



# *The Reformation* **Messenger**

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

*"Praise the LORD , O my soul.  
O LORD my God, you are very great;  
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.  
He wraps himself in light as with a garment;  
he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays  
the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.  
He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the  
wings of the wind. He makes winds his messengers,  
flames of fire his servants. He set the earth on its  
foundations; it can never be moved."  
(Psalm 104: 1-5)*



## We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

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Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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# WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE A PURE LIFE

The Day of Atonement was a very solemn day, a day when God would reconcile with his people. On the first day of the seventh month the trumpet would sound as a sign that it was time to begin preparation for the Day of Atonement. If the people of Israel didn't participate in this feast they would be cut from their people.



The Day of Atonement was a day when all the sins committed during the year were transferred from the Sanctuary to a bullock and taken out into the wilderness. This process has a spiritual application when Jesus comes a second time he shall have no relation with sin. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation". Hebrews 9:28 When Jesus comes a second time it will be without sin, He will take to

heaven a people that are purified.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous, of good works". Titus 2:11-14

The Lord is calling us to be pure of good works. It is true Jesus loves the whole world but when Jesus comes a second time he will come

for a church (people) that is pure, holy, without spot, completely clean. He who has a sin in his life when Christ comes shall be destroyed. When Jesus comes a second time he will come as a flaming fire to those who have rejected the gospel. Sin will be destroyed and will not rise a second time, it has done enough damage in our present world.

There are people who think that when Jesus comes He will forgive their sins and transform them. The one who



has a sin when Jesus comes shall be destroyed. When Jesus comes in glory His church must be pure.

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:15-17

Those that have not made a preparation in their life to be pure are not able to stand and welcome the Saviour when he comes. In Revelation 14 it says "I looked and, lo, a lamb and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads.....and in thier mouth was found no guile for they are without fault (spot) before the throne of God." The Lord is calling us to begin to walk with God here on this earth before we are able to live with Him in heaven. We remember our Br. Enoch lived for three hundred and sixty five years and Enoch walked with God and the Lord took him without seeing death. I believe for God to take a mortal man to Heaven without seeing death is very special. First Enoch testified of living a pure life, walking every day with God. Are we walking with God every day?

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we sons of God, and doth not yet appear what we

shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure". 1John 3:1-3

To be able to see Jesus in all his glory we must be living a pure life. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law and ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins: and in him is no sin. whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." 1 John 3:4-6 There are people who say Oh! we will keep on sinning until the moment Jesus comes again. According to the word of God, the work of purification among God's people will be complete when He appears.

Are we able to live without sin today? Does victory exist for the Christian? For us somebody who is perfect is he who is perfect in all phases of life. For Jesus he who is perfect is the one who walks with Him daily, the secret is in the Most Holy Place in Heaven. As we enter by faith into the heavenly Sanctuary we are able to take hold of Jesus Christ and live a perfect life in Him. We know that there is a temple in Heaven, is there one on this earth?

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which

is in you. Which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19,20, we are called temples of the Holy Ghost, Jesus desires to clean our temple. "While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the Sanctuary. There is to be a special work of purification, of putting away sin, among God's people upon the earth" Great Controversy p.425

While we have a cherished sin in our life, we can't be overcomers. Every time we sin, we are delaying the process of purification in the heavenly Sanctuary. Jesus can't finish his work in the Most Holy Place with every sin we are dirty-



ing the Heavenly Sanctuary. When we sin, the Holy Spirit reproves us of sin and immediately we should run to the Most Holy Place and pray to Jesus to cleanse us and to help us not to do it again. Our goal is with the help of our Heavenly High Priest to live a life without sin.

There was a young girl that lived close to Rio de Janeiro and she told her mother, when I grow up I will go to the City, make money and we will live a better life. She was a pretty young girl with sparkling eyes, her skin nice and soft, her hair soft and shiny brown, she looked marvelous. The time came when reached 18 years old, that morning she left a note to her mother, I have left to Rio de Janeiro to make money and live a better life. Her mother was very sad, 6 months passed and she had not heard from her daughter, she decided to go to the City of Rio de Janeiro to look for her, but how to look for her in a big city. She got an idea. I will take pictures of myself and place them in restaurants, hotels, markets and offices. Weeks passed by placing pictures everywhere, finally she didn't have any more money and had to return home. One day a young lady was coming down the stairs, her eyes resembled suffering, there was no smile, her hair was not as before, she looked very sad, as she went down the stairs of the Hotel she saw a picture, she said I think I know this person. As she took hold of the picture it was her Mother. She turned the picture and it said "My daughter it doesn't matter what you have done, just come home. Your Mother."

Today Jesus Christ is placing his picture in our homes, jobs and cars. He is calling us to "Come back Home," that the hope of glory may be fulfilled, that we may be like Christ. As we walk daily with him that we may be purified and be able to see him in glory when He comes again. **Amen.**

***Servant in Christ,  
Joshua Martinez***

# LEVI

## "Joined"

When Leah gave birth to her third son, she said, "now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have borne him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi," or "Joined.", Gen.29:34. Little did Leah, in the longing for love of her husband realize that the little babe would fulfill its name in a far broader sense that she anticipated, and help to join the children of Israel to their great Husband, the Creator of all things. Isa. 54:5

The name of Levi seemed a prophecy of the life work of the whole tribe. As Satan, through envy and jealousy, separated Leah from her husband's regard, so he sought to ruin Levi by persuading him to unite with Simeon in avenging the wrong done to their only sister.

The words of Jacob on his deathbed reveal the magnitude of the crime and how the Lord regarded it. The old father's heart was stirred at the remembrance, and he exclaimed, "O my soul, come not thou into their secret; Unto their assembly, mine honor, be not thou united... Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and scatter them in Israel." It was more like a curse than a blessing; but when a sinner repents and turns from his sins, our God turns even curses into blessings, and thus it was in the case of Levi. Neh. 13:2

There is nothing to indicate that the tribe of Levi had any special pre-eminence over the other tribes during the Egyptian bondage. It is quite evident that the original plans of having the first-born officiate as priest of the household, continued until the encampment at Sinai. The "young men of the children of Israel" offered the sacrifices at the time. Exodus 24:5. In the Targum Pseudao-Jonathan, it is expressly stated,

"He sent the first-born of the children of Israel, for even to that time the worship was by the first-born because the tabernacle was not yet made, not the priesthood given to Aaron."

Character is formed by the way individuals meet the common events of every-day life; but it is tested by the way they meet the crisis in life. At Sinai the people of God passed through one of the greatest crises in the history of the church, when the whole multitude of Israel worshipped the golden calf. It was at this time, when even God himself was ready to destroy Israel, Exodus 32:10, that the tribe of Levi came forward, and by their faithfulness helped to save the cause of God.

When Moses came down from the mount and found the children of Israel worshipping the golden calf, he stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, thus saith the Lord God of Israel, put every his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his neighbor. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses." Exodus 32:26-28

At the time of this crisis the honor of God and His cause was dearer to the Levites than all worldly connections; neither brothers, companions, nor friends, stood between them and their duty to God. As a reward to their faithfulness, the priesthood- a portion of the birthright- was given to the sons of Levi. What Ruben lost by his unfaithfulness in his father's home, Levi gained by being true to God before all of Israel.



Jacob on his deathbed denounced Levi's sin; but Moses in his parting blessing, extolled him above all others. Of Levi he said: "Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word and kept thy covenant. They shall teach Jacob Thy judgment, and Israel Thy Law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. Bless, Lord, his substance, and accept the work of his hands." Deut. 33:8-11

From the fall, man, each household had celebrated its worship with a priest of its own. When the time came to change this method of worship, God did it in a way that gave all Israel a thorough understanding of the matter. The first-born males of all Israel were numbered, and found to be 22,000. Then the tribe of Levi was numbered, and there were 22,273. Thus the Levites outnumbered the first-born; so the redemption price for the first-born - "five shekels apiece by the poll," was paid for the 273 Levites-the number by which they outnumbered the first-born. Num. 3: 46-49. Then all the Levites were set apart for their life-work.

The sum of the numbers given in the third chapter of Numbers for each of the three branches of the tribe of Levi is 22,300. It is understood that these extra 300 were the first-born of Levi, and as such were already consecrated,

and could not take the place of others.

The tabernacle was a sign to the children of Israel of their unseen King, and the Levites were as a royal guard that waited exclusively upon Him. When the people were encamped, the Levites were the guardians of the sacred tent. When they traveled, the Levites alone carried all that pertained to the sanctuary.

When Israel entered the Promised Land, the tribe of Levi was given no inheritance. It was not expected that they would spend their time and strength in cultivating the soil and rearing cattle. The spiritual welfare of all Israel was to be their burden; and, that they might the more easily perform this work, the Levites were given forty-eight cities, scattered throughout all the twelve tribes, and the tithe was used for their support. Num. 18: 20-21. Thus Jacob's prophecy was fulfilled; they were "divided in Jacob, and scattered in Israel."

The history of the temple and its service is a history of the Levites. When God was honored by His People, the Levites were given their appointed work; but when apostasy came in, the Levites were obliged to seek other employment for their support. Neh. 13: 10-11

Levi, like the other tribes, had a checkered history; not all were true to God, but the tribe continues to exist in Israel to the time of Christ, and had a worthy representative among the early apostles in the person of Barnabas. Acts. 4: 36

It was in the time of a crisis that the Levites gained their great victory. In a

crisis decisions are made quickly. Many fail at such time, because they do not have independent Christian characters. They are in the habit of following the leading of those in whom they have confidence, and they have no strength in themselves. He who would always prove true in the crises of life, must have a clear connection with the God of Heaven, and must fear God more than man. "Satan is marshaling his hosts. Are



you prepared for the conflict just before us? Are you preparing your children for the crisis? Are your children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm to principle? Parental duty has been sadly neglected. Will you not now repent, and take up your God-given lifework? There is no time to lose. Redeem the time, because the days are evil. Pray that your spiritual perceptions may be quickened. Strive to realize the importance of living in obedience to The Holy Spirit. When you do this, the heavenly angels will minister to you as

teachers in the home, training you for the work of teaching your children." RH, September 15, 1904 par. 15

Moses and Aaron are two of the most noted characters in the tribe of Levi. There was a marked contrast in the two men. Moses stood like a great rock, against which the waves beat continually.

Aaron was gentler, and at times he seemed almost vacillating; but Aaron was a strong character, although different from his brother.

Aaron's crowning test came when his two sons were smitten down in the tabernacle. Because, under the influence of strong drink, they offered strange fire before the Lord, Aaron was not allowed to show any signs of grief; thus teaching the people that God was just in punishing evildoers, even if they were his own sons.

