians. There are an estimated 3.5 million Palestinians displaced by the 1948 war that followed the birth of the modern state of Israel.

“John Paul also said that Jerusalem should be accorded international status. Both the Palestinians and Israelis claim Jerusalem as their capital.

“He visited Israel's memorial to the 6 million Jews killed in the Nazi Holocaust and expressed grief for the centuries of Christian persecution of Jews, but did not offer the apology Israelis had wanted to hear for the silence of the Catholic Church during the Holocaust.

“The pope's Holy Land trip is the latest leg of a long spiritual journey. *He has traveled by jet, helicopter, and popemobile to 118 countries, drawing crowds with rock-star magnetism, and has been seen by more people than any statesman, sports figure, or rock star, news reports say.* A third of Ireland's population and half of Poland's came out to see him; 5 million people knelt for his blessing on a field in Manila, the Philippines; and last year, 1.2 million attended his Mass at a Mexico City auto speedway.

“His recent apology for the sins of the Catholic Church was historic. John Paul chose the first Sunday of Lent to issue a sweeping, though unspecific, statement. It was interpreted as contrition for the Inquisition, the killing of Muslims during the Crusades, and the Church's failure to speak out against the Holocaust.

“The pope made a three-day trip to Egypt earlier this year, including a visit to Mount Sinai. He met with leaders of the Coptic Church and the Sunni Muslims.

“Traveling for more than 20 years has taken its toll. John Paul II has survived an assassination attempt, undergone tumor surgery, and had a hip replacement after a fall. Today he is a picture of frail vulnerability, speaking in somewhat slurred speech, stooped over as he walks, leaning on a cane. He exhibits symptoms of Parkinson's disease, and those close to him say he has some good and some bad days.

“His influence extends beyond his travels. Many world leaders regard John Paul II as a key factor in the fall of communism and the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. As a mediator, he averted a war between Chile and Argentina; he recognized the state of Israel, and then Jordan. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asked for his blessing, and Fidel Castro slipped out of his jungle fatigues and into a business suit to attend his Mass in Havana. The pope has held meetings with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, and four U.S. presidents. He has taken on the United Nations, defeating a proposal at a Cairo, Egypt, population conference that he considered a global endorsement of abortion. He has taken on the Mafia, and denounced apartheid, anti-Semitism, euthanasia, and capital punishment. He confronted movie moguls in Hollywood, decrying film violence.

“John Paul has critics in and outside the Church. His recent apology drew some criticism, and the Vatican caused anger among Israelis with a schedule that was seen as disruptive to the Jewish Sabbath. He has disappointed Catholic liberals by upholding clerical celibacy and shutting off debate on the ordination of women.

“The pope's trip to Israel is ‘very encouraging to the local Christian population,’ a small minority

among its 6 million inhabitants, said Cardinal William H. Keeler, the Baltimore archbishop. Keeler added that the trip also will help those in the United States trying to promote better inter-religious relations with American Muslims.

“An estimated 50,000 Catholic pilgrims traveled to Israel for John Paul’s visit. Many came great distances, paying \$3,000 to \$5,000 for airfare and a week’s stay in the Holy Land. ‘It was expensive to come here, a great sacrifice,’ Francis Kateule, 33, a Zambian seminary student studying for the priesthood in Australia, told The Washington Post. ‘But when it’s something important in your life, you’re willing to sacrifice everything.’

“Graham deary, 20, a computer programming student from Australia, was in Jerusalem to celebrate his faith, but said he had told few friends at home **about his** travels. ‘Ifs **just generally considered not cool to talk about the church or about God,**’ he said. ‘There are a lot of atheists in Australia.\*

“To see the pope say Mass at the site of the Sermon on the Mount, this will renew me,’ said Luis Tijerino, 20, a Nicaraguan studying for the priesthood.”

How odd that this Pope is being so lionized in the Christian media that they say “the world is his parish.” But then it is really not odd at all when we consider that most Christians do not even recognize the fact that the Pope is at the head of an anti-christian cult that threatens the very existence of Christianity.

How far has Christianity come in that Christian leaders will not even recognize the dangers of cooperating with Rome. Sadly, most have already sold out to the papal influence, and have compromised the Protestant Reformation by embracing Catholicism in one or more ways.

Indeed, “his influence extends beyond his travels” for the deadly wound is ever-more healed with the constant statements to reconcile one group with another and all to the papacy. Rev. 13:3

May the Lord help us to be clear on who and what the papacy is now and always will be—the system foretold in Daniel 7 that would “think to change times and laws,” be in power for 1260 years, make war against God’s people and be diametrically opposed to the cross of Calvary.

