



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.

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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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- Tel: 416-252-1197 Fax: 416-252-6625
- Email: tmartin@netcom.ca
- Web: <http://ims.truepath.com>

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John The Baptist

Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:1

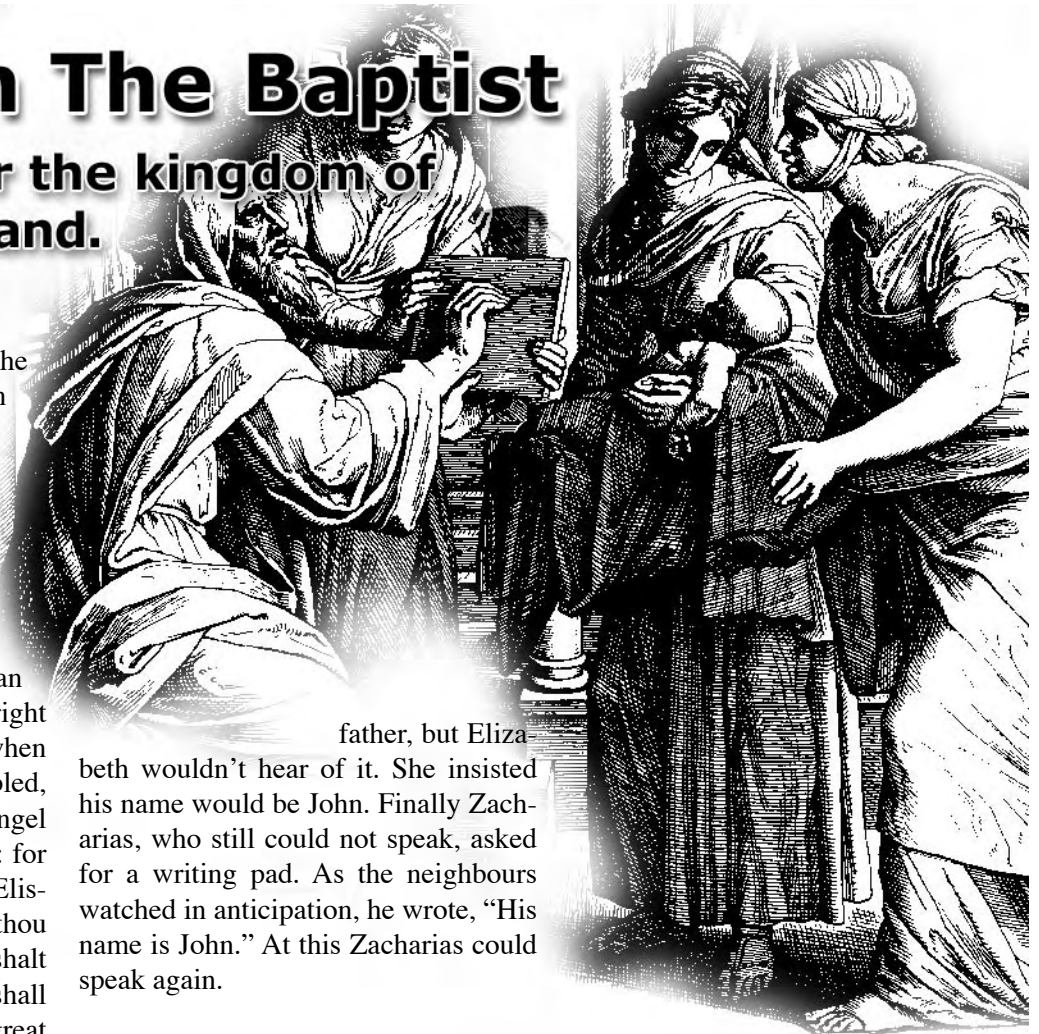
This was the message that John the Baptist preached as he stood on the banks of the Jordan. Repent because the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He had been ordained at birth to be a messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.

“And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw [him], he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord,” Luke 1:11-17 At that time his father had had a few doubts about the angel’s message. After all he was an old man now. His wife was just as old. They hadn’t had any children when they were young. How could they expect to have any children now? But the angel had spoken the truth of course. But because Zacharias had doubted the angel told him he would not be able to speak till it had all been fulfilled. About a year after this the baby was born. The neighbours got together and decided that the baby should be named Zacharias, like his

father, but Elizabeth wouldn’t hear of it. She insisted his name would be John. Finally Zacharias, who still could not speak, asked for a writing pad. As the neighbours watched in anticipation, he wrote, “His name is John.” At this Zacharias could speak again.

Growing older John spent most of his time alone, meditating on the prophecies that surrounded his own birth, and the coming of the Messiah. He realized that he had been chosen to preach to the Israelites, preparing their hearts for the Messiah’s coming. So, at about thirty years of age, He went to the Jordan and began to preach. Hundreds and thousands of people crowded to hear him. Suddenly John’s voice rings out sharp and clear, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. The people started! Was this the Messiah? They looked around, trying to get a glimpse of the Messiah. They saw no one that looked like a king or a ruler. All the people were dressed in the garments of the common people. There was no one there dressed like any type of ruler. The people quickly settled down again and kept on listening to John. A few days

later John, pointing into the crowd, again declared “Behold the Lamb of God” This time the people were startled. Everyone in Judea knew what had happened a few days before, and now this! But again the people saw no one that looked like a ruler. Again the people didn’t know who the Lamb of God was. But now the Pharisees were startled. They had heard of John the Baptist. They heard how he had attracted thousands of people to him through his preaching. They had begun to get worried about the effect this might have on them. If all the people flocked to John then the Pharisees would lose popularity. Now they heard of the startling proclamation of John. This was too much. They decided to send a delegation of Pharisees and Sadducees to the Jordan to talk to John. The stark contrast between John’s simple camel’s hair tunic and the rich robes of the Pharisees was most noticeable. The Pharisees asked him all sorts of ques-



tions about the Messiah. When they were finished they decided that John must be crazy. The Messiah couldn't have come yet. The man John had announced as the Messiah was born in a manger. He just couldn't be the Son of God! Another few days passed. Again Jesus appeared at the Jordan. This time He went up to John. He asked John to baptise Him. John started back in alarm. He! Baptise Jesus! This couldn't be. He replied "I need to be baptized by you, and you want me to baptise you!" Jesus answered that it had to be this way. So John and Jesus make their way into the Jordan. Then John baptizes Jesus. As Jesus is walking out of the water the spirit of God descended on Him. It floated down till it seemed to rest on His head. Then a voice from

heaven said "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." At this John declared again "Behold the Lamb of God!" This time the people saw who John was referring to. But still most of them didn't accept Him as Messiah. Jesus didn't look at all like a King. But Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert where He fasted for 40 days. John meanwhile kept on preaching. So much popularity surrounded his preaching that Herod himself came to see John. John was not flattered by a visit from the king. Instead he rebuked king Herod for stealing his brother's wife. Herod didn't mind being rebuked. But Herodias, Herod's wife however, hated John from then on. She convinced Herod to cast John into the dungeon. But he wouldn't go any further. She had

determined to get rid of him at all costs. She soon got her chance. At Herod's birthday a great feast was held in the palace. All the men of the court were there. Alcoholic drinks flowed freely. Herodias realized that this was her chance. She sent her daughter to dance for Herod. Herod was flattered. He offered to give her anything she wanted. She asked for the head of John the Baptist. King Herod was stuck. He had given his word. He was too drunk to think of a way out. So he sent soldiers to behead John the Baptist. John's mission had been accomplished. *Amen*

*Ben Dammasch,
Queensland, Australia*



John the Baptist in front of Herod

THE 144,000

ARE THEY LITERAL, HAVE SOME DIED?



Only in Revelation Chapter 7 and 14 do we find mentioned in the Bible about the 144,000.

These two chapters help us to locate them in space and time.

Definition: A number of the sealed among the children of Israel (Revelation 7:4)

- a) Group of People
- b) A determined group of People
- c) Clearly defined

The above definition is literal, we can also find a spiritual definition

- a) Souls (People)
- b) Church (determined number)
- c) Sealed
- d) Servants of God

We can determine that they are people in the church that receive a seal.

“Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.” Revelation 7:5-8. There are sealed twelve thousand of each tribe, it means that those that will be sealed have a difference of character.

“Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads” Revelation 7:3 There is broader information the sealed are called servants of God.” And after these

things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was the winds until the servants of God are sealed.”

Before the major catastrophes happen on this earth the servants of God, the 144,000 need to be sealed.

The 144,000 are framed in a prophetic time period: 1) Time of the end, 2) in a Time of grace 3) Time of sealing and 4) Time of judgment. We know as Seventh Day Adventists that the time of Judgment began in the year 1844, prophetically also the time of the sealing began in the same time period, also the beginning of the time of the end began in 1844.

In Revelation Chapter 14 we read that the 144,000 are in heaven. “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.” Revelation 14:1 They are with Christ in Heaven. “And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty four thousand, which were *redeemed from the earth*” Revelation 14:3. They sing a song that only they could sing for they are redeemed from the earth. It is a literal number of people that will be sealed no more or less, exact number only 144,000 men and women.

They sing a song of deliverance from sin and have now gained the victory

through Jesus Christ.” These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were *redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.*” Revelation 14:4. Not defiled with women, means not defiled with other doctrines or churches, they live the present truth and are not defiling themselves with other doctrines. They are virgins, again they keep and live the present truth. We need to understand that these are spiritual terms, we are called to be a holy and pure people. Not to be following every wind of doctrine that may come our way. “To the Law and to the Testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”. Isaiah 8:20

We have a second confirmation they are redeemed from among men as first fruits. The first and the best, they are saved but not only, they are the first fruit of the crop. The 144,000 don’t represent all the harvest or to say all the saved, they are only the first fruit. They are a special group of people. “And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God”. Revelation 14:5. The special number of people are faithful members that belong to the Church of God at the time of the end. “I will leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and *they shall trust in the name of the Lord.* The *remnant of Israel* shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies;.....” Zephaniah 3:12,13. We are poor in the spirit, we are afflicted by the snares of Satan and sins, and daily we need to trust in the name of

the Lord. We are not recognized by our numbers but because we trust in the Lord, not because of riches but because we trust in the Lord. We are called again to be a Holy and Spotless church, we will only reach this goal as we learn to trust in the Lord.

We continue reading in Revelation 7:9 **“After this** I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;” Now the scenery changes we are told of a great multitude that no man could count, it is not talking of the 144,000, but of another group. And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood around the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever, Amen. “Revelation 7:10-12 It continues giving us information about the great multitude in these verses we just read. They sing a different song with another exclamation, the 144,000 we read before sing a new song that no one else can sing but them.