This was no small test, and after studying Lev. 10: 1-11 we can better understand how, notwithstanding the murders committed in Levi's early life, the Lord could speak of Aaron as "the saint of the Lord." PS.106: 16

One twelfth of the one hundred forty-four thousand will be marshaled under the name of Levi. They will be persons who, on account of sin, merited only curses, but who forsook sin; and while men all around them were wavering and falling, they stood true to God and His cause, and will receive a rich blessing from the hands of a merciful God. May all those who belong to that tribe be receiving God's blessings. **AMEN.**

*Oscar Oviedo*



# Instruments of Satan

Satan has so many devices by which he seeks to distract anyone from God. He is constantly trying to make up new distractions by which he can lead people astray. What exactly are the instruments of Satan?

In this article I am going to cover some of the things that can be and are used by Satan as distractions.

## *Books & Stories*

The world is deluged with books that might better be consumed than circulated. Books on sensational topics, published and circulated as a money-making scheme, might better never be read by the youth. There is a satanic fascination in such books. . . . {AH 412.3}

The practice of story reading is one of the means employed by Satan to destroy souls. It produces a false, unhealthy excitement, fevers the imagination, unfits the mind for usefulness, and disqualifies it for any spiritual exercise. It weans the soul from prayer and from the love of spiritual things. {Adventist Home p.412}

This is a very effective method through which Satan has had a lot of success already. Far too many people are drawn in by exciting stories, novels, and lots more. This is a very dangerous ground because it is very addictive. Once you have started reading these type of books other – more sensible – books lose their attraction for us. Even the Bible will begin to seem boring or uninteresting. Because the Bible and the testimonies

will seem dull, we will find it very hard to realize where we have gone wrong because we will no longer be reading anything that might be beneficial to us. Another thing connected with reading that doesn't do any good is speed-reading. (see Adventist Home p.451) If speed-reading is made a habit – and it will if it is done often- it makes us almost incapable of reading slower, and properly absorbing what we have read. I used to speed-read very often and I know how quickly it is possible to make a habit of it. And it is quite hard to slow down to a normal speed. I have managed to slow down my reading but still find it hard at times to stay that way.

## *Theatres*

Among the most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. Instead of being a school for morality and virtue, as is so often claimed, it is the very hotbed of immorality. Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes deprave the imagination and debase the morals. Every youth who habitually attends such exhibitions will be corrupted in principle. There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theatre, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement. {Adventist Home p.516}

## *Dancing & Card Playing and More...*

In many religious families dancing and card playing are made a parlor pastime. It is urged that these are quiet home amusements, which may be safely enjoyed under the parental eye. But a love for these exciting pleasures is thus cultivated, and that which was considered harmless at home will not long be regarded dangerous abroad. It is yet to be ascertained that there is any good to be obtained from these amusements. They do not give vigor to the body nor rest to the mind. They do



not implant in the soul one virtuous or holy sentiment. On the contrary, they destroy all relish for serious thought and for religious services. It is true that there is a wide contrast between the better class of select parties and the promiscuous and degraded assemblies of the low dance house. Yet all are steps in the path of dissipation. {AH 516.3}

Satan has invented many ways in which to squander the means which God has given. Card playing, betting, gambling, horse racing, and theatrical performances are all of his own inventing, and he has led men to

carry forward these amusements as zealously as though they were winning for themselves the precious boon of eternal life. Men lay out immense sums in following these forbidden pleasures; and the result is, their God-given power, which has been purchased by the blood of the Son of God, is degraded and corrupted. The physical, moral, and mental powers which are given to men of God, and which belong to Christ, are zealously used in serving Satan, and in turning men from righteousness and holiness. {Counsels on Stewardship p.134}

There are many more devices of Satan than we are even aware of. He will use anything at all that will serve to distract us from the word of God. Reading, Theatres, Card Playing, Gambling, and worldly music are just a few of the main tools that he uses for his evil work. Anything that will not serve to bring us closer to Christ should be examined very carefully.

A spirit of jesting and joking, of lightness and trifling, is not only a stumbling-block to sinners, but a worse stumbling-block to those who thus give way to the inclination of an unsanctified heart. The fact that some have allowed this trait to develop and strengthen until jesting is as natural as their breath, does not lessen its evil effects. When any one can point to one trifling word spoken by our Lord, or to any lightness seen in his character, he may feel that lightness and jesting are excusable in himself. This spirit is unchristian; for to be a Christian is to be Christ-like. Jesus is a perfect pattern, and we must imitate his example. A Christian is the highest type of man, a representative of Christ. {Gospel Workers 1892 edition p.416}

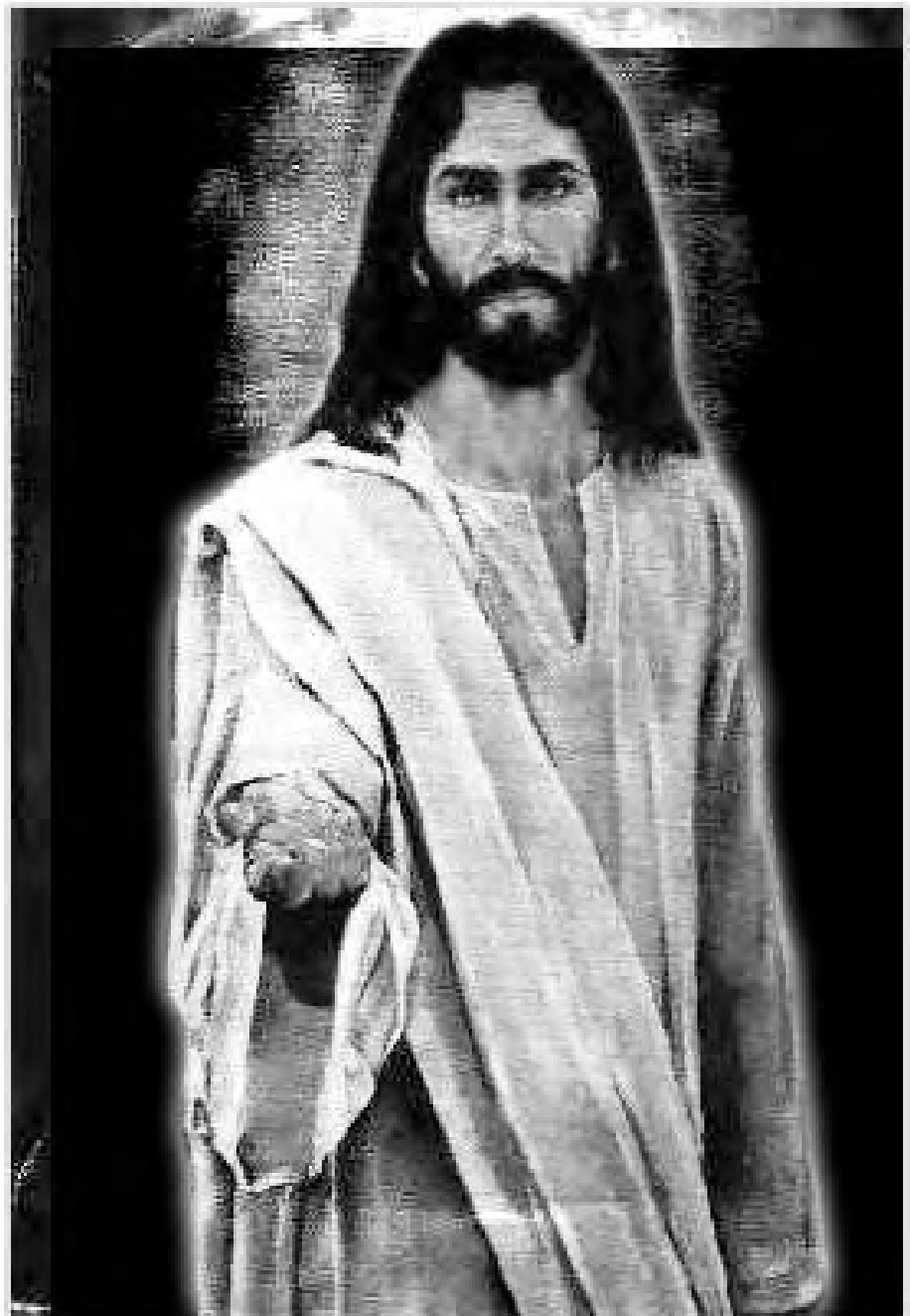
It was by deception that Satan seduced angels; thus he has in all ages carried forward his work among men, and he will continue this policy to the last. Should he openly profess to be warring against God and His law, men would beware; but he disguises himself, and mixes truth with error. The most

dangerous falsehoods are those that are mingled with truth. It is thus that errors are received that captivate and ruin the soul. By this means Satan carries the world with him. But a day is coming when his triumph will be forever ended. {Patriarchs and Prophets p.338}

Satan has a lot of experience in deceiving people. He has been doing it for 6000 years. He knows every trick and trap that is possible to imagine. He knows full well that if he would bring bold and unconcealed temptations men

would soon see through his cunning devices, and would not fall for anything he has devised. But he mixes lots of truth with a little error and so deceives billions. Let us hope and pray that we will have the wisdom to notice his temptations, and the strength of character to withstand them. *Amen*

*Ben Dammasch,  
Queensland, Australia.*







# LIKE THE MOST HIGH

## PART 2

Satan had warred for the mastery in heaven, and had lost the battle, (1SM, 222). No longer free to stir up rebellion in heaven, Satan's enmity against God found a new field in plotting the ruin of the human race. (PP, 52). It was the tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all this evil as the result of God's work in creating man. (SC, 17)

Ever since his fall, Satan has worked by means of deception, (MB, 31). The discord which his own course had caused in heaven, Satan charged upon the law and government of God. (GC, 498). He claimed that angels needed no law; but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty, and to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did, (1SP, 23). Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. (DA, 22). Behold the world today in open rebellion against God. (PK, 185).

Now the way seemed open for Satan to establish an independent kingdom, and defy the authority of God and His Son. (PP, 331).

Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. (COL, 414). Many even of those who claim to be Christians have allied themselves with influences that are unalterably opposed to God and His truth. (PK, 177). They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded. (GC, 508). They are

stupefied by the spirit of the world, (4T, 43). They are corrupted by the world and discern it not. They talk of the love of God, but their fruits show not the love they express. They rob Him in tithes and offerings, and the withering curse of God is upon them. (2T, 197).

Ye adulterers and adulteresses know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James 4:4). Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:17, 18).

Man came from the hand of God perfect in every faculty of mind and body; in perfect soundness, therefore in perfect health, (4T, 29). His nature was in harmony with the will of God. (PP, 45). When man transgressed the divine law, his nature became evil, and he was in harmony, and not at variance, with Satan. (GC, 505). Every emotion, every impulse and imagination, was at war with the divine principles of purity and peace and love. (PP, 79). His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. (SC, 17).

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Romans

6:16). The disciple is not above his master; but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. (Luke 6:40).