By Jerry Eaton

## THE CHRISTIAN STRUGGLE

*Each one has a personal battle to fight. Each must win his own way through struggles and discouragements. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory. No one, not even God, can carry us to heaven unless we make the necessary effort on our part”*  
*Testimonies for the Church, Vol., 5, p. 345.*

This paragraph is, in my opinion, one of the most important for our time. Many times I have felt utterly defeated and discouraged, and in those times I have to pray. Once I have prayed, I feel spiritually renewed and I know I have gained the victory. It says in the text above that “God cannot carry us to heaven unless we make the necessary effort on our part.” Even the prayer of one poor sinner will disperse Satan and his clouds of doom and send the angels rushing to the side of the poor sinner. All heaven is delighted at fee sinner’s petition for help and the angels would happily bear him straight up to heaven. This cannot be done though. Jesus wills it that we stay on the earth for now to meet everyday struggles and trials. If we are faithful, Jesus promises to come and take us up to His house of glory when He returns.

In Hebrews 12:4 it says, “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” This means that there is a battle going on inside every one of us. Those who will be saved must resist temptation, even unto death. Satan usually leaves worldly people alone because he knows he has them, but he especially bothers and tries to destroy true, sincere Christians. We cannot go through life’s struggles against sin without God’s help. Only with God’s help can we be victors over trials and temptations. Too often I have seen new Christians who Satan bothers so much that they give up in despair.

I remember when I came here to Australia 9 months ago, I was excited about discovering a new part of the world. Now I often miss Canada, I become discouraged and feel like giving up. I always catch myself thinking that Canada is so much nicer and that I don’t have any friends here. Then I remember, “God sent me here for a reason and I am going to do what He wants.” I always pray, asking if it be the Lord’s will for us to go back to Canada or if we are



to stay in Australia. Your will be done. Whenever I feel discouraged, I think of what Jesus must have had to go through always having to travel from place to place. It is a fearful thing to go against what the Lord would have us to do.

There are two struggles we have to go through in life. There is the struggle against self and the struggle against Satan and his powers of darkness. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12. People are not the problem; they are not the ones we are fighting against. Instead, the Satanic forces and powers of darkness are our main foe.

"The religion of Christ transforms the heart. It makes the worldly-minded man, heavenly minded. Under its influence the selfish man becomes unselfish because this is the character of Christ." T5, p. 345. In this passage it states that the religion of Christ transforms the heart. If Christ is in our heart we will not always be putting other people down. Instead we will try to lift them up. Even with people like Bill Clinton or the Pope, we should only feel pity for them, just like Christ did for His murderers that were after Him. The only way our life will change is if Christ is the one whom we are patterning our life after.

Many Christians make the mistake of trying to keep the letter of the law and are trying to work their way to heaven. They, of course, are soon back in the world because they left Christ out of the picture. The blood of many people will be on the hands of those ministers who are always teaching the law and never even mentioning Christ. That's how the Seventh-day Adventist church went into apostasy in 1888. They refused to recognize that only Christ's righteousness can save. Our righteousness is as filthy rags.

In conclusion I would like to add a word of hope. In the first Ellen G. White quote at the beginning of this article, it does say that each of us is responsible for our own salvation. However it is important to remember that even the tiniest, feeble effort on our part will be greeted with tons of encouragement from above. Prayer is one of our most important tools in the struggle against self and the principalities of darkness. Also the study of the Bible is always very comforting and encouraging. Whenever you feel discouraged, just talk to the Lord — He understands - He was once a human also.

My prayer is that each one of us will gain the victory in our struggle, and that we will make Christ our protector and Friend. In Jesus name. AMEN

Richard Eaton. Australia

## **WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**

To our gracious brethren in the Reform family, I make a special appeal.

You who are workers or wives of workers, who are church officers, you mothers, I appeal to you most earnestly to be the example God would have you to be to the younger members in the church. A tremendous responsibility and a glorious opportunity are yours. Be an encouragement! Don't be a stumbling block - I appeal to you!

Fathers, church leaders - go on your knees, seek help from above to be loyal to God, You, too, have a tremendous responsibility. Give your support both by precept and example to pastors and educators struggling with this problem. Do not weaken their influence or make their task difficult, if not impossible, by undermining their stand for principle!

Young people, you are God's ambassadors in a foreign court. He is interested in how you represent Him. What appears on the outside may well be an index of what is on the inside.