It is interesting as we continue reading in Chapter 7, the great multitude are before the elders and they have been introduced already but the 144,000 have not yet been introduced and the question comes up. “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, **What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence come they?**” Revelation 7:13 In Revelation 7 there are presented before us two groups that are in heaven the first from verse 9-12 and the second from verse 13-17, the second group are clearly the 144,000. **“And I said unto him, Sir thou knowest, and he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation,**

and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. “Revelation 7:14,15.

What tribulation do the 144,000 need to go through? The great tribulation or time of anguish is found in Daniel 12:1”And **at that time** shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: **and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:** and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” When it says “at that time” as students in prophecy we are able to understand that it is referring to **the time of the end.** “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21 In the Book Desire of Ages in reference to the 24th Chapter of Matthew there are three prophetic projections to this verse. 1) Destruction of Jerusalem 2) The reign of the Papacy 3) Time of the End. As we try to understand the great tribulation the 144,000 will go through, when is the big tribulation coming for God’s people? The book Great Controversy chapter 40 “The Time of Anguish” Tells us that the time of Anguish for God’s People in the time of the End will be at the time of Jacob’s Trouble it will be a time of internal and external anguish. The world will also be going through a time of anguish at the same time. The great tribulation will be when the seven last plagues are poured out upon the earth.

“They shall hunger no more, neither

thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.” Revelation 7:16. When it says “they” who is it referring to? We were reading from the verses before about the 144,000 we can see that the protection continues with the same group of people they shall hunger no more neither shall the heat affect them. “For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

Revelation 7:17 These verses are referring to the time of the plagues when the 144,000 go through the time of anguish it says that He shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. We can say that God’s people will have cried much as they go through the time of anguish.



Let us do a little review, we read in Revelation 14:1-5 that the 144,000 are in heaven, they are the only one’s that may sing the song of Moses (of victory). We also read about the characteristics of these special people. When we are introduced in chapter 14:6-12 it talks to us about the message for the time of the end. Beginning from the year 1844 until the present time, the First, Second and Third angel’s messages have been preached. When we read verse 13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:** Yea: saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” Why does it say Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth? It must be for a special reason. The pioneers of the Adventist Movement all have died, they have lived and preached the Third Angels Message, the Lord calls them Blessed because they die in a special time period, the time of the end, they believe in the Sabbath and have preached

against Sunday observance and against the institution that changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. The Lord will do a special work with those that have died in the faith of the Third Angels Message.

In Daniel 12:2 “And many of them sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” All who die in the Lord are blessed but those who die from “Henceforth” receive a special blessing. Why? Because they take part in the special resurrection. The Blessing is they rest in time of trouble. When shall the resurrection be? At the voice of God. When is the voice of God? “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; **and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne,** saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” Revelation 16:17,18. In the beginning of the seventh plague is when this great earthquake happens, part of the 144,000 that have died resurrect at the Voice of God in that moment. Who came up from the graves? All who have died in the Third Angel’s message -keeping the Sabbath and those that pierced him.

This event is called the partial resurrection. Let us remember that the plagues continue one after the other, they resurrect in the beginning of the seventh plague. They will see all the chaos going on around them where they have resurrected, the question comes up how will they suffer the time of trouble, they will suffer in part but not as much as those that will live through the whole time of trouble(seven plagues). At that moment the living 144,000 and those that have resurrected will be all living,

and will pass through Jacob’s Trouble together.

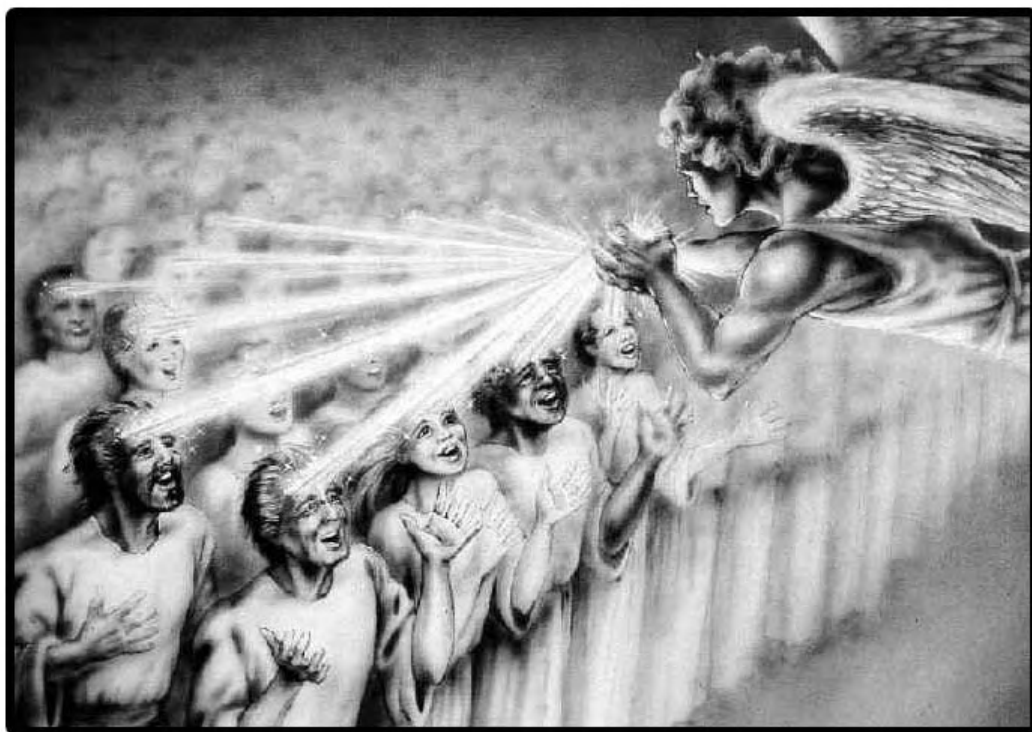
Conclusion

1. We are not saved until we are sealed “The Lord would teach man the lesson that though united in church capacity, he is **not saved until the seal of God is placed upon him.**” Vol 7 Bible Commentary p.969

2. Let us strive to be among the 144,000 “**Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.**” Vol. 7 Bible Commentary p.970 Let us look at the word “among” used in the Bible. **Numbers 17:6** “and Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according

that would make only 12 rods. **Among in this case means a part of.** Another example “The Saviour did not repulse Judas. He gave him **a place among the twelve**” Desire of Ages p.717 I was shown that the fact that Judas **was numbered among the twelve**, with all his faults and defects of character, is an instructive lesson, one by the study of which Christians may be profited.” Vol 4 Testimonies for the Church p.41 The question is, were there 13 disciples or only 12 with Judas among them?

May the Lord help us to serve him and walk with him here on this earth and to remember that we are called as Seventh Day Adventists of the Reform Movement to be part of this special number of people. It is a literal number, no more or less, there will be two

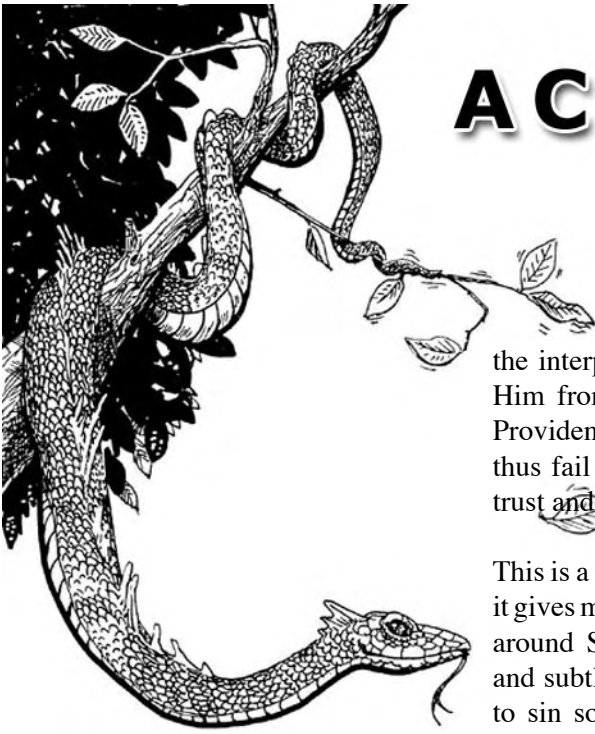


to their fathers’ houses, even twelve rods: **and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.**” Numbers 17:6 **Were there 13 rods or only 12?** “And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into to the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, **the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded...**” Numbers 17:8 Aaron’s rod was for the house of Levi. This means that the house of Levi had only one rod, and that rod was Aaron’s,

groups of saved in heaven. Our goal is to strive to be among the 144,000, or we will not make it. This is what God wants us to know. Is my desire in the Name of Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

Servant in Christ, Joshua Martinez

ACCUSATION



the interposition of His Father to save Him from death. He would not force Providence to come to His rescue, and thus fail of giving man an example of trust and submission.” DA 125

This is a very precious promise because it gives mankind hope that there is a way around Satan’s very well thought out and subtle deceits. Also we don’t have to sin so when we come to the judgement

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Satan works in many ways to try to cause people to sin. One way that he has found to be quite successful is by using accusation. Not only does Satan accuse people to Jesus and the angels, he also causes men to accuse each other on this earth. But Satan can’t force us to sin. Sin is our freewill choice.

“The tempter can never compel us to do evil. He cannot control minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent, faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his power upon us. But every sinful desire we cherish affords him a foothold. Every point in which we fail of meeting the divine standard is an open door by which he can enter to tempt and destroy us. And every failure or defeat on our part gives occasion for him to reproach Christ.

“When Satan quoted the promise, “He shall give His angels charge over Thee,” he omitted the words, “to keep Thee in all Thy ways;” that is, in all the ways of God’s choosing. Jesus refused to go outside the path of obedience. While manifesting perfect trust in His Father, He would not place Himself, unbidden, in a position that would necessitate



excuse for our sin. If we want we can surrender ourselves to God and then Satan can never come near us. It’s only if we give him the necessary room that he comes in to tempt us to sin.

In the Bible there are a few places recorded where we see Satan accusing. First there was the time in the Garden of Eden where Satan was accusing God to Eve. “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not

eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3:1-5. Here we read about the time Lucifer was blaming God for withholding something good from them instead of telling the truth that God was only withholding the knowledge of evil for their own Good. This is what Satan so often does even today. He makes everything of the world look so great and he makes God look like He is unjust and trying to withhold something good from us, when in reality God is really just doing it for our own good.