When man became Satan's captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became "the god of this world." 2 Corinthians 4:4. (PP, 67). Through transgression the sons of men became the subjects of Satan. (4T, 563). He was made captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever had not God specially interposed. (SC, 17). The mission of Christ was to rescue him from the power of his great adversary. (1T, 341). This could not be done by force. (DA, 22). Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. (COL, 77). Wisdom and strength He could command, but the means He employed with which to overcome evil were the wisdom and strength of love. (2T, 135, 136).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not by works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Grace is an attribute shown to undeserving human beings. We did not seek after it; it was sent in search of us. (TM, 519) **Amen.**

*Chester Cosby*  
*Detroit, MI, USA*



# SORROW-HOW TO USE IT!

PSALM 38:4

“For my iniquities are gone over mine head; like an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.”

“The walls of the world’s sorrow is heard all around us.” (COL 417). “Sorrow comes to all, and awaits Christians all along the way to heaven.” (MH 247; 4BC 1146). In fact, real life on this earth has its sorrow. “We see many careworn, sorrowful faces in our daily ministrations.” (CH 211). “Sorrow is awaiting the world that no human balm can heal.” (PK 277).

Yet, it’s a characteristic, or feature of the Christian religion, that sorrows and misfortunes are not the lightning and thunder of an angry God, but the fatherly (paternal) corrections of a Father chastening His children.

The ancient Greeks, it is true, understood the beneficent effects of affliction in shaping and developing character, and their “proverb”, “pathemata, mathemata”, gives us a perfect translation in that verse, “knowledge, by suffering entereth.”

But, they, the Greeks then always ascribed the causes of calamity to the direful wrath of their god, Zeus; the chief of the Olympian gods, god of the elements; the thunderbolt is his sign and the rainbow his messenger; also, Zeus was their god of moral law and order.

The old Jewish theology seemed to be moved and vitalized by the same spirit. Longer life, respect and honour, wealth and wisdom are promised to the righteous, while sudden death and every worldly woe are threatened (or fall on), against the ungodly. Thus, with Jew and Greek, earthly good, doing good is the (touchstone) criterion or test for divine approval or favour.

But it was left for a new generation of believers that followed, that a divine lesson in teaching mankind, that their “light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh out for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” (2 Cor. 4:17).

Sorrow and suffering are, by all the teachings of the Gospel, divine in their origin, holy in their ministry, beneficial in their results. But, how could sorrow and suffering do this?! This torturing grief, sadness, trouble, affliction, anguish, woe, misery... the pain of mind caused by deep disappointment in life... a fruitful longing for something that’s not here or there?? This ever-present distress, misfortune, mourning, wretchedness!?! We shall see, for “there is no sorrow, as a result of these, for which God has not provided a remedy.” (MH 249). How, then can we use it?

## SORROW AND SUFFERING *PURIFIES*

We need their “purifying” influence to make us one with Christ. They change... supernaturally change our life, reconcile us (bring us back in harmony), to duty. They cause the soul to slough off or discard earthly affections; the beginning of that mysterious process by which mortality shall put on immortality.

## SORROW AND SUFFERING *HUMANIZES*

It makes us human. By nature man is selfish and unsympathizing. His first impulse is to care for self-alone... ego. It is not until his mind and heart have been influenced by grace or interest, that he yields his personal self and claims. In order to sympathize with someone else fully, or another person, you must have had personal experiences

yourself. You might as well expect a picture of a gorgeous summer sunset from a blind man, or Bach’s symphonies or Luther’s hymns from a mute, as true sympathy in affliction from one who never knew sorrow or grief. Sorrow, however, “softens and subdues men.” (4T 143).

## SORROW AND SUFFERING *“CHRISTIANIZED” US*

Often before this rich experience, Christ is a root out of dry ground, without form or comeliness; the Bible, a mere collection of old tales, or fables; heaven and Sheol, words of very doubtful significance; while this great present world fills our vision and receives all our attention.

How this all changes by a simple touch of God’s finger! Christ then becomes the chiefest among ten thousand, clothed with every beauty and grace; the word of God is made the lamp unto our feet; the future life becomes real, and the present life a dream, a story tale.

A few years ago two friends were visiting Niagara Falls, the majestic waterfall of the Niagara River, between New York and Ontario, Canada. While there, one went out on a frail, narrow bridge that connects Goat Island with the Tower Rock, where the torrent falls fearfully down. There he stood on the edge of life, gazing spell-bound into the jaws of death, ready to receive him! Deafened by the incessant roar, half blinded by the spray, rainbows flashing out like evil hands beckoning him to leap into the raging waters, his brain suddenly began to whirl, his mind and sense grew dim, and his body slowly moved to and fro over the yawning gulf!

His friend from the shore saw his peril. He

shouted to him in vain; his voice swallowed up in the rush of the tremendous cataract. He jumped onto the frail bridge, seized his friend by the arm, and the dazed man was saved from certain death.

There is another human soul, also, somewhere, like this friend at Niagara Falls, standing “unconsciously” on the brink or edge of ruin and disaster. Around him are the rushing torrents of life. He has still a foothold on the rock of early religious teachings, or perhaps a pious mother’s saving prayers, but his spiritual senses are deadened by the ceaseless roar and rushing of the world. He is warned of his danger; friends entreat earnestly, and appeal to him, beg him, God even calls him... three times! (Job 33:14); but, the still small voice is not heard in the tumult, surging, swelling, uproar. The minds and feelings are agitated. When suddenly, for the safety and salvation of the soul God comes along and touches him—it may be in the tenderest, weakest point—but, who shall say that it’s nothing but—love.

### SORROW AND SUFFERING SANCTIFIES

It sanctifies us. It is by that “spiritual culture”; refinement, development, improvement of mind, by which Christ makes a branch, already fruitful that brings forth more fruit; a process by which we are made holy unto the Lord. And oh; for that poor crushed child of affliction, sorrowing, suffering here today, while in the Gethsemane of sorrow, you ask, “why this bitter cup”... and no answer comes. Remember, that which you don’t know now, or understand now, you will one day know in the “hereafter,” when the tumultuous falls are quieted.

You will then find, as you look back on your sorrowing and suffering journeys and pilgrimages of life experiences; that these places which seemed like the “valleys of the shadow of death,” (Ps. 23:4) in the glorious light of retrospect, in looking back are the

very mountain tops of God’s providence, where you were nearer to heaven than at any other period in your journey.

Yes, where the anguishing shadows of the Almighty God fell the darkest and saddest on you, according to the Psalmist you were dwelling in the “secret places of the Most High.” (Ps. 91:1)... in “Heavenly Places”—Our Exalted Privilege (Eph. 2:4-6). And then, finally...

### SORROW AND SUFFERING GLORIFIES

We shall soon be glorified. Although we can expect sorrow, suffering, and tribulation in this present age (John 16:33; Acts 14:22), we will come out of the great tribulation. (Rev. 7:14-17). “There will be no sorrow in the new earth and the world to come and no wail of sorrow in the New Jerusalem.” (MB 365; Ed 303; 9T 287). **AMEN**

*John Theodourou*  
USA/Greece

### *Urgent Appeal From Tanzania*



*On behalf of Tanzanian Union members, greetings with Galatians 1:3-5.*

The Mission Primary School that you see in the above photograph is the result of many generous donations from across our Reform Movement family. However it is not yet finished to government regulations. For this urgent need we are making an appeal to our brothers and sisters to support our efforts in finishing this project. **May God bless you as you take our request into consideration.**

For further details, please contact Br. Walter Kajiru, Union of Seventh-Day Adventist, Reform Movement – Tanzania. P.O. Box 70908, Tel. 0255-22-2450179, Dar es Salaam.

# Complaining

Most of the people are dissatisfied with something in their lives, therefore they complain. People complain about their friends, neighbours, relatives and even of their husbands and wives because they do not live up to their expectations. People complain about their jobs; their income is not high enough. People complain about their health which they themselves have ruined by their wrong habits. People complain about the churches they are attending. They complain about the other members in the churches. This list of complaints could go on endlessly. All the complainers and miserable and unhappy. And besides this they make others miserable by spreading their dissatisfaction around.

The first question is what do we gain by complaining? And the next one is do we have a right to complain? And finally, can we have the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and still complain about our hardships?

The first question is easy to answer. We gain nothing by complaining, but we can lose much. The old Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron and therefore they could not enter into the Promised Land.

“And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, would God that we had died in the land



of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness!” Num. 14:2.

“Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye had spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you accordingly to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against Me.” Num. 14:28,29.

“Brother and Sister B, you have a work to do for yourselves which no one can do for you. You are inclined to murmur and complain. You have something to do to subdue your natural feelings. Live for God yourselves, knowing that you have not to answer for the wrongs of others. I saw, Brother B, that you would certainly be overcome by Satan, and make utter shipwreck of faith, unless you stop your faultfinding and seek pure and undefiled religion before God.” Test. Vol. 2, p. 221.

“God has shown me that He gave His people a bitter cup to drink, to purify and cleanse them. It is bitter draught, and they can make it still more bitter by murmuring, complaining, and repining.” EW, p. 47.

Complaining will not alleviate our sorrow. It will not increase our faith and trust in God, but rather weakens our faith. Those who listens to our complaints will not benefit from it either, but it will take away their joy and peace and fill their minds with bitterness.

The next question was, do we have a



right to complain? Is it possible that someone may suffer injustice, while being innocent? The Bible gives a simple and clear answer to it. “The wages of sin is Death.” Rom. 6:23. We all have committed sins and therefore we all deserve death. This would be justice, but we are not receiving justice, but mercy. Sinners have life and hope of eternal life even. The recipients of mercy have no right to complain. Our heavenly Father has to discipline and chastise His children because He loves them. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.” Rev. 3:19.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28.

Jesus did not promise to His followers an easy life, but tribulations, trials, persecutions, and a martyr’s death.