The Lord, through His appointed messenger says, "We must arise at once and close the door against the allurements of fashion. Unless we do this, our churches will become demoralized." 4T p. 648

I also want women to be modest and sensible about their clothes and to dress properly.

I am not really writing to tell you of any new command, brothers of mine. It is just the old, original command. You may think that the original message is old, and yet, as I give it to you again I know that it is always new and always true." 1 John 2:7,8 Jeremiah 6:16.

"Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God."

Brothers and sisters, the hour is too late for us to let anything separate us from God. AMEN

Sister Shartery

London, Ontario, CANADA

## TIME TO MOVE

***"The Lord God of Israel is hungry for fruit. He calls upon His workers to branch out more than they are doing. He desires them to make the world their field of labor rather than to work only for our churches." Testimonies for the Church, Vol 7, p. 268.***

We must move out to places that don't have missionaries and we must establish more churches. When those churches are well and truly established - and someone is looking after that church then we may move on to new parts again.

We must not all stay in one large church where our friends are - we must step out by faith.

You may go to a new place and only you and a few others are there, but don't be discouraged or give up hope. God will work for you all in good time. But when I say, God will work for you I don't mean He will do it all. You must pray for His guidance.

You can't just sit in your home and expect people to come to you to hear what you have to say - you have to go out and canvass them at their own houses.

So please move out to new areas to spread the gospel for Christ's Second Coming. (You want to be ready don't you?)

Sharon Eaton, 11 years old.

## Greetings From El Salvador

Beloved brethren, I greet you all in the precious name of Jesus, desiring that His grace may be with you. Please read Phil 2:1-4.

I am very happy to be receiving the “Messenger” which contains many interesting articles that are very special to me. May the everlasting God richly bless you and grant you spiritual and economic prosperity, enabling you to continue with the publishing work and thus make known to others the gospel truth through the “Reformation Messenger.”

By the grace and mercy of the Almighty, I can inform you that we have been very active, working in the Lord’s vineyard in El Salvador.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself-I have been labouring as a Bible worker in the field of El Salvador. I feel happy to be working for Jesus helping many souls to find the way of salvation, which can only be found in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Furthermore, I am pleased to tell you that my family is healthy. I have 3 children, 2 girls and a boy, their names are: Oscar Joshua, Marill Iveth and Maria Sarai; they send you their greetings.

I would now like to give you an account of what has been happening in El Salvador.

### **“There is Strength in Unity”**

Jesus said... “For without me ye can do nothing” John 15:5. A year ago, one of the goals for the church of San Miguel in Ei Salvador was to start a new Sabbath School Branch in the nearby city of Moncagna, 8km away from San Miguel.

At the same time we were working on building a church in the same area. In this city there are 5 members and many interested souls.

The members of the church in San Miguel came together to pray to the Lord concerning the beginning of a new Sabbath School Branch and the construction of a new church. All the members cooperated willingly, uniting their efforts in prayer and in the planning and building of these 2 goals.

By the grace of God we were able to accomplish this endeavor by the land donation of Raul Argueta, a visitor. After having obtained the land we asked the Salvadorean Field and the churches in U.S.A for help.

We are very grateful to God for the financial aid we received from our church brethren to begin building the church. After much hard work, we finally realized our goal and now we have a wonderful church to worship the Lord.

This church was inaugurated in February of the new millennium with a joyful spiritual feast and evangelistic conferences that were attended by the brethren from the whole eastern quarter of El Salvador.

In these conferences 3 new souls were baptized and welcomed into the church of God We want to thank each brother that helped with donations and prayers in El Salvador, as well as the brethren from the U.S.A for their wonderful help in aiding us to build a new house of worship to praise the Lord enabling, our dream to become a reality.

There is strength in unity and weakness in disunity.

May God bless you,

Your brothers and fellow workers in Christ

Oscar Archila, Z



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### The Pearl of Great Price

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."*

*Matthew 13:45,46.*

There was a wealthy merchant who lived in London. He ran an honest business by importing goods from far away countries for sale in his country. His business was extremely successful and he had built up quite a large sum of money in his bank account. He had purchased a large and beautiful house in the country. He also built and lavishly furnished a splendid mansion in the city. As he reached sixty years of age he decided it was time to retire and enjoy the rest of his life in peaceful pleasure, spending his money freely, in order to indulge himself.

He sold his successful business for another fortune to add to the fortune he had already accumulated. He then retired. He had never married. He had his halls, his living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, his library and cabinets to store items that he had collected over the years. The floors were covered with the richest carpets, the furniture was the most exquisite, the walls were adorned with splendid mirrors and with classic paintings, and fine linen decorated everything.