Then there is the story of Job. “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.” Job 1:8-11. Here Satan is accusing God of making Job’s life too easy. His accusation was that of course Job would be good because of the blessings the Lord was giving him but this was not true. Jesus allowed Satan to put Job through a very difficult test to prove to him that there were righteous people on the earth at that time. It is the same today. When

calamity falls upon us we are so quick to blame God when, in reality, He is just testing us to see if we will stay true to the course He has designed our lives to follow.

We also have the story of Joshua, the high priest. "And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zechariah 3:1-4. Satan is accusing Joshua the high priest of all

We just have to let Him and He will be there, ready to wash our garments from the filthy colour they are to a pure white colour that is exactly in line with His character.

In the Bible we are told who is behind all accusation. "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." Revelation 12:10. Satan in this verse is accusing the church of many different sins. Even if they are true the Lord will cover them up if we ask Him for forgiveness. When we repent, the Lord casts our sins into the depths of the sea, but Satan always remembers them and will bring them up over and over again. That is Satan's one goal in this world at such a late stage - to accuse the brethren and do anything to bring about our downfall.

There is a very real danger that people on this earth can let Satan into their lives and start accusing the brethren just like he does. If we start talking about people's sins and lifestyle in a very negative way as if we were condemning them we are listening to Satan's voice. If we see people's sins it is our duty to help them up back to where they first saw the light and not tell anyone else about their sin but just go to them personally. Even though Satan is like a roaring lion we can overcome him through the power of Christ.

If we ask the Lord, we may resist temptation, and force Satan to depart from us. Jesus gained the victory through submission and faith in God, and by the apostle He says to us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." James 4:7, 8.

"We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but "the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Prov. 18:10. Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name." DA 130/131

May God help us to not listen to Satan and accuse other people, but look to Jesus who is our refuge and help in time of trouble. And if other people accuse us, we don't have to let it discourage us. Jesus said, "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;" John 15:20. Many people hated Jesus and accused Him of so many false things, and it will be no different for us if we follow the Lord. **AMEN**

Richard Eaton



Daniel In The Lion's Den

his sins he had committed.

The Lord rebuked Satan and takes away the high priest's sin obviously because He must have repented of his sins. The Lord wants to take our sin away as well.

How thankful we can be to the Lord for dying on the cross for us so Satan is no longer the ruler of this world and Jesus has control over him so he can't take his power very far.

"AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?"



When I was a young boy, in standard three, our teacher asked us the simple, as he thought question to which we gave more than two answers. "And who is your neighbor?" he asked. One said, "Is a person living next to our compound." Another said, "Is a person sitting next to me on my desk." Yet another said, "is that family that we often pay visits every holiday and celebrate joyfully. The last answer, I remember, was "are all whom we fellowship together with in the same church."

In the holy bible, we are told of a certain man who wanted to know whom to regard as his neighbor (Luke 10:29) so that he would love him as he loved himself. The lawyer had knowledge and had understood that Jesus was a teacher, teaching people what to do to inherit eternal life. The great teacher whom many had accepted as "sent from above" never hesitated to answer the lawyer whose need was to inherit the heavenly kingdom from which Jesus had descended. But mainly he wanted to test him.

In reference to the first answer, those persons living adjacent to our homes

are the bitterest enemies in that in time of adversity they rejoice and say "he deserved it." The closest people, mostly in our region, are the ones that extend the boundaries of their plots illegally to their neighborhood. Then, who are our neighbors? Where are our neighbors? Neighbors to love as we love ourselves?

The lawyer was a student of scriptures, that's why Jesus asked him, "what is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" With breathless attention, the large congregation awaited the answer. As a Christian, a reformer on any continent that God has people who do not wish to be passed by His coming, do you identify your neighbor as an individual you share religious matters with in the church? Our neighbor does not merely mean one in the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction (COL 376), no distinction on account of nationality. He is the maker of all mankind. All are men of one family by creation and all are one through redemption. (COL 386). God who made the world and everything in it, He is Lord of heaven and earth. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth. Acts 17:24, 26.

Our neighbor is every person who needs our help. Our neighbor is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbor is the property of God.

(COL 376) The Levite; curious to know what had happened to the wounded and bruised man, weltering in his own blood, stopped and looked at the sufferer. He wished that he had not come that way so that he would not have seen the wounded man. He then passed by on the other side. Likewise, the priest had done it, except the Samaritan. The Good Samaritan, who had compassion, bandaged his wounds, pouring oil on and wine; and he set home on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two Denarii's, gave them to the inn-keeper, and said to him, "take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again I'll repay you."

Our profession may be as high as heaven, but it will save neither our fellow men nor ourselves unless we are Christians. A right example will do more to benefit the world than all our profession. Many will allow a brother or a neighbor to struggle unaided under adverse circumstances and yet the scripture states clearly that "deal thy bread to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul" when you see the naked, that thou cover him and bring the poor that are cast out to thy house. Isaiah 58:7-10. The Lord says, give and it shall be given unto you. He that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly, and he that soweth with blessings shall reap with blessings. The means in our possession may not seem to be sufficient for the work; but if we move forward in faith, believing in the all sufficient power of God, He Himself will provide the means for its accomplishment. (DA 371) Most of our brethren can't understand the pain, or afflictions of a poor man



who sleeps angry, yawning in the biting cold of the night without a covering. Really it is hard to believe all this and many more. It is also hard to persevere these unfriendly conditions. Poverty, extreme poverty is more than slavery. Denied basic needs in your own home. God says, in our days, the poor will not cease to exist. (Col 3:8) All around us are poor, tried souls that need sympathizing words and helpful deeds. There are widows who need sympathy and assistance. There are orphans whom Christ has bidden his followers to receive as a trust from God. Too often these are passed by with neglect. They may be rugged, uncouth, and seemingly in every way unattractive; yet they are God's property. They have been bought with a price, and they are as precious in his sight as we are. "Their souls," he says, "Will I require at thine hand." Jesus asked the lawyer and the congregation "so which of these three do you think was neighbor to him which fell among thieves. Luke 10:36,37. "He who showed mercy on him, the lawyer replied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7.

A certain teacher asked his students whether they were capable of joining the university without attempting the final national exams. They agreed. "Yes sir, we are able." But then the word was not enough. Their deed in exam was very necessary. And now a pastor can ask, "are we merciful?" The Lord wants us to learn kindness, love unselfishness in our daily lives, for we can't come in touch with divinity without coming in touch with humanity. (Col 3:8) He

permits us to come in contact with the suffering and calamity in order to call us out of our selfishness. He seeks to develop in us the attributes of His character--compassion, tenderness and love. By accepting His work of ministry, we place ourselves in His school to be fitted for the court of God. By rejecting it, we reject his instruction and separation from his presence.

The lawyer acknowledged that the Samaritan deserved eternal life and so he said, he who showed mercy in him. Then Jesus said to him, go and do likewise. We are told of one

Thy brother, sick in spirit, needs thee, as though thyself hast needed a brother's love. He needs the eye of one who has been as weak as he, one who can sympathize with him and help him. The knowledge of our weakness should help us to help another in his bitter need. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him the comfort where with we are comforted of God. Speak to him hopeful words, words that will establish confidence and awaken love.

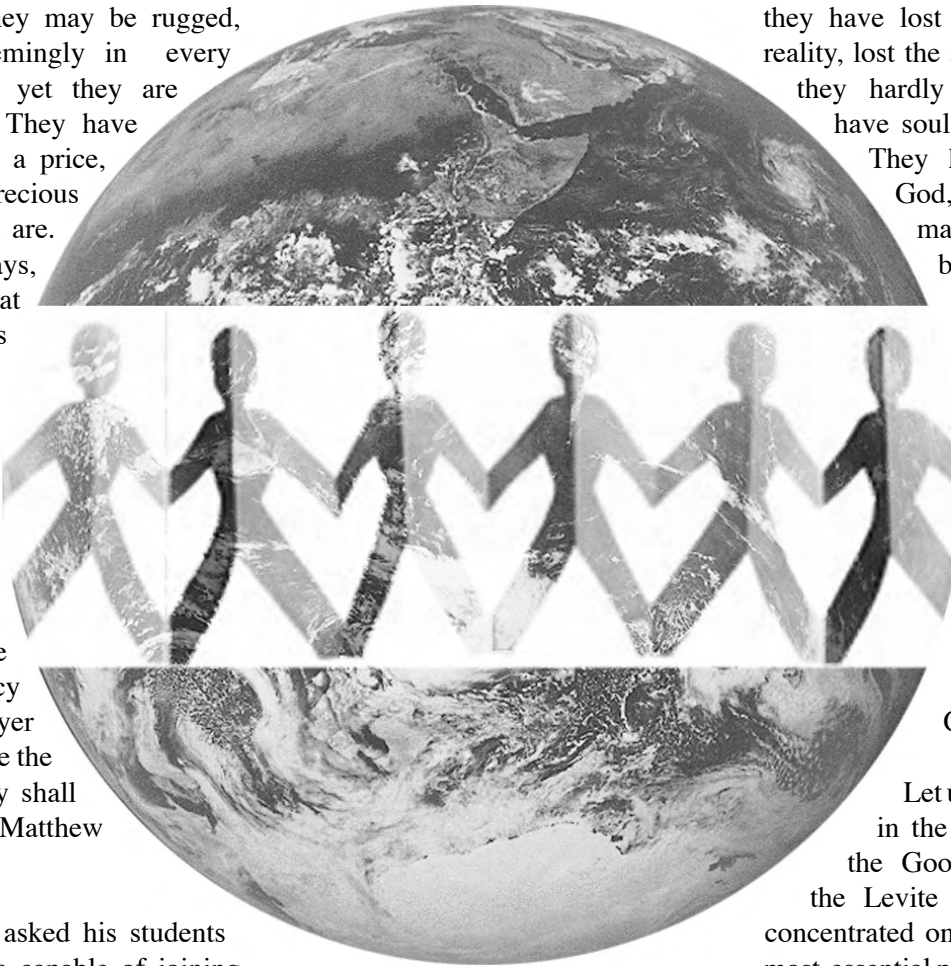
Multitudes are so sunken in sin that they have lost the sense of eternal reality, lost the similitude of God and they hardly know whether they have souls to be saved or not.

They have neither faith in God, nor confidence in man. Many of these can be reached only through acts of disinterested kindness. Their physical wants must first be cared for. They must be fed, cleansed, and decently clothed. As they see the evidence of your unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ.