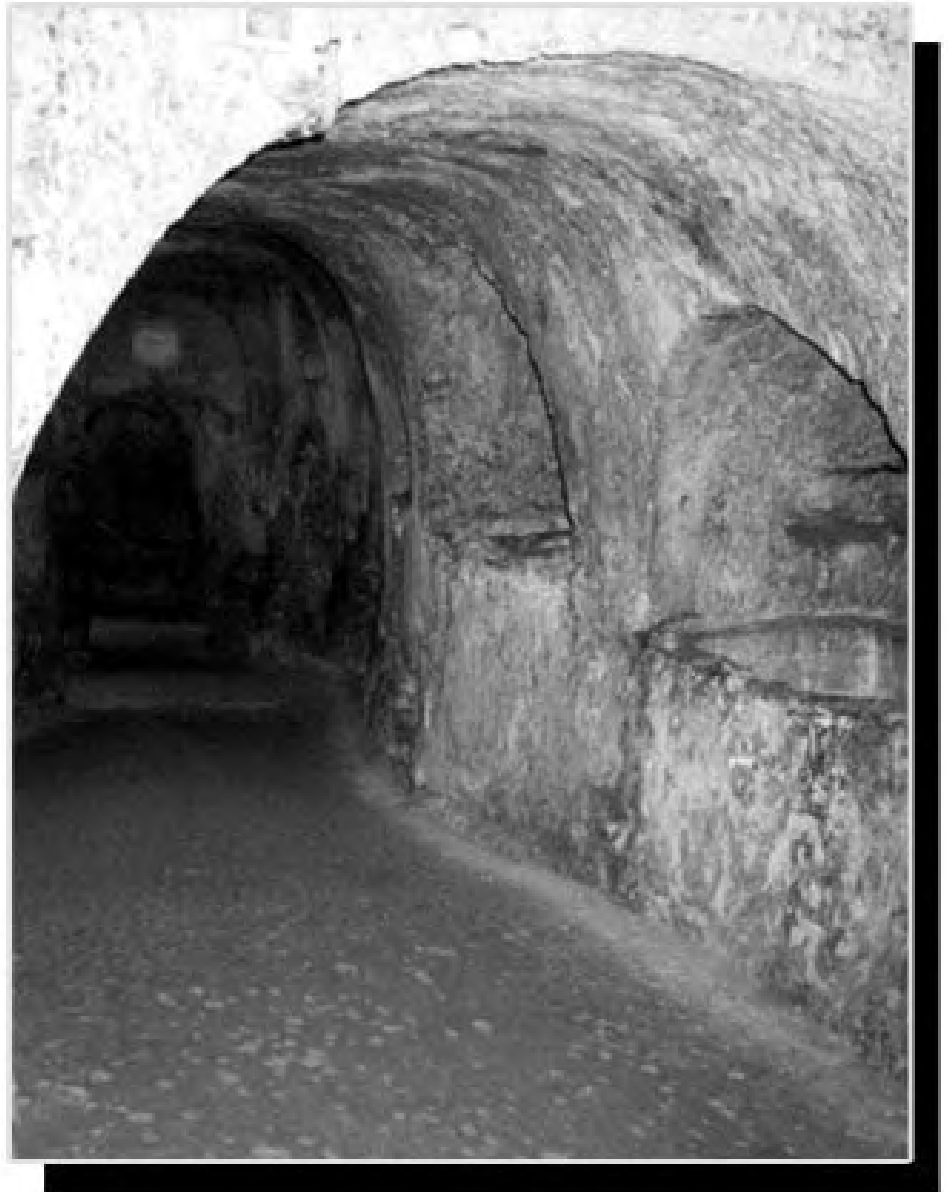
If we complain about the leading and chastening of God, He will leave us alone to go on our own way, which means to perish.

God has made a perfect plan for each one of us. His plan includes a narrow way, fiery trials, loss of earthly goods but in the end an eternal life. If we complain about the leading of God, He will leave us to the other possible leader which is Satan.

We as the children of God have no right to complain, but rather to rejoice and give thanks, even when surrounded by hardships.

The third question was, can we have the Comforter, the Holy Spirit and still feel miserable and complain? The answer is simply no. Anyone who has the spirit of God is filled with joy and happiness. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. It is not possible to have the Holy Spirit without its fruit.

Apostle Paul had the Holy Spirit and he says, “I take pleasure in



infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Cor. 12:10.

The early Christians had to suffer much yet without complaint. “Under the fiercest persecution these witnesses for Jesus kept their faith unsullied. Though deprived of every comfort, shut away from the light of the sun, making their home in the dark but friendly bosom of the earth, they uttered no complaint. With words of faith, patience, and hope they encouraged one another to endure privation and distress.” GC, p. 41.

Sister White wrote of herself, “Much of the time my body is full of pain, but I will not by complaining become

unworthy of the name of Christian.” SM 2, p. 238.

By hardships and affliction we learn the lesson of patience. And patience is required for our salvation. The image of God is placed in us daily through sufferings and tribulations. The stone that the artist is working on receives ten thousand hammer blows while other stones peacefully lie on the ground. God is the Master Artist shaping us to His own image. Let us never complain any more, but rather rejoice that God is working on us and has not left us to perish in our sins. **AMEN**

**Timo Martin**  
**Toronto, Canada**



# Baptismal Testimony

It has been a few years since I have started Bible studies and attending this church.

Before I started studies, I thought that I was an alright Christian. I was an Adventist and I went to church every week. I took part in church activities; I listened to my parents some of the time; I helped around the house a little bit; I went to school and passed my exams; to the outward person, I was a "good girl".

I had never been constantly challenged to look at my life, to look at my motives and especially to look at my relationship with JESUS, whom I professed to love and worship.

Though outwardly I seemed okay, no-one really knew the darkness that was in my heart and soul. No-one knew that though I seemed to be a happy person, how much I longed for love and sympathy. Though I had friends I was lonely. Though I knew of Jesus and was thought of as rich in spirit no-one knew how poor I really was. I have always had a rebellious spirit but I thought that was discernment and assertiveness. To the world it was essential to have this characteristic in order to make a difference and gain life.

Unknowingly my awful characteristics were covered by self-righteousness. My heart and soul was crying out for something no human on earth could fulfill.

At first the studies were interesting and I went on a regular basis, but nothing happened in my

It was through many trials in my life, that He showed me my need to come to the foot of the cross. He showed me and taught me that in myself I can do nothing and only by His strength and trust in His promises, can victories be gained. Jesus was always there for me when no one was; He loved and comforted me when my loved ones disappointed me. He has carried me and I know He is teaching me to walk. He is the only true Father I have really known.

I am learning that through disobedience and unbelief comes all unhappiness.

Through obedience I find true peace and happiness, and it is through obedience that the Bible starts to come alive. This is when I started to discover that Jesus is my personal Saviour. His blood does wash me and I am never alone!

I want to give thanks for many things, but I really want to praise God for life itself, because I truly believe that if Christ had not come into my life, life's perplexities, its burdens and all its care would have crushed me. I would have given up a long time ago!

The Lord has been opening my eyes to help me see how really blessed I am, to have a church family that loves the Lord. Since I have been attending church, I



life, in past experiences-messages were for hearing and to be excited for that moment. I never applied it in my life.

have not been criticized or told about the things I have to or need to give up. The members have been giving my short-comings to the Lord, and His Spirit is doing the work. In attending church I have gained messages reflecting the areas in my life in need of change, so easily could the devil tempt me to ignore, because the messages cut against the grain but I have also been given love and encouragement to help me to grow. I believe this is the purpose of the church organization, and as members we are to endeavour to reflect the messages we are proclaiming. People often ask me, which causes me to ask myself, "Why am I going the way I am going?" The devil tempts me and says, "Going the path you're going, makes your family unhappy. You look so funny at university with your long skirt. Your food is so boring. How can you have fun if you can't do this and that? You're losing friends." And the list goes on and on.

I praise God for Jesus; in Him there is strength to face my difficulties. I remember Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness, that the world would be His, in the renunciation of His faith in God. But He stood firm in His stand for God.

I always thought that if I were an Israelite I would have been the obedient one and would not have complained. If I were Daniel, Shadrak, Meshak or Abednigo, I would have been like them and not bowed down to the statue. If I were Peter I would not have denied Christ. Not until I applied the word to my life, and trials were given to test my faithfulness, was I shown who I really am. I am the Eve when I eat chocolate;

I am the Cain when I envy others; I am the Pharisee when I esteem myself better than others; I am Judas when I harden my heart to God's voice and I am the sinner that broke the heart of Jesus.

But strength and courage do I find in the word of God, that He still loves me regardless. He suffered and know-



ing His life would end in a shameful death, He overcame. He did it for you and me. How can I deny such love, but to follow?

Young people don't think that any of the experiences you are going through now won't have any effects on your

tomorrows. Because at 20 I am having to unlearn the things I learnt at 10, 13 and 16.

I am learning to be happy in trials and temptations. It is only through the fiery furnace that is gold refined. When trials come I remember that it is because He loves me and longs to be with me, that He is showing me that I still am failing in many areas. I am still learning how to apply the word of God in my life.

But my desire with Jesus as my strength is to continue fighting as Jesus fought till death.

I praise God as Simeon saw baby Jesus he saw promises being fulfilled, today and tomorrow as being hopeful, he saw that God is love and he saw the meaning of life.

I thank the Lord that as I contemplate Jesus, I see there is hope for me, I see a friend longing for my friendship, a Father longing for my love, a Saviour longing to save and an intercessor listening for my prayers. Because of this I know that JESUS is the meaning of life.

Praise the Lord daily, for new beginnings. **AMEN.**

**By Thy Chey, Perth Australia**

# THE WORK IN BELIZE

Now the Lord said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee, and I will make of thee a great nation, and will bless thee and make thy name great and thou shall be a blessing.

The Lord had a great job for Abraham. He was to be the father of many nations and through him the whole world would be blessed. Well, I can't compare myself with Abraham, but it's sure wonderful to know that the Lord has us in mind!

Greetings dear brothers and sisters. My name is Esther Ellington and I would like to talk to you about my experience in Belize. It was great to say the least. We were visiting a very humble home in the country, close to a river here in El Salvador. We've only visited for a day, when that night about a block or so from the house, eight of the children from there and myself were worshipping on a full moon's night, when we heard a scream coming from the house. "Sister Esther, someone is looking for you, come, it is an emergency!" we all ran at once, asking ourselves what could be the matter. When we got up the hill, my heart was beating a hundred miles per hour. When I saw a group of people, I wondered what this could be all about.

We shook hands and we sat down. They began by explaining the work in Belize and the need for lay workers, and also the project of taking the tent and actually evangelizing a place that had English as their first language. Most of the lay workers were Spanish speaking brothers and sisters. Well, definitely a challenge, but that is where I come in. They said that I could help out Brother Rizo the translate the services, and also sing during the crusade. It all sounded



**a group of volunteers**

great but I asked, when will this take place? It was a Thursday night. "We are leaving Tuesday of next week", he said. "A little too soon," I thought.

Brother Lopez said, "This is a puzzle, and we are trying to put it together. Sister Esther, are you willing to go?" I answered without hesitation, "Here I am, Lord, send me! You know I'll go with my children anywhere!" "But there is something you should know, sister, you can't take your children!" "Oh boy, I have never travelled without my children," I answered. "Well, you see, sister, where we're going is no place for children, plus you won't have time to care for them." I asked the brothers if we could pray about it and ask the Lord for help. After the prayer I felt a complete peace in my heart and I answered, "if there is someone who would care for my children while I'm gone, I'll be willing to go with you." Brother Archila said, "I know your family will be willing to help out, they are always willing to work for the Lord." "Then let us go talk to them," said Brother Lopez. "But it is almost 9 o'clock," said Brother Archila. Then spoke Brother Hector, "I think you should try and if the sister is willing to go, you should go."