He had carriages, horses, grooms, and servants at his command. Books, pictures, and engravings were at hand to interest him. The daily and weekly newspapers and magazines brought to his table all the news of the great world, and his friends and his acquaintances paid him homage. How happy must the man be who has all this!

But *he* was not happy. He had no aim in life any more. He had no reason to live. The zest with which he read the newspapers when he was a merchant, he had lost now that he ceased to be involved in the merchant trade. Before, a storm, a fleet or a pestilence along the Mediterranean shores, was full of interest to him, because he had investments there. Now, they were of no importance to him. Before he used to watch the views and aims of government with searching scrutiny, because his destiny was bound up with theirs. The parliamentary debates were of greatest interest before as they indicated British policy, but that to him now ceased to be an object of importance. He had achieved his fortune, his work was finished, and his destiny was fulfilled.

Soon, every thing and place appeared to him one uniform and universal blank. His beautiful apartments were unused, his carriage and horses unemployed, his books unread, his newspapers unopened, his meals untasted, and his clothes unworn. He had lost all enjoyment of life, and contemplated suicide.

One Saturday night he resolved to get up early on Sunday morning, before the people in town stirred into activity, and make his way to Waterloo Bridge to jump into the river.

At three o'clock, he set out on his final journey, and had nearly reached the bridge with the shadows of night protecting him from being seen by anyone, when he saw a person sitting down up ahead on the bridge. Amazed at being seen by any one, he came closer to see who this person was. He saw a young man crouching low in front of him wearing tattered clothing. He appeared to be a miserable man, covering his head in shame.

"What are you doing here?" Asked the retired merchant.

"I have a wife and family, whom I can't help from starving, and I am afraid to go and see them. Last night I knew they would be put out into the streets and I didn't want to go home," replied the man.

"Take that," replied the merchant, giving him his wallet, with gold and silver in it. "How much more useful this will be to him, than in my pockets in the water," thought the merchant.

"God bless you, sir -God bless you, sir." Exclaimed the man several times, kneeling before the astonished merchant.

"Stop," said the merchant, "do not overwhelm me so much with your thanksgiving - but tell me where you live."

"In Lambeth, sir."

"Then why are you *here* this morning?" said the merchant.

"I am ashamed to tell a gentleman like you," said the man.

"Why so?" replied the merchant.

"Well, sir," replied the man, "as I had not one single dollar, and did not know how to get one, I came here to

drown myself, although I knew it was a terrible thing to do.”

The merchant was astonished and appalled, and after a long silence, said, “Sir, I am a wealthy man, with more riches than I know what to do with, and yet I am so miserable that I came here this morning for the same purpose as you. There’s something more in this than I can understand right now. Let me go with you to see your family.”

The man made every excuse to hinder the merchant, but the merchant insisted on going. There was nothing that would stop him.

“Why do you not want to go home?” asked the merchant.

“Well I am miserably poor and wretched - and, for all I know, my wife and children are on the street right now,” he replied.

“Why are you out of work?” continued the merchant.

“I used to groom horses for the stage-coaches,” said the man, “but since the railroads have been built, the stage coaches are no longer used and many men, like me, have no work.”

They plodded slowly on their way for two miles with rubble and run down buildings on either side of the road, through a rough section of town. At last they came to an old house. Suddenly an old woman who had been looking out the window, came out of the house, and began yelling at the men. This lady was the landlord to whom the young man owed several month’s rent. She was yelling and cursing, until the young man passed something from his hand into hers. This silenced her immediately, and as the merchant watched she became quite friendly and civil towards him.

The young man ran quickly up-stairs, leaving the merchant and the woman together to talk. The merchant could clearly see that the only crime that this young man had committed was that he was out of work and very poor. He told the woman who he was and promised to see that she was paid what was owed to her. He then asked her to cook breakfast for the whole family and supply them with anything they needed and he would pay the bill.

The young man returned, and the merchant went upstairs to see, for the first time, the poor family in rags, dirt, and misery. He comforted them with hope of better days, and invited them to the meal that was being cooked for them downstairs. After the meal the merchant took the young man with him into town and loaded a cart with bed, bedding, clothes, furniture and food for him to take to his family.

When the young man went home, the merchant for the first time reflected on all that had happened that day. He was no longer miserable himself. Doing good for this family brought comfort to his soul. Now, he resolved that the way to true happiness was in doing good for others. He resolved from now on to do good to others, to prevent the necessity for drowning himself.