Let us demonstrate our faith in the deeds of mercy, like the Good Samaritan and not the Levite and the priest who concentrated on rituals and forgot the most essential part of the living religion of Christ. Let the Lord of hosts work in us, to move us in doing this divine work for humanity, the property of God through creation and redemption. May peace and the grace of God be unto us all! **AMEN.**

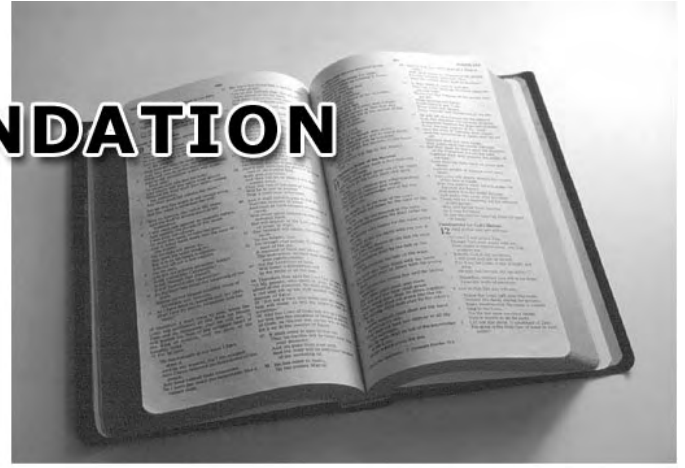
Charles Mogunde, Kenya

generous priest who gave courage to the discouraged, substance to the poor, and his heart to God. This should be in us. Give what you have; share with brethren what God has blessed you with. To the wounded who are weltering in their own blood in this miserable world. You may wonder, "what do I have?" You have something that your neighbor is missing.





A SURE FOUNDATION



When you are building a house, the most important part is the part you do not see when the structure is completed. The part that must be made with extreme care in order to keep the house standing - if this part is not done correctly then the rest of the building will not have any strength. This important part is the foundation. It is not only important how well you build the foundation; it is also very important where you put the foundation. In a parable Jesus told of two men who built houses, one built his house on a rock and the other man built his house on the sand. The one that was built on a firm foundation stood firm during the storm. The one on the sand fell flat. The same materials may have been used for both buildings, however only one had its foundation sure. When the house is complete the foundation is not seen, but it still must be built with extreme care in order for the building to stand in the tempest and storms that will come upon it.

We are building a spiritual house and therefore we also need a good foundation. That foundation must be built on the rock - Jesus Christ. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure" 2 Timothy 2:19. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor 3:11 Jesus must be the foundation of the church, and He must also be the foundation of our religious experience. This foundation stands sure. Nothing can move us if we are on this foundation. We don't see Jesus, but if a person has built his foundation on Jesus, it will be seen in their lives. Their spiritual building will weather all storms and crises in life.

There is another foundation that is

mentioned in the book of Hebrews and this foundation is also a very important foundation in order for our structure to stand sure. The majority of the Christian world rejects this foundation. "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." Heb. 6:1. This foundation is repentance. But the house must be built on the foundation. We can't remain with the foundation only and keep rebuilding the foundation.

When the Jews were pricked in their hearts from the preaching of Peter after Jesus' resurrection they asked him what they should do and the first thing Peter said was to 'repent'. This was the

foundation - this was the beginning of their journey.

Although repentance is the first step in the right direction, we cannot repent without the help of Jesus. He asks us to come to Him and share our yoke with Him in our present condition and He will lead us to true repentance.

It is "the goodness of God [that] leadeth thee to repentance" Romans 2:4 Only the goodness of God can lead us to true repentance.

Repentance is a foreign concept in some religious circles. It is a seemingly impossible task to be like Christ - to put away sin and live a righteous life. They conclude that God understands this fact and would never make such unreasonable demands as repentance

and turning away from sin. So you may as well not even try. Continue living your life as you have been and you can still be saved. They go as far as to misinterpret the true nature of Christ when He came to this earth. They claim that He, as God, had an advantage over us and therefore we should not even attempt to live a sinless life like He did. It is impossible. However my Bible reads, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:12. Therefore, if He can do it, we can also as long as we have a good foundation.

Repentance. Why do we repent? Why are we serving the Lord? Why have we been placed on planet earth today? Is it simply because we are actors in a play to entertain the thousands of angels and unfallen beings?

"The world is a theatre; the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. With the great masses of mankind there is no unity, except as men confederate to accomplish their selfish purposes. God is looking on. His purposes in regard to His rebellious subjects will be fulfilled. The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last great scenes in the drama--Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness

in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of

the enemy. The cause will be followed by the effect.” 8T 27/8. No, there is more to it than mere entertainment. It is a life and death matter – forever. Once all is over, there is no changing. Today is the day that we can make a difference, by beginning to build correctly.

Why do we repent? Is it just a ritual – a ceremony that is a part of our religious experience that will gain us entrance into the deeper things of God? Is it a way of obtaining God’s approval after we have disobeyed His express commands? That is one reason why children and young people often repent to their parents. They are troubled by the fact that their parents are upset with them and they want to make matters right.

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:” Matthew 3:8 Repentance includes much more than confession of sin, although in the preaching of John the Baptist confession of sin was included. Theologically the word includes not only a change of mind but also a new direction of the will, an altered purpose and attitude.

REPENTANCE MEANS A CHANGE OF MIND

“A man who repents, evaluates his past actions, weighs them in the moral scale, repudiates all unworthy motives and acts, and by the grace of God exchanges the old carnal mind for the mind of Christ. He is transformed by the renewing of his mind. Repentance is not primarily an emotional experience; it is rather a deep process affecting the mind and life, issuing in a new creature so that “old things are passed away” and “all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17.” 7BC 432.

Thus repentance implies a right about face, a change of mind, and purpose and life. It means more than simply sorrow for sin.

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7 We do not repent in order that we may receive God’s love; it was ours ‘while we were yet sinners’ It is God’s goodness, His love and longsuffering that leads us to repentance. And all of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents.

As I said, repentance denotes a change of mind, and implies that the change is for the better and produces good results.

A reformation of the life is an infinitely more decisive test of the value of repentance than the depth of one’s grief.

Repentance was the keynote of the preaching of John the Baptist, of Jesus and of the apostles. True repentance brings joy to the heavenly beings.

“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” 2 Cor 7:9, 10.

True repentance is a repentance that you will not regret. Worldly sorrow consists of regret for the consequences of sin rather than for the sin itself, and at being discredited before the world and worldly friends. Worldly sorrow plays only upon the surface of the problem. It mounts no higher than the man himself, and his own feelings. It leads to future regret and to deeper distress. It fills the mind with discontent, the heart with resentment. It embitters and shortens

life. A person who truly repents will never regret having done so. Indeed, the ‘sorrow of the world’ often compounds misery by pushing a man into further folly. It leads to ruin and to death.

“Him hath God exalted with his right hand [to be] a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.” Acts 5:31 Repentance is necessary in order to receive forgiveness. Forgiveness then is a gift from the Father and the Son. A righteous and just God cannot accept a sinner into His presence except as the sinner by faith knows Jesus Christ as the sin bearer and accepts Him as his personal Saviour. Through His work as sin bearer the sins of the repentant one are remitted or taken away and he stands justified in His sight.

SAUL

King Saul committed a terrible sin, and at first he did not feel any guilt. Samuel was troubled about it and hoped that he would feel remorse for his sin, repent and be restored into favour with God. The king was commanded to annihilate the Amalekite population – all people, animals and material goods. However he disobeyed God and kept the animals.

When Samuel questioned the king about the animals that were spared, Saul blamed the people. However he was king and the people were simply obeying his command. At this point in time Samuel told King Saul that he had been rejected by God and that someone else, outside of his family, would be made the next king.

“As the king heard this fearful sentence he cried out, “I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.” Terrified by the denunciation of the prophet, Saul acknowledged his guilt, which he had before stubbornly denied; but he still persisted in casting blame upon the people, declaring that he had

sinned through fear of them.” PP 631. King Saul felt no remorse for his sin up until the punishment was announced.

“It was not sorrow for sin, but fear of its penalty, that actuated the king of Israel as he entreated Samuel, “I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me,

displeasure of God. He knew that the people had greater confidence in the prophet than in himself. Should another by divine command be now anointed king, Saul felt that it would be impossible to maintain his own authority. He feared an immediate revolt should Samuel utterly forsake him. Saul

“His crime in the case of Uriah and Bathsheba was heinous in the sight of God. A just and impartial God did not sanction or excuse these sins in David, but sends a reproof, and heavy denunciation by Nathan, his prophet, which portrays in living colours his grievous offence. David had been



that I may worship the Lord.” If Saul had had true repentance, he would have made public confession of his sin; but it was his chief anxiety to maintain his authority and retain the allegiance of the people. He desired the honour of Samuel’s presence in order to strengthen his own influence with the nation.

“As Samuel turned to depart, the king, in an agony of fear, laid hold of his mantle to hold him back, but it rent

entreated the prophet to honour him before the elders and the people by publicly uniting with him in a religious service. By divine direction Samuel yielded to the king’s request, that no occasion might be given for a revolt. But he remained only as a silent witness of the service.” PP 631/2

King Saul’s repentance was purely from selfish motives. Although he seemed terrified at being rejected by God, his repentance made no change in his lifestyle.

blinded to his wonderful departure from God. He had excused his own sinful course to himself, until his ways seemed passable in his own eyes. One wrong step had prepared the way for another, until his sins called for the rebuke from Jehovah through Nathan. David awakens as from a dream. He feels the sense of his sin. He does not seek to excuse his course, or palliate his sin, as did Saul; but with remorse and sincere grief, he bows his head before the prophet of God, and acknowledges his



in his hands. Upon this, the prophet declared, “The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.”

“Saul was more disturbed by the alienation of Samuel than by the

DAVID

David committed a seemingly more grievous sin than did King Saul. He committed adultery with one of his most trustworthy soldiers while he, Uriah, was away fighting a war. Then he went on to have the man killed. However his repentance was more genuine.

guilt. Nathan tells David that because of his repentance, and humble confession, God will forgive his sin, and avert a part of the threatened calamity, and spare his life. Yet he should be punished, because he had given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme. The enemies of God, from David’s day

until the present time, have improved this occasion. Sceptics have assailed Christianity, and ridiculed the Bible, because David gave them occasion. They bring up to Christians the case of David, his sin in the case of Uriah and Bathsheba, his polygamy, and then assert that David is called a man after

EXAMPLES OF INSINCERE REPENTANCE.