We gathered our stuff in a hurry and put it in Brother Archila's truck, said goodbye to the children in the

home and their parents, and we were off to Santa Ana to speak with my family. My mom was very frightened to hear someone knock on the door at 12 o'clock midnight. But they all agreed to help take care of the children.

Tuesday, I was supposed to leave with the brethren for Belize that morning. I got a phone call, it was a school offering me a job! You see, I had been working on my own, giving private classes, but now I'm offered a teaching position in a school. I said to myself the Lord knows what I have need of before I ask Him, so I went to the interview, and I passed the test and got hired!

I thanked the supervisor very politely, but told her I couldn't take the job. "Why?" she asked in surprise. "You see," I explained, "I have a mission to take care of. The Lord has called me to go to Belize as a lay worker and I can't refuse." She looked at me right in the eyes and smiled, "Go child," she said, "and may the Lord richly bless you! And if it's God's will, the job would still be here for you when you get back!" I knew then that I had made the right decision.

Travelling to Belize was very difficult. I was sad because I was leaving my children behind, but was happy because



I was obeying God's voice. We left from Guatemala about 4 o'clock in truck. We travelled almost two days and one night without stopping to sleep with all the equipment, four brothers and myself until we got to P.G. Belize the next day at about 7 at night. What a trip! We were tired and hungry. I didn't know what to expect. I was in a different country with different people, but the beauty of Belize gave me a warm feeling about the place although homesick I was glad I was finally there!

Next day we set the tent. The women did not help in the hard work, but we cheered while they worked! No, not true we were in the kitchen preparing food for almost 20 people! The days that followed were busy days, we had our work cut out for us.

Every morning we would wake up at 5:30, have morning worship and do exercise. Sometimes we would walk to the beach and there have morning worship and enjoy the sunrise, it was ever so peaceful. From 7:30-8:30 we had breakfast, then our work would be given out for the day. Some of the brethren would go do surveys in town. I had to go to the tent with Dr. Rosaura. There were free consultations and also free medicine. Lots of people would come from P.G. and the nearby villages. One of the biggest problems with the people's health was their eating habits, they consumed too much pork. And about 75% of the people were infected with worms and other diseases caused by pork eating.

Sometimes our routine would change and I would stay home cooking lunch with Sister Aury while Brother Samuel would take my place. There was little or no time for canvassing. Sometimes we would have to go give lectures on health. One of them was given at the local school to the teachers of that school. The results were great! They were very much interested in their health and later on they visited us at the

tent. Most of the teachers became my friends. Some of them bought health books the same day of the lecture.

Sometimes I would go canvassing by myself and the Lord blessed me! On exciting experience I had was that I got to be in the local radio station, Wamalily Radio Station. We recorded some messages, Brother Lopez and myself. Govel Morgan, the owner was very nice and we got to be on the air a couple of times! We would invite the people to the night meetings, and also to the free consultations. The results were fantastic! Lots more people started coming.

Soon we made friends with the people of P.G. Whenever I was in the street, the people would come up to me and ask me about the tent! I would explain to them what was our mission and I would invite them and explain to them we had come to give them free medicine for the mind, soul and body!

In the afternoon, Brother Samuel, Jacobo, and Miguel would go in the tricycle and announce the meetings, while Brother Rizo, Brother Lopez and Brother Hunberto visited the people that had come to the service the night before. At 5 o'clock we all had to be at the tent inviting the people to come to the service. Brother Javier was at the keyboard while Sister Monica and Sister Aury would begin singing in Spanish, then I would start singing in English.

Our theme song was "Jesus" from the smallest child to the oldest folk, they all knew the words to the song by memory, and enjoyed singing it very loud. As soon as they heard singing the people would start coming on their bikes and others in their cars, walking and even by taxi. But they got there, the tent got full, the people couldn't fit inside, they stayed outside to hear! All around the tent looking through the windows.

The arrival of Brother Henry and

Brother Pat proved to be a blessing in P.G. To hear the message, clear in their own language was encouraging for the people. I remember one night that Brother Henry had just finished preaching and we've said goodbye to the people. The people remained in their seats, and wouldn't move. They all said as one, keep on preaching! There is no school tomorrow! The next day would be a holiday, but it was already 9 o'clock and we were all very tired.

February 17 was to be the last night that we were going to be there. Brother Rizo had already announced that it was our last night there, but since the people were so sad to see us end the service, they decided to extend it another week, since Brother Archila and Brother Eliseo had just come from El Salvador with more medicine and clothing from the Good Samaritan here in El Salvador to give to the people, and there were still more Bibles to give out. The service had to continue for the glory and honour of God! I had never seen so many people hungry for the Lord.

Sad to say I wasn't able to stay. I got very sick and was hospitalized in Sister Rosauras Hospital in Guatemala. But I do not regret one minute of the work we were able to accomplish in Belize. There are lots of people interested in the Reform Message. Brother Rizo and Brother Samuel are still working in P.G. There are souls visiting the church and receiving Bible studies. Among those is a young man named Delbert who also helped with the special music during the crusade. My sisters and brothers, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into His harvest. **AMEN.**

*Your sister in Christ,  
Esther Ellington,  
El Salvador*



# The First Australia Wide West Coast Conference



In the providence of God, history was made for the Australian International Missionary Society. Up until the year 2001 the International Missionary Society had no representatives in West Australia. But providentially through the mighty power of prayer and God's ordained way of shaking His people, a company of 8 people was formed. At the end of that year a pioneer group of 4 traveled the continent (four day journey) to attend their first Australian IMS conference and since then more have traveled east for the year-end conference.

Much joy in fellowship has occurred between the members and new believers. Slowly a desire grew in the hearts of the West Australians that the Eastern States folk come to the West. So it was that history was made on the 17th April 2003 when the members came together for the long weekend at the Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp, Orange Grove for the first Australia wide Western Australian Field Conference.

Some members were able to fly across the continent while the church van loaded with 9 passengers left Sydney early on Sunday morning. After traveling 48 hours, with only fuel stops they arrived very early Tuesday morning giving Br John Thiel a surprise by knocking on his door before he was even out of bed.

Consequently all but 3 members from the east were able to join us in prayer meeting 2 days before the camp began. We sensed the Lord's hand gathering us early to prepare us for the camp with

the message from Lamentations. "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow..." thus it was an indication the Lord had more in store for us than we were expecting. The conference began with a message from the Lord not to harden our hearts but to look for the Day Star and He began by showing us how to recognize the Day Star from all the other stars around about clamoring for our attention.

We could hear the Lord speaking to us through the morning and evening worships and the prayerfully selected special items of song and poetry and I'm sure all received conviction in some form or another.

Bros. Jerry Eaton, John Thiel and Glen Higgins were used mightily of the Lord in presenting a series of studies based on 2 Peter 1:19 The Day Star Arising in Your Heart

The Friday evening study showed us how the Day Star arises out of darkness, in our blackest hour, in the darkness of our hearts the day star is there unconsciously at first but slowly arising and, providing we do not say no to Jesus, He arises brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

The Sabbath began in a very special way. The Lord brought to us the true personal application of the birth of the Son of God. The shepherds and wise men were looking for that Special Star spoken in the prophecies and as they walked in the light of that prophecy they came to a place where they saw the glory of God in reality. We understood with new meaning how the Christmas

story, so hackneyed in today's society can be an actual reality in our hearts. In consequence of this study we sang two of those special songs that are most often reserved for the festive season with new meaning and appreciation. The Divine service emphasized the importance of defining the darkness and calling people out into His marvelous light. This is the mission of the fourth angel. To call all to "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

On Sabbath afternoon the Young People's meeting also focusing on the Day Star Arising in our hearts. Sr. Ariadne gave a talk on astronomy and we learned that the heathen, although he does not know God, can know the story of salvation by studying the stars. Sr. Jodyne talked about the shooting star. We discovered that the tail of light that flows from the shooting star is its outer crust burning up as it comes into the earth's atmosphere. She likened the shooting star to the Christian that is shining because his "outer crust of self" is being burned up and purged by the truth of the word. The Christian is allowing the fire of the Holy Spirit to consume his sinful ways, causing the beauty of the love of Jesus to shine forth.

We could see the Lord tailor made in every worship and study, as each had its own unique beauty and powerful message.

The subtle seductive ways Satan uses to unconsciously creep in amongst us was exposed on Sabbath evening in the study, Sing a New Song. We praise the Lord for this, at first, seemingly

offensive message, for now we are wiser and will be able to experience deeper victories in His name. Praise the Lord for His great mercy upon us in bringing these points to our attention. He is truly working for our salvation, not willing that any of us should perish.

To close off a beautiful Sabbath day many of us, especially the less tired ones, gathered round an outdoor camp fire and talked and sang under the evening stars.

Throughout the weekend we could sense the Lord working on our hearts with a two edged sword, cutting and healing as He went amongst us. In His divine intervention, He was showing us our sins, developing patience, love and forbearance amongst us and bringing us into oneness of mind with Him. What more could we ask for? This is truly the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday morning was the highlight of the weekend. After a powerful study entitled The Baptism of Jesus in You, Sr. Thy (Tee) Chey publicly declared her love for the Lord and her purpose to walk the narrow road Jesus did by being baptized. She referred to this

experience as being both her funeral and birth.

Since our inception here in the West in March 2001 we have had a baptism every 6 months and Sr. Thy is the 19th West Australian member to be written in the books of Heaven.

Her Baptism was followed by her acceptance into the fellowship of the family of God and a very moving time of testimonies. Once again we recognized the outpouring of the Spirit of God working powerfully amongst us.

With the morning over the Holy Spirit had more work still to do amongst us through the "Commemoration of the New Day" which was of course the Lord's Supper. Gathering round the Lord's Table in the outdoors made the occasion even more memorable. We praise Him for the healing and growth this spiritual union brought us.

Following communion many of us enjoyed ourselves down by the water's edge either canoeing on the tranquil waters or on the jetty basking in the stillness of the late afternoon.



AUSTRALIAN YOUTH

Our evening meeting on Sunday brought a deeper relevance of the Prophecy in Revelation chapter 13 and we could see more clearly the role of the two horned beast and the subtle deceptions that we are about to face.

Monday morning saw us again up early in prayer bands and morning exercises. Although the camp was coming to a close the messages certainly did not wind down.