He took this young man and gave him a job in one of his own stables, removed the family from the old house they were living in and placed them in a nice, neat cottage, sending the children to school. Soon he went into town in search of misery to relieve, and was led to consider the cause of the misery - sin. He turned to God and found Him, and sought to turn his fellow sinners also to the Lord.

He had been a merchantman seeking goodly pearls, and having found the pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it; and the retired earthly merchant became an active heavenly merchant.

## CASHEWS

One day, my friend Edda Tedford and I were hiking through the jungle on an island called Taboga, off the coast of Panama. It was hot and we became very thirsty. Unfortunately we did not bring anything to drink with us. While walking and wondering what we would do to quench our thirst, we came upon a tree with odd-looking fruit hanging down from it. We had never seen such a thing before. We picked some of the fruit and bit into it. The fruit was tangy and very juicy. We did not eat them, but sucked the strange sweet nectar out of it. On the outside tip of the fruit was a hard nut, which resembled something like a cashew nut. Yes, it was a cashew tree but of that fact we were unaware of at the time.

Later I saw many cashew trees and picked the fruit for juice, roasted the nuts for food and used the leaves for tea. I

also learnt afterwards the many benefits and medicinal uses that can be derived from the cashew tree.

The cashew tree is a big tree that grows to 15 meters in height. It has a thick trunk and branches so winding that they often reach the ground. The cashew tree can be used for many purposes and in the manufacture of many products. The bark and leaves of the tree are used for medicinal purposes. The cashew nut and even the shell around the nut can also be used medicinally. The cashew tree has industrial applications as it can be used in the production of plastics. Because of its phenol content it is also used in resin producing industries. Then there is the “fruit”. The cashew fruit is very peculiar, as it really isn’t a fruit at all. It is actually a swollen peduncle in which end the cashew nut grows. This large pulpy and juicy part is a pseudo-fruit, which has a fine sweet flavour. Fresh or frozen cashew fruit concentrate is a common juice product found at food stores throughout South America. The cashew nut grows externally in its own kidney shaped hard shell at the end of this pseudo-fruit or peduncle. The nut kernel inside is covered with an inner shell and between the two shells is a thick caustic toxic oil called “cardol”. Cashew nuts must be cleaned to remove the cardol and then roasted to remove the toxins before they can be eaten. There is a large process to be done before the cashew can be eaten. No wonder the cost of these nuts is so high in stores here in Canada. Additionally, only one nut is produced per fruit.

Native to the northeast coast of Brazil, “Cajueiro” or the cashew was domesticated long before the arrival of Europeans at the end of the fifteenth century. It was “discovered” by Europeans and first recorded in 1578. From there it was taken to India and then to East Africa where it soon became naturalized in those countries.

In sixteenth century Brazil, cashew fruits and their juice were taken by Europeans to treat fever, to sweeten breath, and to “conserve the stomach”. The cashew tree has been used for centuries by the Indigenous Tribes of the rainforest, being a common cultivated plant in their gardens. The Tikuna tribe in northwest Amazonia considers the fruit juice to be medicinal. They use the juice to fight influenza. They as well brew a tea using the leaves and bark to combat diarrhea. Other common uses today from the cashew tree are for treating coughs or bronchitis and it is a good throat rinse when there is inflammation of the tonsils. In some countries it is even used to treat colds, hypertension, skin infections, stomachaches, asthma, and fever. The roots are said to be beneficial in purging the system.

The cashew tree and its many products cover a wide range of uses. In addition to being delicious, it is a rich source of vitamins, minerals and other essential nutrients. It has up to five times more vitamin C than oranges and has a high amount of mineral salts. It is also a good scalp conditioner and tonic, often used in shampoos, lotions and scalp creams due to the conditioning activity of its proteins and mucilage.

It is my wish and prayer that we as God’s children would appreciate the benefits that we have from natural sources. So when treating any problems that we may have, let us go to the plants and herbs for cleansing and healing. AMEN

Leila McTavish

## FUNCTION OF THE BRAIN PARTS Impoverished Diet - Starvation

Our physical bodies are maintained by what we eat.

“The system must be properly nourished in order to perform its work.” *CDF 213*. “To have a well nourished and healthy brain we have to have pure blood. The brain is the organ and instrument of the mind and controls the whole body. In order for the other parts of the system to be healthy, the brain must be healthy. And in order for the brain to be healthy, the blood must be pure. If, by correct habits of eating and drinking the blood is kept pure, the brain must be properly nourished.” *Mind, Character and Personality, p. 60*.