Cain also killed a man, but received no pardon because his repentance was not genuine. "And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment [is] greater than I can bear." Genesis 4:13 Cain only looked at the punishment and not

the birthright was lost to him forever. Balaam, terrified by the angel standing in his pathway with drawn sword, acknowledged his guilt lest he should lose his life; but there was no genuine repentance for sin, no conversion of purpose, no abhorrence of evil. Judas Iscariot, after betraying his



God's own heart, and if the Bible record is correct, God justified David in his crimes." 4SG 86/7. But these critics have no concept of the forgiveness and mercy of God or in the final punishment for unrepentant sinners.

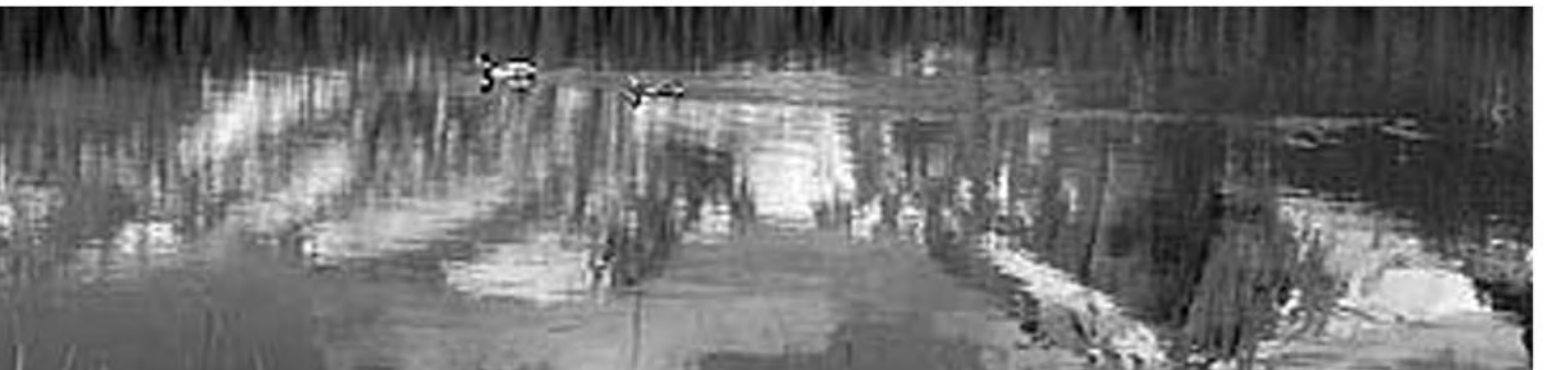
God doesn't consider our past sins thinking that some are too evil to be forgiven. There is not one sin that God cannot forgive. He can forgive the most grievous as well as the smallest sin. Each sin also, whatever size, will keep

once did he acknowledge that he has sinned and caused grief to not only God, but to his parents. Yet God still had mercy on Cain.

"Notwithstanding that Cain had by his crimes merited the sentence of death, a merciful Creator still spared his life, and granted him opportunity for repentance. But Cain lived only to harden his heart, to encourage rebellion against the divine authority, and to become the head of a line of bold, abandoned sinners." PP 78

Lord, exclaimed, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." Matthew 27:4.

"The confession was forced from his guilty soul by an awful sense of condemnation and a fearful looking for of judgment. The consequences that were to result to him filled him with terror, but there was no deep, heartbreaking grief in his soul, that he had betrayed the spotless Son of God and denied the Holy One of



us out of heaven, however what God looks at is the repentance. Once we've repented – if it is a genuine repentance then our foundation is laid and we can start to build on it.

"Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense. They lament the suffering rather than the sin. Such was the grief of Esau when he saw that

Israel. Pharaoh, when suffering under the judgments of God, acknowledged his sin in order to escape further punishment, but returned to his defiance of Heaven as soon as the plagues were stayed. These all lamented the results of sin, but did not sorrow for the sin itself." SC 23, 24

LUCIFER – REFUSED TO REPENT WHEN HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY

Lucifer repented when he was cast out of heaven. He was fearful as to what a life separated from God would be all about. But his repentance was only a repentance like King Saul – sorrow for the results. Should he have been re-instated in heaven, he would have continued in his work of rebellion.

“God in His great mercy bore long with Lucifer. He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels.

this, he might have saved himself and many angels. He had not at this time fully cast off his allegiance to God. Though he had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator’s wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God’s great plan, he would have been reinstated in his office. But pride forbade him to submit. He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in the great controversy, against his Maker. GC 495/6. This is true with many today. They refuse to repent when their sins are pointed out and they make excuses to try to justify their position. Often

“Long years of living for earthly pursuits had deprived Esau of the capacity to bear the more serious responsibilities of life. By his own choice his mind and character had become fixed.... He repented of having sold his birthright. He wished he had it back again, but realized that his decision was irrevocable. He had lost it forever. No arbitrary act of God kept Esau from receiving the inheritance that would normally have been his. His own character disqualified him for its privileges and responsibilities.” 7BC 786.

“If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame.” Hebrews 6:6

The extent of the fall is judged by the privileges enjoyed. This does not imply that there is a point where God will refuse to let man repent. Rather that man has lost all desire for repentance. The case is not that of a man seeking to return to God, finding repentance impossible, but that of a man with no desire to return to the experience from which he has fallen away.

IN SECRET

Why did some of these men repent? It was because they had been found out and were facing punishment? Often young people like to do things in secret and they figure that as long as their parents, or some other adults, don’t know then it is ok. Once their parents find out, then they suddenly repent for fear of punishment.

Some people love to gossip. Is it ok, as long as the person who we are talking about never finds out? It sometimes happens that the person spoken about does find out and then, we feel so embarrassed and we apologize and repent – why? Because we hurt this person or because we were found out and we want to save face? The golden rule is, ‘don’t say anything behind a



Esau Sells His Birthright

Long was he retained in heaven. Again and again he was offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission. Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise were made to convince him of his error. The spirit of discontent had never before been known in heaven. Lucifer himself did not at first see whither he was drifting; he did not understand the real nature of his feelings. But as his dissatisfaction was proved to be without cause, Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong, that the divine claims were just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven. Had he done

they will finally leave God’s church in defiance, claiming they were offended by some of the people. They are following Lucifer in severing their connection with God and His people.

ESAU – UNABLE TO REPENT

“Lest there [be] any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” Hebrews 12:16,17

person's back that you would not say to their face or it is sin.'

Don't do anything in secret that you are not ashamed to tell your parents, friends or bothers and sisters in the faith. After all it is written down in the heavenly book anyway and all of heaven knows about it. What we do in secret will reveal what our foundation is built on.

Ask yourself why do you repent? Is it because you are ashamed that you have been found out? Is it because you are afraid of losing heaven? Is it because you are fearful of the second death? Or is it because you love Jesus?

How can we manufacture love for Jesus when it does not exist in our cold stony hearts? It is an impossibility – it is not something that happens overnight. It is one thing to say you love Jesus on a wave of emotion after a beautiful sermon that you have heard. It is another thing to say you love Jesus in the seemingly mundane duties of every day life. Jesus promised us that, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezekiel. 36:26. If Jesus helps us to lay a good foundation, then there will be love in our hearts. He will help us lay a foundation centred on love.

There are some secrets that are good to keep. The widow gave her two mites when no one was looking, or so she thought. Jesus saw her do it though. People on this earth make a big deal about outward show – but neglect the weightier matters of the law – justice mercy, and repentance. "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you,

They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Mat. 6:4-6

Repentance is a secret thing. While some repentance must be made publicly, still only God can read the motive in your heart. A man named Nicolici made a big mistake in 1948 and he repented of his mistake. The leading brethren accepted his repentance and gave him the office of secretary of the

of Israel by his false repentance, and therefore he was able to rally quite a number of his subjects around him in his attempt to kill his successor, David.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

It is well to lay a good foundation, but the one who does not build on it will never have a finished structure. We



General Conference. However, a few years later it was seen how genuine his repentance was. His foundation had been built on sifting sand. It was as the repentance of Cain and King Saul. He repented because he was caught in his falsehood. Later it was seen that there was no change in his life. A few years after, this false repentance was seen in its true light by God's faithful followers. Unfortunately some people were deceived by his 'repentance' and followed him out of God's church. King Saul deceived many in the nation

can't keep laying a foundation over and over again. At some point in time we have to start to build.

May God help us to understand the true nature of repentance so that we can repent, and pray like David when we have sinned, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10. And lay a good foundation for our spiritual house. **AMEN**

Wendy Eaton



ARE ALL MY SINS FORGIVEN?

This is one of the most important questions we can ask. Our eternal life depends on it. Even one unforgiven sin will take our salvation away. David writes, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Ps. 32:1.

God wants to forgive us our sins, but we must first fulfill the conditions for it. We may pray every day to God to forgive us, but if we do not do our part then the sins will remain in the books of heaven and condemn us in the day of judgment.

To be forgiven means to be justified. This is righteousness imputed. The merit of Christ is counted in our favour. We cannot earn forgiveness, it is a free gift of God. yet there is something we must do in order to receive this gift. "His righteousness is imputed only to the obedient." B.C. 6, p. 1072.

"From Genesis to Revelation the conditions upon which eternal life is promised, are made plain. God requires that those who shall enter heaven shall be without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Keep My commandments and live, is the requirement of God." R. H., Sept. 3, 1901.

"There are conditions to our receiving justification... While good works will not save even one soul, yet it is impossible for even one soul to be saved without good works." S.M. 1, p. 377.

"All will be justified by their faith

and judged by their works." Test. Vol. 4, p. 386.

"The only question asked in the judgment will be, 'Have they been obedient to My commandments?'" G.W., p. 315.

"From a sense of thorough conviction, you can then testify to men of the immutable character of the law manifested by the death of Christ on the cross, the malignant nature of sin, and the righteousness of God in justifying the believer in Jesus on condition of his future obedience to the statutes of God's government in heaven and earth." R.H. April 24, 1888.

Without obedience there is no justification. When we stop sinning then we know that we have been forgiven.

Before God forgives our sins we must first repent and confess all our known sins. Repentance means sorrow for the sins we have committed. When we truly hate sins and wish that we had never done them, then God will accept our repentance. True repentance includes hunger and thirst for righteousness.

"True repentance is more than sorrow for sin. It is resolute turning away from evil." P.P. 557.

Some leave their repentance later, because for a while yet they want to enjoy the pleasure of sin.

"I was forcibly reminded of death-bed repentance. Some who serve themselves and Satan all their life, as sickness subdues them, and a fearful uncertainty is before them, manifest some sorrow for sin, and their friends make themselves believe they were converted and fitted for heaven. But if they would recover, would they not be as rebellious as ever? I was reminded of Prov. 1:27, 28." 2 Spiritual Gifts, p. 86.