Our experience throughout the camp was

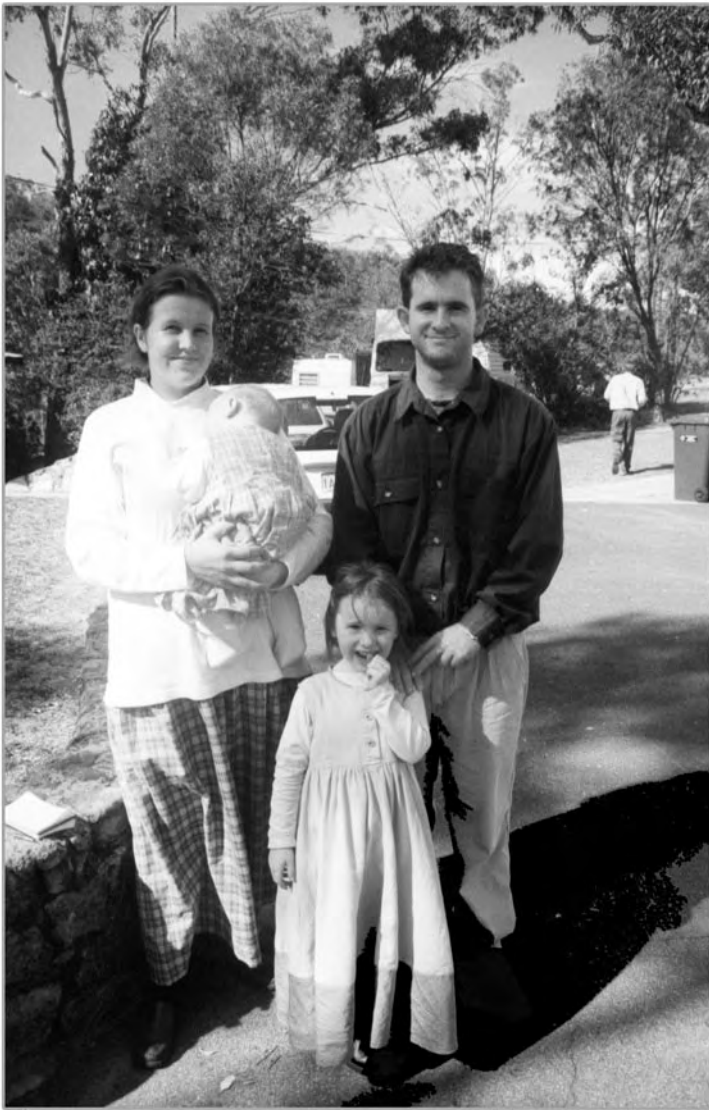
likened to the daystar arising, at first it is dark then we identify the day star and with it the gentle and slow approach of dawn, the dawn continues until we see the sun rising and still there is more brightness to come.

The last study on Monday brought together all we had studied and gave us hope especially as we realized even when we were in darkness the Day star was still there, we just did not comprehend it. But as the dawning of His presence has come to us we are to follow that Star. We are not just to sit and gaze up at it. Like the shepherds and the wise men we are to follow the Star.

We were entreated by the Lord to determine with all our hearts to dig and search for Him as hidden treasure, to focus on the beautiful character of Jesus and look past the hellish shadow of Satan which is gossip and the subtle downgradings of people around us. This hellish shadow causes us to lose sight of the beautiful morning star. If we persevere and look to Jesus irrespective of what others are doing around us the Day star will grow brighter and brighter unto the perfect day and we will shine as stars in the firmament.

"As the mind dwells upon Christ, the character is molded after the divine similitude. The thoughts are pervaded with a sense of His goodness, His love. We contemplate His character, and thus He is in all our thoughts. His love encloses us. If we gaze even a moment upon the sun in its meridian glory, when we

turn away our eyes, the image of the sun will appear in everything upon which we look. Thus it is when we behold Jesus; everything we look upon reflects His image, the Sun of Righteousness. We cannot see anything else, or talk of anything else. His image is imprinted upon the eye of the soul and affects every portion of our daily life, softening and subduing our whole nature. By beholding, we are conformed to the



divine similitude, even the likeness of Christ. To all with whom we associate we reflect the bright and cheerful beams of His righteousness. We have become transformed in character; for heart, soul, mind, are irradiated by the reflection of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.”  
TM 388-9

The final quote inspired us to go forward under the influence of the Holy Spirit, exalting the standard of righteousness, warning those around us of the coming judgment and sharing the gospel of salvation. “The messengers of Heaven are to be seen running to and fro, seeking in every possible way to warn the people of the coming judgments, and presenting the glad tidings of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. The standard of righteousness is to be exalted. The Spirit of God is moving upon men’s hearts, and those who respond to its influence will become lights in the world. Everywhere they are seen going forth to communicate to others the light they have received as they did after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. And as they let their light shine, they receive more and more of the Spirit’s power. The earth is lighted with the glory of God.”  
RH July 16 1985

All too soon the camp came to a close and after a very delicious lunch which was very representative of all the meals we said our farewells and headed home, praising the Lord for a wonderful weekend and reflecting upon all that the Lord had done amongst us. *Amen*

*Chris Godfrey, West Australia*



## Youth At Conference In Perth Australia

# WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

In my life, I have done much long distance travelling by car and the best way for me to get from one place to another is by using a road map. Even then, sometimes a wrong turn has been taken and after while I have begun to wonder where I am. Or then I thought I was on the right road, but after awhile I end up somewhere completely different than I expected and I ask myself in frustration, "What am I doing here?" It takes time to retrace my steps and get back on the right road. There are times I really thought I was on the right road, but in the end I was not.

Is this not how it happens in our Christian walk also? The wicked know that they are on the road to destruction, but what about the righteous? Are you sure you are on the right road? Solomon once said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. Are you on the road of your own choosing? Have you entered the road, asking God's help along the way without asking God's direction?

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be rebates?" 2 Cor. 13:5 We are to turn a critical eye upon ourselves. Are we genuine Christians? Every follower of Christ can profitably examine his own life each day. If we would be more critical of ourselves, we would be less critical of others. We need to work together to make sure we are all on the right road, lest we discourage someone and they turn back to another road.

Where are you going? What are you doing? We need to ask this question of ourselves regularly.

Pilate: Pilate was in a position of uncertainty. He was trying to decide in his mind, which was the right road to go down. He even received a warning from God through a dream to his wife as to which was the right way. "Pilate longed to deliver Jesus. But he saw that he could not do this, and yet retain his own position and honour. Rather than lose his worldly power, he chose to sacrifice an innocent life. How many, to escape loss or suffering, in like manner sacrifice principle. Conscience and duty point one way, and self-interest points to another. The current sets strongly in the wrong direction, and he who compromises with evil are swept away into the thick darkness of guilt.

"Pilate yielded to the demands of the mob. Rather than risk losing his position, he delivered Jesus up to be crucified. But in spite of his precautions, the very thing he dreaded afterward came upon him. His honours were stripped from him, he was cast down from his high office, and, stung by remorse and wounded pride, not long after the crucifixion he ended his own life. So all who compromise with sin will gain only sorrow and ruin. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. DA 738. He had no faith in God to direct

his life. He chose the wrong path and ended up exactly where he was trying to avoid ending up. God can see the end from the beginning. He knows what is at the end of the road you are travelling on and if it is not the right road, He may stop you to ask you what you are doing there.

Is that not how it is with us? We see that



maybe God is directing us one way, but we just can't see how everything will work out. We see only loss and disaster ahead. We feel we have to go another way in order to save ourselves much trouble, but in the end the trouble that we tried to avoid comes upon us. God knew the best.

The ways of death mentioned by Solomon in Proverbs are not entered into blindly or thoughtlessly. They are chosen with the assurance that they

at least seem to be proper under the circumstances. The warning is against trusting to the guidance of the conscience without checking the conscience constantly against the teaching of the Word of God. Many men have persuaded themselves that God will accept a substitute for His precise requirements, only to find that they have lost all. Pilate presents an outstanding example. While he was probably not familiar with the written word, the living Word Himself instructed him by voice and example. The governor thought that he could compromise with evil and still retain his wealth and position, but his compromise led to disgrace and death.

This is also what Jacob did. He thought he was trying to help God. He knew that the birthright was his according to the angel's promise to his mother at his birth, however he felt he had to travel the road of deception and deceit in order to bring about God's will. That ended in a 20-year separation from his father and he never saw his mother again. His way was not the right way.

Sometimes we may think we are in the right place or doing the right thing but God has to stop us and ask us what we are doing there and help us to consider which is the right way.

Elijah thought he needed some quiet meditation with God alone on Mt. Horeb, after the exhilarating experience on Mt. Carmel. But when he got there the Lord asked him, "What are you doing here Elijah?"

"God met His tried servant with the inquiry, "What doest thou here, Elijah? I sent you to the brook Cherith and afterward to the widow of Sarepta. I commissioned you to return to Israel and to stand before the idolatrous priests on Carmel, and I girded you with strength to guide the chariot of the king to the gate of Jezreel. But who sent you on this hasty flight into the wilderness? What errand have you here?" PK 168. He thought he had every right to be

there because he was fleeing the presence of Queen Jezebel who was seeking his life. However that is not where God wanted him to be. God still had work for him to do and so He set Elijah on the right way.

*Other times we know we are in the wrong...*

Jonah was asked by God to do a duty that he found distasteful so he ran the other way. "If, when the call first came to him, Jonah had stopped to consider calmly, he might have known how foolish would be any effort on his part to escape the responsibility placed upon him. But not for long was he permitted to go on undisturbed in his mad flight." PK 267 When he was in the ship during the storm I am sure God was wondering, "What are you doing here Jonah – I sent you to Nineveh?" In humility and repentance, in the whale's belly, he turned back to the way God wanted him to go.

Adam and Eve tried to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord after they sinned. "In their innocence and holiness they had joyfully welcomed the approach of their Creator; but now they fled in terror, and sought to hide in the deepest recesses of the garden. But "the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" pp 57

This is so true with many when they have sinned. They try to hide from the Lord. But the "eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Prov. 15:3. "Be sure your sin will find you out." Num. 32:23. Then the Lord will ask, "What are you doing here?" "What have you done?" Then the excuses come like it was with Adam and Eve.

We need to confess our sin when it is found out like David did. He repented bitterly of his sin with Bathsheba when Nathan the prophet revealed to him God's displeasure.

God sometimes asks us other questions. He asked Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" Gen. 4:9 After Cain killed Abel he tried to hide from the presence of the Lord, but the Lord found him and punished him. "Again the Lord said to Cain, "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground." God had given Cain an opportunity to confess his sin. He had had time to reflect. He knew the enormity of the deed he had done, and of the falsehood he had uttered to conceal it; but he was rebellious still, and sentence was no longer deferred. The divine voice that had been heard in entreaty and admonition pronounced the terrible words: "And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand. When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth." PP 77

Other times we have no idea why we are where we are – we're just running with no direction in mind.

Hagar fled from Sarah when Sarah was being harsh on her and in the wilderness the Lord asked her, "What are you doing here Hagar?" "And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai." Gen.6:8 She had no idea where she was fleeing to, but God found her and gave her directions as to where she should go from that point in time.

" 'When Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.'