“Also, the electric power of the brain, provoked by mental activity, vitalizes the whole system, and is thus an invaluable aid in resisting disease.” *Ibid, p. 60.*

### **Why is the brain not nourished properly?**

“The body must have sufficient nourishment. We cannot subsist upon air merely; neither can we retain health unless we have nourishing food. Food should be prepared in good order, so that it is palatable.” *CDF 207.*

#### **Reasons why:**

- 1) Food that we eat has no nutrition, it should be of the best quality.
- 2) We eat wrong foods, which we shouldn't eat at all. (i.e. meat)
- 3) We eat at the wrong times.
- 4) We eat between meals.
- 5) We do not obtain exercise, fresh air, both of which regulate the appetite and keep it in order.
- 6) We don't drink pure water
- 7) We have only a partial understanding of the principles of health reform.
- 8) We have false ideas about health reform.
- 9) “cheap, poor quality of food, prepared without the care or reference to the nourishment of the system.” *CDF 199*
- 10) “In eating a small amount of food, and that not of the best quality, they do not take into the stomach that which will suitably nourish the system.” *CDF 199*

“Poor food cannot be converted into good blood. An impoverished diet will impoverish the blood.” *CDF 199*

“Because it is wrong to eat merely to gratify perverted taste, it does not follow that we should be indifferent in regard to our food. It is a matter of the highest importance. No one should adopt an impoverished diet. Many are debilitated from disease, and need nourishing, well-cooked food. Health reformers, above all others, should be careful to avoid extremes. The body must have sufficient nourishment.” *CDF 199*

“Food should be prepared in such a way that it will be nourishing. It should not be robbed of that which the system needs.” *CDF 203*

“It is the Lord's design that in every place men and women shall be encouraged to develop their talents by preparing healthful foods from the natural products of their section of the country. If they look to God, exercising their skill and ingenuity under the guidance of His Spirit, they will learn how to prepare natural products into healthful foods. Thus they will be able to teach the poor how to provide themselves with foods that will take the place of flesh meat. Those thus helped can in turn instruct others. Such a work will yet be done with consecrated zeal and energy. If it had been done before, there would today be many more people in the truth, and many more who could give instruction. Let us learn what our duty is, and then do it. We are not to be dependent and helpless, waiting for others to do the work that God has committed to us.” *CDF 254*

“Learn how to cook. I make no mistake when I say ‘men,’ for they, as well as women, need to understand the simple, healthful preparation of food. In order to learn how to cook women should study, and then patiently reduce what they learn to practice. People are suffering because they will not take the trouble to do this. I say to such, it is time for you to rouse your dormant energies, and inform yourselves. Do not think the time wasted which is devoted to obtaining a thorough knowledge and experience in the preparation of healthful, palatable food. No matter how long an experience you have had in cooking, if you still have the responsibilities of a family, it is your duty to learn how to care for them properly.” *CDF, p. 253*

“The cook fills an important place in the household. She is preparing food to be taken into the stomach, to form brain, bone, and muscle. The health of all members of the family depends largely upon her skill and intelligence.” *CDF 252*

“We can have a variety of good, wholesome food, cooked in a healthful manner, so that it will be palatable to all. It is of vital importance to know how to cook. Poor cooking produces disease and bad tempers; the system becomes deranged, and heavenly things cannot be discerned. There is more religion in good cooking than you have any idea of.” *CDF, p. 256/257.*

“To make food appetizing and at the same time simple and nourishing, requires skill; but it can be done.” *CDF, p. 257.*



## Back to the Original Diet

“God gave our first parents the food He designed that the race should eat. It was contrary to His plan to have the life of any creature taken. There was to be no death in Eden. The fruit of the trees in the garden, was the food man’s wants required.” *CDF, p., 373.*

“Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design, - that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth.

“Vegetables, fruits, and grains should compose our diet. Not an ounce of flesh meat should enter our stomachs. The eating of flesh is unnatural. We are to return to God’s original purpose in the creation of man. “ *CDF, p. 380.*

“How can those who are seeking to become pure, refined, and holy, that they may have the companionship of heavenly angels, continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body? How can they take the life of God’s creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury? Let them, rather, return to the wholesome and delicious food given to man in the beginning, and themselves practice, and teach their children to practice, mercy toward the dumb creatures that God has made and has placed under our dominion.” *CDF, p. 380.*

“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view. And endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us. All who are connected with our health institutions especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains, and vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God’s plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be pleasing to God.” *CDF, p. 380/381*