"Esau thought, if I now sell it (the birthright), I can easily buy it back. He bartered it away for a favourite dish, flattering himself that he could dispose of it at will and buy it back at pleasure. But when he sought to buy it back, even at a great sacrifice on his part, he was not able to do so. He then bitterly repented his rashness, his folly, this madness. He looked the matter over on every side. He sought for repentance carefully and with tears, but it was all in vain. He had despised the blessing, and the Lord removed it from him forever." Test. Vol. 2, p. 39.

True repentance is only possible by the Holy Spirit. Many people repent for the fear of punishment and not for the genuine sorrow for sin. This kind of repentance will not bring forgiveness to us. When people are in difficulty and in trouble or sickness they need God's help but because of their sins they think that God cannot answer their prayers, therefore they do repent but this kind of repentance is seldom genuine.

With repentance, confession is also necessary.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Prov. 18:13.

“We must confess our sins, and humble our hearts before God. He made heartbroken confessions and then stepped up to several of the brethren one after another, and extended his hand, asking forgiveness. Those to whom he spoke sprang to their feet, making confession and asking forgiveness, and they fell upon one another’s necks, weeping. The spirit of confession spread through the entire congregation. It was a Pentecostal season. God’s praises were sung, and far into the night, until nearly morning, the work was carried on... No one seemed to be proud to make heartfelt confession, and those who

led in this work were the ones who had influence, but had not before had courage to confess their sins.” Test. Vol. 8, p. 105.

The sins will not grow old and disappear from the books of heaven. They remain until a confession is made. We confess to God and also to the people whom we have sinned against.

With the confession of sins a restitution is necessary. If we have neglected to pay tithes for some time, it is not acceptable to God to ask forgiveness without making a restitution of the back tithes to the church.

“One brother had not paid tithes for two years. He gave his note to the secretary of the conference for the tithe he had withheld and the interest on it, amounting \$571.50. Another gave his note for \$300.00... Another gave his note for \$1000.00.” Test. Vol. 5, p. 643.

Sister White writes that the sin of evil speaking of others is so serious an offense that only by public confession can forgiveness be obtained.

We will never feel true happiness and peace in our hearts until all our sins are forgiven.

When this happens we are then justified and the work of sanctification will begin from that moment on.

Pray to God to bring to your mind the sins that you may have forgotten and confess them without delay and make a restitution to whom it may belong, to God, to another person, or to the government. Not until this is done are you ready to face the judgment of God. May the Lord help us in this. **AMEN**

Timo Martin



HEALTH ALERT: SARS

(Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)

IMMUNE BOOSTING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

1. Vitamins

A (Anti-infective and anti-viral vitamin) *Beta-Carotene (Pro-vitamin A or Pre-formed Vitamin A)*

Sources (food) Red, yellow, orange groups of fruits and vegetables; carrots, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, mangoes, apricots, cantaloupes, pink or ruby red grapefruit. Legumes, grains, and seeds, are significant sources of beta-carotenes. Palm oil. Other vegetables: parsley, dandelion leaves, beet greens, mustard greens, turnip greens, Swiss chard, kale, watercress.

Nutritional supplements—Vitamin A: 25,000-50,000 I.U. daily. During pregnancy substitute beta-carotene 100,000-200,000 I.U. daily. Vitamin A is more effective if taken with Vitamin E.

C (Ascorbic acid)

Increases interferon, an anti-viral infection chemical, and other immune-enhancing effects.

Bioflavonoids (Flavonoids)

Provide colours of fruits and flowers primarily provide remarkable protection against disease. Powerful antioxidant.

Sources (food) Citrus fruits, berries, onions, parsley, legumes, red grapes, red grape juice, currants. Flavonoids found in white layers under skins of citrus. Peel with sharp knife. Eat the seeds, also (grapes, and citrus, orange, grapefruit, lemons, etc). Other sources: green peppers, cabbage, green vegetables, red peppers (sweet—1 more Vit. C than green). Rose hips, and Acerola berries best sources. Buckwheat, apricots, cauliflower. Most blue and purple fruits.

Nutritional supplements—Vitamin C 1000-2000 mg daily. Bioflavonoids 500-1000 mg daily.

E (d-alpha-tocopherol)

Immune enhancing especially helpful in elderly.

Sources (food) Whole wheat and germ oil (unrefined), natural brown rice, whole grain cereals, nuts (raw), seeds (raw), grains, whole grain oatmeal, peanuts, olive oil, soybean oil, green leafy vegetables, egg yolk.

Nutritional supplements—Vitamin E 400-800 IU daily. The effectiveness of Vitamin E is enhanced if taken with mineral, selenium, increasing antibody production.

B6 (Pyridoxine)

Deficiency results in depressed immune function.

Sources (food) Bananas (5 times richer than any other fruit), walnuts, molasses, green vegetables, carrots, avocados, soybeans (tofu, etc.), peanuts, egg yolk, Brewers yeast.

Nutritional supplements—1.5-1.8 mg daily. Daily quota obtained by 3 tablespoons a day of Brewer's yeast or nutritional yeast.

Folic Acid and Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin)

The "red vitamin". Folic acid deficiency is most common deficiency in the USA. Folic acid is a member of the B vitamin family.

Sources (food) Folic acid: All fruits and vegetables. Vitamin B12: Can be synthesized by intestinal bacteria. Brewer's yeast, oatmeal, whole wheat bread, miso (soybean paste), soybeans, kelp, peanuts, concord grapes, green beans, seaweeds, tempeh, bee pollen, bananas, eggs, sunflower seeds, milk, wheat germ.

Nutritional supplements—Folic Acid 400-800 mcg daily. Vitamin B12 6-100 mcg daily.

Other B Vitamins

B1(Thiamine); B2(Riboflavin); B5(Pantothenic Acid)

Sources (food) Brewer's yeast contains

all of the B complex vitamins. Whole grain cereals, all seeds, all nuts, lentils, peas, soybeans, leafy green vegetables, milk, wheat germ, rice bran, egg yolks, royal jelly (richest source for pantothenic acid (B5).

Nutritional supplements—Vitamin B1 1-10 mg; Vitamin B2 1.7-10 mg; Vitamin B5 5-10 mg daily.

2. Minerals

Iron

Deficiency is common causing immune dysfunction.

Sources (food) Apricot, beans, cherries, figs, dark grapes, soy beans, spinach, black currants, prunes, molasses.

Nutritional supplements—Iron 10-15 mg daily.

Zinc

Deficiency results in reduced immune system reactions. It works well with Vitamin A.

Sources (food) Wheat bran, wheat germ, nuts, green leafy vegetables, Brewer's yeast, milk, eggs, onions, pumpkin seeds, sprouted seeds.

Nutritional supplements—Zinc:15-30 mg daily. Warning! Excess can depress immune system.

Selenium

Affects all the components of the immune system. Deficiency depresses it.

Sources (food) Brewer's yeast, brown rice, garlic, Brazil nuts.

Nutritional supplements—Selenium 100-200 mcg daily.

3. Botanical Medicines (Herbs)

Shown to have antibacterial, antiviral, and immunostimulating effects.

Herbs that Heal and Affect Immunity by Boosting It

They can be prepared and administered in several ways: Dried root, fluid extract, solid (powdered), tincture, freeze dried, or juice; capsule, tablet, or tea. Consult with health care practitioner for proper administration and use.

Echinacea, Astragalus, Goldenseal, Mathake, Mushrooms (Reishi, Shiitake, Maitake), Seaweeds (brown algae, blue-green algae, micro algae) Willow, Pau D'Arco, Oak Bark, Citrus (various species, grapefruit seed extract, etc), Garlic-Allium, Licorice, Milk Thistle, Ginkgo Biloba, Aloe Vera, Tumeric, Kelp

4. General Considerations, Facts and Precautions (SARS)

Symptoms—In the first stage there is a high fever (38C or more), with chills, headache, muscle cramps and aches. Then a dry cough develops after a few days. There is difficulty in breathing. Severe diarrhea can develop. It can resemble or mimic flu symptoms, with a flu-like virus. X-rays give the appearance of pneumonia. As there is still no cure, doctors are treating the symptoms only.

by food or animals. Living in close quarters, faulty plumbing, etc. The virus can remain on a surface for 24 hours or more.

5. What Precautions to Take

Wearing a mask is only necessary in regions where there are many cases; Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, and perhaps Toronto, although Toronto has been considered peaked and under control. It's a personal choice. Masks and gloves and gowns are for doctors and nurses caring for SARS patients. Exposure to animals is a high risk, like poultry, and domestic animals like dogs, and particularly cats. They can be virus carriers which can be transmitting to man. If possible avoid public toilets. Leaky plumbing can allow waste matter to become air-borne and passed on this way. If entering a public toilet, wash your hands BEFORE relieving yourself. Do NOT TOUCH the chain, flush button, faucets, or door knobs going in or out of the room, or as you leave. Use a clean paper towel or hygienic paper or alcohol wipe to touch faucets, knobs, and door handles. Wash again BEFORE you leave. Use the first toilet as you enter, NOT the middle or far one, as they are more heavily infected.

handlers, and those handling animals or their by-products are the most heavily infected and carriers. Try avoiding crowded places. If possible, the Holy Supper (Communion) is another topic. Again it's a matter of choice; one cup or multiple cups. Remember! Your immune system is your internal power and defense against any disease or any foreign invaders or toxins or viruses. It protects the body by controlling and eliminating disease.

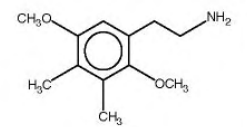
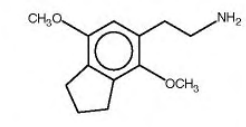
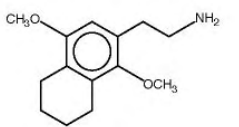
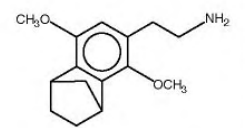
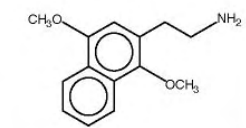
6. How to Support the Immune System

Emotional states, attitudes, and moods can affect the immune system particularly stress. Have a positive outlook, hope, faith. Negative, anxious, fretful lifestyles depress the immune system. Have regular meals. Have the proper body weight. Obesity is associated with a depressed immune system. Nutrient deficiency is most common cause of depressed immune system; especially protein deficiency. Get adequate rest and sleep (8 hours sleep). Drink 1 liter of water daily, if possible. Eating simple sugars depresses the immune system. Stay away from sugar. Fasting, short-term, can improve the immune system. A diet of high fat, cholesterol, free fatty acids, triglycerides, and bile acids inhibit various immune functions. Exercise is a life giving necessity; daily exercise, walking, jogging, etc., improves the immune system. Faith promotes good health. Breast feeding is a superior way to strength and builds a good immune system for life.