She made her way to the desert, and as she rested beside a fountain, lonely and friendless, an angel of the Lord, in human form, appeared to her. Addressing her as "Hagar, Sarai's maid," to remind her of her position and her duty, he bade her, "Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands." Yet with the reproof there were min-

gled words of comfort. “The Lord hath heard thy affliction.” “I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.” And as a perpetual reminder of His mercy, she was bidden to call her child Ishmael, “God shall hear.” PP 145/6

When we feel despondent and without hope – and we try to flee from reality, the Lord is very near. If we only turn to Him we will find the direction we are looking for.

Sometimes we want to do something good, but God says ‘NO’. King David wanted to build the temple of the Lord, but God said ‘no’. Why? It seemed like a good project and a very self-sacrificing one. Sometimes we want to do good things but God says ‘no’, because it is not according to His will. We are not the right person for the project.

“David knew that it would be an honour to his name and would bring glory to his government to perform the work that he had purposed in his heart to do, but he was ready to submit his will to the will of God. The grateful resignation thus manifested is rarely seen, even among Christians. How often do those who have passed the strength of manhood cling to the hope of accomplishing some great work upon which their hearts are set, but which they are unfitted to perform! God’s providence may speak to them, as

did His prophet to David, declaring that the work, which they so much desire, is not committed to them. It is theirs to prepare the way for another to accomplish it. But instead of gratefully submitting to the divine direction, many fall back as if slighted and rejected, feeling that if they cannot do the one thing, which they desire to do, they will do nothing. Many cling with desperate energy to responsibilities which they are incapable of bearing, and vainly endeavour to accomplish a work for which they are insufficient, while that which they might do, lies neglected. And because of this lack of co-operation on their part the greater work is hindered or frustrated.” PP 712/13.

“In deciding upon any course of action we are not to ask whether we can see that harm will result from it, but whether it is in keeping with the will of God.” PP 634

That is why it is so important to ask  
G o d ’ s

direction in every matter of life. Everywhere we go, every project we undertake. It is better to know God’s will ahead of time than make mistakes and have God come to us and ask us, “What are you doing?”

Backtracking is hard work – best to be doing God’s will in the first place. What a lot of trouble would have been saved if Jonah had gone when God first asked him to go.

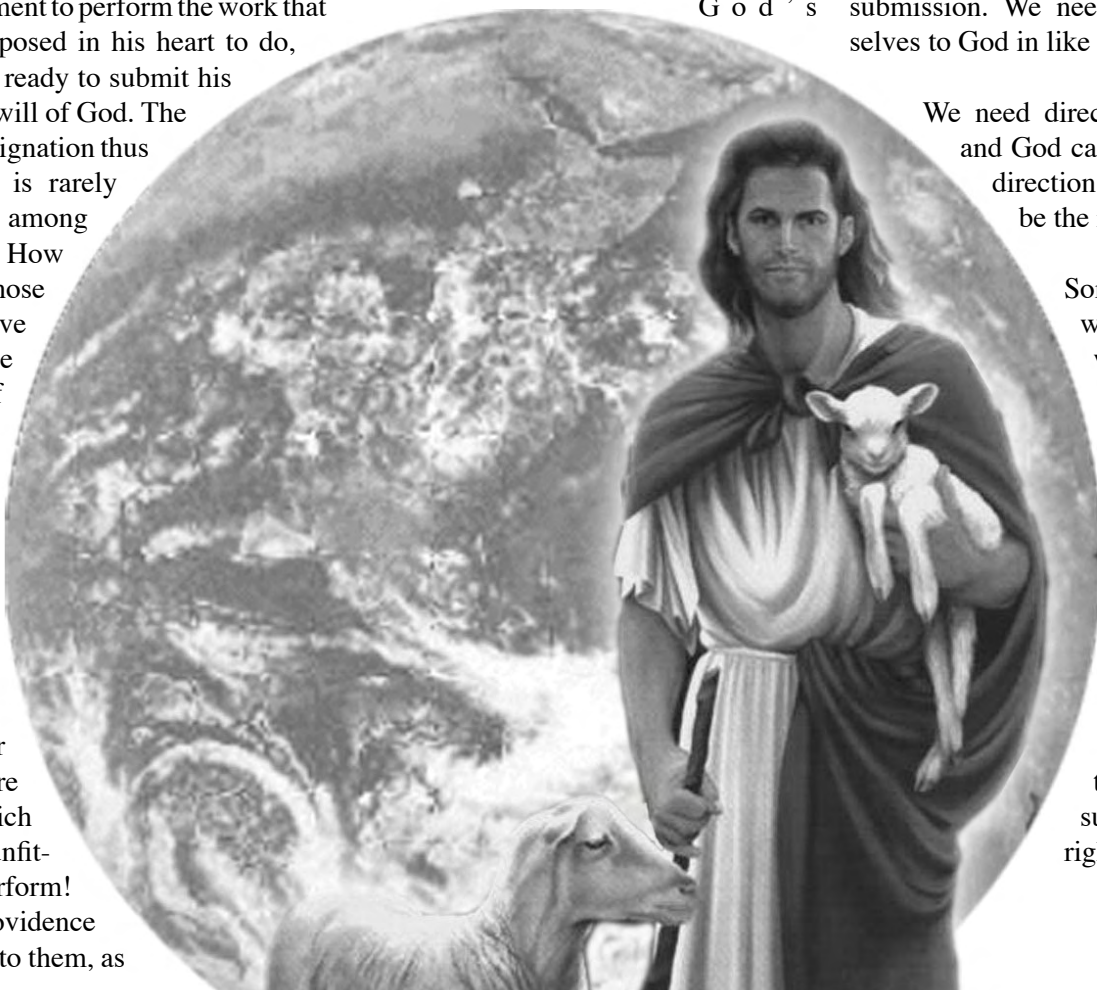
Has God come to you asking you, “What are you doing here?” Are you where God wants you to be?

Jesus knew perfectly well where He had come from and where He was going, but He decided to go there anyway. He could have come down from the cross, turned His back on you and I, and left us to die in our sins. But He chose to submit to the will of God and died to His fallen Human nature so that you and I could be saved. That was true submission. We need to submit ourselves to God in like manner.

We need direction in our lives and God can give us the best direction if we ask Him to be the ruler of our lives.

Sometimes going where the Lord wants us to go requires a cross, but beyond the cross there is a crown to be won. May God help us each to know what God’s purpose is for our lives and what direction He wants us to take, making sure we are on the right road. *AMEN*

*Wendy Eaton*





Greg was worried. He had done it again. He had taken on a dare with Jamie and the gang to sneak into Mrs. Adams' house while she was away. Why did he do these things? Last time it had led to big trouble with Mother and Father as well as the police. He was really too old to be taking on dares.

Greg climbed on his bike and pedalled slowly up the hill. Sally would give him a hard time. He had half promised her to keep out of trouble. Next to Tim, Sally was his best friend.

But it was hard to resist this dare. Mrs. Adams' house was old. It was large, empty and run-down. Mrs. Adams herself was not a favourite with the children. She seemed cranky and upset if any of them came on her property so it was a sport with them to cross her yard on occasion. But to enter her house – this was something no one dared to try before. From some of the windows you could see cobwebs in the corners and there was a tower on the side with a small window at the top. It always seemed like such a dark and dismal place.

Greg glanced at the house in question as he rode his bike past. The dark tower was enough to make goose bumps on your back. Greg shivered as he thought of entering that house in the dead of night. He wished he hadn't taken on this dare.

There were some dares that he refused to take such as smoking. That was something he would not try because his Uncle Harry died from lung cancer only last year and his mother said it was from smoking. Another one was smoking marijuana. Some of the older

kids in his class had tried it but he had no desire to get caught up in drugs. His aunt had and she nearly died from an overdose when she was a teenager.

As Greg reached his gate, he saw Sally and Tim talking. They both looked up when he reached them. "Hi, what's up?" asked Tim. "Are you still coming tomorrow night for you-know-what?" Greg glared. He didn't want Sally to know what was going on. "Yeah," he murmured.

Sally looked from one to the other. "Not again! What dare have you taken on this time?" Her blue eyes reflected anxiety. She knew Greg. He would land in trouble again.

Greg shrugged his shoulders, "The gang have dared me to go into Mrs. Adams' house and up to the tower. She's gone on a trip out of town."

Sally shook her head. "You can't do that, Greg. Your parents will be very upset. And you promised. No more dares. Besides you are invading the privacy of someone you know, even if she is old and cranky. You should be ashamed of yourself."

"But I can't back down now, they will call me chicken."

Tim agreed with Greg, "The guys will give him a lot of trouble if he doesn't do it now."

Sally sighed, "That will be nothing compared to what his parents say when they will find out."

"And who will tell them?" Asked Greg.

Sally grimaced. "You know what parents are like. They always find out."

Greg was thoughtful as he said good-bye to his friends. He thought of what Sally had just said. He guessed she was right and, if he was honest with himself, he was dreading the following night.

After a fitful night's sleep the following evening found Greg at Tim's home. The gang had planned to meet them at 9:30 in front of Mrs. Adams home. Greg was having second thoughts about the arrangements they had made. He knew he would be in big trouble if they were caught. Was it worth it? Would his grandfather approve? He guessed not. And Grandfather was someone who had won his respect. "Think before you act," Grandfather often said.

Well, he had well and truly thought until he felt his head would burst. But it hadn't helped much; it had only made him more confused than ever. Deep down, he knew he had been foolish to take on such a dare. But surely it wouldn't be all that bad. He wasn't hurting anyone. Or was he?

After nine o'clock the boys went to bed and at 9:20 they quietly crept out the window. Within five minutes they reached the tall grey stone house. The wind was howling in the trees, lightning flashed across the sky and the thunder roared. Five of his friends had made it and Sally. The boys began to tease him, wondering if he would back out.

Greg was beginning to feel terrified. It was easy to be brave in daylight. But not now, what with the wind, lightning and thunder. He looked at the house in



the darkness and wished that he was home in his own bed.

Greg pulled his raincoat around him and tested his flashlight. "Well here I go." He looked fearfully at his friends. "You won't leave me will you?"

"Not on your life," Tim reassured him.

Greg crept around to the side of the house. He looked fearfully about him. He wasn't sure how to get in. They hadn't planned that far and he wished they had. He looked up high at the windows. Then he noticed a balcony door swinging in the wind. How come it was open? Surely Mrs. Adams had locked up before she left. Perhaps someone else had broken in and was waiting there to kill him. His thoughts were running wild. He wanted to turn and run, but he couldn't. He would never live it down if he did.

He scaled the large tree and hopped over the balcony railing. He turned on his flashlight and it lit up the room which led off the balcony. It was a small room – one not in use by the look of it.

Greg crept in and noticed old-fashioned pictures on the wall. Then he heard a loud moan. Greg stood still, his hand clutched his throat.

He couldn't do it. He couldn't open that door and go closer to the sound. At that moment there was a sharp flash of lightning and a clap of thunder that shook the house. There it was again... a long shuddering moan.