“From what the Lord has shown me, this order of things will be changed, and God’s peculiar people will exercise temperance in all things.” *CDF, p. 381.*

“A diet of flesh meat tends to develop animalism. A development of animalism lessens spirituality, rendering the mind incapable of understanding truth.” *CDF, p. 382.*

“Those who use flesh meats disregard all the warnings that God has given concerning this question. They have no evidence that they are walking in safe paths. They have not the slightest excuse for eating the flesh of dead animals. God’s curse is resting on the animal creation. Many times when meat is eaten, it decays in the stomach, and creates disease. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat eating.” *CDF, p. 383.*

“The light given me is that it will not be very long before we shall have to give up using any animal food. Even milk will have to be discarded. Disease is accumulating rapidly. The curse of God is upon the earth, because man has cursed it. The habits and practices of men have brought the earth into such a condition that some other food than animal food must be substituted for the human family. We do not need flesh food at all. God can give us something else.” *CDF, p. 384/385.*

## Conclusion

“When will those who know the truth take their stand on the side of right principles for time and for eternity? When will they be true to the principles of health reform? When will they learn that it is dangerous to use flesh meat? I am instructed to say that if ever meat eating was safe, it is not safe now.” *CDF, p. 384.*

“I wish we all were health reformers.” *CDF, p. 334.*

“The brain will be affected by the disturbance in the stomach. This may be easily cured if people will study from cause to effect, cutting out of their diet that which injures the digestive organs and causes pain in the head. By unwise eating, men and women are unfitted for the work they might do without injury to themselves if they would eat simply.” *CDF, p. 335.*

“The Lord plainly told His people that every blessing would come to them if they would keep His commandments, and be a peculiar people. He warned them through Moses in the wilderness, specifying that health would be the reward of obedience. The state of mind has largely to do with the health of the body, and especially with the health of the digestive organs. As a general thing, the Lord did not provide His people with flesh meat in the desert, because He knew that the use of this diet would create disease and insubordination. In order to modify the disposition, and bring the higher powers of the mind into active exercise, He removed from them the flesh

of dead animals. He gave them angels' food, manna from heaven." *CDF, p. 375.*

"Our habits of eating and drinking show whether we are of the world or among the number whom the Lord by His mighty cleaver of truth has separated from the world. These are His peculiar people, zealous of good works. God has spoken in His word. In the case of Daniel and his three companions, there are sermons upon health reform." *CDF, p. 379.*

"Those who have received instruction regarding the evils of the use of flesh foods, tea, and coffee, and rich and unhealthful food preparations, and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetite be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people." *CDF, p. 381.*

"It has been clearly presented to me that God's people are to take a firm stand against meat eating. Would God for thirty years give His people the message that if they desire to have pure blood and clear minds, they must give up the use of flesh meat, if He did not want them to heed this message? By the use of flesh meats the animal nature is strengthened and the spiritual nature weakened." *CDF, p. 383.*

"From the light God has given me, the prevalence of cancer and tumors is largely due to gross living on dead flesh." *CDF, p. 388.*

"The meat diet is the serious question. Shall human beings live on the flesh of dead animals? The answer from the light that God has given me is, No, decidedly No." *CDF, p. 388.*

"God wants the perceptive faculties of His people to be clear and capable of hard work. But if you are living on a flesh diet, you need not expect that your mind will be fruitful. The thoughts must be cleansed; then the blessing of God will rest upon His people." *CDF p., 389.*

"I was instructed that the use of flesh meat has a tendency to animalize the nature, and to rob i.icion and women of the love and sympathy which they should feel for every one. We are built up from that which we eat, and those whose diet is largely composed of animal food are brought into a condition where they allow the lower passions to assume control of the high powers of the being..."

"We do not mark out any precise line to be followed in diet. There are many kinds of wholesome foods. But we do say that flesh meat is not the right food for God's people. It animalizes human beings. In a country such as this, where there are fruits, grains, and nuts in abundance, how can one think that he must eat the flesh of dead animals?"