God's original plan for man's diet is "every herb bearing seed". (Gen. 1:29). Also, every "herb of the field". (Gen. 3:18). This means grains, fruits, nuts and vegetables... but "for sure a vegetarian diet should be adopted." (CD 81).

NOTE: This program is only a general guide on boosting the immune system, and should only be followed after consulting with your health-care professional, or physician. It's a guideline for any epidemic or plague as well. Use it wisely.

John Theodourou DDS, MS
USA/Greece

SARs Structure Activity Relationships: (3,4-Dialkyl groups)			
2C-G 2,5-Dimethoxy-3,4-dimethylphenethylamine 18 - 30 h.  20 - 35 mg.	2C-G-3 2,5-Dimethoxy-3,4-(trimethylene)phenethylamine 12 - 24 h.  16 - 25 mg.	2C-G-4 2,5-Dimethoxy-3,4-(tetramethylene)phenethylamine unknown  unknown	
2C-G-5 3,6-Dimethoxy-4-(2-aminoethyl)benzocorborene 32 - 48 h.  10 - 16 mg.	2C-G-N 1,4-Dimethoxynaphthyl-2-ethylamine 20 - 30 h.  20 - 40 mg.		

How it can spread Droplets become air-borne when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Most common route is by direct contact, but no one knows for sure, yet. Concern is that the virus can be transmitted by touching objects; door knobs, lift buttons, bus buttons, table tops, railings, computers, telephones, shaking hands, or transmitted

DO NOT use the hot-air dryer, as they are incubators for virus and bacteria. 60% of those that visit public toilets do not wash their hands! Use the "Oriental" method instead of sitting on seats. Avoid shaking of hands if possible. This is the most common way of transferring viruses. Bow the "Oriental" way. Try avoiding restaurants; food

HOLD FAST TO THE END

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.” Heb. 4”14.

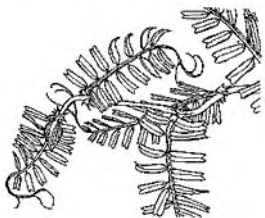
Even that we have faults and commit sins daily yet we have and advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous who presents the scars in His hands and with His blood before the Father to justify and to purify us. Only by the sacrifice done in Gethsemane and upon the cross of Calvary and because we have an High Priest, can we be reconciled with God eternally.

Apostle Paul says in Rom. 3:10-12, “There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Humanly, without a Mediator we are not in a condition to present ourselves before the Heavenly Judge. We need the blood and the righteousness of our Saviour, Jesus to be eternally saved.



Wheat



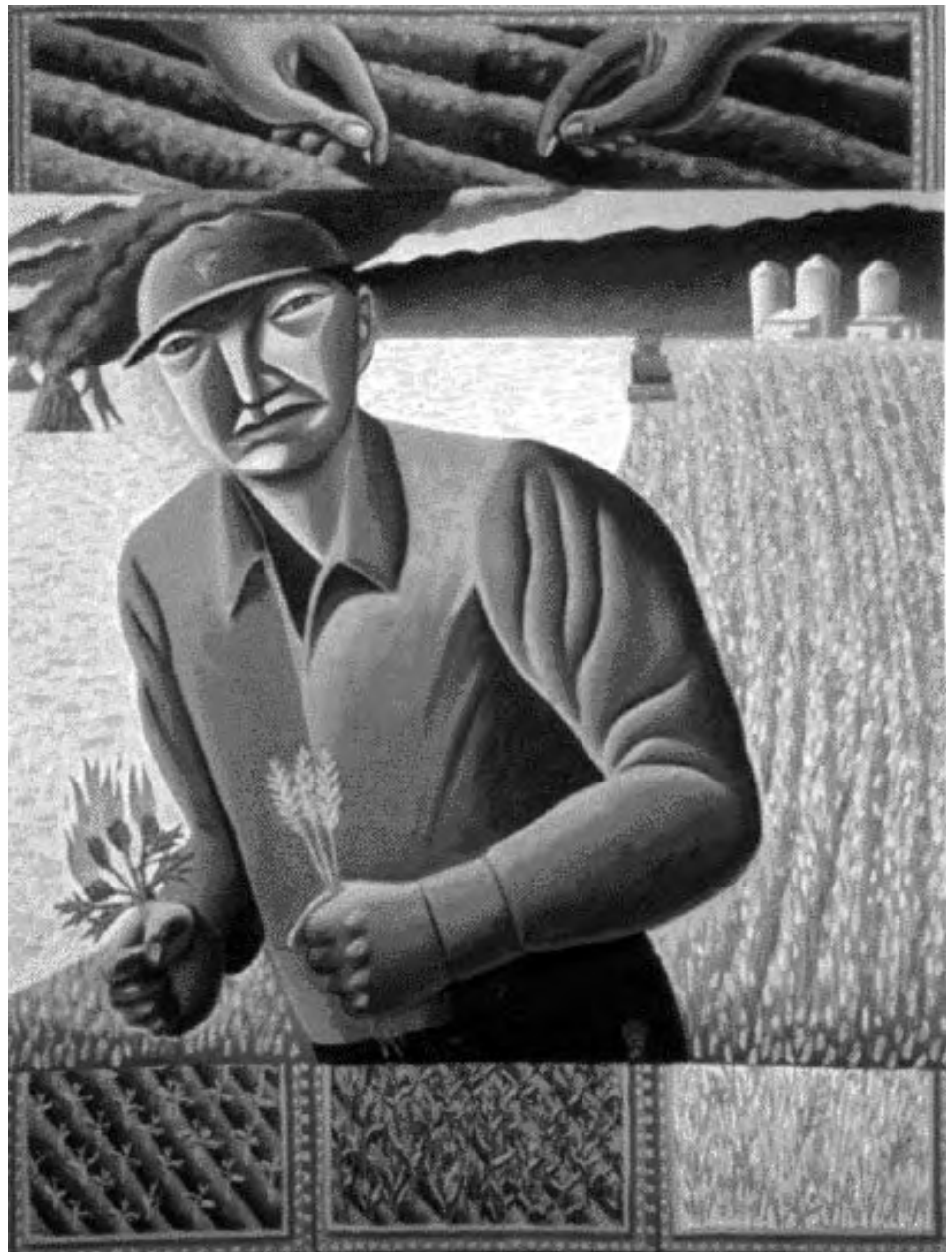
Tares

When we from free will agree to make a covenant with the Lord by the waters of the baptism, we commit ourselves with the church of God to be faithful in all the principles of faith which were established by the apostles and the prophets. They gave testimony and taught all that the Lord Jesus Christ had told them

to preach, which is “the present truth”. Although He also gave them a warning that false Christ’s, false prophets and false brethren will arise and accordingly false churches in the time of the end.

We, as the church of God, have no other teachings or doctrines that are different from those taught by our Advent pioneers and our last day’s

prophet, Ellen White. “While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the

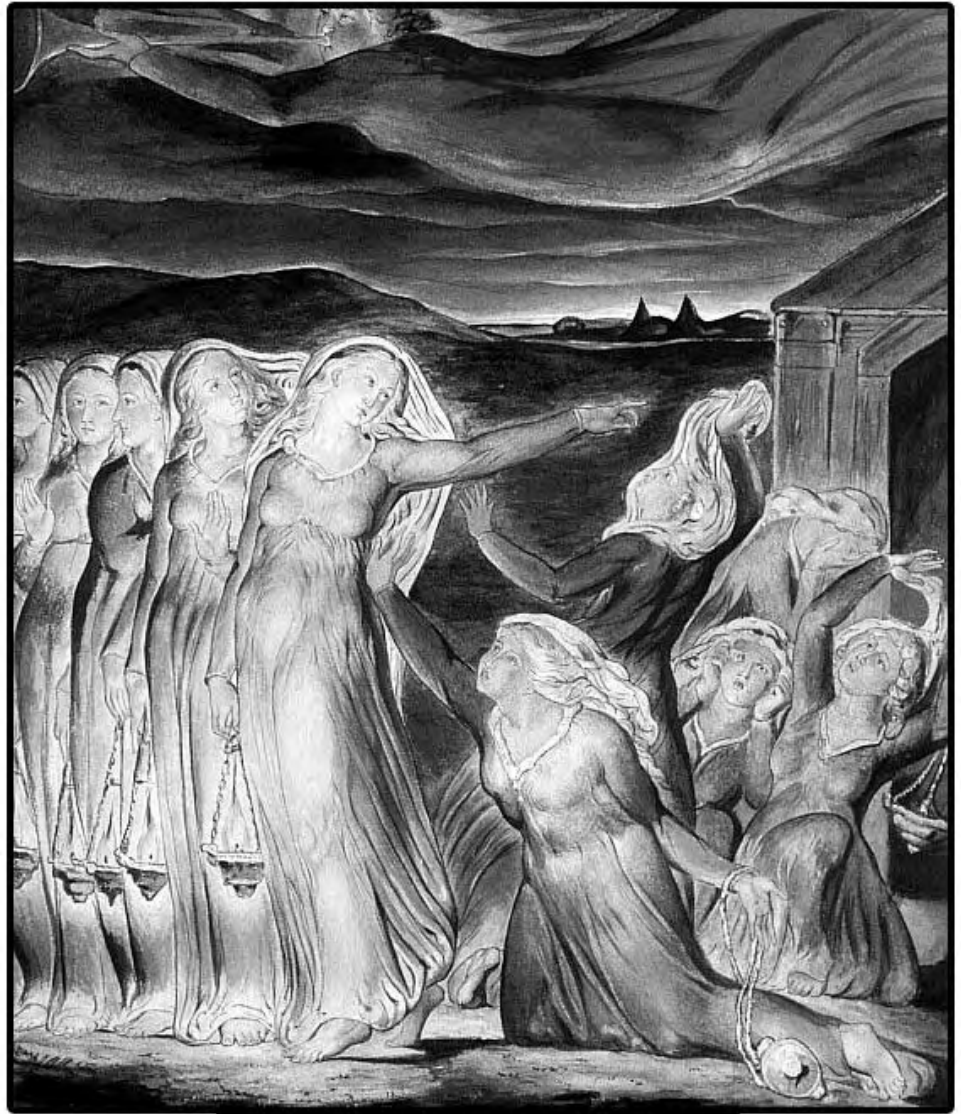


church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God.” Test. to Min., p. 46.