What should he do? He couldn't back out now. He'd come this far. He was halfway there. All he had to do was find the stairs to the tower. He opened the door slowly. There was dead silence as he crept along the

wide hall. His hand found the banisters of the staircase leading upwards, when he heard it again. A long terrible moan.

He almost ran down the stairs, but he felt compelled to go up, up the long winding staircase. His teeth were chattering and he almost dropped the flashlight out of his hand. In his terror, he fell over the stair runner as he ran up the stairs, and burst open the door at the top.

He had made it. He was there. He had won the bet. He could hold his head up. He opened the window and signalled to his friends waiting below. He almost cried with relief. Now he could go home and forget this had ever happened. But could he ever forget the fear he felt?

He managed to close the window, then almost fell down the first flight of stairs to the long landing. There it was again. But wait.... Was that someone calling for help?

Greg stopped and listened. He was afraid and uncertain of what to do. But one thing he did

know : someone was in need of help. He was sure now that the sound was

coming from the end of the hall. He knew he shouldn't be where he was, but he couldn't leave whoever was in trouble. He knew he might land in jail; that his parents would get upset, but he had to see what he could do.

He heard it again. The moan became a cry of despair, "Oh please, somebody help me."

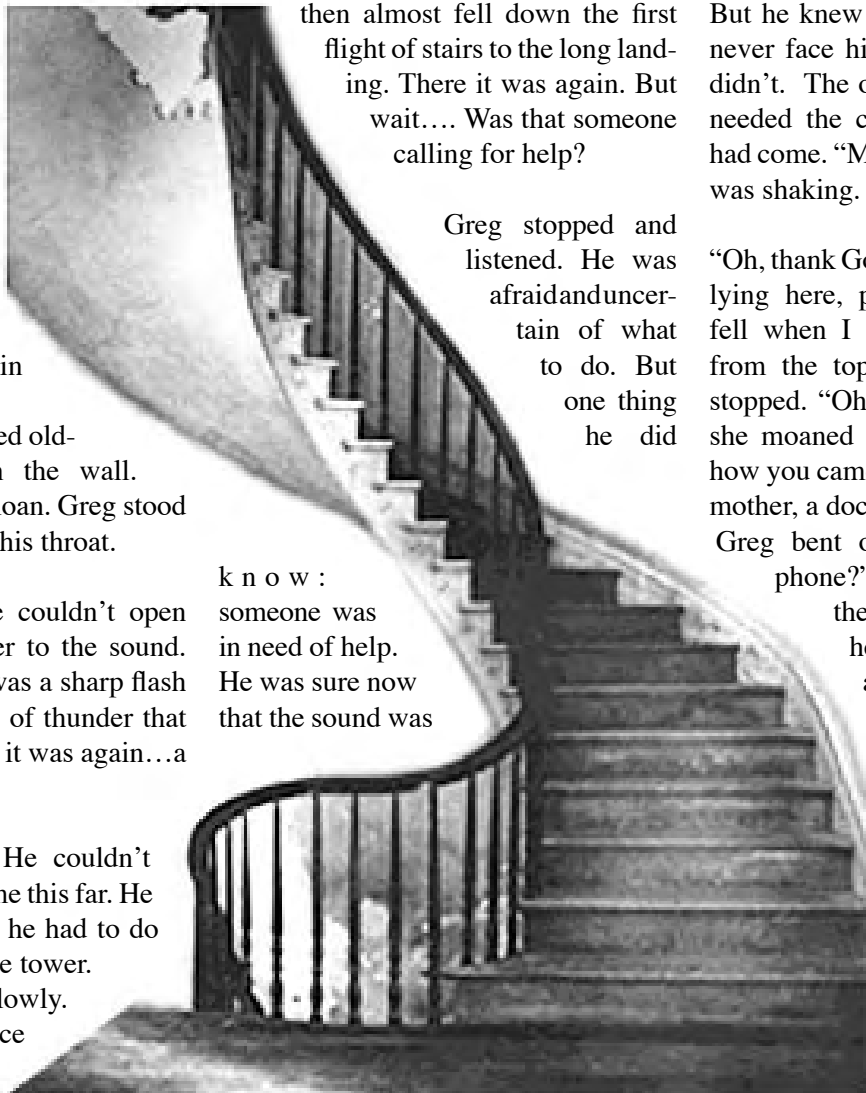
Greg reached the door at the end of the landing and flung it open. His eyes peered through the darkness. He shone his flashlight about the room. There, lying on the floor was a woman, an old woman. Greg was afraid. He knew this person couldn't see him. He could escape and no-one would know it was he that had been there. He could ring the police and tell them to come. If he stayed, he would be in big trouble.

But he knew he had to stay. He could never face his grandfather again if he didn't. The old lady needed help. She needed the comfort of knowing help had come. "Mrs. Adams?" Greg's voice was shaking.

"Oh, thank God you've come. I've been lying here, praying, for two days. I fell when I was getting my suitcase from the top of the wardrobe." She stopped. "Oh, Greg, it's you... how?" she moaned again. "It doesn't matter how you came to be here. Just call your mother, a doctor – anyone."

Greg bent over her. "Where is the phone?" he asked, then ran to the window. "Tim, Sally!" he shouted. "Get Mum and Dad. It's Mrs. Adams. She's hurt and can't get up. Get help quickly." He hesitated. "Sal, you come up here. I'll let you in."

He ran down the stairs and opened the large cedar door. Sally stood there, the rain dripping from



her coat. “Tim’s gone for help. The others have run away.”

Greg took her arm. “Come on, I’ll show you. She might need something. She’s been there for two days. Oh Sal, what if I hadn’t come? She may have died.”

Sally nodded as she followed him up the wide staircase. When they reached the room the woman was still. They both stood in the doorway, afraid to move. Was she dead?

Sally moved to Mrs. Adams’ side and bent over her. “She’s still breathing. I

steps sounded on the stairs and Greg’s parents appeared in the doorway. Greg’s father frowned. He wasn’t too sure how to handle the situation. Greg had done wrong, but if he hadn’t done what he did, old Mrs. Adams may have died

Greg’s mother lifted the old lady into a more comfortable position. “We’ve rung the ambulance. They’ll be here shortly. I’m sorry about Greg breaking in. I don’t know what got into him, but I suppose it was a dare again.”

Mrs. Adams smiled weakly. “Well I’m not sorry. God sent him. My prayers

Adams’ life and he felt his parents did not appreciate this.

Grandfather smiled. “I guess at your age it doesn’t seem fair, Greg. But what you did was wrong. You can’t get away from that, no matter how you look at it.” He thought for a moment as he looked into his grandson’s miserable face. “But I’m so pleased about you, just the same.”

Greg looked at him in amazement. “How come?”

His grandfather smiled. “You could have run away from it all. We all make mistakes. We all sin against God. But is the way you handled your mistake that I appreciated. I think you handled it pretty well. You could have run away and avoided being caught, but you decided to help and to face the consequences.”

No matter how much good we do in our lives, when we sin, there are always consequences for our sin. Unless we repent of our sins we will not be forgiven. While God wants good deeds from us, our good deeds will never hide our sins. “The wages of sin is death.” We must accept the love of Christ into our lives and only by sincere repentance and confession will we find peace in our soul. This will lead us to help in a time of crisis, not thinking of our own selves, but rather thinking of others and their immediate needs before us.

The Lord could have answered Mrs. Adams prayers in another way, however the Lord chose to answer her prayers through Greg to teach him a valuable lesson. From that day onwards,

***Greg never took another dare.***



think she fainted. Turn on the lights, Greg. We’ll be able to see what we’re doing. Get some blankets off the bed.”

Mrs. Adams’ eyes fluttered open and she moaned again as she tried to move. Sally glanced at the bedside table and noticed a covered jug of water and a glass. She half-filled the glass and lifted Mrs. Adams’ head to help her drink. “You’re a sensible girl, Sally. It’s so good to hear voices again.” She sighed as Sally laid her back on the pillow she had placed under her head.

The next thing they heard was the door-knocker and voices in the hall. Foot-

were answered. But if he wouldn’t mind feeding my cat when I am in hospital, I would greatly appreciate it.” Mrs. French looked embarrassed. She didn’t quite know what to say. She didn’t know what to do. Greg needed to be punished in some way for what he had done. Yet it would seem so hard and unfair when he has saved a life.

The next day Greg was in disgrace. Other than checking on Mrs. Adams’ house, he was grounded for two weeks. He looked across at Grandfather who was seated in a chair reading the newspaper. “Grand-dad, it’s not fair, is it?” He knew his action had saved Mrs.



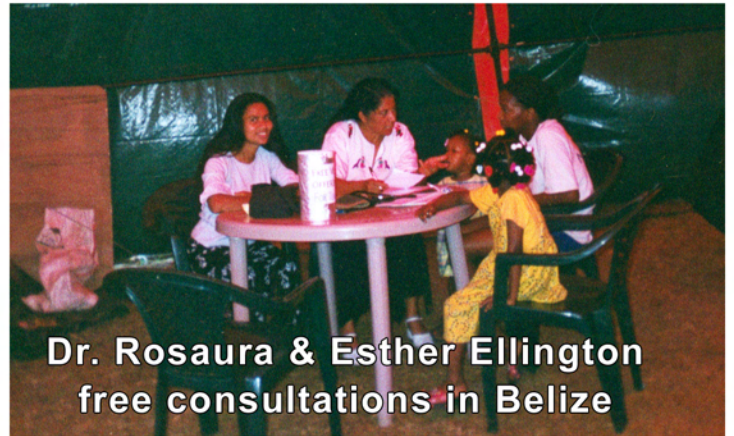
**JOHN, JOHN & JOHN**  
Toronto, Canada



**Br. Robert & John** playing  
the Digereedoo



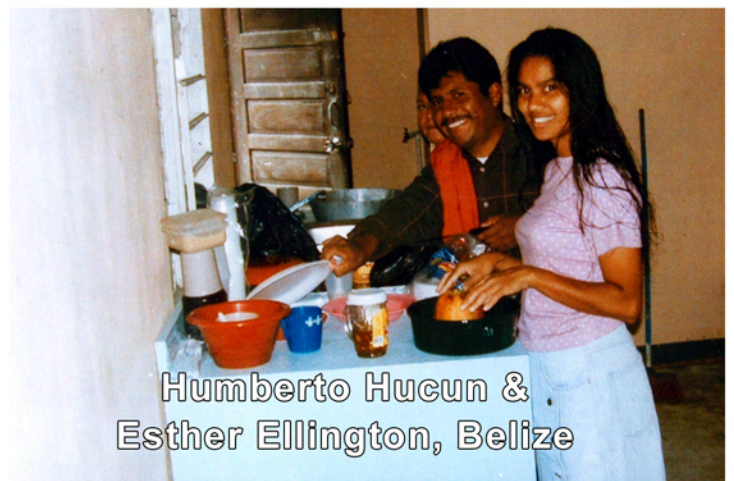
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