"The light given me is that a most decided message must be borne in regard to health reform." *CDF, p. 390.*

"All the elements of nutrition are contained in fruits, vegetables, and grains." *CDF, p. 395.*

"It is a mistake to suppose that muscular strength depends on the use of animal food. The needs of the system can be better supplied, and more vigorous health can be enjoyed, without its use. The grains, with fruits, nuts, and vegetables, contain all the nutritive properties necessary to make good blood. These elements are not so well or so fully supplied by a flesh diet. Had the use of flesh been essential to health and strength, animal food would have been included in the diet appointed man in the beginning." *CDF, p. 396.*

"Sugar is not good for the stomach. It causes fermentation, and this clouds the brain and brings peevishness into the disposition." *CDF, p. 327.*

"Sugar clogs the system. It hinders the working of the living machinery." *CDF, p.327.*

"I frequently sit down to the tables of the brethren and sisters, and see that they use a great amount of milk and sugar. These clog the system, irritate the digestive organs, and affect the brain. Anything that hinders the active motion of the living machinery, affects the brain very directly. And from the light give me, sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat." *CDF, p. 328.*

"In health and in sickness, pure water is one of Heaven's choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. Drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease." *CDF, p. 419.*

"The word of God plainly warns us that unless we abstain from fleshly lusts, the physical nature will be brought into conflict with the spiritual nature. Lustful eating wars against health and peace. Thus a warfare is

instituted between the higher and the lower attributes of the man. The lower propensities, strong and active oppress the soul. The highest interests of the being are imperiled by the indulgence of appetites unsanctioned by Heaven. "Greater reforms should be seen among the people who claim to be looking for the soon appearing of Christ. Health reform is to do among our people a work which it has not yet done. There are those who ought to be awake to the danger of meat eating, who are still eating the flesh of animals, thus endangering the physical, mental, and spiritual health. Many who are now only half converted on the question of meat eating will go from God's people to walk no more with them." *CDF, p. 382.*

"We should not be prevailed upon to take anything into the mouth that will bring the body into an unhealthy condition, no matter how much we like it. Why?—Because we are God's property. You have a crown to win, a heaven to gain, and a hell to shun. Then for Christ's sake, I ask you, Will you have the light shine before you in clear and distinct rays, and then turn away from it and say, I love this, and I love that? God calls upon every one of you to begin to plan, to cooperate with God in His great care and love, to elevate, ennoble, and sanctify the whole soul, body, and spirit, that we may be workers together with God." *CDF, p. 328. AMEN.*

Nada Stefanovic,  
Australia

## Dear Myself

Something is wrong with me.  
I just finished praying and I don't have faith.  
Tears come to my eyes.  
What am I going to do?  
Why am I writing my feelings down on paper?  
Why am I not on my knees in prayer to God, asking Him to help me,  
My life is nothing.  
I always say to myself, "people would love to be in my shoes."  
Even I don't want to be in my own shoes.

I need Jesus Christ, my personal Saviour, my everlasting King!  
The One who can wipe the tears and sorrows from my eyes, and bring joy, happiness,  
peace, love, etc.  
My actions and ways are unexplainable, including my thoughts.  
I need to get away, to be in a place where I can be OK.  
I need time to meditate on my life.  
I don't even know myself.  
Only God knows me better than myself.

This world is filled with temptations, wickedness, sorrow and sin.  
I want to get out of this world and into a better place.  
Many times I have thought of killing myself.  
Maybe my worrying is foolish, nothing but a waste of time.

Lord, you see what I am writing.  
Please take it and help me through life's rough roads.  
But, please Lord, don't let me go.

Khandi Stewart USA



## THE BANDS OF ORION

*"Deep calleth unto deep" within the sky. —  
A cavern vast in space, a shining way,  
A nebula, an opening beyond, and depths  
The human mind can ne'er, no, ne'er explore,  
A corridor of glory bright, star-lined,  
Leading to where? — To God's own throne afar,  
Round which the circling suns revolve, through  
Which God's voice shall sound when time  
Shall be no more.*

*O star decked path of pearly light! The one,  
The very one, through which our Saviour  
Swept when he ascended to His Father's throne,  
And angels sang, "Lift up your heads, O gates!  
O, be ye lifted up ye door, and let  
The King of glory in, the mighty Lord!"  
And back the question came, "The King, who is  
The King of glory, who?" And all the stars  
Replied, "The Lord of hosts, He is the King."*

*And in the days not far, that King will come  
And down that corridor, in glory clad,  
Eternal radiance from the throne will gleam,  
And stars will wheel and shine and voices sing,  
"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is  
Thy victory?"*

*For all the dead in Christ will rise, and with their  
Lord living saints ascend, straight up that shining way,  
Into the place of the King, while angels chant,  
"Lift up your heads, ye gates! O lift them up,  
Ye everlasting doors, and let the King  
Of glory in" Who is the King of glory, who?"  
And all the starry throng responded, "The Lord  
Of hosts, He is the King of glory,  
He is strong and mighty. He is King of all"*

*Extracted by: Joshua Ombasa  
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