It is true that it does not matter how pathetic is the condition of some of the members, they may be wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, yet this Reform Movement continues to be the remnant church, because only this church has the present truth. It does not matter if among the members there are hypocrites, fanatics, licentious and other unconverted who consume the strength and spirit of the body, yet we continue to be the organized remnant, because we are the only ones who have the present truth. And lastly, it is not the holiness of every individual but the truth that distinguishes today the people of God, as it was in the days of ancient Israel who was the remnant people, organized by God, the only nation who had the present truth, regardless of their spiritual weakness.

“God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law... There is but one church in the world who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places...” Test. to Min, p. 50.

International Missionary Society of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement is the only organized church in the world that fulfills the characteristics that God requires in regard to the “present truth”. It teaches the truth of the heavenly sanctuary and of the investigative judgment one hundred percent correct. It makes effective the law of God, the ten commandments, and do not make allowance for the liberty of conscience in the political questions. It teaches that the manna inside the ark of covenant symbolizes the vegetarian diet which prepares us for the diet in the garden of Eden as in the beginning. It is an organized church that represents the order that was established by God by the medium of Aaron’s rod. It teaches the message of justification by faith and



Parable Of The Ten Virgins

also preaches the three angel’s messages among other important messages.

“Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reprovved, warned, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard.” Test. to Min., p. 49.

This message is directed to all those who once were our brothers in tribulation. They were members in our church but they left us, because they did not endure the trials with other leading brethren. They thought as some are thinking even now, that the church is

founded by negative character. They also believe that the behaviour of the pastors, workers or members are not converted but yet remain in the church. These people have not understood correctly what is the meaning of the present truth. We must do all that is possible that they would return to the bosom of the church and endure the trials that help us to polish our characters.

Apostle Paul says in Philippians 3:2, “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of concision.”

May the Lord help us to understand this message before it is too late when the time of mercy will be ended. **AMEN.**

Your Brother in Christ
Guillermo Gamallo



CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE

AUGUST 1-3, 2003

MOTTO:

"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE"

JOHN 17:21

You are all cordially invited to attend the Canadian field conference in Toronto. We are expecting great things from the Lord in this conference.

Join with us in the spiritual feast.

For information and accommodation call:

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MISSIONARY TO THE NATIVES



CHILDRENS CORNER

Over two hundred years ago, the United States of America was beginning to emerge as a nation. The pilgrims who were arriving were fleeing the papal oppression from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. In the New World, they found the freedom they were looking for; freedom to serve God with a free conscience. However they not only found religious freedom in this new country, they also found natives living in the country who were not so willing to give up their land to these foreigners. These natives were ‘uncivilized’ according to the standards of these European immigrants. Their lifestyle appeared to be primitive and they had no knowledge of the true and living God that many of these pilgrims had just fled their old country to preserve. Due to much misunderstanding between the two widely diverse cultures, frequent clashes often occurred between them in the early days as they contended for land and food. While many of the newcomers to this nation, either feared or despised these natives, there were some who pitied them and longed to share the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ, with them. One such man was David Brainerd.

David Brainerd was America’s youngest missionary to the Indians on the East coast of the United States. David saw in these natives, souls for whom Christ died; souls who needed the message salvation brought to them. He set out to learn their languages, which was quite a challenge in itself. One of his best native friends was Wauwampewuennaut. David simply called him John. Learning their names was not his greatest difficulty though. Almost constantly he had to contend with the superstitions among the Indi-

ans. They thought Christianity contained strange ‘powwows’ (meetings) that would bewitch them.

“I am a Christian,” said Brainerd. “Why don’t those powwows bewitch or poison me?”

Also some land-hungry Europeans, who resented David’s efforts, circulated a false report that he was really an English government agent whose ultimate purpose was to incite war between Indians and white people. Those dishonest traders became David Brainerd’s worse enemies because they did not want anyone helping Indians establish Christian homes where they would want to remain.

This primitive civilization of the Indians and their savage habits, such as having war dances and hunting and scalping parties, also conflicted with peaceful Christianity. Although Brainerd learned the tribal language as quickly as he could, often he preached through an interpreter. Sometimes his listeners were intensely interested and responded favourably to his gospel messages, but at other times, regardless of the missionary’s efforts, they seemed to be thinking of everything under the sun other than salvation.

This was alternately encouraging and dispiriting for the missionary. But when he sensed failure he redoubled his efforts and faith in God by praying and fasting all day in a forest. He was also an avid student of the Bible, reading it through completely twice each year.

David Brainerd’s will and courage were much stronger than his body. Constant exposure, inadequate food, and general

hardships of pioneer life affected his health, which was already poor. He never complained, however, even when his bed was often only the ground in a forest or a pile of straw in a bare log cabin.

At times he had to ride a horse fifteen to twenty kilometres for bread, or rather dough, which he baked in ashes. If at any one time he brought only a little dough he would have to return soon for more. But if he got a large supply it would turn sour or mould before he could eat all of it. The rest of his diet was made up of mush, which Indians called hasty pudding, boiled corn. Surely at times he must have yearned for a good cook such as Jerusha Edwards, daughter of Jonathan Edwards, to whom he was engaged.

But Brainerd knew his first duty was to God and to the missionary call that he had given, regardless of difficulties that appeared. On April 30, 1743, he wrote in his journal, not as a complaint, but as a fact, “My work is exceedingly hard and difficult; I travel on foot two kilometres, the worst of ways, almost daily, and back again, for I live far from my Indians. I have not seen an English person in this month.”

On December 21, 1744, David Brainerd and an interpreter started on a long trip to Susquehanna. They were caught in a terrific storm, in which they lost their horses and nearly lost their lives. From Susquehanna they travelled about a hundred and fifty kilometres on rivers to minister to eight tribes of Indians. The exertion and exposure made Brainerd ill with malaria, but after resting for a week in an Indian trader’s hut, he continued the journey. On May 30,

1745, he arrived at the Forks of the Delaware River, after travelling a total of about 500 kilometres.

That year, 1745, became known as the 'great awakening' among the Indians. Their general concern for Christianity at this time is indicated by missionary Brainerd, who was not given to exaggerating: "In the afternoon of August 8, I preached to the Indians upon Luke 15:16-23. [The Prodigal Son] There was much visible concern among them, while I was discoursing publicly; but afterwards, when I spoke to one and another more particularly, whom I perceived under much conviction, the power of God seemed to descend upon the assembly 'like a mighty rushing wind,' and with an astonishing energy bore down all before it.

"Almost all persons of all ages were bowed down in prayer together. Old men and women, who had been drunken wretches for many years, and some little children, not more than six or seven years of age, appeared in distress for their souls, as well as persons of middle age.

"A man, advanced in years, who had been a murderer, a powaw, or conjurer, and a notorious drunkard, was likewise brought now to cry for mercy with many tears, and to complain much that he could be no more inclined to his old way of life when he saw his danger was so very great. When he understood the salvation that was offered through Jesus Christ, he could not resist the love so freely offered. He repented with many tears.

"They were almost universally praying and crying for mercy in every part of the house, and many were out of doors; and numbers could neither go nor stand. Their concern was so great, each one for his own soul's salvation,

that none seemed to take any notice of those about them, as each prayed freely for himself."

These were the result of only one service. Many similar meetings were held. On August 25, 1745, Brainerd described the Indians' attitude: "Love seemed to reign among them! They took each other by the hand with tenderness and affection, as if their hearts were knit together, while I was discoursing to them; and all their deportment towards each other was such, that a serious spectator might justly be excited to cry



David Brainerd (1718-1747)

out with admiration, 'Behold how they love one another!'

Such is the power of real Christianity, even under trying circumstances, when it is revealed through a sincere servant of God. It takes a weapon from an angry hand and puts love and a Bible there, purges bitterness from hearts and minds and puts Christian fellowship there.

David Brainerd surely had reason to rejoice in the glory of God's goodness.

The fruitful work continued for about two years, until the missionary was too ill to preach any more. While he was bedridden for about four months, his fiancée, Jerusha Edwards, was his nurse. Often they talked about God and assured each other that they would spend a happy eternity together.

The end came on October 9, 1747. The following April 20 he would have been thirty years old.

About four months later Jerusha died. And side-by-side they rest.

Educated at Yale University, wanted as a pastor in various large cities, David Brainerd chose to serve as God willed among poor, handicapped people. To live wholly for God was his first great aim and ambition. And God blessed His servant gloriously.

Although young Brainerd served for only a few years, his Christ-centred life and inspiring service became a great Christian influence for William Carey, Samuel Marsden, and Henry Martyn. So in a very real, although indirect, way, through these missionaries he spoke to thousands of natives in India, New Zealand, and Persia.

As for David Brainerd's dedicated purpose, it was clearly expressed in a letter he wrote to his brother, "I declare, now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world."

Today the Lord needs dedicated missionaries who will bring the saving message of salvation to a world that is rapidly perishing. Jesus is coming very soon and who will answer His call to service?

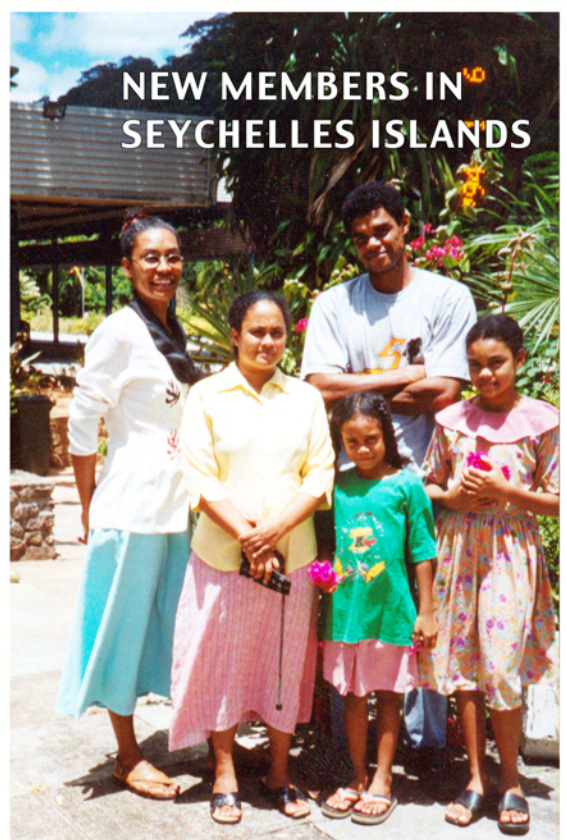
**VISITORS, FRIENDS & MEMBERS
OF THE CHURCH IN CHICAGO**



**TANZANIAN UNION CONFERENCE
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**NEW MEMBERS IN
SEYCHELLES ISLANDS**



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